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WELCOME to Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition!!

Rick Chaimberlin provides us with the basic Petah Tikvah-US each issue which we edit and add our own articles, information about events in our region, letters to our own Mail Box, APMF Kehilot Directory, etc. By putting our issue in our website, www.APMFInc.com, we hope to make PT and APMF information available to a much wider audience and save a lot of money by not printing. A benefit to you is that you can print any articles, send it to friends, and refer others to our website with no cost!!!!

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

Editorial Board. Articles from you are welcome!! Please send to Dave Angiwan, Dave@APMFInc.com or Roger Walkwitz, Roger@Walkwitz.com.

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

To be included, contact the Publisher.

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

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

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WEBSITES and other PUBLICATIONS. Obtain copies of **Volume 1 According to Roger, My Journey Into Bible Truth, and Volume 2 According to Roger, My Understanding of Bible Truth.**

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

Greetings from Roger

WELCOME to this renewal of our APMF Edition of Petah Tikvah magazine! We are thankful that the Filipinos now living in Calgary, AB, Canada were willing and able to take over the Publishing of our online Edition! They are a growing group, led by Louwell Ogbinar, a Veterinarian from the LaTrinidad Kehilah, and Frank Rene Daytec, an Accountant from the Baguio City Kehilah.

At our website, www.APMFInc.com, you will find our own news plus interesting articles in the quarterly issues at no cost to you! APMF is a Volunteer organization but sometimes volunteers get overloaded by circumstances beyond their control. So we give grateful Thanks to Rachel Angiwan who took over the printed edition from Ted Franco years ago and soon converted it to our online edition. After a few years, a new job was too much, so she had to quit doing PT but still maintains our website.

When I have taken Tours to Israel, there are some who want to visit a genuine Messianic Kehilah in the Land but I always tell them, **There are none** except for two families, one in Jerusalem and one in Arad that meet in their homes. This is not only my observation from all those that I have visited on Shabbat but also the conclusion from the survey of all those in Israel that call themselves "Messianic" in the book, *Facts & Myths About the Messianic Congregations in Israel*, published by the United Christian Council in Israel with the Caspari Center. Why is this so???

Years ago we worked closely with First Fruits of Zion as both of us were just beginning and both Ariel Berkowitz and later Tim Hegg were on their staff at times. Not long ago, FFOZ departed from our mutual Foundation and began to teach that Torah was optional for non Jewish believers and joined UMJC! Since APMF happens to be all non-Jewish except for our brother Graeme Purdie in NZ, we parted ways



but still maintain contact as they are still brothers in Yeshua. FFOZ maintains a Torah Teaching Center in Jerusalem but are appalled by what they have found among those who call themselves "Messianic," as FFOZ proclaims the Jewish Yeshua. Here are some quotes from their publications:

"The real obstacle in Israel is that the standard anti-Torah and anti-Judaism rhetoric of the Hebrew-speaking Messianic community creates ample justification for religious Jews to disqualify Yeshua's messianic claims."

"Most Messianic Jews in Israel have followed the other path (abandon Torah) and assimilated with Gentile expressions of Christianity."

"FFOZ is focused on defending the reputation of Yeshua of Nazareth by teaching the truth about him....You would expect that Jewish Yeshua believers in Israel would be devoutly Torah-observant Messianic Jews, but the reality is just the opposite. Most Israeli believers in Yeshua are firmly under the sway of Christian dogmas about the abolishment of the Torah, freedom from the law, and so forth."

Surprised???

continued...

Would you like to know "Why?" Most leaders of these groups have been trained in USA church seminaries and are partially or completely supported by USA churches that sponsored them and therefore their agenda and teaching are what their sponsors expect and also what they themselves believe. You know the saying, "Money talks!" They do not dare to call themselves "Rabbi," as leaders in the USA do, as their knowledge is minimal in comparison. I have seen fund-raising by churches to establish their church in Israel, no matter what it is called. Need a foot in the door??

Professional clergy are the problem in the church and elsewhere so I hope you appreciate the reason for our **APMF Financial Policy**, which is also in Volume 2, Chapter 7, p 31, and also other chapters that deal with and expose this defect that developed centuries ago, dividing an equal brotherhood into clergy and laity. No, the Levitical Priesthood is not our pattern!!!!!!!!!!

We in APMF are aware that false teaching creeps in slowly so we must all be vigilant to maintain our biblical foundation on Yeshua and all 66 Books in our Bibles. The LTBC-YP said it well for their Retreat some years ago with their Theme and the T shirts they made: **Live Like Yeshua!! 1 John 2:3-4. 1 John 2:3-6:**

*"And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him **ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**" (AMEIN!!!!)*

So on Shabbat we study the Gospels also, to learn exactly how Yeshua "walked," comparing with the Torah we have already learned. The Parashah has its place, but it is limited for us

who want to be familiar with the whole word of God. Kehilot should be aware of the need for everyone to know Genesis thru Revelation as the Bible is really one Book! All 66 books are precious!!!

Let us remember also our Document on 3 Main Points as foundational: **One** Way of Salvation, **One** Family of God and **One** Way to Live in God's Family in God's **ONE** Plan for Mankind!! Details are in my Volume 2, Chapter 47, p 277.

In the last PT Greetings! issue I finished with: Mishkan study is huge so look for Greetings from Roger in the July - September APMF-RP online issue of Petah Tikvah on www.APMFInc.com. In other words, "To be continued!!!!" My ten lectures on this on ZOOM Saturday evenings have been placed on youtube so that they can be accessed anytime. My next study coming up is to do a thorough study of Matthew 13 and How to interpret Parables. But now, here is my continuation:

Exodus 26:1-2. Moreover thou shalt make the **Mishkan**: ten curtains of fine twined linen (brilliant **white**), and **blue**, and **purple**, and **scarlet**: with cherubim of cunning work shalt thou make them. The length of one curtain shall be eight and twenty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and every one of the curtains shall have one measure.

Technically the Mishkan is the ceiling inside the Tent, made with 10 curtains or strips of cloth 42 feet long and 6 feet wide of **pure white, blue, purple and scarlet** linen, with cherubim embroidered on it. Each of these colors has its individual meaning and these **4 colors together as a unit** also have a tremendous meaning!!!

In the meantime, let's make a correlation between the Table of Showbread and the so-called Lord's Prayer. The Bible of 66 Books is a unit so there is interlocking Truth which is called Context! The Mishkan is also a **Parable**

continued...

so again there is interlocking Truth that we must discover. A thorough knowledge of all 66 Books stored in your mind is what the Holy Spirit uses to have you quickly correlate truth from one place in the text to another truth in another place, usually from Tanakh to a text in the AS (Apostolic Scriptures) or NT (Newer Testament), and many times from a prophecy to its fulfillment in the AS.

Exodus 25:23-30. LITV *And you shall make a table of acacia wood, its length two cubits, and its width a cubit, and its height a cubit and a half. And you shall overlay it with pure gold..... And you shall put the Bread of the Presence on the table before Me continually.*

Usually this is "showbread," a poor attempt to say it right. Now look at several versions of a clause in the Lord's Prayer.

Matthew 6:11. KJV *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Matthew 6:11. LITV *Give us today our daily bread.*

Matthew 6:11. CJB *Give us the food we need today.*

Matthew 6:11. DRB (Douay-Rheims) *Give us this day our supersubstantial bread.* What a difference!! And does it make a difference? YES!! The Catholic translators knew in 1899 that the Protestant versions of the day were wrong so they made a valiant attempt to get it right but still missed it. The word in question is **epiousios** which cannot mean daily!! So why do translators mess it up? I do not know!! So do I set myself up as the authority?? NO! **The text itself is the authority!!!** Search until you get it right!!

In Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon he quotes Origen-200 years after Yeshua- that the word was **not in ordinary speech** but seems to have been coined by the Evangelists themselves, meaning Matthew and Luke, the only two places the word occurs. Then the "experts" want to argue about the literal meaning of the word, a letter here or a letter there, but to boil it

down to common sense, **epi** means "upon," **ousios** means "substance or property." Put it together means "upon your property" or "your presence." Therefore, Matthew 6:11 and also Luke 11:3 should read, Give us today the bread of your presence, correlating with:

Exodus 25:30, *And you shall put the Bread of the Presence on the table before Me continually.*

Understood this way God guarantees His spiritual food to you which you need every day to live His way, which also means you have to sit down and feed yourself from His Word every day! **No Bible? No breakfast!!** Give yourself and God the best time of the day to set your mind on Him before the pressures and cares of this world system try to crowd in and get you off track. Does God also guarantee your rice and viand every day? I do not think so as the traditional translations are not accurate and do not fit in context with the Mishkan. God is gracious, yes, and He might give you rice and viand, but I think God is more interested in giving you "bread from heaven" as Yeshua said.

See also Volume 2, p 281, for a thorough exposition of Our Daily Bread. The daily manna in the wilderness was also to teach daily dependence.

Exodus 25:31. *"You shall make a lampstand (menorah) of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it.*

Most people are familiar with the Jewish menorah of 7 lamps and also the hanukkah of 9 lamps at Hanukkah time. The construction of the menorah with 22 almond blossoms connects it with Aaron's rod that budded with almond blossoms when God settled the leadership challenge in Numbers 17. The Table

continued...

of the Presence with 12 pieces of unleavened bread represent 12 Tribes while the Menorah the Tribe of Levi. Both also represent Yeshua, the Bread of Life and the Light of the world!!

Levites have no land inheritance for commercial purposes but are given 48 cities scattered throughout the 12 Tribes because the Levites are responsible for knowing and teaching the Torah, holding forth the light of the truth as well as the priesthood and function of the Mishkan. This is evident in Nehemiah 8 when those who have returned from Babylon celebrate Sukkot with Ezra the priest reading the Torah and 13 named Levites explain the reading.

The Menorah is God's designated symbol for His Assemblies as well as the symbol for the State of Israel.

Revelation 1:20. *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw on My right, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are angels of the seven assemblies, and the seven lampstands you saw are seven assemblies. (LITV)*

Exodus 26:31-33. *And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen (bright white): with cherubim the work of the skilful workman shall it be made. And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, upon four sockets of silver. And thou shalt hang up the veil under the clasps, and shalt bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall separate unto you between the holy place and the most holy.*

Blue=from heaven; Purple=royalty; Scarlet=blood sacrifice; White=sinless. These four colors on separate cloth panels are stitched together to make this 1) inner veil and 2) the screen at the entrance of the holy place and

3) the gate to enter the courtyard, and 4) the ceiling (The Mishkan) inside the Tent, and 5) the uniform of the high priest. Silver=redemption; Gold=redemption; and Blood=redemption.

Hebrews 10:19-20. *Having therefore, brethren, boldness (of speech, prayer) to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*

This is **THE CLUE**, revealed by God, that this inner veil that the Father tore the instant Yeshua said, "tetelestai"= it has been and is finished" and delivered up His Spirit, has represented the Body of Yeshua ever since construction of the Mishkan and continued on to the inner veil in the 2 Temples!!! In symbol, Yeshua has been holding back the wrath of His Father against sin until He was satisfied when Yeshua made Full Payment= **Propitiation**. Tetelestai is a perfect tense= Yeshua finished **Propitiation** before Creation in the Plan of God and now finished it in actual time. Mankind has no excuse if they fail to respond to God's gracious offer of salvation.

There is much, much more Truth in the Mishkan but now lets sort of summarize the "package" illustration and drama that God gave to Israel physically and now to us in His precious written Word. As we approach the complex, naturally we would go to the Gate, not climb under the curtain perimeter like the thief would do. At the Gate we see panels of blue, purple, scarlet and white cloth adorning the top. We have done our research so that we know these four colors together represent Yeshua, the Door, the Gate, the Way (John 14:6). As we enter we face the Altar of brass, where Judgment is meted out, which Yeshua paid for us!!! Then we face the brass Laver where we wash our hands and feet, to be cleansed from

continued...

daily sins (1 John 1:9). Now we are sanctified, ready to enter the Tent where we face **5 pillars** on sockets of **brass** that hold up a **Screen**, or half veil, made of cloth panels of **Blue, Purple, Scarlet and White**, representing Yeshua the Truth (John 14:6) as well as the Torah, 5 Books of Moses, which judge the sinner (Romans 7). The Tent also provides an open triangle at the top to provide ventilation and daylight.

As we enter the Tent, we look above and see the beautiful ceiling of 10 panels of **Blue, Purple, Scarlet and White**, representing Yeshua (Exodus 26 & 36). We know that above this ceiling there is the **Tent of Goat's Hair** (the sin that he paid) and above that a covering of Ram's skins dyed scarlet (the Blood that He shed) and the top covering of Ram's skins dyed blue, blending with the sky (Yeshua is from heaven).

On the right side we notice the Table with 2 stacks of unleavened bread, 12 in all, on the left the Golden Menorah with 7 lamps that will be lit at evening. In the middle is the Golden Altar where incense is burned each morning when the Menorah lamp's wicks are cleaned and the lamps filled with olive oil.

Then we face **THE VEIL**, the **Body of Yeshua**, with panels of **Blue, Purple, Scarlet and White**, held up with **4** pillars on sockets of **silver** representing the **4** Gospels proclaiming redemption and Yeshua the Life (John 14:6) as "no one comes to the Father (on the Mercy Seat inside) except thru Me." We fall on our faces as we Worship our Father in deep thankfulness for the marvelous Salvation they Planned before Creation!! We also notice the open triangle at the top of the tent providing ventilation, daylight and some birds who come to visit. We also remember that this Mishkan, an exact copy of the Mishkan in heaven, is to provide God's desire to dwell with mankind in a visual way and to show The Only Way to come into His presence.



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Founder, Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship



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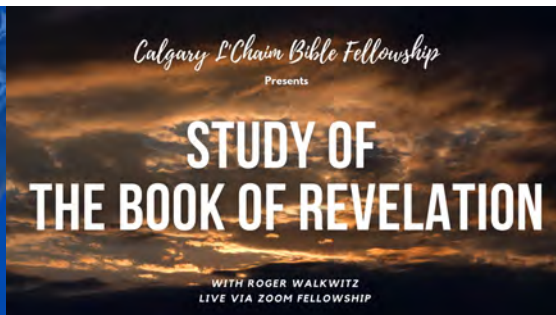
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ANI MA'AMIN ("I believe") is based on the 13 creeds faith in Judaism. Each principle begins with *Ani Ma'amin* ("I Believe"). In every country in which Jews have lived, they have produced a poem or prayer based upon these principles of faith, which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

I BELIEVE THAT...

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

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

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

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PRINCIPLES OF FAITH Ani Ma'amin ("I Believe")

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

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

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

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

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

³ Micah 5:1-2

⁴ Isaiah 53:5.

⁵ Matthew 5:17-19.

B'Midbar is the fourth book of the Torah. It means "In the Wilderness (or desert)." The Hebrew word for **wilderness** is

מדבר, pronounced "Midbar." The "B" before Midbar (above) is a prefix meaning **in, with, or by**, depending on context.

Curiously, the same letters **מדבר**¹ can also be pronounced as **medaber**, which means "speak." God spoke to Israel in the wilderness, in this case, in Sinai, not the Holy Land.² Likewise, the Ten Commandments were given on Mount Sinai, which was located in Arabia, per Galatians 4:25, not in Israel. We find that God speaks - medaber - **מדבר** to us "in the wilderness - midbar - **מדבר**."

There may be various reasons why God chose to speak to His people in the wilderness rather than in Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel). For one thing, God's Word is for all who are in covenant relationship with Him. There isn't one truth for Jews, and a separate truth for the Gentiles who are grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree of Romans 11. Such Gentiles are no longer strangers and aliens, but are now "fellow citizens with the saints and are of God's household," per Ephesians 2:19. Therefore, HaShem spoke to the world through Moshe to declare His truths, not only to Israel, but to the entire world. That is why the Torah was given to the world **outside** the Land of Israel, in a wilderness land, belonging to no nation or people. In Exodus 19:19, we read that "God answered him (Moses) with 'thunder' (**kol**, which also means voice or sound). According to the Rabbis, this voice was the Torah being given in all 70 of the languages of the ancient world.

There is another reason why God spoke to us "in the wilderness." There are many distractions in the world, and far more today than in times past. Adonai speaks to us many times when we are alone with Him, without the distractions. It may be good for us to get away on occasion, away from the computer, TV, radio, tablet, phone, etc. We cannot always get into the wilderness, but we can take a break from our devices to get alone with God. I hasten to add: The primary way God speaks to us is through His Word. So where

ever this location is, make sure you have your Bible with you. He isn't going to reveal new "truths" that aren't already in His word. When we get alone with God, He reveals things in His Word that we might have overlooked in the past. I fear for people who are always expecting direct revelation from God. They are open to being misled by lying spirits.

by Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

B'midbar is also called the Book of Numbers in English Bible translations. This is because there are so many numbers in this book, esp. in the early chapters.

B'midbar is also the name of the first parashah (Torah portion) of the Book of Numbers. We should also note that the first letter of this book is the **vav** (ו), which is a prefix meaning "and" or "then." The books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers each begin with the **vav**. In each case, the first paragraph of each of these books is a continuation of the last paragraph of the previous book. The first four books of the Torah as we see them on a Torah scroll are really one very long book. The first completely new book is the Book of Deuteronomy (Devarim).³

The Army of Israel

Chapter 1 of Numbers is a census of all the men from eleven of the twelve tribes "who are able to go to war." There is a restriction on the age of these men. It is from "twenty years old and upward, whoever is able to go out to war."⁴ I was drafted in 1968 at the age of 21. At that time, the upper age limit for draftees and enlistees was only 26. I like the fact that the lower age restriction in the Bible is 20. I don't like the idea of sending teenagers into battle. Many American and Israeli teenagers only 18 or 19 years old have fought in various wars and battles. In Israel, even the young ladies are drafted into the military!

Curiously, there is no biblical upper limit on the ages of the men who were able to go into battle. However, the Talmud (Bava Basra 121b) gives an upper age limit of 60. I would prefer to have the government send out us older fellows out to fight the wars, rather than the younger fellows. The total number of men who were "able to go out to war in Israel" was

¹ There were no vowels in the original Hebrew text indicating how to pronounce words. The pronunciation must be determined by context.

² The Sinai might someday be the part of Israel, per Genesis 15:18.

³ Deuteronomy comes from Greek words meaning "Second Law." It is very much like a condensed version of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, although there are items that are unique to Deuteronomy.

⁴ Numbers 1:3.

603,550.⁵ Those who were unable to go out to war, such as those who were handicapped, were not counted. The total number of Israelites in the wilderness must have been in the neighborhood of 3 million, when you add in the women and children, as well as the men who were unable to go out to war. No Levites were included in this number, because the Levites had other positions, and were not allowed to be in the army.

The Levites were the descendants of Levi. The descendants of Aharon (Aaron) were also descendants of Levi. However, the descendants of Aharon carried very special responsibilities. They were the **cohanim** (priests). The vast majority of the Levites were assigned many other positions. One did not become a "priest" by studying for years in a seminary. One became a **cohen** by being a descendant of Aharon.

In these early chapters of Numbers, we find various families of Levites assigned primarily to various tasks related to the **Mishkan** (Tabernacle). The Levites are placed in charge of the furnishings and structure of the Tabernacle — taking it down, carrying it, and setting it back up as the Israelites moved through the wilderness. The Levites are also involved in various duties assisting the cohanim. In other places in Torah we find the Levites involved in various other occupations, such as musicians, singers, artisans, judges, etc.

God was very specific about the Mishkan, the Ark of the Covenant, all the clothing of the cohanim, the altar, the curtains, etc. - including the precise measurements and materials. Everything was very important.

The Rise and Fall of Satan

The reasons for all this precision is that the earthly Tabernacle was a copy of the Heavenly Tabernacle, as we discover in the Book of Hebrews. In Hebrews 9:11-12, we read that "Messiah appeared as a **Cohen HaGadol** (High Priest) of the good things to come. He entered through the greater and more perfect **Mishkan** (Tabernacle), not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place, once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." During the

three days between Yeshua's crucifixion and resurrection, Yeshua ritually cleansed the Heavenly Tabernacle with his own blood.

In Hebrews 9:23-24, we read, "Therefore, it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Messiah did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."

You might ask, "Why was it necessary for Yeshua to cleanse the Heavenly Holy of Holies?" Very simple: Heaven had been defiled. In Job 1:6, we read, "Now there was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before YHWH, and HaSatan also came among them." Satan used the occasion to accuse Job, a righteous man. That's one of Satan's main jobs, as the accuser of the brethren. We read about HaSatan's rise to power and fall from Heaven in Isaiah 14:4-21 (especially verses 13-16) and Ezekiel 28:1-19 (especially verses 12-19). Revelation 12:3-4 and 12:9 also refer to the fall of HaSatan, when he had been cast out of Heaven, as well as "a third of the stars of heaven," a reference



to the fallen angels. (Job 38:6 also makes reference to angels being called "stars.")

Even Heaven had been defiled. Therefore, it was necessary for Yeshua to cleanse the Mishkan in Heaven. Yeshua is still the Lion of Judah! Even in Heaven, He is a Jew! He will return to Earth, where He will rule the world, with the capital of His Messianic Kingdom in Jerusalem. Jerusalem had to be a Jewish city in preparation for his return, and since 1967, it is once again a unified Jewish city, in preparation for Messiah's Second Coming! n

⁵ Numbers 1:45-46.

Autistic people are often afflicted with severe OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). We have seen this in our autistic daughter Autumn. Each of Autumn's things (clothes, books, toys, etc.) has its proper place and must not be set down in a different place. Her regular activities (getting dressed, eating, getting ready for bed, etc.) must be done according to a specific routine. Any deviation from the normal routine causes her distress and can lead to a severe meltdown.

I do not want to sound sacrilegious, but it seems to me that some of these same traits exist in God's personality. If you don't think so, read through Exodus and Leviticus. When God gave commandments concerning the Tabernacle, He warned Moses, "See that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount" (Heb. 8:5, referencing Ex. 25:40).

God had a precise pattern for the Tabernacle. He was very picky about how each item was to be made and exactly where it was to be placed. He gave detailed instructions regarding which sorts of animals were to be offered, how they were to be slaughtered, and what was to be done with the blood and the various body parts and organs. God gave strict rules about how the priests were to be dressed and anointed, and what they were to do and not do in the Tabernacle.

God established a routine for them to follow. When the people followed the routine and did everything "as the LORD commanded Moses," then "the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle" (Ex. 40:34). When the people prepared the sacrifices "as the LORD commanded Moses," then "the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people," and "a fire came out from before the LORD" and consumed the sacrifices, showing that God had accepted their sacrifices (Leviticus 9:23f).

But right after this, Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, deviated from the pattern. They "offered strange fire before the LORD, which He commanded them not" (Lev. 10:1).

Just as a deviation from the usual routine can cause an autistic person to have a meltdown, so this deviation from the Divinely prescribed routine caused a meltdown of sorts. God's wrath was kindled and the fire of God devoured Nadab and Abihu.

Another common trait among autistic people is their enjoyment of the constant repetition of the same short snippet of a song or movie over and over again for a long period of time.

OCD and Autistic Traits in the Godhead?

by Daniel Botkin

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

Our daughter Autumn used to watch VeggieTales on a laptop computer. But instead of watching the program from start to finish, often she would stop somewhere in the middle of the program, then rewind and replay just a short segment over and over again. We would hear Larry the cucumber say something like "Bob, look out!" [short pause] "Bob, look out!" [short pause] "Bob, look out!" [short pause] "Bob, look out!" over and over and over again.

A high-functioning autistic man on YouTube explains the reason for this. He says if an autistic person enjoys seeing or hearing something one time, they will enjoy it just as much the second, third, and one-hundredth time they see or hear it. The newness of the pleasure never grows old for them. The constant repetition drives the people around

them nuts, but it gives the autistic people enjoyment.

This same love of repetition apparently exists in God's personality. For as long as the Tabernacle or Temple stood, God wanted to see and hear and smell the same sights and sounds and odors of the sacrificial system He established. For all the centuries between Moses and Messiah (except for the seventy years in Babylon, when there was no Temple), God watched the same sacrificial ceremonies, and heard the same prayers and bells, and smelled the same burning sacrifices and incense over and over and over again. And God took pleasure in it, except when the worshippers were living sinful lives.

We see God's love of repetition also illustrated in Revelation, which describes four living creatures that dwell before God's throne. The Bible says "they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" (Rev. 4:8).

We do not know how long ago in the distant past these four glorious creatures were created. But for their entire existence they have been repeating the same words day and night, without rest, over and over and over again throughout the centuries, and will probably continue to do so for all eternity. God created them to do this, so apparently God takes pleasure in hearing the same snippet over and over and over again, like autistic people do.

Does this mean God is autistic and is afflicted with OCD? Of course not. But when we think of mankind - all mankind, including autistic people - as being created in the image of God in a collective sense, perhaps autistic people reflect that aspect of God's character that loves routine and repetition. J

The following information is from Wikipedia. Wikipedia is certainly not the final authority on any topic. However, it tends to be very accurate, and well researched with many footnotes verifying the information. Wikipedia

says this about the ancient and modern **Vav**:

Waw/Vav (*wāw* "hook") is the sixth letter of the Semitic abjads, including Phoenician *wāw* 𐤅, Aramaic *waw* ܘ, Hebrew *vav* ו, Syriac *waw* ܘ, and Arabic *wāw* و (sixth in abjadi order; 27th in modern Arabic order).

It represents the consonant [w] in **original** Hebrew, and [v] in **modern** Hebrew, as well as the vowels [u] and [o]. In text with niqqud, a dot is added to the left or on top of the letter to indicate, respectively, the two vowel pronunciations.

When people insist that the name of God יהוה should be represented by the consonants YHWH, they are assuming that the ancient **vav** was always a **vav**, whereas most scholars recognize that the ancient **vav** was actually a **waw**, pronounced as a **W** (instead of a **V** as in modern Hebrew) when used as a consonant. A more accurate representation of the ancient Name of God would be YHWH.

We cannot be sure of the exact pronunciation of the Name, because it ceased to be pronounced in the Inter-Testamental period between the Old and New Testaments. Thereafter, it was only pronounced by the Cohen HaGadol (High Priest), and this was only on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and only in one place, the Holy of Holies in the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) in Jerusalem. There are also no **nikudim** (vowel markings) to indicate the vowels to be used in the Name, which makes it impossible for us to categorically insist that any one particular pronunciation is correct. Most scholars of ancient Hebrew believe the correct pronunciation would be Yahweh, although **nobody** knows for sure.

In Exodus 6:2-3, most translations read like this: "God spoke further to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD (יהוה); and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD (יהוה), I did not make myself known to them."

However, in ancient Hebrew, we don't have the punctuation marks to indicate commas, periods, or question marks. This sentence can and perhaps **should** be translated as a question: "I am the LORD (יהוה); and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as

God Almighty, but by My name, LORD (יהוה), **did I not make myself known to them?**"

The Ancient and Modern Vav (Waw)

Long before the Book of Exodus, God's name was known, as in Genesis 4:26, where we read, "And to Seth, to him also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD יהוה." In Genesis 12:8, we read: that Abram "called upon the name of יהוה." Therefore the Name of God was known **long** before it was revealed to Moses in Exodus 6:3.

The Name was also used by people throughout the Tanakh (OT). Even non-believers such as Pharaoh used the Name (Exodus 5:2). The only exception in which the Name (יהוה) is not even mentioned in a book of the Tanakh is the Book of Esther. However, even in Esther it is mentioned as an acronym, as the first letter of four consecutive words.

In Rabbinic Judaism, the Name of God is never said out loud, continuing a tradition begun in the Inter-Testamental period (time between Old and New Testaments). In large part, this was to prevent the Name of יהוה from being blasphemed among the nations. When you consider how many times terms like **Jesus** and **God** are used as profanities, this is very understandable. If the actual Name were known among the Gentiles, the Name would be likely to be used in profanities. However, it is not a sin to say the Name respectfully. However, as mentioned before, we don't really know the exact pronunciation of the Name.

At the other end of the Spectrum, we have Sacred Name believers who feel it is wrong to use titles such as God or Lord. However, terms like **Elohim** were used for the God of Creation, as in Genesis 1:1, and were also used for pagan deities in Exodus 20:3. Sacred Name believers also often have weird pronunciations for the names of God and Yeshua the Messiah, and if you don't use their particular weird pronunciations, it is anathema. We are **saved by the Blood of the Lamb**, not by how we pronounce the Names. It matters not how you pronounce the Name, or if you choose to not pronounce the Names at all. We are still brothers and sisters in the Messiah.

In Zechariah 14:9, we read, "On that day, Adonai will be One, and His Name One." Today, the Name is spelled one way, as יהוה, but it is often said another way, as **Adonai**. The Rabbis say that when Messiah returns, the name shall be pronounced as written.

Daniel Botkin Presents

WHAT IF...?

What if Jesus
had wanted a
Mega-church?

AH, MR. SIMON BAR-JONA, JUST THE
MAN WE WANTED TO SEE! I'M MR.
SANBALLAT, AND THIS IS MR. TOBIAH!
WE'RE MARKETING ANALYSTS FROM
THE CHURCH-GROWTH RESEARCH
GROUP DEWEY, FLEEC'EM, AND HOWE!



WE HEARD ABOUT THE UNFORTU-
NATE RESULTS OF JESUS' "BREAD OF
LIFE" SERMON IN CAPERNAUM LAST
WEEK, HOW THAT SERMON CAUSED
MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES TO LEAVE
AND WALK NO MORE WITH HIM!



WE THINK WE CAN HELP!
WE WANT TO FOLLOW
YOUR MASTER, OBSERVE
HIS MINISTRY TECHNIQUES,
THEN MAKE RECOMMEN-
DATIONS FOR WAYS TO
INCREASE HIS FOLLOWING!

SURE,
THAT
SOUNDS
SWELL!



MASTER, I'LL FOLLOW
WHEREVER YOU GO!



FOXES HAVE HOLES, BIRDS HAVE NESTS, BUT THE
SON OF MAN HATH NOT WHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD.

LET ME FIRST
BURY MY FATHER.



LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD: BUT GO THOU
AND PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

LET ME FIRST
BID MY FAMILY
FAREWELL.



NO MAN HAVING PUT HIS HAND TO THE PLOW AND
LOOKING BACK IS FIT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.



OH, NOT GOOD,
NOT GOOD
AT ALL...

MASTER, I'VE KEPT THE COMMANDMENTS FROM MY YOUTH UP! WHAT DO I LACK?

ONE THING THOU LACKEST: GO THY WAY, SELL WHATSOEVER THOU HAST, AND GIVE TO THE POOR.



EASIER FOR A CAMEL TO GO THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE THAN FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD...



IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME. FOR WHOSOEVER WILL SAVE HIS LIFE SHALL LOSE IT: BUT WHOSOEVER WILL LOSE HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE, THE SAME SHALL FIND IT.



IF ANY MAN COME TO ME, AND HATE NOT HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND WIFE AND CHILDREN AND BRETHREN AND SISTERS, YEA AND HIS OWN LIFE ALSO, HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE. AND WHOSOEVER DOTH NOT BEAR HIS CROSS, AND COME AFTER ME, CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE. WHOSOEVER HE BE OF YOU THAT FORSAKETH NOT ALL THAT HE HATH, HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.



OKAY, MR. BAR JONA, I THINK WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH! WE SEE THREE SERIOUS FLAWS IN THE REV. DR. CHRIST'S MINISTRY TECHNIQUES: HE'S NOT SEEKER-FRIENDLY, HE HAS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF HIS DISCIPLES, AND HE DOESN'T BUILD UP PEOPLE'S SELF-ESTEEM!



PLEASE GIVE THIS TO YOUR MASTER! IF HE FOLLOWS OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, HE'LL HAVE THE BIGGEST MEGA-SYNAGOGUE IN GALILEE!



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

Franz Rosenzweig said that "When we Christians do not walk together with the Jews, we are in danger of regressing to the paganism from which we emerged... assimilation to the idolatry of culture and nation are constant temptations for Christians." (Richard J. Neuhauser, Editor-in-Chief, First Things, 2001).

Salvation is of the Jews

by Sharon Sanders

Christian Friends of Israel, PO Box 1813, Jerusalem 9101701
Great magazine! RAC
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www.cfjerusalem.org

Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929) became an influential theologian. He said "... Christianity is Judaism for the gentiles". **Wow.** Think about that. He claimed it is likely that what Jesus said in John 4:22, few thinkers in Christianity have digested.

He felt the stumbling block lies in the fact that too many Christians cannot come to terms with the Jewishness of Jesus. "My Jesus a Jew? Never!" (the voice of a Protestant Christian). September 2019 brought a shocking headline to the world. An Orthodox Christian priest in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was forced to resign his profession because he asked his congregants to "pray for Israel" and reminded the congregation that "Jesus was a Jew." (Israel Breaking News)

"Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?", the title of a brochure given to me years made people think. Who was, and is, Jesus as far as His physical descent is concerned? Was He Catholic, Protestant or a Jew?

The first red-letter New Testament ever to be published was in 1899, originating with Louis Klopsch who was a supporter of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, and a man who desired to get the Bible into the hands of more people. Derek Prince, with his Bible in hand, always taught that the Church owed the Jewish people a great debt.

Abraham was called to be a Father to many nations (Romans 4:17, JNT). God told Israel "...what great nation has laws and rules as perfect as are those teachings that I set before you this day?" (Deuteronomy 4:8, Israel Bible). Shaul (Paul) in his desire for Israel to awaken to Messiah, says, Moses received the "living oracles" (Acts 7:38; KJV).

Paul also noted in Romans 3:1 (JNT) "What advantage has the Jew?...much in every way!" The oracles were not only given to them, but also the Torah was of the Spirit of God according to Romans 7:14, (JNT); all the families of the earth were blessed by the Jewish people

Acts 3:25 (KJV); and "they (the Jews) were made God's Children..." (Romans 9:4, JNT).

They were His Sovereign Choice, not depending upon what they did, or didn't do, but God who does the calling"

(Romans 1:11 JNT). Even if the Jews were unfaithful, it did not cancel God's faithfulness, just as Christians fail, and have been unfaithful, in many ways.

We were not entrusted with the work God gave to the Jews. "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world" (Romans 10:18). It was they who first brought the Word of God regarding Messiah and the Coming

Kingdom to us.

The name **Yeshua** is the Lord's Hebrew name. It precisely means "salvation." When He proclaimed "salvation is of the Jews,"¹ He expressed the relationship between a particular people, and deliverance from death. His position was clear. He recognized that the woman at the well needed to know the truth. His voice of authority made her think twice about salvific deliverance coming from a definite point of origin. She just needed to know the facts and then she went into her village and proclaimed Him.²

Many Christians have grasped that if we had no Jewish people, we would have no Scriptures, no Prophets, Psalmists, Apostles, Messiah, no understanding of blood sacrifice and no Jesus! Jesus transparently said without shame, "I am a Jew!" showing that He did not lean toward giving up His identity with His people. The red letter words of Jesus in Revelation 22:16 affirms "I, Jesus...am the Root and the Offspring of David...". Then Revelation 5:5 backs those words again with the settling of the matter from the Jewish elders "...Behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David..." What a day of reckoning is coming, when Israel's enemies bow low to the feet of the King of the Jews! (Matthew 27:37). Shaul (Paul) also reminds us in Romans 1:3 of his Jewish brother, Jesus "...concerning ... Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the

¹ Another way of saying "Salvation is of the Jews," would be to say, "Yeshua is of the Jews!"

² She was the first person to recognize Yeshua as the Messiah, even before Shimon Kefa (Peter) in Matthew 16:16. She was also the first to proclaim the Good News of Messiah. RAC

seed of David according to the flesh." Then Shaul brings to our attention his own Jewish background. "...for I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin..." (Romans 11:1). Finally, Timothy the son of Eunice, reminds us, "Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead..." (2 Timothy 2:8).

While studying Jeremiah 23 there was a striking epiphany behind the prophet's words as I understood Jeremiah was admonishing the Jewish leaders of his time. We likewise need to share lovingly with our own spiritual leaders that the people (sheep) need closer tending to, spiritually, and that in these accelerated days of prophecy, that "meat in due season" (Matthew 24:45) must be served from our pulpits. In other words, finest teachings drawn from the wells of Jacob, need to be given to thirsty congregants.

A day is approaching in Jerusalem, when the King returns, that He will host a royal banquet, in His Father's Honor, for which the nations are invited to come and worship the One True God. "The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine" (Isaiah 25:6, NAS). If God will not serve anything but the very best for His Children, why would we not also?

Deception in churches is rampant and there is a need to prepare the sheep for what lies ahead, which would mean incorporating prophetic messages from the Bible. "The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season" (Psalm 145:15). Where there are services devoid of Bible prophecy, the Second Coming, the Church's responsibility to Israel, the Jewishness of Jesus, and the Coming Kingdom to earth, there is spiritual emptiness on people's plates. People from all nations are now coming up to Jerusalem to raise the bar on their Biblical understanding of the latter days simply because it has been left out in their churches.

Our churches need to work toward the restoration of Israel in every possible way and rejoice with God's People that His Eternal Words are coming to pass before our eyes. "And again He saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with His People" (Romans 15:10 (KJV)).

Christian Friends of Israel answered the call, many years ago, to offer Hebraic understanding to our readers as one arm of the ministry. By focusing more fully on the Lord, we peer deeper into why Jesus said "Salvation is of the Jews." His visitor at the well was a

Gentile woman from Samaria. Since Samaritans did not follow the Jewish Torah scroll, and veered off the spiritual path, He clearly desired her to know the truth. From His Jewish vantage point of knowing Torah, plus being the Living Torah—the Word made flesh, He clearly articulated His pronouncement. Pastor Chuck Swindoll said, "Jesus never lied. He could not lie." Amen. Can we welcome *all of His Words* and gain further understanding from the red letters? If anyone reading this article draws back repulsively, it might mean the difference between life and death—due to the fact that there will be absolutely no anti-Semitism in God's Coming Kingdom on earth.

Shocked, as the woman would have had to have been, that a Jewish man spoke strongly to her, she recognized His dark hair, eyes, beard, and typical prayer shawl, she blurted out, "You, a Jew want to speak with me?" It was shortly after entering into their conversation that Jesus made known to her what we are looking into. He could have proclaimed "Salvation is of Me." But, He chose the words "of the Jews." Why? I believe He was speaking to the hearts of all generations that were to come. As God's Son, He already knew that future Gentile followers would forget He was a Jew, persecute His People (Matthew 25:40), separate from and betray His Jewish brethren.

This generation of Israel bashers and Christian anti-Semites need to realize that redemption has a lot to do with the Jewish people and that we should never forget the message Jesus gave the woman. He *is* the way to the Father, but Father God *is* the God of the Hebrews, and will be for *all* nations in the Coming Kingdom.

Dr. Yaakov Geller, Professor at the Schulman Center for Jewish Life, and Dr. Eli Lyzorken-Eisenberg, President of the Israel Center Bible Studies program, assists us in learning a bit more about the Samaritans. They settled in the hills of Ephraim and had brought their pagan practices with them.

They had accepted parts of the Torah, but did not integrate into the Jewish people, living as a separate group. The Samaritans did not believe in the sanctity of Jerusalem; instead, they believed only in Mt. Gerizim. They claimed to be the true Israel. Does this sound like anyone we know? God forbid that the Church take on the characteristics of Samaritanism, but it is out there! They also opposed worship of Israel's God in Jerusalem. The God of Israel is not separable from the people of Israel... It follows logically then, that to be in relationship with Him is to be in relationship

with His People. Because of Jesus, we share in the richness of *their* olive tree, but *we do not replace it*. For those who have never thought about this red letter statement of the Lord, it is critical to listen to what He is saying. If anyone is thinking, "this idea goes against the grain of what I've been taught" or "it is difficult to accept" because it conflicts with previous assumptions held all our lives, you will need to stand against the grain of unchallenged belief systems. Some may feel like they are rubbing up against a piece of lumber and got some splinters, for not agreeing with what the establishment has spoken about the Jewish people. It is our prayer that you will allow the Word of God to present the challenge—and not be fearful to go against the flow, or the grain of long-held creeds or dogmas.

Had Jesus never spoken these words in John 4:22, some of us might create our own Jesus to fit our culture, background and liking. Others may feel God finished with the Jews. In China, I remember seeing the face of Jesus painted as Chinese, in Africa, black, and in America and Europe, He appeared Aryan. Protestant Christians see Him today as the Good Shepherd with a Gentile face—especially around Christmas time (a babe lying in a manger, with blond hair and blue eyes).

Catholic Christians visualize Him as an iconic figure on the Cross, His human identity hijacked. Centuries ago, men took it upon themselves, with no authority from God, to throw out the Jewishness of the Lord, His family background and His People. Jesus was sitting there to remind the Samaritan woman, and all who would read the story generations later, to not forget the Jewish people and that they are linked with something significant: Salvation.

Those afraid of our Hebraic foundations make a major mistake. Nowhere in the New Testament does Jesus ever practice anything but Torah. He simply interpreted it differently than the rabbis. It makes one sad that most churches never give a second thought about caring for the Jewish people. They have no idea what they are missing...

As layers of translation are uncovered, the Hebrew text that supports a Biblical passage, often feels like drinking refreshing water from a pure well. One pastor asked "I've been preaching for twenty-five years. Why didn't I know this before?" It is time we believe *all* of the red letter words of Jesus, not just "some." We need to allow the Bible to challenge us.

**Jews do not need the Christian Christ.
Christians need the Jewish Jesus.**

The meat of the Word needs to be thundered from pulpits to awaken our people. If the Church is to reach her fullness, it must awaken toward Israel. If Israel is to reach her fullness, she must awaken to the King, **not to change religions**. Finding the missing link of Israel in our faith will bring us into a deeper understanding of what Yeshua did for us, how He fulfilled Scripture and the Torah on every point. This link has been buried for centuries in the graveyards of our churches.

Shaul (Paul) clearly states that if we are proud against the Jewish people, who cannot see Him, we are to be reminded that we are not the pillars of faith for the Jewish people; they are the pillars of faith for us. Let's get that right. (Romans 11:18). Then he says the unthinkable, so we don't preach about it). *"For if God did not spare the natural branches (Israel), He may not spare you either (the non-Jewish branches). ...consider (think about) the goodness of the Lord to you (non-Jewish people), you are not the only Chosen People, you are a part of the Chosen People, the Israel of God that will come when their fullness has arrived...if you continue in His goodness (the same goodness He has shown non-Jews) toward the Jewish people, otherwise, you also will be cut off!"* (Romans 11:22). The next time you hear someone say "Why do you want to study about the Jews? They are the last people I care about!" Tell them: "Go read the red letter words of Jesus and come back and we'll talk."

The Lord will one day be Israel's vindicator when He judges the nations for their disrespectful treatment of His People. His Father's ideals and values for which the rebuilt City of Jerusalem will be established, will be known around the world. When kings hold a banquet, there are always seating arrangements, and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob just may likely be at the Head Table (Matthew 8:11).

Now is the time to understand, and remember, "Salvation is of the Jews!" We cannot deny this, for these are the red letter words of the Lord! Let's not try to have it without them!

"If we are going to find our seat at the table during the banquet to be held in Jerusalem when the Lord returns, we had better be getting to know Jesus, and His Family. The more we comprehend the Torah, and the words of the Lord, the more we comprehend Him."

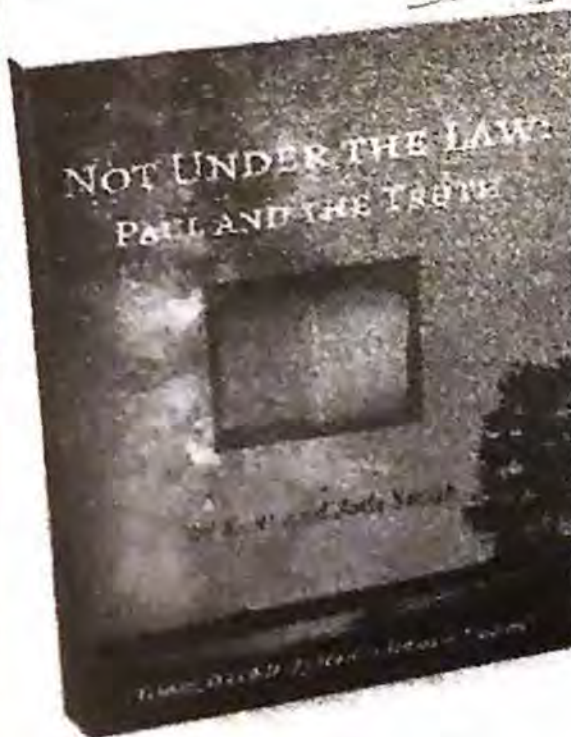
-Sharon Sanders

Messianic Jewish Commentary on the Book of Matthew

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

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

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(Recommended to our readers! RAC)

I came across a very interesting article written by Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, co-founder of Mechon Hadar, an Orthodox Jewish yeshiva for both men and women. He wrote an article called, "Speaking in the Captor's Language." I liked this article, because it took on some myths commonly taught in Judaism, Christianity, and even in much of Messianic Judaism. Both Jews and Christians often insist that the Torah is "just for the Jews." Rabbi Kaunfer tackles this myth head-on.

The giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai is sometimes compared to a wedding ceremony in which God is the Bridegroom, Israel is the bride, and the Torah is the ketubah.¹ This may all have validity. However, it makes it also sound too exclusive. Rabbi Kaunfer brings forth a narrative on the giving of Torah that he calls "a narrative of universal relevance."

One of the things that I had never thought of was the language of Torah as it was originally given. I always assumed it was Hebrew, and that the Jewish people all understood Hebrew. However, in the USA we have people from many different ethnic backgrounds whose grandparents came to these shores from many countries around the world. After two or three generations, the language of the descendants of these immigrant grandparents is almost completely forgotten.

The Jews were in slavery in Egypt for 400 years. It is doubtful that they were able to maintain any kind of meaningful schools to teach them of their heritage. Everything was passed down informally from word of mouth from one generation to the next. However, Rabbi Kaunfer makes the declaration that the Hebrew slaves no longer spoke Hebrew! Shocking! And he quotes Midrash (Pesikta DeRav Kahana BaHodesh 12:24 and Pesikta Rabbati 21) to address the question, "What is the language of revelation?" The answer blew my socks off: "R. Nehemia... claims that G-d revealed to the Jewish people in Egyptian." So G-d revealed the Torah in Egyptian!?

The Midrash suggests that the choice of language (Egyptian) reflected an act of love (*leshon ahava, leshon hibah*). "G-d loved the people so much that G-d chose to speak in their language." Torah is meant for those who

speak other languages. It is designed for a population enmeshed in a larger culture. It isn't designed for Jews to isolate themselves from the wider society. "G-d will take any step necessary, even speaking in the language of the captors, to get the message to the people."

A second Midrash narrative is much more widely known, preserved in Midrash Tehillim 68. God offers the Torah to the various nations of the world. They all refuse the Torah, some because they object to the prohibition of stealing, some because the object to the prohibition of murder, some because of adultery, etc. However, the children of Israel were chosen to merit Torah because, unlike the other nations, they accepted all of the words unconditionally.

However, "When G-d spoke the word (on Sinai), G-d's voice split into seven voices. Those seven voices split into the 70 languages of the world, so that everyone could understand." The **thunder** (*kol* - "sound") in Exodus 19:19 was the Torah going forth in the 70 different languages of the 70 nations that existed at that time. God intended Torah for **all** the nations! It wasn't designed to seal an exclusive relationship between God and the Jewish people. And God intends that it be comprehended by everyone, regardless of language (although we recommend the study of Hebrew for a better understanding of Torah). Rabbi Kaunfer said, "Torah is relevant not just for every Jew, but for every person on earth."

Rabbi Kaunfer writes, "And what if we took to heart the possibility that the Torah is saying something of universal relevance? Would we stop being embarrassed by the demands of revelation? Would we feel confident that living a life in accordance with G-d's will expressed at Sinai has enduring value for **all** people?"

I agree with Rabbi Kaunfer. I understand that most Orthodox Jews believe the Torah is just for the Jews, and I also understand that most Christians (and most other non-Jews as well) don't even want the Torah. They often consider the Torah as bondage, or even a curse! However, Proverbs 28:9 says, "He who turns away his ear from listening to the Law (Torah), even his prayer is an abomination." If you don't want your prayers to be an abomination, I suggest listening to the Torah! Numbers 15:16 says, "There is to be one law (Torah) and one ordinance for you and for the alien who sojourns with you." J

For God So Loved the World That He Gave Us the Torah

**Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin**

¹ Jewish marriage contract, which the groom presents to the bride, as prenuptial contract promising to provide for her and protect her.



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ONE of the many things I have learned over the years is that the learning comes from the doing. It is like God was saying to me, "You haven't been obedient to what I already taught you. Why should I teach you new things?" Once I got that into my brain many years ago, and started being obedient to God, then HaShem began to teach me far more than I could have ever imagined.

As an example of this direction of thought: Try to imagine a place called Baseball University. Young people enroll in Baseball University. They study diligently for four years, watching reruns of historic baseball games, and under great experts in baseball. Some even go on to get a Masters Degree in "Baseball."

They finally graduate and decide to join a baseball team. There's just one problem: They never actually played the game themselves! They get out on the field, and turn out to be terrible baseball players! Why is that? Well, like I said, the **learning** comes from the **doing**.

It is the same with studying the Scriptures, both the Foundational Scriptures (O.T.), and the Apostolic Scriptures (NT). I hasten to add: You cannot possibly have a good understanding of the Newer Testament if you don't understand the Tanakh (OT). However, even then, if you decide to just get "head" knowledge without actually obeying God's instructions, you will fall woefully short in understanding the Bible.

Here is one more tidbit of information: **Torah** is generally translated as "Law." With my hippie background, I was utterly appalled at a bunch of rules and regulations. I liked pastors who taught things like, "Jesus kept the Law so I don't have to." **Wow!** Great! Of course, that saying isn't in the Bible, but it sounded wonderful to my ignorant ear drums.

However, it should also be noted that **Torah** more accurately means "Instruction." And instructions are **good**, not bad. In the glove box of my automobile, there is a booklet called, "The Manufacturer's Handbook." This booklet gives me instructions on how to take

proper care of my car. Do I **have** to obey those instructions? No, not really. I have a choice: I can obey those instructions and maintain my car in excellent running condition for many years. And when I decide to trade it in, it will be worth far more. I can also choose to disobey those instructions, and pay a fortune in auto repairs, and ultimately end up with a car that is worth almost nothing at trade-in time.

The same holds true with Torah - God's Instructions to us. I have heard it said that it is the "Ten **Commandments**," not the "Ten **Suggestions**." However, in a sense the Ten Commandments (and many more!) are very much voluntary. Adonai does not **force** us to obey His words. We can obey, and reap the many benefits, or we can disobey, and reap the consequences - both in this life and also in the Olam Haba - the World to Come.

And one of the many benefits of obeying God's instructions is that we finally begin to understand the Scriptures better. God isn't going to teach you new things until you have been obedient to what He has already taught you!

Many men and women study for years in Bible colleges and seminaries. Regrettably, they are often taught that the "Old Testament" is outdated, replaced by the new, better version of Scripture. I have on occasion used Scripture to back up a doctrine. Then the Christian will say, "Oh, that's just **Old Testament**!"

Imagine how that would sound to the ears of Yeshua.

The "Old" Testament happens to be the only Scriptures that Yeshua knew. It is also the only Bible that existed for another century. Rav Sha'ul (Paul) wrote to Timothy, "**All** Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16)." When Paul wrote about **Scripture**, he was referring to the Tanakh, the Old Testament. When Yeshua or Paul wanted to back up any doctrine, they quoted the only Scriptures that existed at that time: The **Old Testament**. Both Yeshua and Paul loved the Scriptures. Please don't dismiss the Scriptures they loved. T

BASEBALL University

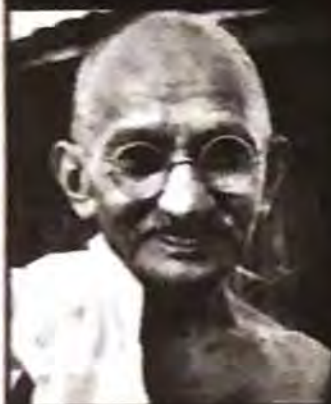
Richard
'Aharon'
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Mahatma Gandhi is admired by millions for his supposed pacifism. However, when it came to the Nazi Holocaust in which millions of Jews were slaughtered, he was strangely indifferent. He recommended that they offer their throats to the butcher knife. (See the quote from Gandhi down below.)

He also said, "I do not consider Hitler to be as bad as he is depicted. He is showing an ability that is amazing and seems to be gaining his victories without much bloodshed"; and "They (the Jews) should have thrown themselves into the sea from cliffs." That sounds more like an anti-Semite than a pacifist.

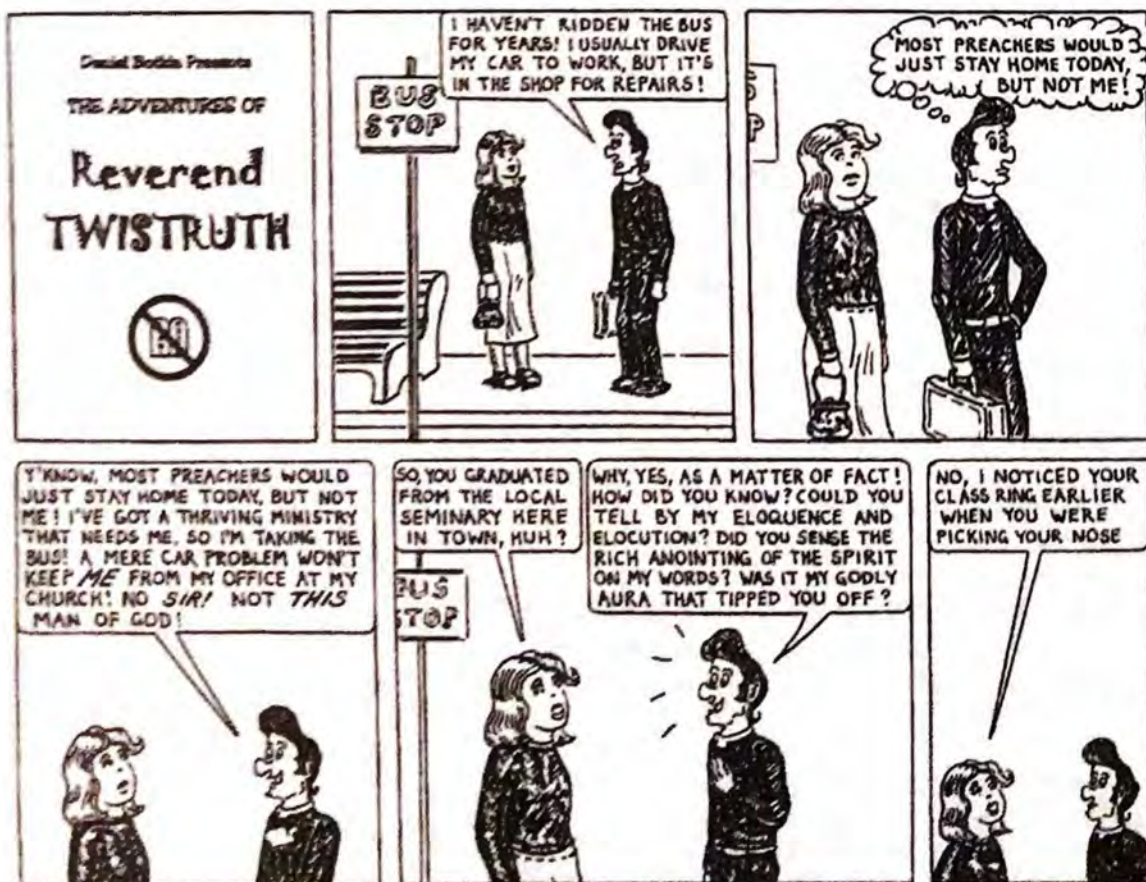
However, Gandhi was not a complete pacifist when it came to India. Gandhi himself had remarked (in 1922): "(R)epeatedly I said that I would have India become free even by violence rather than that she should remain in bondage." (Jewish Virtual Library)



Hitler killed five million Jews. It is the greatest crime of our time. But the Jews should have offered themselves to the butcher's knife. They should have thrown themselves into the sea from cliffs. As it is, they succumbed anyway in their millions.

(Mahatma Gandhi)

izquotes.com



I am seven years old and sitting in a fundamentalist Baptist church. My pastor is ranting about Jews again. "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee," the pastor reads from his King James Bible (Gen. 12:3), describing God's promise to Abraham.

He explains that it is our duty to support the children of Abraham because we do not want to be on God's wrong side. He also claims that America is blessed because it has historically supported Israel.

Even at my young age, I have heard it all before, and I nod along. And even though I was a Scotch-Irish kid growing up in rural Colorado, I had already pledged my life to worshipping the God of the Jews.

In the fundamentalist, conservative church I grew up in, with hymns and organs, long skirts for the ladies and young-earth creationism, preachers frequently borrowed an image from the New Testament book of Romans to explain the relationship between Christians and Jews. It said that Jews were like an olive tree with a strong root in the law, the prophets and the Torah.

Gentile Christians like me were like a wild branch that is grafted onto the tree. Christians were not one with Judaism, but were supported and nourished by it. We were taught that Christians and Jews are natural allies. We worshipped the same God and had largely overlapping beliefs on morality and big life questions. All that really separated us was a difference of opinion as to whether or not Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah.

Sure, there were political differences; my church was almost 100% Republican, and we knew that most American Jews were Democrats. But we did not care. The Biblical mandate to support Jewish people trumped the fleeting controversies of partisan politics. I eventually abandoned the fundamentalism of my youth. But I retained my Christianity, and with it, the love of the Jewish people and Israel.

I am a twenty-three year old law student, sitting in an East Village bar with two of my best friends, both of whom happen to be Jewish. As good law students, we could not help but lose ourselves in debate when we should have been studying. But one of them is about to drop a bomb on me.

"Christians hate Jews," he said. I had

never heard anything of the sort before. I shake my head in stunned silence and look to my other friend, but he is nodding along. I was not sure what to say, so I point out that Christians support Israel.

"Christians only pretend to support Israel," he said. He explained that, in his view, Christians supported Israel because they wanted Jews to leave America. Once all the Jews are in Israel, he said, Christians believe that Jesus will return and kill them all.

I ask him where he heard such nonsense. He looks at me like I am the most naïve person he has ever met — which I might have been — and he says that this fact is common knowledge.

I tell him that I have gone to church almost every week of my life, and visited almost every denomination — evangelical, fundamentalist, mainline Protestant, black churches, white churches, charismatic churches, and even the occasional Catholic mass, just for fun — and I had never heard anything like this before. I explain that, throughout my life, I had only ever heard positive things about Jews from my fellow Christians.

My friends shake their heads. They tell me that I must have gone to a weird church. They knew what Christians *really* believed, and I did not.

I am a thirty-six year old partner at a civil litigation law firm, and my friends' old conspiracy theory has now gone mainstream. In the Twitter era, your political opponents cannot just be misguided; they must be evil, completely devoid of even the smallest virtue. And as we shut each other out and dig into our tribal affiliations, pernicious conspiracy theories thrive, including the one about Christian support of Israel.

Writing recently in the Washington Post, Talia Lavin insisted that Christian Zionists view American Jews as "irrelevant" at best, no more than "blank-faced pawns [to be] maneuvered toward the Rapture." She argues that Christians only pretend to support Israel because they believe a strong Israel will hasten the end of the world and the second coming. In other words, Christians fake their support for Israel and Jews; in reality, we want Jews to go to Israel so that Jesus can come back and kill them.

This view is common on today's left. But the problems with it are legion. For starters, it

The Idea That Christian Love For Jews is About Rapture is a Paranoid Conspiracy Theory

by Jarvis Best

ignores the most logical explanations for Christian support for Israel—shared scripture, shared values, and the Bible's mandate that we do so—in favor of a poorly sourced and paranoid explanation that imagines the worst intentions in others.

There is simply no evidence suggesting that large numbers of Christians harbor a terrifying desire for Jesus to slaughter innocent people. This is the Jesus that, according to Christian scriptures, was a Jew, recruited Jews to his cause, and wants nothing but the best for his people, as well as everyone else. Paul even concludes Romans 11 by predicting that all of Israel will be rescued and blessed, not killed. And while there are a variety of "end times" theories based on vague Bible verses, millions of Christians are not flocking to church each week to fantasize about a murderous Jesus who will kill the very people that God told us to love.

Even for evangelical Christians, who are more likely than other types of Christians to be preoccupied with specious "end times" predictions, support for Israel is not primarily based on any sort of evil prophecy.

A 2017 survey of evangelicals who support Israel found that the primary reasons for their support were their beliefs that **God gave the land of Israel to Jews and that was that Israel is the historic Jewish homeland.** Only 12% of evangelicals cited fulfillment of prophecy as the most important reason to support Israel. But even with that small subset, fulfillment of prophecy does not mean some sort of evil vision where Jesus comes to kill... The truth is that the Bible does not have much to say about the end of the world; our focus is, and should be, on improving the here and now.

Moreover, some Christians can go over the top in their support of Israel, ignoring Jewish voices and critical nuance in the process. A recent poll found that 42% of American Jews believe that President Trump is favoring Israel too much, while only 26% of American Christians share that belief. In other words, more Jews than Christians believe that the current administration is too pro-Israel.

Too often, Christian thought on Israel or Judaism is a black and white, cartoonish *Israel Good; Jew Good* ideology that lacks sophistication. Many American Christians support Israel. American Christians, particularly evangelical Christians, are some of the most fervent supporters of Israel in America. Christians who attend church frequently are statistically the most supportive. This is a virtue.

And yet, many do so as a matter of religious dogma, not as a matter of educated opinion...

Christians like me have a lot of work to do: educating ourselves on Israel, ridding anti-Semitism from our ranks, and celebrating and including modern Jewish voices. But the paranoid conspiracy theory about a genocidal end to the Jews is no way to critique that which truly deserves criticism.

Christians occupy an odd space. We worship the God of the Jews, but we are not Jewish. We study the same prophets and patriarchs as in Judaism, and the chief target of our affections is a particular Jewish rabbi who was active in Galilee about 2,000 years ago. Our top scholar and the author of the bulk of our NT scripture was a zealous Jew named Saul, whom Christians call St. Paul. One could consider the situation a type of cultural appropriation on steroids, with 2.1 billion Christians around the world pledging allegiance to the God of 14 million Jews.

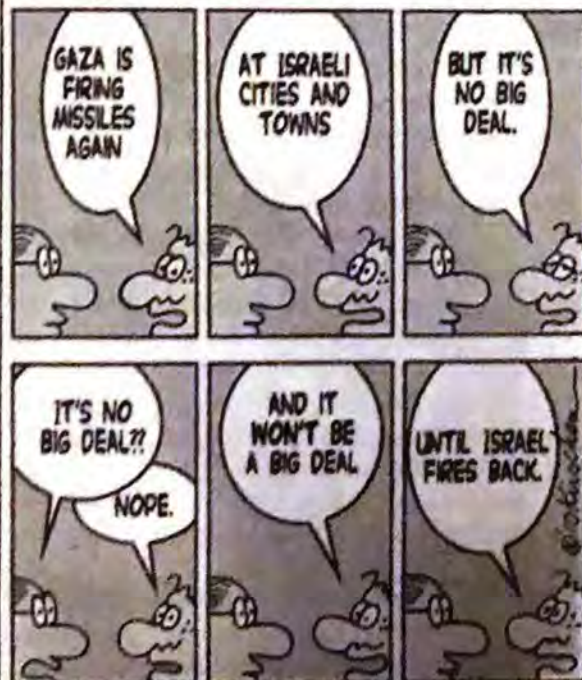
Jews, in my view, should think of Christians not as an enemy, but as a flawed ally. Mutual understanding can help us all. Taking Christian support of Israel at face value is a small step in the right direction.

Jarvis Best is the pseudonym of an attorney and writer living in Denver, Colorado.

Editor's note: The author of this piece is not in a position where he can identify himself, due to the nature of his work. We felt this piece was significant enough to run in spite of this fact.

Dry Bones

NO BIG DEAL



There are a great variety of opinions in response to this question, due mainly to the fact that the 20th Century contained many stupendous events. The event that was named on the Google lists more than any other as the most important event of the 20th Century was the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan in August of 1945.

I have been evaluating the most important event of the 20th Century from a humanistic viewpoint. But if we shift to a much more important spiritual viewpoint, then I would argue that there was an event in the 20th Century that was far more important than the development of nuclear weapons.

That event was the worldwide re-gathering of the Jewish people back to their homeland — an event that resulted in the reestablishment of the state of Israel.

And like many of the great events of the 20th Century which were preceded by equally great or greater foundational events, the miraculous re-gathering of the Jewish people was possible only because of a greater miracle God performed — namely, the preservation of the Jewish people for more than 1,800 years despite the fact that they were dispersed worldwide and were severely persecuted almost everywhere they went. And lest you think I am exaggerating, let me prove it to you.

The Relevant Prophecies

There are many Bible prophecies concerning the re-gathering of the Jewish people in unbelief. In fact, their re-gathering in unbelief is the most prolific prophecy in the Old Testament Scriptures. Let's take a look at three of the most important of those prophecies. The first is found in Jeremiah 16. It is mind-boggling. Read it carefully:

14) "Therefore behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when it will no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,'"

15) but, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.' For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers."

This same prophecy is repeated verbatim in Jeremiah 23:7-8. You cannot fully appreciate what is said in these verses unless you know

something about Judaism. The one event that Jews consider to be the greatest miracle in their history is the deliverance of their ancestors from Egyptian captivity under the leadership of Moses.

What was the Greatest Event of the 20th Century?

But this scripture passage asserts that a time will come when the Jews will look back on their history and proclaim that their re-gathering from the four corners of the earth — the event that began in the 1890s and continues to this day — was a greater miracle than their deliverance from Egyptian slavery. In other

words, the re-gathering that began in the 20th Century and continues today will eclipse the Exodus!

This means that you and I are privileged to witness one of the greatest miracles of history. And yet, the average Christian has no appreciation for what is happening because he is ignorant of Bible prophecy and he has been taught that God is finished with the Jews. Therefore, the current re-gathering is simply viewed as an accident of history.

The second prophecy I want to bring to your attention is found in Isaiah 11:

10) Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples...

11) Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover the **second** time with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

12) And He will lift up a standard for the nations and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Some have tried to debunk any modern application of this prophecy by claiming that it was fulfilled about 500 years before the time of Jesus by the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity. But that cannot be. The passage refers to a "second" re-gathering (the return from Babylon being the first). Further, it states this will be a re-gathering "from the islands of the sea," which is a Hebrew colloquialism for the whole world, as is made clear in verse 12 where it states that the regathering will be "from the four corners of the earth." Also, verse 12 says that "the banished ones" of both Israel and Judah will be regathered. The return from Babylon was a re-gathering of Jews from Judah.

by Dr. David Reagan
christinprophecy.org

The third prophecy is found in Ezekiel 37. This is the famous prophecy of the Valley of the Dry Bones. The prophet was placed in a valley full of bones and told to preach to them. As he did so, the bones began to come together, flesh grew back upon them and they came to life, becoming "an exceedingly great army" (Ezekiel 37:1-10). We can be assured of this interpretation because it is the one that God Himself provides later in the chapter:

21) "Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22) and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.'"

Again, those who are determined to argue that God has no purpose left for the Jewish people, attempt to invalidate these verses as an end time prophecy by arguing that they were fulfilled when the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity. But that simply cannot be.

The entire chapter has an end time context. It speaks of a re-gathering from "the nations," and not just from Babylon (verse 21). It says this re-gathering will result in a union of Jews from both Israel and Judah (verse 19). And it says that following this re-

gathering, the Jewish people will turn their hearts to God and will become "My people" (verse 23).

At verse 24, the chapter moves into the Millennial Reign of Jesus as it speaks of David (in his glorified body) once again becoming the king of the Jewish people. Further, it states that at that time, "the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel..." (verse 28).

Conclusion

I was talking with a friend recently about the life of Jesus, and he said to me, "Wouldn't it have been exciting to live in biblical times?" My response: "We are living in biblical times because we are being granted the privilege of seeing the fulfillment of one of God's greatest biblical promises — that one day He will re-gather the Jewish people in unbelief back to their homeland from the four corners of the earth."

Further, we should keep in mind that end time Bible prophecy focuses on the Jewish people and the nation of Israel, and the things that God is doing among the Jewish people today, in fulfillment of many prophecies, is proof positive that we are living in the season of the Lord's return. That's the most important reason for considering the re-gathering of the Jewish people to be the greatest event of the 20th Century.



"SHADDAI" by Eric Carrillo, Texas

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

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

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

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

As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you (Abraham), and you shall be a father of many nations. ¹Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you. ²And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come out of you.

³And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed (descendants) after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God to you, and to your seed after you. ⁴And I will give to you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

⁵And God said to Abraham, "You shall keep My covenant therefore, you, and your seed after you in their generations. ⁶This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your seed after you: Every

ABRAHAM:

A Man of Hospitality

male child among you shall be circumcised. ¹²And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant between Me and

you. ¹³And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every male child throughout your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, who is not of your seed. ¹⁴He that is born in your house, and he that is bought with your money, must be circumcised: and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁵And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.

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

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

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

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

himself to a new spiritual plateau."²

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

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

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

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

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

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

SARAH LAUGHED!

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

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

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Common Era, equivalent to "A.D."

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

WHY THREE ANGELS?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



In English we call the fourth book of the Bible "Numbers." This is a translation of the Latin title of the book, *Numeri*, which is a translation of the Greek title *Arithmoi*.

If you read the first several chapters of the book, it's easy to see why Greek-speaking, Latin-speaking, and English-speaking people gave it a title that includes the ideas of arithmetic and numbers. The first several chapters consist primarily of long lists of numbers and mathematical calculations to record the total amounts of various countings: how many men in each of the twelve tribes; how to set up the camp according to the tribes; how many men in each of the families of the Levites; how many shekels of redemption money to collect; how many of each item that each of the tribal leaders brought as an offering, etc., etc., etc.

Reading all the numbers in the first several chapters of Numbers can be rather tedious. Especially chapter 7, which repeats the same long list of items twelve times in a row. Things do not start to get exciting until around chapter 11, when the Lord gets angry and starts smiting the children of Israel for their complaining and lusting after the foods which they "freely" ate in Egypt.

Even though all the numbers in Numbers make for rather boring reading, there are some practical lessons we can learn from all this numbering. When you read how all the individual people were counted, and how the tribes and the Levites were organized and assembled around the Tabernacle, you get a picture of order and harmony. Every individual knew his place. All of the people knew who they were. They all knew to which tribe they belonged and they knew where their tribe belonged. They knew who their leaders were. They knew who had authority over whom. They knew what their duty and their tasks were. They each knew what was expected of them. They knew what they were supposed to do and how to do it. If they were unsure, they knew who to consult to ask for clarification. Each person knew where he fit in as a member of that called-out body of people known as Israel.

I think that most Messianic disciples today know that their faith in Israel's Messiah makes them a member of that called-out body of people known as Israel. However, many Messianic believers do not know where they be-

long in the Body of Messiah. They know that they are members of Messiah's Body, but they do not know where they belong or what they are supposed to be doing in that Body.

One reason that some people do not know what they are supposed to do in the universal

Don't be Numb to Numbers

by Daniel Botkin

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

Body of Messiah is because they are not joined to a local body of Messianic disciples. They struggle along on their own and feel like misfits who do not fit in. But the

reason they do not fit in is because they refuse to get in. They make excuses and remain isolated from local congregations of believers. If you feel like a misfit, my advice is: "Get in, and you'll fit in!"

Some people want fellowship and friendship from a local community, but they will not commit them-

selves to a specific local community. They might attend a congregation or a weekly Bible study for a season, then disappear and start meeting with a different group, then later re-emerge at a group that they had formerly attended. They randomly wander from place to place, back and forth, like a carefree butterfly fluttering from flower to flower, and they never have any roots. They never develop any meaningful, long-term friendships with fellow believers.

There is nothing wrong with visiting various congregations and study groups. On the contrary, you can be blessed and you can be a blessing to others by visiting various groups. But a believer who just hops around from group to group, without being committed to any specific local assembly, makes himself a candidate for fruitlessness, friendlessness, frustration, and possibly even deception.

"Deception? Why do you say that?"

Because the Biblical norm is every individual believer being a member of a local assembly, and being accountable to the leadership there. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17).

The above verse (and all the other verses in the Bible about authority and leadership in the Body) presupposes that every individual believer will be in a local assembly and will be accountable to the leadership of the assembly. Hebrews 13:17 does *not* say "If you happen to be part of a local assembly, obey them that have the rule over you." It's a given that

you *will* be part of a local assembly. If you are not accountable to the leadership of a local assembly, then you have no way to obey this commandment, and you have no shepherd to watch for your soul. Therefore you are a candidate for possible deception by the Enemy.

"But the **Lord** is my shepherd," some people object. "He watches for my soul. I don't need any imperfect earthly shepherds when I have Yeshua, the Good Shepherd."

The problem with this attitude is that the Good Shepherd tells you in His Word to obey them that have the rule over you, and to submit yourselves, for they watch for your soul. The perfect Good Shepherd above watches for your soul by appointing imperfect men to lead local assemblies below. He expects you to be in a local assembly and to be accountable to imperfect leaders. It is impossible to obey Hebrews 13:17, or any of the other verses that give instructions about submitting to leaders, if you are not accountable to leaders in a local assembly.

In the early chapters of the Book of Numbers, we see order and harmony. Everybody knows his place, and everybody knows who is in charge. The Levites are camped around the Tabernacle. Moses and Aaron and Aaron's sons are camped on the east side, in front of the entrance, and the Levitical families of Gershon, Kohath, and Merari are camped along the sides and the rear of the Tabernacle. The Gershonites, Kohathites, and Merarites are told which items of the Tabernacle each of these families will carry.

Each of the twelve tribes is assigned their place to encamp, and each of the tribes has one man who is the head of his tribe. The twelve tribes are told the order in which they are to march. Everything is organized and orderly. All things are done decently and in order.

We see order and harmony in these early chapters of Numbers. We do not see individual Levites deciding for themselves which tasks they would like to do in the Tabernacle, or which items of the Tabernacle they would like to carry. We do not see individuals deciding for themselves which tribe they would like to join. We do not see tribes deciding for themselves where they would like to encamp, or which position they would like to be in when they march. We do not see individual Israelites deciding to usurp the authority of their tribal leader and appoint someone else to be the leader.

This is what we see in the early chapters of Numbers. Unfortunately, this order and har-

mony does not last very long. In chapter 11 we see the people complaining about the manna and lusting for flesh. As a result, the anger of the LORD is greatly kindled and He smites the people with a very great plague. In chapter 12 we see Miriam and Aaron criticizing Moses for marrying an Ethiopian woman. Miriam is smitten with leprosy for her murmuring. In chapter 13 we see ten of the twelve spies bringing back an evil report to discourage the people from going into the Promised Land. In chapter 14 the LORD pronounces His judgment of forty years of wandering in the wilderness because of their refusal to go into the Land. In chapter 15 we see a man picking up sticks on the Sabbath, and he is stoned to death by the express commandment of God. In chapter 16 we see Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rise up to challenge the authority of Moses and Aaron. These rebels and their families go down alive into the pit when Yahweh causes the earth to open its mouth and swallow them. As we continue to read, we see more and more examples of the children of Israel being chastised and smitten and killed for their murmuring and their sin.

When the Apostle Paul writes about the children of Israel's wilderness wanderings and murmurings, he says that "all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Cor. 10:11).

That means: "Don't do those foolish, dangerous things that the children of Israel did in Numbers. If you do, you'll get in trouble."

You would think that Messianic believers, who are usually more familiar with these stories than most mainstream Christians are, would take this to heart, but they don't. Instead of living in order and harmony, with everyone in their proper place and everyone knowing what they are supposed to do, Messianic Israelites follow the same pattern of the rebellious children of Israel. They murmur and complain and criticize leaders. Like the ten spies, they bring evil reports and discourage the people from following the leaders who want to bring the congregation into a land flowing with milk and honey. Like the man who decided to pick up sticks on the Sabbath, they decide for themselves what is right and wrong. Like Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, they challenge the right of leaders to lead. They try to undermine and usurp the authority of leaders.

Most people go to congregational meetings for two primary reasons: On the vertical plane,

they go to worship God as part of a community. On the horizontal plane, they go to find fellowship and friendship with believers.

Based on my many years of observation and experience, I believe that the best and the sweetest worship is expressed in a community where order and harmony are the norm, in a community where there is stable leadership, a common vision, and sincere love for the Lord and for one another. And I believe that the best fellowship and friendship can be found in congregations where brethren are loyal to one another. True friends are loyal friends. The apocryphal book of Ecclesiasticus is not part of the canon of Scripture, but I love what it says about friendship:

"A loyal friend is a powerful defense: whoever finds one has indeed found a treasure.

"A loyal friend is something beyond price, there is no measuring his worth.

"A loyal friend is the elixir of life, and those who fear the Lord will find one.

"Whoever fears the Lord makes true friends, for as a person is, so is his friend too...

"Do not desert an old friend; the new one will not be his match.

"New friend, new wine; when it grows old, you drink it with pleasure" (Ecclesiasticus 6:14-17 & 9:10).

The Lord does not want you to be lonely and friendless. He wants you to have friends who are loving and loyal. When I think of friendship, I think of David and Jonathan. The Bible says that "the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (1 Sam. 18:1). The New Testament talks about the hearts of believers being "knit together in love" (Col. 2:2).

Garments can be loosely knit or tightly knit. In a world-wide, universal sense, all believers are loosely knit together with one another. As members of the universal Body of Messiah, we are all connected to all believers of every location and of every generation. But the Lord also wants you to experience tightly-knit friendships in the here and now.

Let me add to my earlier advice of "*Git* in, and you'll *fit* in." Now let me say unto you:

"*Git* in, and you'll *fit* in, and you'll become *knit* in."

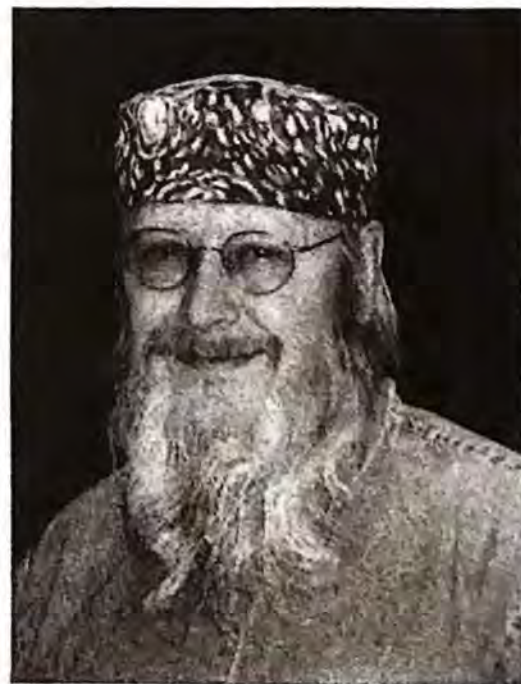
I know a lot of people, so I have lots of friends. But I have had only a few friendships in my adult life that I would describe as tightly-knit, like David and Jonathan's friendship. Besides my biological brother and sister and my wife and my immediate family, I can think of only about eight men with whom my soul has been tightly knit, and two of them are

now dead. Of the remaining men, there are two whom I still see on a regular basis.

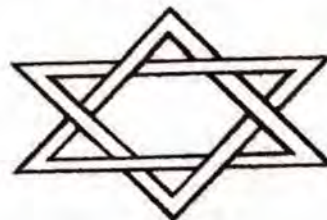
I once read somewhere that some of the men who fought in World War 2 said that they "missed" the war after they returned home at the end of the war. It was not the killing and the carnage of war that they missed. The thing they missed was the camaraderie, the knitting together of souls in a battle against a common enemy that needed to be defeated and destroyed. They could not find that sort of camaraderie in civilian life.

Much of the numbering in Numbers was to prepare the people for war. If you will get in fellowship and find your place in the Lord's war against wickedness and live like a soldier of Messiah, your heart will become knit together in love with others. You will enjoy the camaraderie that only soldiers can experience by warring together against a common enemy.

If you want friends, you have to go to a place where friends can be found. If you want to enjoy good fellowship, good friendship, and good worship, don't neglect these lessons from Numbers. Don't be numb to Numbers.



Daniel Botkin



"BEHOLD, I show you a **mystery**; we shall not all sleep (die), but we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar (trumpet): for the shofar shall sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when the perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, 'O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?'"¹

The verses above are among the most prominent supporting the doctrine of the "Rapture." Rav Sha'ul (Paul) says, "I tell you a **mystery**." Yochanan ("John") says, "In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound (the shofar), then the **mystery** of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets."²

The seventh angel will sound the seventh shofar, which just 'happens' to be the last of seven angels, each of whom sounds a shofar which heralds a plague or cataclysmic event. "And the seventh angel sounded, and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever' ... and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to Thy bondservants the prophets and the saints and to those who fear Thy name, both small and great, and for destroying those who destroy the earth."³ When the seventh shofar is sounded, the saints⁴ will be rewarded. Will you be ready? This is also the time when those who destroy the earth (criminals against ecology?) are destroyed.

The Rapture (catching away and transformation) of the saints occurs at the sounding of the seventh (last) shofar, and not a moment sooner. This means that the Rapture occurs after the many plagues described in Revelation

chapters 4 through 9.

Daniel 7:25 tells us about a wicked king who will arise (the anti-Messiah) and will "speak out against the Most High and wear out down the saints of the Most High, and he will intend to **make alterations in times and in law**; and they (the saints) shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time (3 and 1/2 years)."

Certainly long before any future anti-Messiah (with a capital M – also known as "Anti-Christ"), there have been many other anti-messiahs who have accomplished similar things. They have made "alterations in times and in laws," for instance. They have replaced Biblical holidays such as Passover with pagan holidays such as **Easter**, named after the pagan goddess **Ishtar**. This holiday

The Seventh Shofar (Trumpet) and the 'Rapture' of the Saints

has been changed to appear more "Christian." However, many traditions attached to this holiday are

pagan, such as Easter eggs and Easter bunnies. The Biblical Sabbath has been replaced by the day of the week which honored the sun god. (Try to guess which day that is!)

However, the Seven-Day week has remained since Creation. I expect that the anti-Messiah will attempt to alter the 7-day week in some fashion. Manmade commandments ("no wine," etc.) have also come into the Church, replacing the commandments from God.

Daniel 7:25 mentions the saints being persecuted. Many Protestants do something very unusual when interpreting this verse. The saints (for this verse only!) are considered to be the Jewish people. In this manner of interpretation, the "Church" is spared persecution. However, when it comes to the time for blessings, the term 'saints' is interpreted as being the Church. Don't you think the term "saints" should be used a bit more fairly and consistently? The anti-Messiah will be wearing down those who are born-again of the Spirit of the LORD, both Jews and Gentiles.

Covenant of 'Peace'

The prophet Daniel (9:27) also records the warning of the angel Gabriel about a man who "shall make a strong covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation..." The word that Daniel used for "week" is **shavua**, which is related to the **shoresh** (root word) for **seven**. Prophetically,

¹ 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

² Revelation 10:7.

³ Revelation 11:15-18.

⁴ A 'saint' is anybody who has trusted in Yeshua for his or her salvation and is living for Him. I suspect that many of those who have been canonized as saints (such as "Saint" John Chrysostom [349-407]) are rotting in hell for their evil anti-Semitism.

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

a "week" sometimes refers to a "week" (or seven) of years. This passage has more than one fulfillment, referring to events that occurred in the times of the Maccabees during the revolt against the Syrian Greeks in 168-165 BCE, as well as the Jewish revolt against Rome in the First Century CE, and also to times yet future. There will be a restoration of Temple sacrifices in the future, which assumes a rebuilt **Beit HaMikdash** (Temple) in the latter days. However, halfway through this 7-year period, Anti-M (Anti-Messiah) breaks his treaty with the Jews in Israel.

Rav Sha'ul warned us about this man: "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, and by our gathering together to Him (Rapture?) that you not be soon shaken in mind, nor troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one in any way deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come, except that there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin revealed, the son of perdition (Anti-M), who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he takes his seat in the Temple of God, declaring himself to be God."⁵ There will be a great falling away first. The Temple will be rebuilt. The anti-Messiah will take his seat in the Temple of God proclaiming himself as being God. And then, and only then, will the Rapture occur.

Yes, the saints will have to endure three and a half years of Tribulation prior to the Rapture. This has been confirmed thus far in this article by the witness of Yochanan, Rav Sha'ul, Daniel, and the angel Gabriel. "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the Gospel of Adonai?"⁶

The most important witness to the timing of the Rapture and return of the Messiah is Yeshua Himself. He said, "But immediately after the Tribulation of those days the sun shall be darkened ... the sign of the Son of man will appear in the sky ... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and with great glory, and He will send forth His angels with a great **shofar**, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."⁷ It is apparent that Yeshua did not be-



lieve in any "Pre-Trib" Rapture.

When I use the term "Rapture," I am using a non-Biblical term. It is nowhere to be found in Scripture. However, it is the commonly used term to describe the events of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: "For the Lord Himself will descend with the **shofar** of God; and the dead in Messiah will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord."

Yom T'ruwah

The smaller shofar is a trumpet generally made from a ram's horn. The **shofar gadol** (large shofar) is usually made from the horn of a kudu, which is an antelope commonly found in Africa. The shofar is blown on Biblical Holy Days, especially including the Feast of Trumpets, also called *Rosh HaShanah* in Judaism. Biblically, a more accurate term for this particular holiday is **Yom T'ruwah** (Day of Blowing [the shofar]). According to Rabbinic tradition, the blowing of the shofar on this day has a three-fold purpose:

- Sounding the call to repentance.
- Reminding all of the covenant relationship between YHWH and His people Israel.
- And to startle and confuse HaSatan, who, according to the Rabbis, especially accuses Israel on this day.

All of the **Jewish** Holy Days also happen to be the **Biblical** Holy Days. These Holy Days all have historical importance as well as a prophetic fulfillment. One of the prophetic fulfillments of the Feast of "Trumpets" is the Rapture. Since the prophetic fulfillment of other Holy Days happen to occur on the various Holy Days themselves, it is reasonable to assume that the Rapture will also occur on a future Feast of "Trumpets."

The concept of a "Pre-Tribulation Rapture" is relatively modern in origin, based in large part on the "visions" of Margaret MacDonald in 1830s Scotland. John Nelson Darby later latched onto this doctrine and popularized it. Eventually, it was the famous Scofield Bible with its notes that brought the "Pre-Trib" Rapture theory to the masses. Prior to 1830, the

⁵ 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4.

⁶ 1 Kefa (Peter) 4:17.

⁷ Matthew 24:29-31.

"Pre-Trib" Rapture was unheard of.⁸

Bible-believers will endure the Tribulation period, which will last 3 1/2 years. However, Believers will be "raptured out" prior to the Wrath of God (Revelation 15:1 & 16:1), which will be completed with seven more angels with seven other plagues. I believe that the Scriptures teach a "Post-Trib, Pre-Wrath" Rapture. As it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:9, "God has not appointed us for wrath..." However, **"In the world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."**⁹

"The beast (Anti-M) was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and was allowed to exercise authority for 42 months (3 1/2 years). It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against YHWH, blaspheming His name and His dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also, it was allowed to make war on the saints, and to conquer them."¹⁰ Don't blame me for these words, folks; I didn't write them. I would prefer that they weren't there. However, this is the Word of God, and I cannot teach contrary to Scripture. Believe me, I'm in no hurry to be martyred. I don't like pain or suffering – honest! I would prefer to believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture. However, that is not what the Scriptures teach.

One other "nasty" piece of news: Not every born-again believer will be 'raptured' at that time. Yeshua tells us the Parable of the Ten Virgins.¹¹ I believe that the virgins are symbolic of the Believer, who is presented as a "chaste virgin" to the Messiah.¹² In the Parable of the Virgins, only five of the ten are ready when the Bridegroom (Yeshua) comes. This may very well be a picture of the Believers at the time of Messiah's Return. Many will be ready on the day of Messiah's Return. Many others will not be ready. This is why Yeshua commands us to "Therefore be you also ready, for in such an hour in which you think not, the Son of Man comes."¹³ He is warning us, because He doesn't want us to "miss the boat." One person may have been a great servant of Messiah for many years, but at the time of Yeshua's return, he might be partying it up with "wine, women, and song," as the expression goes. He won't be ready. Another Believer might not have lived the life that he should

have lived, but on the day of Messiah's return, he is ready.

Regretfully, many Christians are being given a false message that they don't have to be concerned about the "anti-Christ," and that God will rocket them off from this planet before the hard times come. This is the message taught by many churches, as well as the **"Left Behind"** series of books and movies. When the anti-Messiah makes his appearance, these Christians won't recognize what is happening, as they expect to be "out-of-here" before such a thing happens.

However, just as HaShem provided supernaturally for Elijah for 3 1/2 years before he was "raptured," He can also provide for you. His protection was also upon the Israelites during the plagues that fell upon the Egyptians. The world will aim its persecution at Believers (both Jew and Gentile). We see in Scripture that "all the nations of the earth will be gathered against (Jerusalem)."¹⁴

The current rise in anti-Semitism is shocking. The nations are busily de-legitimizing and demonizing Israel, not even permitting Israel to defend herself against terrorists who seek Israel's destruction. Much of this anti-Semitic hatred is coming from Muslims. However, much additional anti-Semitism is coming from the Left and so-called Liberals. We are extremely pleased that **Evangelic Christians** have become Israel's greatest supporters. However, Israel has far more enemies than friends. I believe that God is gathering Israel's enemies for Judgment. We see in Zechariah 12:4-9 that God will destroy all the nations that gather themselves against Israel. In the natural, such a thing seems impossible. However, I remember the wars of extermination launched against Israel in 1948, 1967, and 1973. Tiny little Israel was surrounded by nations far bigger with superior weaponry. Each time, Israel defeated her enemies. The Scriptures tell us that, although things will look dim for Israel, God will give victory to the Jews.

"And to the woman (Israel) were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, times, and half a time (3 1/2 years) from the face of the serpent... And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the **mitzvot** (commandments) of God, and hold to the testimony of Yeshua."¹⁵ (Revelation 12:14,17)

⁸ Source: *The Incredible Cover-Up*, by Dave McPherson, Omega Publications, Medford OR

⁹ Yochanan (John) 16:33.

¹⁰ Revelation 13:5-7.

¹¹ Matthew 25:1-12.

¹² 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:27.

¹³ Matthew 24:44.

¹⁴ Zechariah 12:3.



SEPTEMBER 2020

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New Website: WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM
Sunday Afternoon at 2:00 PM

JEWISH CALENDARS

The new **5781 Petah Tikvah** calendars are available. They cover the period from **Sept 2020 to Sept 2021**. The cost remains **\$5 each** with free shipping and handling. We ask our friends overseas to send an extra \$5 (US \$10 total) for overseas postage. We want to ensure that everyone will be able to obtain a beautiful, high-quality Jewish calendar. In addition, prison inmates can receive a **free** calendar. However, **we request that inmates send 4 stamps** (or a money order for \$2) for mailing costs.

When unfolded, these **13-month** calendars measure 11 inches by 18 inches. They are stapled in the middle, no metal spirals. There is a beautiful, full-color photo from Israel for each month. Both the Gregorian and Hebrew dates are shown for each day. The Jewish Holy Days (which are also the **Biblical** holidays) are all highlighted in color, as is Shabbat (Sabbath). The Parashot (Torah-Haftara) scripture portions for each week are also listed. These calendars also make great gifts. Make checks/money orders out to **'Petah Tikvah.'** Cash is also OK!

THE BOOK OF ACTS:

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The Book of Acts is the history of Messianic Judaism prior to the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE (A.D.). The Book of Acts is a First Century history of Messianic Judaism. The cost is only **\$10 each**, free shipping and handling, checks made out to **Petah Tikvah**. (Cost for inmates is 8 postage stamps for P&H)

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You might want to find out what you have been missing, especially if you are a new subscriber! Each year's editions include all 4 **Petah Tikvah** magazines for that calendar year. Each year's editions cost only \$15:

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This book (79 pages) is a reprint from several years ago. This volume will help the reader better understand the Book of Revelation in its original Jewish context. Cost is only **\$8 each**, free S&H, checks made out to **Petah Tikvah**. (Cost for inmates is only 6 postage stamps for Postage & Handling.)

A special one-time issue of Petah Tikvah is also available "en español" for our Spanish-speaking readers. Cost is \$3 each, or 3 postage stamps for inmates.

BIBLICAL STUDIES AND FELLOWSHIP

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

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

Rav Richard (Aharon) and Miriam Chaimberlin
585- 475-1188

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

The suggested cost for each subscription is \$20.00 annually per subscriber worldwide. This covers only the cost of production and mailing. Please try to send contributions in U.S. currency if at all possible. (You can also use your credit card on our website, with any of 21 different currencies.) We send out free subscriptions to inmates, and to those in Third World countries, who cannot pay the cost of subscriptions. Prisoners must send **4 postage stamps** or a money order for \$2.00 for postage for their annual subscriptions (4 issues of *Petah Tikvah*). We depend upon you, our readers, to meet our many needs. Contributions are **tax-deductible**. Please fill out the form below, or simply write to us!

- ☐ Please continue my subscription to *Petah Tikvah Magazine*.
- ☐ Please begin my subscription to *Petah Tikvah Magazine*.
- ☐ *Petah Tikvah* is a great magazine!
- ☐ I disagree with it, but send it to me anyway.
- ☐ Please stop sending *Petah Tikvah* to me.
- ☐ I use *Petah Tikvah* for the bottom of the birdcage.



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Dear Richard & Miriam ~

I am writing to you concerning what used to be known as Common Law Marriage, the practice of men and women living together as couples out of wedlock, often producing babies out of wedlock or ending the pregnancies with abortion. I have read that illegitimate children were not allowed to go to the Temple.

Also, churches are being led by preachers teaching syncretism - part pagan and part Bible. **IOWA**

OUR REPLY:

Yes, it is very true that much of what is taught in the churches is syncretism. However, I suspect that this is what most people want - unfortunately. They prefer holidays with pagan origins such as Easter (which has its origin in Ishtar,¹ a pagan fertility goddess) and Sabbaths of pagan origins such as the day that honors the Sun deity.

Regarding "illegitimate children" not being allowed to go to the Temple: This comes from an unfortunate translation of the Hebrew word "**mamzer**," which gets translated as "bastard." However, **mamzer** does not mean **bastard**. There is no equivalent English word for **mamzer**. It actually means someone who is born to a forbidden relationship; such as father and daughter, brother and sister, etc., as in Lev. 18:8, 18:16, etc. It has nothing to do with whether or not the parents were married. As it says in Wikipedia:

In the Hebrew Bible and Jewish religious law, a **mamzer** (Hebrew: מַמְזֵר, lit. "estranged person", plural **mamzerim**) is a person born from certain forbidden relationships or from incest (as defined by the Bible), or the descendant of such a person. Mamzer status (מַמְזְרוּת, **mamzerut**) is not synonymous with illegitimacy, since it does not include children whose mothers were unmarried.^[1]

The Tzemach Tzedek of Lubavitch tells us that Thus, the **mamzer** who rises above his circum-

stances and studies Torah is chosen from the holiest of souls and placed in the most difficult of circumstances—in order to accomplish the greatest mission of all—to rise above (and uplift) some of the most daunting spiritual and circumstantial limitations imaginable.

The definition of **mamzer** (as described above in Wikipedia) does not defend these serial relationships of men and women moving in together outside of matrimony. Aside from the moral and biblical standards, such relationships produce very unstable families for children to grow up in. Also, the greatest predictors of future poverty are single-parent households. This is usually a woman who is often

forced to be the primary breadwinner, who also has to try to raise the children without the benefit of a husband. And if you check the prison populations, you will find that most prisoners come from single-parent households. Even from a secular humanistic standard, there are many reasons to support stable relationships of men and women bonded together in matrimony. **RAC**

Shalom to all at Petah Tikvah ~

Please use this donation as you choose. My only desire is that it is used in some way to minister to my brothers and sisters who are incarcerated or recently released.

John Montgomery, MARYLAND

OUR COMMENT: We very much appreciate John and the many others who request that their donations go (at least in part) to the prison ministry. This has enabled our ministry to inmates to continue to grow (actually the fastest growing part of our ministry). BTW, John himself has been involved in Messianic prison ministry for many years, and still is!

Hi Rick & Miriam ~

I was very happy to read that you teach the truth about the Pre-Trib Rapture theory, based on "visions" from a Scottish woman named Margaret McDonald in 1830.

Sue McLaughlin, Concord NH

Our Note: We respect those who hold to this theory. However, strongly disagree with Margaret McDonald's visions. (See pp. 28-30)

¹ Ishtar was a Babylonian fertility goddess who came to earth in a giant egg. The egg hatched, and out came Ishtar. Rabbits (such as the Easter Bunny) are popular symbols of this holiday. We all know how fertile rabbits are!



The outrageous murder in Minneapolis of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, by local police is a crime that cannot be tolerated or excused. Efforts by extremist agitators to hijack peaceful demonstrations and turn them into violent riots should also be condemned and not falsely rationalized as a form of legitimate protest or part of a necessary path to progress.

Sensible people know both of those things can be equally true, and that concerns about the anarchy in the streets of major cities shouldn't diminish our anger about Floyd's death or any other crime that appears rooted in racism.

This perilous moment in American history should have created a consensus about the need to address both injustice and nihilist violence that ought to transcend partisanship. That is why Jewish organizations and religious groups have joined with people of faith throughout the denominational spectrum to express their dismay about what happened to Floyd, as well as their desire to combat prejudice.

But not everyone is prepared to observe the political ceasefire most Americans would prefer to observe in the wake of these traumas. And, as always, some of those looking to exploit tragedy are attacking Jews.

That was made clear when a synagogue and Jewish-owned businesses were vandalized in Los Angeles with pro-Palestinian propaganda. In and of itself, that would be terrible, but those buildings were just a few out of the innumerable places around the country that suffered the same indignity or worse.

The context for that incident—and the spate of anti-Jewish and anti-Israel hate that has flourished in recent days on the Internet—is not random anger that could have been directed at any target, no matter how removed it might be from the incident that set off this crisis. Such indictment is the direct product of an intersectional movement that has continued to attempt to link crimes committed on American streets against African-Americans with the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. And just like other forms of prejudice for which there should be no tolerance, the effort to blame Israel or Jews for what rogue American cops might do needs to be clearly labeled as a form of hate speech.

The effort to manufacture a connection between slayings of African-Americans with Israel isn't new. The notion that the struggle for civil rights in the United States is connected to the Palestinian war on Israel has become a staple of the BDS movement. It is rooted in intersectionality, an idea that has gained popularity in certain

Outrage Over George Floyd's Murder Does Not Justify Anti-Semitic Vandalism & Lies

by Jonathan Tobin
Jewish News Syndicate

sectors of academia. It asserts an affinity between the struggles of people of color or indigenous populations against imperialist and racist hierarchies. So if you think all Jews in Israel are the moral equivalent of white European settlers in Africa, the notion that blacks who oppose systemic racism in America are fighting the same good fight as Palestinians resisting Zionism makes sense.

The Black Lives Matter movement has made these arguments before, but the anti-Zionist Jewish

Voice for Peace group has particularly embraced this canard. JVP's "Deadly Exchange" program fits into its efforts to promote boycotts of Israel. Asserting that Jewish groups that have facilitated trips to Israel by American first responders and police are somehow responsible for killings of unarmed blacks by U.S. cops is not only untrue, it's a classic example of an anti-Semitic blood libel since it seeks to blame Jews for gruesome crimes for which they bear no responsibility.

The training Americans get in Israel has little to do with the attacks that JVP and other BDS groups claim to oppose. It actually focuses on the antithesis of stereotypical police brutality by seeking to promote community engagement and nonviolent policing that would make confrontations less likely.

The willingness to buy into the big lie about Israelis teaching Americans to kill minorities is based in ignorance of the true nature of the conflict between Israel and Palestinian terror groups. Contrary to the intersectional myth, Jews are not colonial oppressors in Israel. Jews are indigenous to the country that is their ancient homeland. A majority of Israelis also fall into the category that left-wing ideologues would term "people of color," since their families came to Israel from homes in Arab and Muslim lands from which they fled or were expelled after 1948.

The mission of the Israel Defense Forces is not racial oppression. It's to defend the people of Israel against foes, which have not given them a day of peace in the 72-year history of the country. Its record in protecting civilian lives, including Palestinians who are used as human shields by terrorists, is unmatched.

Stripped of its mendacious rhetoric, intersectionalism is a thinly disguised form of anti-Semitism. So it comes as little surprise that anti-Israel groups are breathing new life into these falsehoods whose purpose is fueling hate against Jews, rather than seeking justice for George Floyd and African-Americans.

We can embrace a crusade against racism and police misconduct without endorsing the notion that all police are equally guilty of such crimes...

Hi Rick ~

I haven't yet read all of the latest PT, but want to comment on Merriam-Webster's redefining of "they" as a substitute single pronoun for people who do not want to be referred to with the gender-specific he/him or she/her. A year or so ago, when all this "non-binary" nonsense was becoming trendy, I heard a news story that I thought was funny. (It was true news, not fake news from some website.) At a state university (in Michigan or Minnesota, I think), the forms they gave students to fill out at the beginning of the semester included a section where they could specify which pronoun they preferred the professors to use when referring to them. They could choose the traditional "he/she," or the nonbinary "they," or any other word of their choice, and the professors and the other students would be required to respect their wishes. So one student wrote that he wanted everyone to refer to him as "His Majesty." I thought you'd get a kick out of that.

Daniel Botkin, ILLINOIS

Shalom ~

I have been doing a study on the tzitzit, and wondering on your take on this. I have read that the tzitzit (pl) should be attached to the four corners of a garment, to remind the wearer to remember the Commandments (Numbers 15:37-41). But I have seen them being attached to the belt loops on pants. Does this matter as long as you're doing it for the right reason? And is it okay for Gentile Torah followers to wear them?

Robert B.

OUR REPLY: Over thirty years ago, I was attaching tzitzit to my belt loops. However, biblically they should be attached to the corners of a 4-cornered garment. Thousands of years ago, men wore outer garments with 4 corners on them. The tzitzit were attached to the corners of these garments. When men began wearing pants, it was necessary to invent the tallit. We have heard of Messianic congregations that forbid Gentiles from wearing the tallit, and have even ripped the tallit right off the backs of Gentiles. Terrible! The commandment in Numbers 15 tells us that these fringes are to remind us to obey God's mitzvot (laws). Is it wrong for Gentiles to obey God? Of course not! There is nothing wrong with Gentiles wearing tzitzit. **RAC**

GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

The Bad News is that your condition is terminal. **You are going to die.** You are infected with Sin, a disease that infects and kills every single person who lives on this planet. And after you die, you will stand before your Maker and give an account of what you did or did not do about your sinful condition. If you do nothing, and just let Sin take its course in your life, you will suffer 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... 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 punishment in torment, you will have eternal life with God. Adapted from: www.gatesofeden.online

Richard ~

Years ago, I was an inmate in Tehachapi CA. I am now free, and live in Oregon as a software engineer. Thank you so much for your devotion to the incarcerated. Your magazines were so valuable to a man like me looking for answers on how I could change my life through faith. Brett Madrid, OREGON

Shalom all ~

I continue to be blessed by your magazine. I was blessed to speak with one of our brothers in Messiah who is incarcerated in Virginia. He remarked about the double standard between the CO's and the inmates. I told him that it was nothing new. Those in power generally abuse those under them. I reminded him that we need to pray for those who despitefully abuse us. The very best day an unbeliever has in the life will the best he/she will ever have, and the eternity awaiting them is more horrible than we can contemplate. On the contrary, the words day a Believer ever has in this life is the worst it will ever be for eternity, and the eternity awaiting them is more wonderful than we can contemplate.

John Montgomery, MARYLAND

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

P.T. gets better all the time! Thank you for all the hard work you put into P.T. to make it so informative and interesting. I am enclosing some dollars for your God-given ministry, also remembering our prisoners and those in Third World countries unable to contribute.

Paulette Davenport, SCOTLAND, UK

Dear Richard & Miriam ~

I'm enclosing postage and handling for your 5781 Jewish calendar and for your Messianic Jewish commentary on Matthew. We are on total 24/7 lockdown that began in April.

I had my own little communion with some grape juice and matzah. It made me weep as I thought of all that Yeshua went through and suffered for my sake and for all of us. What I am going through is a small taste of not only what He went through, but also the prophets and apostles, and so many others throughout the centuries. I have much to be thankful for. I try to focus on the blessings. It isn't easy, as I am surrounded by so much negativity.

There is much going on right now. Prophecy is being and will be fulfilled. We're getting closer each day. We are about to go through some really dark and nasty times, but He will see us through it - Matt. 24; Psalm 91.

Matthew King, LaMesa TX

Shalom Rav Richard & Miriam ~

I finally made parole! It sure is fun. I am now drawing Social Security. I am enjoying all the time I have, devoted to studies as a Messianic Believer, doing ministry for Father Yah.

While in prison, I was receiving **Petah Tikvah** since 2016. I gave my life to Jesus (now Yeshua to me) in 1969 as a 23-year-old youngster. I am now 74 years old. I have a BA in Theology from Baptist Bible College, and was ordained to ministry in 1974, and served 11 years pastoring a Baptist Church.

I never realized that I was living under Adoni's curses and not His blessings (Deuteronomy 28), until I saw the light of the Messianic Faith (Romans 11 - being grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree). My eyes were opened after reading **Messianic Church Arising** by Robert Heidler and **Our Father Abraham** by Marvin Wilson. Wow! What a revelation! I divorced myself from Replacement Theology, renouncing the hold it had on me for 47 years.

Many people wish to serve God — but only in an advisory capacity.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. 1 Peter 5:6

I made a commitment to Father Yah to go back and become as a little child to learn the Apostolic Faith of the First Century Church (known to me now as the Kehilah). I'm now living under Father Yah's blessings. Now that I am able, I am enclosing a donation to support your blessed ministry.

Ron Edgmon, COLORADO

Shalom ~

I am Jewish and indigent with no family support. Thank you for your ministry to those who are incarcerated. Your articles and those who contribute to them are very insightful and always inspire deep thought. Perhaps someday HaShem will provide me with a way to support your ministry. I know the cost of production and mailing is high. Toda raba for your **chesed** (mercy).

Roger Clark, Amarillo TX

Prison News

The prison ministry continues to grow. We can no longer answer most personal requests, do independent research, become mentors, or pen pals. We can no longer answer most personal letters, although we would like to be able to do so. We discovered that there are only 24 hours in a day. We also do not offer items such as Bibles, concordances, tallit, kippa, etc., for distribution. We care deeply for the several hundred inmates who read each issue of P.T. However, we cannot do it all. Please be understanding of our circumstances.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Tisha B'Av (9th of Av): July 30

Rosh HaShanah ("Trumpets"): Sept 19

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement): Sept 28

Tisha B'Av is a fast day, in remembrance of the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE and the Second Temple in 70 CE (AD). It is not a holy day. Normal work can be done on this day. However, we do encourage fasting on this day.

Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur are days of rest and holy convocation. Each day on the Biblical calendar begins at sunset on the previous day, and ending at sunset 24 hours later. Therefore, Yom Kippur begins at sunset on Sept 27, ending at sunset on Sept 28. Yom Kippur is also a day of fasting.

Dear Rabbi ~

A friend recently introduced me to **Petah Tikvah** and allowed me to borrow his issue. I have been thoroughly impressed with everything I've read. I also shared it with another friend. I am writing to request a subscription for myself and my friend, who kindly provided the stamps. I was raised a 7th Day Adventist, but have always been intrigued by the Hebrew roots of my religion. I feel the Lord has used your publication to further educate and enlighten me. James Ferrell, St. Mary's WV

A Question About Sects of Judaism

Shalom Rav & Lady Miriam ~

There isn't a Messianic group in my new location, so I attended what is called a Sabbatarian group, not a friendly group. There are some Jews here. Can you tell me about Sabbatarians and the different sects of Judaism?

J.C., Palestine TX

OUR REPLY: Sabbatarian only means they keep the Sabbath. There are all kinds of folks that keep the 7th day Sabbath, including most Sacred Name groups, 7th Day Baptists, and even 7th Day Mormons!

Regarding Jewish denominations, there are Reform (Liberal Judaism), Conservative, Reconstructionist, Orthodox, Ultra-Orthodox, and Messianic. The Orthodox have three main divisions: The Ashkenazi Orthodox (basically with northern and eastern Europe origins), the Sephardic Orthodox (Jews whose origins were in Spain and Portugal), and Mizrahi Jews (who remained in the Middle East, never settling in Europe). In addition, the "Ultra-Orthodox" (Chassidic) Jews have many subdivisions, including Chabad, Satmar, Naturel Karta, Breslev, and a bunch of others. There are also Ethiopian Jews, Karaite Jews, and other smaller sects of Judaism. There are also secular Jews and Jewish atheists, whose first loyalty is often the Democratic Party.

Even in the First Century, there were various sects of Judaism, including Essenes, Sadducees, and Pharisees. The Pharisees were also divided into different sects, such as the House of Hillel and House of Shammai.

We also consider Messianic Judaism to be a sect of Judaism. We are Torah-inspired believers in Yeshua the Messiah who celebrate the Biblical Shabbat, as well as all of the Holy Days of Leviticus 23 and dietary laws of Lev. 11 and Dt. 14. We follow the example of the First Century Messianic Jews, "the myriads (tens of thousands) among the Jews of those who believed, and they are all zealous for the Torah (Acts 21:20)." **RAC**

To Whom It May Concern

We have been reading your literature. We are in need of 3 yarmulkes (kippas).

R.R., Shafter CA

**"I was in prison,
and you visited Me."**

Matthew 25:36

OUR REPLY: We do not

provide kippas. There is no biblical requirement for

wearing a head covering,

although I personally wear a kippa each Shabbat. There is

also no Rabbinic Halachah on what a

kippa (head covering) should look like. Even a baseball cap is a valid head covering in Judaism.

We also get requests for the tallit and other items. We do not provide these items. A surprisingly good source for Judaica items such as the tallit or shofar is **ChristianBook.com** PO Box 7000, Peabody MA 01961-7000. The costs are almost unbeatable. They might even offer discounts to inmates or provide free shipping. Write for a free catalog. I recommend their Elisha Prayer Shawl, Item# WW222234 for \$22.99.

Another source for inmates to contact is **Beth Tikvah Jewish Outreach**. Formerly Rabbi Sid Klein of blessed memory headed this ministry to inmates, supplying the tallit, kippa, and other items to inmates that we do not supply. Others have stepped up to the plate, and have taken over this ministry. You can write to: 1600 Harris School Rd, Rineyville KY 40162.

Sabbath Keepers Fellowship, PO Box 9722, Malakoff TX 75148 is also a good source for Messianic inmates in need of supplies.

Dear Rav Richard & Miriam ~

Please note my new address. In some ways it is better here, in some ways no. It is still prison. I am 71, now in segregation, not a nice place, but with a better chance to stay away from that virus! I have you on my prayer list, and pray for you by name each day.

I also pray for an orphanage called Home of Hope in Kenya, Part of Tikkun Africa Messianic congregations among Jewish refugees from Ethiopia. They have over 60 children, 3 to 15 years old, both girls and boys. There is another 80 nearby, some living in the forest in the open. They need a water well, food, clothes, toilets, windows, beds. You know - the stuff I have in prison, and sometimes complain about. They don't even have it to complain about! I get food everyday, although not very good. But these would be good meals for those children. I get 3 meals a day, not what I want, but much more than those poor children get. I want to help them, but cannot do so from here. So I pray for them. You can get more info on **Tikkun.tv**

Stephen Russell, Windsor NC

**If you forget me, you have lost nothing.
If you forget Yeshua, you lost everything!**

Howdy Rick, Miriam, and all~

I'm doin' well, and learning to trust HaShem and give Him praise for His many wonderful blessings. As a child, I discovered that I could not trust any grownups to keep their promises, or to feel loved and wanted by them.

My greatest struggle was to know that HaShem does love and wants me, and that He keeps His promises, if we get out of the way and allow Him to do what He wants in our lives. His promises in Jeremiah 29:11-14 remind me that he is far stronger than the struggles we face in this temporary world! Thank you for all y'all do to shine light into the darkest depths. May HaShem bless you!

Mark Weyand, Corcoran CA



The article "Was Jesus a Christian?" by the **Israel Today** staff was brilliant and funny. I loved when they said, "Many Christians are shocked to learn that Jesus, the one they consider to be the founder of Christianity, was born a Jew, died a Jew, is seated in Heaven as a Jew, and will return as a Jew on steroids."

It was really thought provoking.

The article by Rav Richard, "What Was the Sin of Ham?" is a real eye-opener.

Misinterpretations of those verses in Genesis 9 have led to needless suffering and racial prejudice against our dark-skinned brothers and sisters.

Ramon Torres, Chino CA

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

I have enclosed a small donation for another year of **Petah Tikvah**. Thankfully this will be my last year of receiving it while incarcerated. The next time you hear from me, I will be in the free worlds. Thank you for all the years of enlightenment you have provided through your insightful magazine. I have learned much. I am grateful for the kindness you have shown to those of us who are incarcerated.

Jeffery Sexton, Snyder TX.

Dear P.T. ~

I have received and enjoyed your commentaries on the books of Hebrews and Revelation. I am now writing to obtain your commentaries on the books of Matthew and Acts, and enclosed stamps for postage.

I enjoy and agree with lots of the articles in your magazine. I'm praying that the next issue will get here soon. I'm almost out of materials to read. Thank you for helping me grow in the love of YHWH and in His Word.

Rosalio Rodriguez, Pampa TX

Greetings Rav Richard & Miriam ~

The April-June **Petah Tikvah** was an absolute jewel of spiritual knowledge. I thoroughly enjoyed your article, "Words of God vs. the Words of Men." I also enjoyed the article by Daniel Botkin, "Syncretism: Blending of Paganism and Truth." He does a lot of research for his articles. Daniel's writing makes you think and grow in your own God-given interpretations of the Law. Deut. 4:2 says, "You shall not add to the word which I (YHWH) am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHWH your God which I command you." This is straight forward and simple, and that's part of the beauty of Torah.

I appreciated Dan Juster's "Messianic Jews Burned at the Stake: The Councils of the Church and Repentance." It shows how Jews were viewed at the time when Christopher Columbus was "discovering" the New World (which was already inhabited). My grandmother's ancestors left Spain during the "Holy" Inquisition.

G-d is Present With Individuals in Prison

by Dr. Helene Dallaire

For instance, Joseph (Gen. 39-41), Simeon (Gen. 42:36), Micaiah (1 Kings 22:13), Hoshea (2 Kings 17:1-4), Jehoichin (2 Kings 24:12, Jer. 52:31), Jeremiah (Jer. 37:11-21); Zedekiah (Jer. 52:11), John the Immerser (Matt. 4:12, 11:2-3), Yeshua (Matt. 27), Peter (Acts 12:1-10), Paul (Acts 16, 20, 24-26), and Silas (Acts 16:23-34). God has always been present with inmates in prison, and He still is doing amazing work in the lives of those who are behind bars. Pray for inmates everywhere, that G-d would draw them to Himself and show them His glory."

Editor's Note: Dr. Dallaire heads the Denver Messianic Jewish Seminary, 6399 S Santa Fe Dr, Littleton CO 80120. She also has a very active prison ministry. **RAC**

To Rav Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for all that you do for us in the penal system. Thanks also to the people that put together each issue. Also, thank you for tying in all the different Messianic brothers and sisters and congregations to one another. I pray that you are all being kept safe during this pandemic.

Chas Grant, Chino CA

Ministry to the Formerly Incarcerated

Chayah is a Texas-based Messianic ministry that works with formerly incarcerated men and women and their families. They can be contacted by writing to: Chayah Ministries, 963 El Camino Rd, Waxahachie TX 75167. WWW.CHAYAH.INFO Call 817-629-3888.

Shalom Rav Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for helping me in time of need. Love was what I needed. I am an Inmate without family or any true friends. On the day that I received **Petah Tikvah**, my heart was faint. But because of you, His love was shown to me again. Your pamphlet has sustained me.

I was a Christian for ten years. The church wasn't anti-Semitic. They did pray for Israel, because the Jews were "blind" at this present time. They told us that it was up to the Gentiles to drive them to jealousy. However, calling Yeshua a Christian would be denying his heritage. I am now Messianic, and accept the Jewish way of following Yeshua.

HaShem found it in His heart to take this broken man's heart (me) and give it joy again! Thank you, Petah Tikvah family! I am excited to begin learning Hebrew, and to enjoy the Holy Days. Keeping the Sabbath in prison is a hassle, but I serve God every day! This Johnny Price is happy with his conversion. I have fallen in love with Judaism. Johnny Price, Repress CA

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

May God help you if you ever depend on a court-appointed lawyer. Innocent? It doesn't matter. "He's a very good prosecutor. You could get life! Doesn't 10 to 20 sound a whole lot better in a plea deal?" The USA has 2,121,600 prisoners. China has 1,649,800 prisoners, a nation with almost four times our population.

Harley Roam, Rosharon TX

Editor's Note: Our justice system in the USA may be better than many others. However, it is far from perfect. Yes, innocent men and women agree to plea deals, often offered to them by court-appointed lawyers. And money matters. If you are rich, you can literally get away with murder. If you are poor, you may wind up in prison for a crime you didn't commit. **RAC**

Shalom to the fine folks at Petah Tikvah

I just received my first issue of your magazine. I found it to be inspiring and most informative. Thank you for offering it to inmates as you do for a donation of stamps. In our unit, they charge \$6 for a money order! Even if we sent just \$2, it would cost us \$8 plus postage, which is a huge amount for inmates.

I was brought up in a Christian church, and always believe in God (who I now call Yahweh or HaShem), and Jesus (who I know call Yeshua). I rebelled against God in my teen years. I came back, but then became disillusioned, which took me down a darker path, which led to my imprisonment. I wanted to come back to God, but with a blank slate, distancing myself from man's teachings and customs, to learn what it is that God wants from me.

I had seen your magazines from time to time, finding myself in agreement with the doctrines you teach more often than not. The question I now have is, "What do I call myself?" I don't think it should be "Christian," because I no longer observe the Christian holidays or agree with much of Christian theology. But I am not aware of any Jewish lineage in my family. Does one have to be born a Jew in order to be a Messianic Jew, or does that come automatically when we accept Yeshua as our Savior, because we have been grafted in through the blood of the Lion of Judah?

James Sawyer, Spruce Pine NC

OUR REPLY: Conversion is first and foremost a matter of the heart. Regardless of ethnicity, you have accepted Messianic Judaism as your faith. Also, Romans 11 tells us that you have been grafted into the Jewish olive tree. You can call yourself a Messianic Gentile, Messianic Jew, or simply Messianic, whatever you are comfortable with. Welcome aboard!

Greetings Kind People ~

I am enclosing \$15 for Holocaust survivors. I pray that the Lord Yeshua does the shopping so it goes as far as possible. I know many Israeli children are also in need. However, the Holocaust survivors will not be around much longer. I can't even think of the horrors they have been through, and the nightmares they might still experience. Dave Asmussen, Sioux Falls SD

Editor's Note: We sent the funds to a Messianic Jewish organization in Israel that provides food, medicine, and other supplies to Holocaust survivors. If others would like to help Holocaust survivors, we recommend sending a check to the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, 30 N LaSalle St #4300, Chicago IL 60602-2584. The leadership is Jewish (although not Messianic). But most of the contributors are Christian Zionists who love Israel and the Jewish people.

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

Blessings from Chino, CA. I've been receiving your Door of Hope and calendars for years now, and both have been such a blessing. And we are confined with even more restrictions (no yard, no library, no school, no work, only emergency doctor visits) because of Covid-19. Several inmates have died, and some corrections officials have been infected. However, I have more reading and studying time.

During the past 22 years of serious Scripture reading and studying, the Older Testament has become my favorite. I sense closer relations to the Creator's mind and purpose for His people - His love for Israel - and how he reaches out to the nations through His dealings with Israel. Your ministry to Israel is in my prayers. A friend sent me the following clipping off the internet about some female Israeli soldiers in a 7-11 store. Enjoy! Henry Navarro, Chino CA



This is the reason that 7-11 stores are never robbed in Israel. Don't mess with these gals! It is a reassuring sight to see armed Israeli soldiers when traveling in Israel.

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

Do you know of any MJ Yeshivas that will work with prison inmates to learn more about Judaic and Hebrew studies?

Steven Mendoza, Palestine TX

OUR REPLY: Yes, indeed! Prisoners can contact Rav Michael Everage at **United Messianic Jewish Ministries**, PO Box 122, Brandon VT 05733 for information about the Kh'ra'v Torah Yeshiva for religious studies and Judaica, and also for the UMJM Messianic Jewish siddur. Inmates are invited to apply. Some of their **talmidim** (students) have contacted me, and are very pleased with the yeshiva course work. The UMJM Messianic siddur is also highly recommended to our readers. **RAC**

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

I am incarcerated in a women's prison. I learned that the Messianic Jewish religion believes in the Holy Days of Leviticus 23, and that Christ died for our sins. I have always believed that Christ honored the Holy Days. So, if He did, why don't we, is my question. I came to Messianic Judaism to learn more, and have changed to Messianic Judaism as my religion in this prison. I was told that you might be able to assist me in this voyage of mine to gain knowledge in the Bible.

Tashawna Van Hardenberg, Gatesville TX

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

Is it necessary for men to get circumcised in order to partake in the Passover?

Jeremy Oberley, Naples FL

OUR REPLY: Deuteronomy 16:2 identifies "the Passover" as the Passover **lamb**. We are also told that the only place in which "the Passover" could be sacrificed would be at "the place where YHWH chooses to establish His name." That place was eventually the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) in Jerusalem. Since the Temple was destroyed in 70 CE,¹ there has been no sacrifice of the Passover lambs. Therefore, nobody eats the Passover (lamb) anymore. Today it is common to substitute turkey or chicken for the lamb, or even go vegetarian. Thus the prohibition against uncircumcised men partaking of "the Passover" (Exodus 12:48) no longer applies, at least not until the Temple is rebuilt, which will happen someday. **RAC**

Shalom aleikhem Rabbi Chaimberlin ~

I am enclosing a donation for another wonderful year of **Petah Tikvah**. Only 1 year and 10 months till I walk out of these gates! Yahweh has done much good for me behind bars, and your magazine has been a real blessing.

Justin Smith, Grafton OH

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

Shalom to all who dedicate their time and effort to keeping **Petah Tikvah** Magazine alive. I know that it costs money to produce. I regret that I am only able to send a few stamps. (**Editor's Note:** Not a problem. Our other readers have been very generous to the prison ministry.)

You have been such a blessing to prisoners with your magazine full of knowledgeable articles to help us keep our faith.

Reilles Miller, Live Oak FL

¹ Equivalent to "A.D."

Dear Rav Rick & Miriam ~

The materials that we have obtained through **Petah Tikvah** are great aids for us in study with the fellowship here. You magazine has been a blessing of knowledge for us, as we do not have a Messianic chaplain. Any aid or guidance you provide is greatly appreciated. Knowing that we have brothers and sisters in the USA and Canada who care about us means so much.

We are making many breakthroughs thanks to Mashiach, and our Orthodox brothers are accepting Mashiach Yeshua and the Gospels. It is exciting to experience this mighty move of God.

Darko & Daniel Stojanovsky, Ontario, CANADA

Editor's Note: Darko & Daniel are two brothers at the same prison in Gravenhurst, ONT. **RAC**

Dear Rabbi Rick ~

What does it mean "cut off" in the Torah? Leviticus 19:8 speaks of a person being "cut off from his people," and Numbers 19:13 speaks about a person who is "cut off from Israel." I had heard that it means "put to death," or excommunicated, or "put outside the camp." If this is the case, is this permanent, or in restoration possible? S.C., Texas

OUR REPLY: Being "cut off" can mean any one of those things. And yes, restoration is always possible for those who truly repent. In Isaiah 53:8, we read a prophecy of the coming Messiah in which "He was cut off out of the land of the living, for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was do." In this case, it definitely means "completely cut off," as we also see in Ezekiel's Dry Bones prophecy, where we read about Jews who "are completely cut off" in Ezekiel 37:11. The literal meaning of Ezekiel 37:1-14 describes dead Jews who are literally brought back to life, as is understood in Orthodox Judaism. Many Christians only believe it symbolically, as a prophecy of the Jewish people returning to the Land of their ancestors. Both interpretations are nice, but I prefer the literal interpretation. **RAC**

Rav Richard & Miriam ~

I hope you and your family in NYS are doing well. I'm so glad we can have peace in the midst of this coronavirus mass hysteria.

We are doing well in our Messianic community. I facilitate a program called The Temple Project, about "rebuilding the man." It is a faith-based education from a Messianic Jewish perspective that I developed over several years. We have 21 guys in our evening class

and 14 in our afternoon class. We also started a Hebrew language class. Of course, we are having to navigate the affects of this corona for the time being. Hopefully it will all be over soon.

James Dean, Marion OH

Dear Rav Chaimberlin ~

Thank you so much for the **Petah Tikvah** you sent me. I really enjoyed "The Power of God's Word" by Shira Sorko-Ram. I also thought that "Jewish Commentators on the Torah" was informative, although to say that Rav Sha'ul (Paul) is "misunderstood" is an understatement. I am praying for all those involved in the **Petah Tikvah** ministries throughout this current crisis.

Roger Clark, Amarillo TX

Sir, Ma'am ~

Our prison unit believes that the "Common Diet" given to Muslims, Seventh Day Adventists, and Jews is kosher because it does not include any shellfish or pork. However, they don't understand that we cannot eat **blood**! Kosher meat is the only meat that is free of blood.

Marcus Ellington
Lancaster CA

Beautiful Hebrew-English

New Testaments, provided in several bilingual editions, including English-Hebrew and Spanish-Hebrew. These hard-back New Testaments are provided to Jewish people at no charge. (Inmates might need to send a signed permission form from their chaplain to receive a hard-cover book.) Write: **Hebrew Scriptures**, PO Box 915, Cullo-den WV 25510.

Our Comments: It is true that we are forbidden to eat blood, as mentioned in Leviticus 17:10-12 and Acts 15:20. However, even the Rabbis recognize that it is impossible to have **all** of the blood drained from the meat. They came up with a quota: If less than one part out of 64 is unkosher, then the food item is consid-

ered kosher. Therefore, kosher meat contains less than one part out of 64 that is blood. And kosher is preferred.

Also, most bugs are not kosher. However, when we eat our vegetables and grains, we are also eating a very small percentage of unkosher bugs. That delicious bread is made with grains that also contains bugs. The producers of these items do not include insects on purpose. They simply are not able to get rid of all of the bugs. However, less than one part of 64 is bugs, so your fruits, vegetables, grains, cereals, and breads can be kosher even if they contain bugs. The US Food and Drug Administration also allows a certain small percentage of insects in our foods. It is impossible to remove all of them. However, some bugs are kosher. (See Lev. 11).

Some of the mail we receive is illegible. Please write legibly, and if using pencil, please put some muscle onto that pencil, so it is dark enough to read. We can't answer mail that is impossible to read. Also, inmates must include their DOC #, written legibly.

1500 Rabbis to Biden: Restoring Terror Funding is 'Morally Repugnant'

Source: Arutz Sheva

The Coalition for Jewish Values (CJV), representing over 1500 traditional rabbis in matters of public policy, called upon Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee in the 2020 Presidential race, to withdraw his statement that he would resume funding to the Palestinian Authority despite its ongoing provision of financial rewards to the families of terrorists, and his claim that Israel would "jeopardize a two-state solution" were it to extend sovereignty over Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria.

"Every American should be outraged," said Rabbi Dov Fischer, Western Regional Vice President of the CJV. "Joe Biden has just said he would break US law to do something which is also, of course, morally repugnant — to reinvolve the American taxpayer in incentivizing terrorism against innocent Americans like Taylor Force and others."

The Taylor Force Act, passed with bipartisan support in 2018, requires termination of the Palestinian Authority's "pay to slay" program in order for the PA to continue receiving most forms of financial aid from the United States. Specifically, the PA must "have terminated payments for acts of terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States citizens" and "have revoked any law, decree, regulation, or document authorizing or implementing a system of compensation for... an individual imprisoned for an act of terrorism."

PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas has refused to do so, saying that killed and imprisoned murderers are "the most sanctified" and that "If we are left with one penny, we will spend it on the families of the prisoners and martyrs."

"Regarding Jewish towns in Judea and Samaria, places from which Jews were ethnically cleansed by the Jordanian Army in 1948, and permitted to return only after Israel acquired that land defending itself once again in 1967, successive Administrations have acknowledged that those communities will remain permanently part of Israel, as UN Resolution 242 authorized in 1967, in any negotiated peace agreement. As President, Barack Obama drew an angry response for claiming Israel should compensate the Palestinian Authority with "land swaps" as "compensation for permitting Jews to live in Judea," the CVJ stated.

"As a Senator, Joe Biden both declared and demonstrated his strong support for Israel," added Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld, Vice President of

the CJV, "yet in recent years he has been pulled away by radical Anti-Israel leftists. Now he blames the Trump Administration for following US law, while also saying that it would somehow 'jeopardize a two-state solution' for Israel to extend its sovereignty over Jewish communities that would remain part of Israel after any conceivable peace deal. He must realize that fairness and civil rights demand a balanced approach, without double standards that blame Israel for desiring to live in peace."

Little Richard loved Judaism



(JTA) — Little Richard, a founding architect of rock 'n' roll who died May 9 at 87, was fascinated with Judaism for decades — so much so that he even observed Shabbat.

As detailed in an article published in the *Forward* after the flamboyant singer's death, Little Richard mentioned his interest in Judaism several times over the course of his career.

In 1972, he shocked a BBC interviewer by calling himself "a III' Jewish boy, black bottom, from Georgia." While acting in movies in the 1980s and '90s, he wouldn't work on Fridays, the start of the Jewish sabbath.

Little Richard grew up in a religious Christian family who attended AME, Baptist, and Pentecostal churches. Following the peak of his musical career, he would become an ordained minister before returning to show business.

A 1986 Florida Sun-Sentinel article claimed that the singer, born Richard Wayne Penniman in Macon, Georgia, had officially converted to Judaism with the encouragement of Bob Dylan. Little Richard told the paper that he had celebrated Rosh Hashanah while touring that year, and added that he "only missed going to synagogue one Saturday for the past year."

Jesus didn't come to planet Earth to start a new religion. He came as the Messiah for the old religion: Judaism!

Shalom u'vrachot achim!

Enclosed is a book of stamps as a tithe. Thank you for your ministry. It is a blessing and great resource to those of us in prison. I love the international news items. The whole publication is so informative and diverse. I have shared it with my self-proclaimed "atheist" friend, who in turn has shared it with a Catholic friend. Blessings to all as we get through this pandemic. We are saddened by the loss of some great brothers. We also send a big hug to Renate Kaufmann. I loved her story. Don't give up on the Hebrew, and keep exercising! Thanks again, Rav Richard, for this wonderful ministry, and for all who partake in its collaboration.

Piero Benitez, Otisville NY

QUESTION ABOUT THE ZOHAR

Dear Rabbi Rick ~

The **Zohar** says that God spoke the world into existence using the Hebrew alphabet. Can you help me understand, and give me some answers? Sue McLaughlin, Concord NH

OUR REPLY: Moses de Leon first published the **Zohar** in 13th century Spain. This forms the foundation for Kabbalah. Some Jews date the beginning of Kabbalah to Solomon ibn Gabirol (1021-1058). Sabbatai Zevi (1626-1676) popularized Kabbalah, and then converted to Islam, beginning a Judeo-Islamic cult called Donmeh which still exists in modern-day Turkey. Kabbalah fell into disrepute, until Jacob Frank (1726-1791) popularized it again. Then he converted to Catholicism!

We have experienced personal friends of ours who got hooked on Kabbalah and eventually renounced Yeshua. (And they got REALLY weird!) Not all of Kabbalah is evil or occult. Some is simply good meditation. Even cults have good teachings intermingled with much error. We do **not** recommend Kabbalah. I call it "Hinduism with a Jewish accent," as much of it is borrowed from Hinduism, including doctrines such as reincarnation, soul travel, "curses," etc. Much of Kabbalah is contrary to Scripture. Below I have copied and pasted a portion from the entry "**Kabbalah**" that is in **Wikipedia**:

Talmudic doctrine forbade the public teaching of esoteric doctrines and warned of their dangers. In the Mishnah (Hagigah 2:1), rabbis were warned to teach the mystical creation doctrines only to one student at a time.^[26] To highlight the danger, in one Jewish aggadic ("legendary") anecdote, four prominent rabbis of the Mishnaic period (1st century CE) are said to have visited the Orchard (that is, Paradise, *pardes*, Hebrew: פֶּרֶדִּים lit., *orchard*):

"Four men entered *pardes* (Paradise)—Ben Azzai, Ben Zoma, Acher (Elisha ben Abuyah), and Akiba. Ben Azzai looked and died; Ben Zoma looked and went mad; Acher destroyed the plants; Akiba entered in peace and departed in peace."

In notable readings of this legend, only Rabbi Akiba was fit to handle the study of mystical doctrines. The *Tosafot*, medieval commentaries on the Talmud, say that the four sages "did not go up literally, but it appeared to them as if they went up." On the

other hand, Rabbi Louis Ginzberg, writes in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* (1901-1906) that the journey to paradise "is to be taken literally and not allegorically." Maimonides interprets *pardes* as physics and not mysticism.

If Kabbalah is causing people to go crazy or die, or convert to Islam or Catholicism, it probably isn't good to spend much time on it. I would stick with the Scriptures. When we are in Israel, we meet Chassidim who are actively selling red strings and then tying them around the wrists of those who buy them. And amulets are also openly sold by Kabbalists. The most dangerous claim is that we can't properly understand Torah or Talmud without a knowledge of Kabbalah.

Dear Aharon ~

The dry cereal they serve us at breakfast has a symbol indicating that it is kosher. However, there is a warning that the ingredients include grains produced with genetic engineering! How is this possible? Isn't that a contradiction?

David Byrd, Lovelady TX

OUR REPLY: The kosher seal only ensures that there are no unkosher ingredients such as pork or shellfish, and/or that the meat has been slaughtered in accordance with Jewish Halachah. There is generally a **mashgiach** (an observant Jew on the premises of where the food is prepared), or one who does regular inspections to ensure that Jewish law is kept. People often falsely assume that certified kosher food is always healthy. Not true! Saccharin is an artificial sweetener which can cause cancer. Many delicious pastries are certified kosher, and can cause obesity and diabetes.

Rabbi Rich ~

Rabbi Mordecai Silver of Etz Chayim congregation (PO Box 467, Organ NM) offers 14 different books plus a siddur, free to prisoners. Please let people know about these resources.

James Brown, Defuniak Springs FL

A Note from the Paragraph Factory:

We have been busily manufacturing paragraphs for the current issue of **Petah Tikvah**. We are eternally grateful for the prayers and contributions of our readers that enable us to continue sending paragraphs around the world. Most of the paragraphs are proudly manufactured in the USA. However, we have also included some high-quality paragraphs from other countries as well. We trust that you will be blessed by all that you see and read in this issue, and look forward to your letters and contributions to enable us to continue our work. And please do pray for us!

Shalom Rav Rick ~

You won't believe this, but I am officially **free**. I contested my case by way of writ. Errors were found, and I requested a special review. I was released in April. I want to continue contributing in any way possible.

Eric Carrillo, TEXAS

Editor's Note: Eric has submitted beautiful artwork, which we have used over the years.

Dear Rav Rick ~

I am Jim Nelson, formerly #11717-027. I'm the ex-LSD vendor that subscribed to your magazine over the last several years. Your publication was so beautiful in what turned out to be a very dark place in my life. Thank you for being such a kind gatekeeper to such a true Door of Hope (**Petah Tikvah**) in my life. I felt so connected because of your work.

I was released in November, disabled with mental illness. I spent some time homeless. With prayer, I have found a little studio apartment that I am in love with. I live right down by the river, happy as a clam. I even have a moped to get around with. Please pray for God to release me from schizophrenia.

James Nelson, INDIANA

Hello Richard & Miriam ~

We can picture the time when the Father gives you both the honor of meeting all the prisoners you have ministered to. Wow!

We are enclosing funds to send **Petah Tikvah** to these three inmates as listed here. Use the rest wherever needed most. We are grateful for you both, and for your artist, Bryan Picken.

Judy Felke, IOWA

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

Blessings to all at the PT factory ~

At my age, I don't think they want me to ever leave home again! However, loneliness can also kill! Annie J., INDIANA

Our Comments: Yes, indeed! Loneliness can be a killer, especially during this time of pandemic. I think of older folks in nursing homes, etc. They are not allowed to have any visitors! Likewise, for prisoners, loneliness can be a killer. It is actually considered a form of torture. Many who endure months of solitary confinement suffer severe psychological damage. There are also those confined to their homes with severely abusive men, and children with abusive parents. Many may suffer emotional damage for years. In addition, Covid-19 has caused a huge increase in poverty and people going hungry around the world. And how can people stay in their homes if they are booted out by landlords? There are no easy answers. Keep praying!

Shalom ~

I was outraged by the words of the French ambassador to the UN. He threatened that if Israel declares the sovereignty contained in the Trump peace proposal, this "would not pass unchallenged and shall not be overlooked in our relationship with Israel."

This is the same threat that France and Britain made in 1938, when they threatened to sever all ties with Czechoslovakia unless it agreed to cancel its sovereignty over the Sudetenland, and to transfer this area of Czechoslovakia to Hitler's Germany. This threat was made to appease Hitler, with the nations declaring "**peace in our time**." Abandoned by "friends," Czechoslovakia had no choice but to submit, creating the conditions that soon led to the Second World War. (Hitler soon conquered all that was left of Czechoslovakia and then invaded Poland the following year, in 1939. **RAC**)

European nations are now repeating the 1938 threats, advocating sanctions on Israel unless all of the West Bank is transferred to the Palestinian Authority. However, unlike Czechoslovakia, Israel is a strong nation, with a powerful army, a thriving economy, and important support from the United States. Therefore, we have no need to be browbeaten by European nations, who apparently have not learned the lesson of what happens when one tries to appease tyrants.

Prof. Nathan Aviezer, Petah Tikvah, ISRAEL

**Living would be easier if
men showed as much
patience at home as
they do when fishing.**

A Prophecy From David Wilkerson (shared with Mike Evans in 1986)

Source: JerusalemPrayerTeam.org

God has given me a word that has shaken me to my knees. As I was working on this revelation that God put in my heart, I picked up an old Bible, and a handwritten note fell out. It was from a meeting I had with Dr. David Wilkerson at the Embassy Suites near the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport on a Tuesday in 1986 when we were having breakfast. The letter he wrote was addressed to Rev. Richard Dortch, who ran the PTL Club under Jim Baker.

It said, "Within 12 months from the date of this letter, the judgment of God will fall on PTL. You are fornicating with brick and stone. Flee now and repent. Bats will fly through the empty building." It was exactly 12 months to the day that the Charlotte Observer broke the PTL scandal story.

In that meeting in 1986, Dr. Wilkerson said something else to me: "I see a plague coming on the **world**, and the **bars and churches** and government will shut down. The plague will hit **New York City** and shake it like it has never been shaken. The plague is going to force prayerless Believers into radical prayer and into their Bibles, and repentance will be the cry from the man of God in the pulpit. And out of it will come a third Great Awakening that will sweep America and the world."

Editor's Note: I seldom share "prophetic" messages. I do indeed believe in latter day prophetic messages. However, just as in Biblical days, most of today's "prophets" are **false** prophets. Isaiah (8:20) wrote, "To the Law (Torah) and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this Word, it is because they have no light." Proverbs 28:9 tells us, "He who turns away his ear from listening to the Law (Torah), even his prayer shall be an abomination." A "prophet" might say, "Thus saith the Lord..." But that doesn't mean that God is speaking through him. And I am sure that HaShem isn't pleased when someone puts words in His mouth that He didn't say.

Most of the modern day "prophets" have very little regard for Torah. However, David Wilkerson was a very Godly man who highly respected the Word of God. He also had a good track record with his prophetic books, especially **The Vision**. Not perfect, mind you. After all, he wasn't writing Scripture, but his writings and prophetic messages were very good nonetheless. Much of that message from 1986 has already manifested itself today. Will the remainder of that message also come to pass? I don't know. However, I felt uncomfortable about ignoring its possible prophetic significance. **RAC**

A Response to the Plague

Daniel Botkin has some very interesting comments to make about the current CoronaVirus that has swept the world. He does hedge his thoughts a bit by saying, "I do not have any special revelation to speak with any prophetic authority about the plague in terms of its causes, its cure, and its purpose in God's divine plan." Daniel speaks carefully, with great humility. However, he is a great student of the Bible. I believe his comments bear listening to:

"I am strongly inclined to believe that this plague is a judgment sent by God to punish the wicked and to wake up the church. Some of the wicked are spared, and some of the righteous suffer, but that is the way it sometimes was when God sent plagues in the Bible.

"I am especially sad about all the deaths in New York. I lived there for two and a half years. I am grieved by all the suffering that New Yorkers have had to endure. Yet at the same time, I am reminded of the smiling faces of New York's lawmakers on January 22, 2019, when Governor Cuomo signed the so-called Reproductive Health Act, a bill legalizing the right to perform abortions up to the time of the due date, and the right to let babies die if they survive and attempted abortion. I remember how Governor Cuomo ordered the One World Trade Center to be lit up in pink to celebrate the passage of this legalization of infanticide.

"Proverbs 6:17 says that God hates and abominates 'hands that shed innocent blood.' The Bible gives this strong warning: 'So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land, and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it' (Num. 35:33)..."

"Now, a lover a year later, it appears that this defiant challenge is being answered by the Almighty. If this is indeed a punishment on our nation and on our world, we need to acknowledge, like Ezra did, that 'God has punished us less than our iniquities deserve' (Ezra 9:13)."

Editor's Note: New York State is also at the forefront of the LGBTQ movement. The US Supreme Court legislated from the bench in 2015 it was Constitutionally illegal to forbid same-sex marriage. Curiously, for over 200 years, nobody saw that the right of same-sex couples to get married was enshrined in the Constitution. The reason for that is that there is no such right in the Constitution. However, same-sex marriage was made legal years earlier in NYS.

Now we are being forced to accommodate all sorts of sexual minorities: transgender, gender-fluid, pan-gender, non-binary gender, cross-dressers, etc. Where does it end? Will we legalize bigamous marriages? Bestiality? Who knows?

WJC President Ronald S. Lauder published on front page of Arab News

The largest English-language daily newspaper in Saudi Arabia, the *Arab News*, published a front-page opinion article by World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder, emphasizing recent advancements in Muslim-Jewish relations across the Middle East.

This is the first time that a media outlet in Saudi Arabia has published an opinion article by a Jewish leader, indicating an increased openness in the Arab world to relationships and enhanced dialogue with the Jewish community.

A Quiet Revolution is Changing the Middle East

By Ronald S. Lauder,

www.WorldJewishCongress.org

Arab News, May 17, 2020

A revolution is taking place in the Arab world that is quietly moving the Middle East's tectonic plates in ways no one ever thought possible. The old broadside attacks against Israelis by almost all Arab countries have quietly dissipated and the evidence is as clear as the nightly television entertainment shows that people are watching.

Muslims worldwide are now observing Ramadan. After fasting all day, families gather after sunset for the traditional *iftar* meal, and often sit down to watch television together. It's a time when Arab channels showcase their most popular programs.

In sharp contrast to too many other channels, the Saudi satellite network MBC has challenged old taboos with a surprisingly positive depiction of Jews. "Um Haroun" is a fictionalized recounting of a Bahraini-Jewish woman who played a significant role in developing Bahraini midwifery. The series is set in an unnamed Arabian Gulf town in the 1940s, and it shows how Jews, Christians, and Muslims lived together as one community in relative harmony.

The show appears on Saudi television, and production involves Emiratis and Bahrainis. One of the consultants is a politician as well as the representative of the Bahraini Jewish community at the World Jewish Congress. This reality embodies huge progress and change on an international scale.

Proponents have highlighted the show as an embodiment of tolerance, while critics have attacked it as an example of normalization of relations with Israel at the expense of the Palestinian cause. What is more immediately apparent, and was once unheard of, is the basic humanity with which Jews are now shown. In the Middle East, such sensitivity has long been in short supply. Textbooks have long copied some of the worst age-old anti-Semitic tropes, claiming the goal of Zionism was a global Jewish government

that would control the world. That is why this television series is so groundbreaking as it is trying to turn a new page in Muslim-Jewish relations.

As president of the World Jewish Congress, I have traveled to many Muslim countries to meet heads of state, members of government, workers, journalists, and students. Not every conversation has been easy and sometimes we have encountered prejudice, but mostly we were able to have a constructive dialogue. One of the most popular references we heard were the times described in "Um Haroun," when Muslims and Jews lived together as neighbors and friends. It's amazing that a TV show has led to a constructive dialogue and bridge building.

Last January 27, I stood at Auschwitz-Birkenau and implored world leaders to not be silent and or complicit in hatred, as we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the death camp. Earlier that month, Mohammed Al-Issa, the secretary general of the Makkah-based Muslim World League, led a delegation of Muslim leaders from more than two dozen countries to the same upsetting ground. The Moroccan minister of religious affairs, Ahmed Toufik, is now leading a project to build a museum for the heritage of life in the Atlas region, and one part of that project is dedicated to the Jewish culture.

Perhaps most encouragingly is what is coming out of the highest political levels as well, with the Saudi monarchy that holds tremendous sway across the Muslim world as the custodian of the two holiest sites in Islam.

In February, King Salman stated that it was a religious duty for Islam's adherents and Jewish people to know one another and cooperate for the good of society. This Ramadan, through "Um Haroun," we see that the region is looking back to a neighborly era, a time when Jews were friends, not foes. This reality embodies amazing progress and change.

Last fall, I spoke on human fraternity at the Gregorian University, which is connected to the Vatican. I told the audience, made up mostly of cardinals and bishops, that the prophecy of the ancient prophets is peace. The prophecy of Abraham is peace. The prophecy of Jesus is peace. The prophecy of Muhammad is peace.¹ Humankind's most fervent yearning is the yearning for peace.

This new interconnected era in which we now find ourselves has turned our world into a small village where peace is possible. In the Middle East, which has lived with too much violence for far too long, peace is within reach and it could be starting with, of all things, a television show.

¹ There are peaceful Muslims. But Muhammad was a warrior, spreading Islam via much bloodshed.

Last July, Israel destroyed a building illegally constructed by non-Israeli Arabs in the eastern part of Jerusalem, abutting Israel's security barrier, which blocks terrorists from infiltrating the Jewish capital from Judea-Samaria (aka "the West Bank").

Israel commonly destroys residences that are built illegally or are the homes of known terrorists, a practice whose legitimacy has been consistently affirmed by Israeli courts... Nonetheless, several weeks ago, more than 60 Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo demanding assurance that Israel is not using U.S. military equipment to demolish Palestinian homes. This gesture was clearly meant to express disapproval of Israel's legal measures to ensure the safety of its citizens...

This was not the first time House Democrats chastened Israel via the State Department. Last November, 106 of them signed a message protesting the Department's ruling that Israel's settlements in Judea-Samaria are not illegal under international law (which they in fact are *not*). These actions—and many others recently—highlight a growing trend in which Israel is losing its traditional bipartisan support, due exclusively to increasing numbers of Democrat legislators ... taking outwardly critical stands against the Jewish state. Two leading Democratic Presidential contenders—Warren and Sanders—even advocated cutting U.S. aid to Israel if Jewish settlements in Judea-Samaria are not halted.

This trend should be a wake-up call to Jewish Democrats who support Israel... Recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, defunding of UN-WRA, leaving the Iran Deal, recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, slashing financial support of the Palestinians' pay-for-slay program, declaring Judea-Samaria "disputed" land (not "Palestinian territory"), implementing U.S. education funding policies that punish anti-Zionism as anti-Semitism—Trump's accomplishments in support of Israel are objectively unmatched by any American President.

Notwithstanding, the hate many Jewish Democrats feel toward Trump—for his boorishness, illiberality, unapologetic lying, misogyny and even some of his actual policies—blind them to the fact that **Trump has become Israel's best friend**. They have refused to take pleasure in Trump's support of Israel—and in many cases cursed him for it.

But now things have changed. Left-wing Democrats—like Ocasio-Cortez, Tlaib, Omar, Warren and Sanders—have transferred anti-Trump

animus over to Israel. If Trump *likes* Israel, the logic goes, it's acceptable now to reveal our *opposition* to Israel.

Election Will Test Jewish Democrats Commitment to Israel

As the Presidential election approaches, it seems clear that neither Sanders nor Warren will be running against Trump. While Joe Biden has a long history of sympathy toward Israel, he was also Vice President during one of the rockiest periods in the U.S.-Israel relationship in decades.

Admittedly, as bad as Obama treated Israel—excluding Israel from the Iran nuclear negotiations, allowing the infamous U.N. Security Council Resolution 2334 declaring Israel's communities in eastern Jerusalem and Judea-Samaria ("West Bank") to be illegal—today's ultra-left Democrats make Obama look like a member of Netanyahu's Likud party.

So, he choice for most Jewish Democrats in November will not be anti-Israel Sanders vs. pro-Israel Trump. It will be guardedly pro-Israel Biden vs. fervently pro-Israel Trump. Given that choice, it's fair to predict that most Jewish Democrats will stick with their party—even as it slides into increasingly hostile anti-Israel positions.

The greater question, then, is not whom pro-Israel Jewish Democrats will vote for in November. Rather, it's what they will do ... to rescue their party from the impending anti-Israel takeover, led by the likes of Sanders, Warren, AOC, Tlaib and Omar. It seems certain, for example, that this year's Democratic convention will be the scene of fierce battles over the party's stance on Israel in its official platform.

Despite Biden's past support of Israel, he's not strong (or determined) enough to beat back those on his left wing who want to declare Israel's communities in eastern Jerusalem and in Judea-Samaria illegal, who want to cut U.S. funding to Israel—or who perhaps wish to characterize Israel's policies toward the Palestinians as "racist" (echoing a recent Sanders trope).

One thing should be certain to every Jewish Democrat—a fact they must own—is that they are about to lose their party to powerful forces that threaten Israel's well-being and even survival. Nobody is arguing here that you vote for Trump. That's a complex personal choice.

No, the challenge today to Jewish Democrats who claim to support Israel is, what are you doing to stop the complete takeover of your party by anti-Israel forces? What will you do to keep support of Israel bipartisan in this country? ...

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Jeremy Corbyn Era is Over!

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The Jeremy Corbyn era is over as the UK Labour Party elected Sir Keir Starmer as its new leader. In his first public statement, Starmer vowed to root out the anti-Semitism that has infected his party and apologized on behalf of the party.

Starmer also expressed his condolences to the UK Jewish community over the high death rate from the coronavirus. Starmer's wife and children are Jewish. The Daily Mail questions whether he could and should have done more to fight the anti-Semitism within his party during the Corbyn years.

Civilization Jihad Operations: The Muslim Brotherhood's Successful Infiltration of America

www.MEForum.org Middle East Forum



by Cynthia Farahat, born in Egypt

With the Islamists' effort to gain power in the United States, the Muslim Brotherhood's war against America is currently succeeding. They are able to exploit America's laws and the broad ignorance of their most important mission which they call, "Operation Civilization Jihad." Under this mission, the Muslim Brotherhood has infiltrated major media, political, educational, and even law enforcement institutions. They also successfully hijacked the political representation of American Muslims and are using it to spread their propaganda to Congress. In the long run, Civilization Jihad can be more dangerous than armed jihad. It was the same operation that subverted several nations such as, Turkey, Egypt, and Sudan; and we need to learn from these examples before it is too late.

The New Soldier on Sentry Duty ☺

A new soldier was on sentry duty at the main gate. His orders were clear: no vehicle was to enter unless it had a special sticker on the windshield. A large vehicle pulled up with a general seated in the back. The sentry said, "Halt, who goes there?"

The chauffeur, a corporal, said, "'General Smith.'" The sentry said, "I can't let you through. You have to have a special sticker on the windshield."

The general said, "Drive on." The sentry said, "Hold it! You really can't drive through. I have orders to shoot if anyone tries to drive through without the sticker."

The general repeated to the chauffeur, "I'm telling you, son, drive on!" The sentry walked up to the rear window and said, "General, I'm new at this. Do I shoot you, or do I shoot the driver?"

Why We Must Close High-Risk Wildlife Markets

World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street, NW
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The world is grappling with the worst public health emergency in recent memory: COVID-19. The World Health Organization has confirmed it is a zoonotic disease—it jumped from wildlife to humans. The outbreak underscores the public health risk of allowing illegal and unregulated wildlife markets to flourish and the destructive impacts of trade and consumption of high-risk wildlife on human health and societies.

In late February, the Chinese government announced a comprehensive ban on the consumption of wild animals. WWF urges other countries to quickly adopt similar prohibitions and regulations. We are calling for urgent action to close high-risk markets and end illegal and unregulated wildlife trade that threatens human health and impacts biodiversity.

To gauge public opinion in places where such markets operate, WWF commissioned an independent survey of 5,000 individuals in March. Results revealed support for similar action from other governments in Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Here are some highlights from the survey:

◆ There is almost universal support—93% of respondents—across these parts of Asia for government action to eliminate illegal and unregulated wildlife markets.

◆ Respondents predominantly believe that wildlife is the source of the coronavirus pandemic. Market closures were seen as an effective measure to help prevent similar outbreaks from happening in the future by 79% of respondents.

Editor's Comment: These wildlife markets are also very cruel. Also, coronavirus is a disease that spread to humans from bats, an unkosher animal. Bats are also good for the environment.

The official church policy at the time was to protect Jews because Jesus was born into the Jewish race. In practice, Jews were often targets of Christian loathing. As the plague swept across Europe in the mid-14th century, annihilating nearly half the population, people had little scientific understanding of the disease and were looking for an explanation.

Jews were often taken as scapegoats and accusations spread that Jews had caused the disease by deliberately poisoning wells. This is likely because they were affected less than other people, since many Jews chose not to use the common wells of towns and cities and because Jews confessed to poisoning wells under torture.

The first massacres directly related to the plague took place in April 1348 in Toulon, Provence where the Jewish quarter was sacked, and forty Jews were murdered in their homes; the next occurred in Barcelona. In 1349, massacres and persecution spread across Europe, including the Erfurt massacre, the Basel massacre, massacres in Aragon, and Flanders. 2,000 Jews were burnt alive on 14 February 1349 in the "Valentine's Day" Strasbourg massacre, where the plague had not yet affected the city. While the ashes smoldered, Christian residents of Strasbourg sifted through and collected the valuable possessions of Jews not burnt by the fires.

Many hundreds of Jewish communities were destroyed in this period. Within the 510 Jewish communities destroyed in this period, some members killed themselves to avoid the persecutions. In the spring of 1349 the Jewish community in Frankfurt am Main was annihilated. This was followed by the destruction of Jewish communities in Mainz and Cologne. The 3,000 strong Jewish population of Mainz initially defended themselves and managed to hold off the Christian attackers. But the Christians managed to overwhelm the Jewish ghetto in the end and killed all of its Jews.

At Speyer, Jewish corpses were disposed in wine casks and cast into the Rhine. By the close of 1349 the worst of the pogroms had ended in Rhineland. But around this time the massacres of Jews started rising near the Hansa townships of the Baltic Coast and in Eastern Europe. By 1351 there had been 350 incidents of anti-Jewish pogroms (deadly riots) and 60 major and 150 minor Jewish communities had been exterminated.

All of this caused the eastward movement of Northern Europe's Jewry to Poland and Lithuania, where they remained for the next six centuries. King Casimir III of Poland enthusiastically gave refuge and protection to the Jews. The

motive for this action remains unclear. The king was well disposed to Jews and had a Jewish mistress. He was also interested in tapping the economic potential of the Jewry.

Perceived Jewish immunity

There are many possible reasons why Jews were accused to be the cause for the plague. One reason was because there was a general sense of anti-Semitism in the 14th century. Jews were also isolated in the ghettos, which meant in some places that Jews were less affected.

Additionally, there are many Jewish laws that promote cleanliness: a Jew must wash his or her hands

before eating bread and after using the bathroom, it was customary for Jews to bathe once a week before the Sabbath, a corpse must be washed before burial, and so on. (Lev. 13:5 also recommends quarantine.)

Government Responses

In many cities the civil authorities either did little to protect the Jewish communities or actually abetted the rioters.

Pope Clement VI (the French-born Benedictine, Pierre Roger) tried to protect the Jewish communities issuing two papal bulls in 1348 (the first on 6 July and another 26 September) saying that those who blamed the plague on the Jews had been "seduced by that liar, the Devil". He went on to emphasize that "It cannot be true that the Jews, by such a heinous crime, are the cause or occasion of the plague, because through many parts of the world the same plague, by the hidden judgment of God, has afflicted and afflicts the Jews themselves and many other races who have never lived alongside them." He urged clergy to take action to protect Jews and offered them papal protection in the city of Avignon. In this, Clement was aided by the researches of his personal physician Guy de Chauliac who argued from his own treatment of the infected that the Jews were not to blame.

Clement's efforts were in part undone by the newly elected Charles IV, Holy Roman Emperor making property of Jews killed in riots forfeit, giving local authorities a financial incentive to turn a blind eye.

Aftermath

As the plague waned in 1350, so did the violence against Jewish communities. In 1351, the plague (killing 200 million) and the immediate persecution was over, though the background level of persecution and discrimination remained. Ziegler (1998) comments that "there was nothing unique about the massacres." 20 years after the Black Death the Brussels massacre (1370) wiped out the Belgian Jewish community.

(This article in Wikipedia is fully footnoted.)

persecutions Against Jews During the Black Plague

Source: Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org>

Long estranged due to hateful Church dogma, Christians and Jews are again coming together

IN the beginning, when the Church was still formulating its official doctrines and beliefs about the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), the Bible was unavailable to the people. Most people were illiterate and even those who could read the Hebrew, Greek, or later Latin translations of Scripture could only be understood by a very small circle of professional priests and scholars.

That is why the ancient churches throughout Europe and the Middle East are filled with sculptures, paintings and stained-glass windows on the outer and inner walls and ceilings of the sanctuary. The Bible and Church doctrine needed to be communicated to the faithful through art, pictures and sculpture. These images have left powerful and long-lasting impressions on the people who have gazed at them daily through the centuries.

The power of pictures



The most famous sculpture describing the relationship between the Church and Synagogue, which stands in hundreds of churches since the Middle Ages, is of two female figures called *Ecclesia* (Church) and *Synagoga* (Synagogue). The statues stand on the façade of

major churches in central city squares for all to see of how the Church Fathers understood the relationship between Christianity and Judaism. This sad and twisted dogma still impacts Christians and Jews until this day.

Healing the Church and Synagogue

Notice how the Church stands triumphant as a crowned queen looking down upon the humiliated Synagogue, her head turned away in shame. Ecclesia holds the cross back, protecting its salvation from Synagoga, rather than offering its salvation to the Jewish people.

According to the Church, the only way to salvation was through the doctrines and dogmas of the Church Fathers, many of whom were brazen anti-Semites. The Church also holds closely and controls access to the chalice, the cup of salvation, understood by the Church to be the only means of salvation.

Now look at Synagoga. She is blindfolded, often with a serpent wrapped around her head as at the entrance to the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. The broken spear she holds in her right hand is the lance used by the Romans to puncture the side of Yeshua (Jesus). It is bound to her arm and shoulder demonstrating that she cannot escape the guilt of killing the Son of God, as the Church has taught for centuries. As second-century apologist Justin Martyr said to the Jew Trypho, "Leah is your people and the synagogue, while Rachel is our church ...; Leah has weak eyes (see Genesis 29:17), and the eyes of your spirit are also weak." Synagoga is an obsolete Judaism displaced by a triumphant Church.

The Word of God, or Torah, is falling from Synagoga's left hand, meaning that Israel and the Jewish people have lost their role and calling to bring the Word of God to the world.

That, according to the Church, is now the work of the Christian priests, most of whom have no knowledge of biblical Hebrew.

In other representations of Synagoga, she is in the clasp of a devil riding on top of her neck and covering her eyes. The association with the devil evokes a malevolent Synagogue and teaches a dangerous lesson: Jews and Judaism no longer have reason to exist.

This is the image of the Jews that the Church taught her followers. It is the picture of "She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave" as found in the Book of Lamentations (Lamentations 1:1).

by David Lazarus

www.IsraelToday.co.il

Israel Today is a Messianic Jewish on-line magazine published in Israel which we recommend to our readers.

UN Report Ranks Israel 14th Happiest Country in the World

by Ilse Strauss, www.bridgesforpeace.com

3/24/2020. Eight years ago, the United Nations General Assembly launched a survey to gauge the global happiness levels of its member states. The findings obtained from each of the UN's member states were noted, processed and released as the first international report on global happiness in 2012. Known officially as the World Happiness Report, the document became a tool that allows heads of states to measure where their citizens fall on the global happiness scale.

The 2020 report was published last week, scoring 153 countries from the happiest to the least happy. The first 13 slots went to the usual happiness superpowers: Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Canada and the Netherlands—nations known for snow, the northern lights, neutrality, maple syrup and tulips. The 14th spot on the list went to Israel, a tiny nation embroiled in endless conflict and controversy, surrounded by hostile neighbors plotting its destruction.



The ten happiest countries this year are Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, New Zealand, Austria and Luxembourg. Although the Jewish state did not make the top ten—and slipped a spot from last year's 13th place—the people of the Promised Land are happier than the Americans, the Germans, the French and more than 140 other nations. Israel also took the top spot as the most joyful state in the Middle East, with its neighbors Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt coming in at 111th, 119th and 138th place respectively. The bottom ten spots on the list went to Lesotho, India, Malawi, Yemen, Botswana, Tanzania, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Afghanistan.

Each year, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network uses a variety of polling organizations, official figures and research methods to rank countries by how happy their citizens see themselves as, based on factors like income, healthy life expectancy, social support, freedom and generosity. The results are published as the World Happiness Report on UN World Happiness

Day on March 20th.

The results of this poll are based on happiness levels prior to the coronavirus pandemic hitting. The report editors did address the global crisis, saying that although there is no way to predict its effect on happiness, calamities in the past have "led sometimes to surprising increases in happiness in the wake of what might otherwise seem to be unmitigated disasters."

The editors did, however, speculate as to a possible explanation for the curious case of happiness following such a disaster. "The most frequent explanation seems to be that people are pleasantly surprised by the willingness of their neighbors and their institutions to work in harness to help each other. This delivers a heightened sense of belonging, and pride in what they have been able to achieve by way of mitigation. These gains are sometimes great enough to compensate for the material losses."

For the first time this year, the report also measured the happiest towns in the world, with Tel Aviv making the top ten at number 8.

The Jewish state's high rankings on official happiness lists have long since been a cause of speculation. In every conventional and hedonistic sense, the happiness odds appear to be stacked quite decidedly against those who call the Promised Land home.

On the security side of things, Israel is the only democracy wedged into one of the world's most volatile regions. Its neighbors are at best inhospitable; at worst, violently opposed to its existence and making the Jewish state's destruction their aim. Israel's citizens are in the crosshairs of every terror group in the neighborhood, and the country has fought at least one major war every decade since its rebirth.

Moreover, the Jewish people are heirs to a legacy and history so tragic that it calls for three official annual days of mourning every year. On top of that, nearly 70 years after the establishment of the modern State of Israel, it remains one of the only countries in the world whose right to exist is called into question, its borders disputed, its exports embargoed and its efforts to defend itself vilified.

Over the years, speculation has been rife as to the wellspring of happiness for the people of the Promised Land. Many have argued cohesion, a sense of family and belonging, while others have pointed to the country's thriving economy and status as a high-tech superpower. Yet perhaps the source of Israel's happiness comes from something ingrained in the hearts and minds of Jewish people throughout generations. "Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God" (Ps. 146:5), the psalmist declared thousands of years ago. Perhaps Israel has always known the secret of joy unlimited.

Joe Biden: Anti-Israel

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Joe Biden isn't wasting a moment trying to prove to his far-Left base that he will continue the anti-Israel policies of the Obama/Biden administration. These were indeed dark days. In April 2020 alone, Biden has come out in support of lifting sanctions on Iran, invited the foreign policy advisors of Bernie Sanders to join his team and said he was "honored" to receive the endorsement of the viciously anti-Israel group, J Street. "I'm honored to have earned J Street's first-ever presidential endorsement," Biden told [@thedailybeast](https://twitter.com/thedailybeast). J Street has been a powerful voice to advance social justice here at home, and to advocate for a two-state solution that advances Middle East Peace." (*Editor: The other side isn't interested in peace, only Israel's destruction.*) These extreme actions were all taken in just the first two weeks of April! Anti-Semites like Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib support Joe Biden.

Joe Biden, just like Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren, is proving that this is no longer the old Democrat party of bipartisan support for Israel. Today's Democrat Party, led by Biden, who was one of the architects of the deal that gave Iran billions in taxpayer money and even more in sanctions relief, seems to be actively working against Israel, our other allies in the Middle East, and the American taxpayers. The only way to stop J Street Joe is to step up and get involved TODAY.

In Quarantine

I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

Still haven't decided where to go for vacation -
- The Living Room or The Bedroom?

Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

Home schooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.

I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the **Twilight Zone**

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog..... we laughed a lot.

Quarantine Day 3: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.

I'm so excited - it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?

Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.

Day 6 of Home schooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".... I'm offended.

Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under.

Israel is an Ark of Safety in the Sea of Coronavirus

In a study of 60 countries published in Forbes magazine, Israel has ranked first in terms of being the safest country in the world against the coronavirus. The study rated the Jewish state's quarantine measures as highly effective in slowing the spread of the coronavirus. Israel was followed by Germany, South Korea, Australia, and China according to factors, including safety, risk level, and treatment efficiency. In the risk index, Italy was ranked as the most dangerous, followed by the USA, UK, Spain, and France. Health Minister Yaacov Litzman expressed satisfaction with the data, "We have reached the goal of setting ourselves at least 10,000 tests per day. This is a great opportunity to praise the medical staff working around the clock in simple conditions for Israeli citizens. We will continue with this trend with all our might. Litzman added that he was "deeply honored and appreciative" of the citizens of Israel, who struggle with pride and courage during a very difficult time. "The vast majority of you obey the instructions and keep the Ministry of Health's directives aimed at preventing the spread of morbidity and saving lives", he said. www.VisionForIsrael.com

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life." Psalm 138:7

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Nuclear Families

For the first two centuries of America's existence, we were a nation of big, sprawling, extended families, said David Brooks, in **The Atlantic.com**.¹ People were embedded in a "supporting web of aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, and grandparents who shared burdens and could step in and care for a child when a mom or dad was not available. Such multigenerational, extended families helped parents, socialized young men, and grounded seniors, giving people's lives meaning. But over the 20th century, as farming waned and people chased the American dream to cities, they began living far from kin in nuclear families - a married mom and dad and their children. That worked for a time, but as our society has embraced self-fulfillment, autonomy, and privacy as ideals, the nuclear family has turned into "a catastrophe." Kids are growing up in fragile family units that often crumble into single-parent homes. Working parents must pay people to perform child-rearing tasks that once were handled by kin. Seniors, meanwhile, often spend their final years alone. "It's time to find better ways to live together."

The extended multi-generational families of the past crumbled and gave way to the nuclear family. Today, the nuclear family in the USA is crumbling. In 1960, 77.5% of children lived in nuclear families. Today, that figure has fallen to 48%. The government has often replaced the father, in an attempt to keep the mother from sliding into poverty. The man of the family often refuses to be financially responsible, or to be a real dad to his own children. Illegitimacy, divorce, and family breakdowns are primary causes of poverty, suicide, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, and income inequality.

Children are also growing up without real moral foundations, as society chips away at the biblical heritage of our country. There is no longer any right or wrong. There are also very few good role models for our children. The breakdown of families and society leave our children emotionally vulnerable. The media and even the schools often have profoundly negative effects on the young people. Considering all of the negativity that they are exposed to, I am surprised that the young people are doing as well as they are doing.

In addition, we are leaving our children with a huge debt load, with trillion dollar budget deficits each year. We are also burying the world in garbage and often destroying the environment.

¹ An excellent example of families like this would be *The Waltons*, a TV show about a family in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The source of much of the information in this article is *The Week.com*, 3-6-2020.

Against the Tide

Film by the Simon Wiesenthal Center
Narrated by Dustin Hoffman, ***Against the Tide*** is a compelling film that documents what happened in the United States during the Holocaust. This film highlights how a young activist, Peter Bergson (born Hillel Kook in Lithuania in 1915), challenged Washington and the establishment Jewish organizations to demand that the rescue of Europe's Jews become a top priority for American Jews.

Through a never before seen 1977 interview, Bergson gives a first-hand account of what occurred. The more successful he became in attracting support from important non-Jewish members of Congress, as well as Hollywood personalities such as Ben Hecht, Edward G. Robinson and Paul Muni, the more threatened and resentful Jewish establishment leaders became.

It is both sad and disgraceful that so many American Jewish organizations and individuals were reluctant to help the European Jews during the awful years of the Holocaust, and in fact actually worked against people like Peter Bergson and others in their attempts to help the Jews trapped in Nazi-occupied Europe. Many American Jews were concerned that American Jewish attempts to help European Jews might stir up additional anti-Semitism in the USA.

Most American Jews remained as enthusiastic supporters of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. However, President Roosevelt did almost nothing to help the forsaken Jews of World War II. As is the case with many American Jews to this day, the primary "religion" of most American Jews is the Democratic Party. (It should be noted that President Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, was very sympathetic to the Jews, and she attempted to be helpful to the rescue of Europe's Jews. FDR dismissed his wife's concerns for the Jewish people as being too softhearted.)

Parents Can Now Change Children's Sex On Birth Certificates

On March 10, 2020, NYS Attorney General Letitia James announced that the Department of Health would allow parents or guardians of minors under the age of 16 to change the sex designations on their children's respective birth certificates.

This foolishness got its big boost in 2015 when the US Supreme Court legislated from the bench to legalize same sex marriages. This was to accommodate homosexual men and women. Since then, there has been a slew of other gender minorities to be accommodated: transgender men and women, gender fluid, cross dressers, pan gender, non-binary, etc. These people need help with their gender dysphoria and confusion. Many do want help, but laws have been passed preventing them from receiving professional help. Those who offer help lose their licenses.

ZOA Urges Universal Condemnation of Palestinian Authority's Jew-Hating Coronavirus Libels

Zionist Organization of America
633 Third Ave #31 B, New York NY 10017

Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) President Morton A. Klein and ZOA Chairman Mark Levenson, Esq. released the following statement:

In Israel, the coronavirus has resulted in approximately 13,000 confirmed cases and over 140 Israelis dying,¹ and has locked down the entire country. Yet, Israel has generously been sending enormous amounts of medical and other humanitarian supplies to their sworn enemies the terrorist dictatorship Palestinian Authority (PA) and Gaza (including huge quantities of testing kits, PPE and sanitizer); training PA and Gazan Arab medical personnel; allowing PA workers to remain in Israel to avoid the risks of travel; and cooperating in every way possible to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in the PA and Gaza. During a typical recent week (April 4), Israel transferred to Gaza 1,779 truckloads of goods, 81 tanks of fuel, 464 tons of medical supplies, 333 tons of agricultural products, 11,376 tons of food, 26,448 tons of building supplies, and 14,055 of miscellaneous goods.

Even the Arab press such as *Al Arabiya* and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have praised Israel's cooperative efforts.

Israel's extraordinary **kindness** and **generosity** has been responded to by top PA/PLO officials and Hamas spouting the most vicious anti-Semitic libels imaginable, to incite hatred and violence against the Jewish people and the State. ZOA urges bi-partisan government officials and non-governmental organizations throughout the U.S. and the world to join ZOA in strongly condemning these vicious anti-Semitic libels. Here are a few examples of this horrendous evil defamation:

- PA government spokesman Ibrahim Milhem smeared Israel as an "agent of the coronavirus," and falsely said that Israel was using the virus to "persecute Palestinians" and that Israel is obstructing the PA's work to prevent the spread of the virus in "east Jerusalem."
- The PA's official newspaper *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* printed a cartoon showing an Israeli soldier at an Israeli settlement (community) shooting coronavirus bullets at Palestinians.
- The PA's official newspaper also printed cartoons and op-eds depicting Israel as the coronavirus (equating Israel to the coronavirus) and as "the most dangerous human virus known to

man." (See Palestine Media Watch [report](#).)

- The PA's official newspaper also falsely accused Israel of deliberately withholding disinfectants, and causing Palestinian prisoners to be "on the brink of a holocaust." (*Id.*)

- The PA/PLO is also publishing vicious cartoons, videos, op-eds and poems falsely accusing Israel of deliberately attacking supposed jailed and chained Palestinian children with coronavirus particles. (See PMW [report](#).)

- The PA/PLO official newspaper also falsely accused "occupation soldiers" (Israelis) and "settlers" (Israelis) of spreading the coronavirus by deliberately spitting on Palestinian cars and the door handles of Palestinian homes and "everywhere" in Palestinian towns; and by running their hands over ATM machines and property in Palestinian towns. (PMW)

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Write a Letter to the Editor!

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

¹ As of April 14th.

Harry Truman, a man with little experience in foreign affairs, assumed the tall order of uniting the Allies, winning the war, restoring the shattered global economy, and creating a new world order.

On July 20, 1944, Americans woke to the startling news that an attempt had been made on the life of Adolf Hitler. The Nazi leader survived the attack but feared for his safety, heeding the advice of his cabinet never to speak in public again.

On that same day, thousands of miles across the ocean, delegates, including Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri, began arriving at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago to nominate President Franklin D. Roosevelt to a fourth term. Truman's assignment was to deliver the speech nominating Sen. Jimmy Byrnes as FDR's vice president to replace the sitting VP Henry Wallace.

However, unbeknown to the public, a few weeks before the convention, Roosevelt's cardiologist, following an extensive examination, informed his senior staff that even with the best of care the President might not live a year. This dramatic turn of events meant that the selection of a vice president was of crucial significance to the country and the world.

The White House, seeking options to Henry Wallace, reached out to Truman in the president's name to abandon Byrnes and to run for vice president himself. Truman, astounded by the request, agreed and miraculously, though a virtual unknown to the American public, resoundingly defeated Henry Wallace in the second ballot by a count of 1,031 to 105 to win the nomination for the vice presidency.

Nine months later, Roosevelt died and Harry Truman, a man with little experience in foreign affairs, assumed the tall order of uniting the Allies, winning the war, restoring the shattered global economy, and creating a new world order. He excelled in almost all of it.

In 1948, I attended a rally on the Lower East Side of New York. When the crowd began chanting, "Give 'em hell, Harry," Truman responded, "I don't give 'em hell, I just tell the truth and they think it's hell."

Truman did the right thing, overcoming tremendous opposition, including from his own secretary of state, Gen. George Marshall, who threatened to resign over Truman's decision to recognize the Jewish state in Palestine. Marshall warned the president that such a recognition could mean the loss of oil from the Arab world, which could have had dire consequences on the American economy and foreign policy.

Harry Truman: The Man From Missouri Who Changed Jewish History

by Rabbi Marvin Hier
founder & dean of the
Simon Wiesenthal Center
WWW.WIESENTHAL.COM

But Truman would not buckle. Not only did he recognize the Jewish state, but at the critical stage of the UN vote on the issue, his office made personal calls, urging a number of countries to vote for partition, an effort that played a decisive role in the final UN vote.

Truman remained loyal to his own favorite prayer, which he had memorized and would say often. "Almighty and Everlasting God, help me to be, to think, to act what is right, because it is right. Amen." To that he would add, "Say what you mean, mean what you say. Keep your word."

Truman's commitment to a Jewish state, however, was very different from Roosevelt's. When it came to a Jewish state, Roosevelt could not be trusted. To Zionist leaders, FDR made pro-Zionist statements, but when he met with Saudi leader Ibn Saud, the president said, "I learned more about the Muslim problem and the Jewish problem by talking to Ibn Saud for five minutes."

A few days later, he sent Ibn Saud a letter in which he wrote, "I will not undertake as the head of Executive branch... any action likely to be hostile to the Arab people."

As Michael Bar Zohar, David Ben-Gurion's biographer, writes, "If Roosevelt had completed his term of office, it is doubtful whether a Jewish State would have come into being."

As anyone who studies the Bible knows King David and Solomon did not reign in Portugal. Samuel was not a Judge in Spain. Ruth did not utter her famous "Where you go I shall go" from Brussels. When the prophet said "Houses, fields and vineyards will yet be bought in this land... soon will there be heard in the mountains of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of joy and gladness," it was not the words of a foreign resident with an European passport, but the words of Jeremiah speaking from the heart of Jerusalem!

Truman understood that very well. When Israel's first chief rabbi, Isaac Herzog, visited the White House to thank Truman, he told him, "Mr. president, God put you in your mother's womb so you could be the instrument to bring about the rebirth of Israel after 2,000 years."

When the Rabbi finished, David Niles, the president's assistant, who was in the room, thought the rabbi might have overdone it until he looked at the president and saw tears running down his cheeks. That is why Harry Truman will never be forgotten by the Jewish people and the friends of Israel.

THE KOTEL (also called the Western Wall, and also the Wailing Wall)

Did you know...

- The Western Wall (Kotel) is located in the Old City of Jerusalem, on the western side of the Temple Mount.
- The Western Wall was built during the time of Herod to ensure that the ground would not give way because of the immense weight of the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) that greatly expanded during the time of Herod.
- The exposed part of the Western Wall is 187 feet long and 62 feet wide.
- Many of the rectangular stones that make up the wall weigh between 4,000 and 16,000 pounds.
- It is customary to write prayers on pieces of paper and insert them between the cracks of the wall.
- Over a million of these prayers are placed in the cracks each year.

Two Very Good Popes

I'm not a big fan of the Roman Catholic Church. It has been a source of much bad theology, and for most of its history, the Roman Catholic Church has been a curse to the Jewish people. However, since the Vatican II Council of 1962 to 1965, the Catholic Church has repented of its historic anti-Semitism, and eliminated anti-Semitism from their liturgy.

Nevertheless, throughout history there have been good Catholics who were friends to the Jewish people and even good popes. One of those good popes was Pope Clement VI, who was pope during the Black Plague of 1346-1353. During those years, the Black Plague killed many millions of people in Asia, Europe, and North Africa, reducing the world's population from its level of about 475 million in 1346 to about 350 to 375 million in 1353, per Wikipedia. About half of Europe's population died in this pandemic.

Europe's superstitious fear of cats led to the mass slaughter of our feline friends, contributing to a vast increase in the rat population. Fleas on the rats spread the Black Plague to human populations on three continents.

The Jewish population was pretty much spared from the plague, perhaps because Jews practiced quarantines, as described in Leviticus 14 and 15, plus washings as taught in the Bible and Jewish tradition.

At the time when the plague reached Europe, a rumor spread that the Jews were to blame for the pandemic by poisoning the wells, and Roman Catholics across Europe began killing Jews.

Pope Clement VI reacted to this and issued two papal bulls in 1348, in which condemned the violence against the Jews and proclaimed

that all who blamed the Jews for the plague were seduced by the Devil. He urged the clergy to spread his message in order to stop further killings of the Jews.

However, despite Clement's best efforts, massacres of Jews took place throughout much of Europe. Thousands of Jewish communities were exterminated, including major Jewish centers in Barcelona, Strasbourg (where 2000 Jews were burned alive in 1349), as well as cities such as Frankfurt, Cologne, and Mainz in Germany.

Another good pope was Pope Gregory X, who was pope from 1271-76. Jews were accused of killing Jewish children and using their blood to make matzah (unleavened bread) for Passover. This is commonly called the "Blood Libel." He reminded Christians that Jews do not eat blood, which is forbidden in Lev. 17:10-11, and other places in Scripture. Gregory also reminded people that the Jews were of the race that give birth to Jesus. However, the Blood Libel continues to this day, and is also taught by many Muslim imams. Many thousands of Jews have been murdered because of this awful Blood Libel. **RAC**

Jewish Leaders Praise Keir Starmer For Pledges on Labour Anti-Semitism

Rowena Mason www.theguardian.com

Keir Starmer (the new leader of the UK Labour Party) has been praised by Jewish leaders for achieving "in four days more than his predecessor (Jeremy Corbyn) in four years" after he held a video conference to set out steps Labour would be taking to stamp out anti-Semitism.

The issue of anti-Semitism has troubled Labour for years, with the party still under investigation by the Equality and Human Rights Commission over allegations of institutional anti-Semitism in its handling of complaints.

"It was very important to me to seek to address the disgrace of anti-Semitism in our party as soon as possible," Starmer said. "Today, I repeated once again the apology I made as soon as I was elected leader. Over the last few years, we have failed the Jewish community on anti-Semitism."

"Labour is a proudly anti-racist party and, going forward, it will not be enough to 'pass the test' on anti-Semitism. We need to set new standards for best practice. At today's meeting, I committed to begin work on setting up an independent complaints process, cooperating fully with the EHRC's inquiry and asking for a report on all outstanding cases to be on my desk at [the end of] the week. I also discussed with the Jewish Labour Movement my ambition to roll out training of all Labour party staff as soon as practically possible." (Starmer's wife is Jewish.)

Who would have imagined that some of the fathers of modern science were also forerunners of modern "Messianic

Gentiles"? They were Christians who

embraced aspects of the Messianic Jewish vision

before our time. Pioneering English scientists Isaac Newton and

John Ray were both *Hebraists* (passionate students of biblical Hebrew) who might today

be called "Messianic Gentiles." I've become fascinated with the life

and writings of their contemporary Robert Boyle, who was both a brilliant

scientist and an avid Hebrew scholar. Boyle saw more clearly than possibly anyone in his

era, the interconnectedness of Old and New Testament.

Anglo-Irish Robert Boyle (1627-1691) is known as the father of modern chemistry. He

helped invent a method of scientific experimentation which has propelled science and

technology for the last three centuries, from his early air pumps to our latest electronic

gadgets. Boyle was also a most remarkable example of a pious, Bible-believing scientist.

His biblical faith was deeply flavored by Hebraism. Although he grew up in a Christian

home, it was exposure to Jews having discourses about the Scriptures that first led

Boyle to "enquire into them" at age 15 (Hunter, *Boyle - Between God and Science*, 2009, pg.51).

By his early twenties Boyle had developed a great desire to drink at what he

considered to be the original Hebrew Spring/Fountain of biblical knowledge, and so

within a year he gained proficiency in biblical Hebrew. In his early years of faithfully reading

the Old Testament, Boyle professed to only rarely find benefit. However, as time went on

he found himself receiving greater and greater understanding.

In his book *Style of the Holy Scriptures*, Boyle recommended to his readers to learn

Hebrew (and Greek) in order to better understand the Scriptures in their original

languages. The book contains references to Hebrew, Jews or Hebraism on some 40 of its 254

pages. Boyle also commended a more integrated view of New Testament faith as rooted

in, and continuing the Hebrew Scriptures.

"...the Old Testament, its expressions, as well as its topics, are so frequently referred to

in the New, that there is scarcely a page contained in the latter, to the better understanding of which the study of the former is not

either absolutely necessary, or at least highly

Fathers of Modern Science Discovered Hebrew Roots of Faith

by David Shishkoff
www.israeltoday.co.il

conductive." (Boyle, *Style of Holy Scriptures*, 1675, pg. 143)

In this fascinating and relevant passage on Hebrew

roots, Boyle adds a shining word picture:

"...the two golden cherubim ... harmonizing like the

two associated [Old and

New] Testaments, looked towards each other, both being intent on that mercy-seat

which typified the Messiah! - Ex. 25. 16 to 21."

(Boyle, *Style of Holy Scriptures*, pgs. 143-144, emphasis added)

Boyle referred to the Hebrew language as "God's tongue." In addition to other reasons,

Boyle wrote that he would have even learned Hebrew just to be able to pay God respect in

His own language (Boyle, *Works in Six Volumes*, 1772, pg. xlix).

Boyle had a deep, almost mystical desire to get at the wonders of the Hebrew Scriptures.

He felt that much more understanding could be gained by reading the Bible in its original

languages as opposed to translations:

"I cannot but reckon the want of ... solid knowledge and practical readiness in [Hebrew and Greek] amongst the chief impediments of

our discovery of the נִפְלְאוֹת *niphlaot*, or unobvious rarities of that divine book..."

(Boyle, *Works in Six Volumes*, pg. xlviii, emphasis added).

Boyle ended his book *Style of the Holy Scriptures* with another "Messianic Jewish"

word picture. He compared "his own great excitement in an integrated 'Messianic' understanding"

to the excitement of Peter on the mountain of transfiguration:

"I must confess, that when with the Apostles in the Mount, I contemplate Moses and [Elijah] talking with Christ, I mean the Law

and Prophets Symphonizing with the Gospel, I cannot but... exclaim with Peter, It

is good for me to be here...(Mat. 17:4)"

(Boyle, *Style of Holy Scriptures*, pg. 253, emphasis added)

This forgotten chapter of history adds perspective on the urge to recapture connected-

ness to ancient faith in the God of Jacob, both in physical descendants of Jacob and as well

as in "foreigners who have joined themselves to the Lord" (Isaiah 56:6).

Modern Messianic Jewish movements attract significant numbers of non-Jewish participants, intercessors, fans and advocates.

These "Messianic Gentiles" are in good company.

Israel's Flight from South Lebanon 20 Years On

by Efraim Karsh and Gershon Hacohen
BESA Center Perspectives

May 22, 2020, www.meforum.org

In the dead of night on May 24, 2000, 18 years after invading Lebanon with the expressed goal of removing the longstanding terrorist threat to its northern towns and villages, Israel hurriedly vacated its self-proclaimed security zone in south Lebanon and redeployed on the other side of the border. With PM Ehud Barak authorizing the operation a day earlier to avoid its disruption by the Hezbollah terror organization, which had long harassed the Israeli forces in Lebanon, the evacuation was executed without a single casualty.

Yet the humiliation attending the IDF's flight under Hezbollah fire, leaving behind heavy weapons and military equipment (some of which were promptly bombed by the Israeli air force to deny them to Hezbollah), as well as its abandonment of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), which had aided its counter-terrorist operations for years and which collapsed upon the withdrawal with many of its fighters and their families seeking asylum in Israel, was not lost on outside observers. A prominent leftwing Israeli journalist, by no means hostile to the withdrawal, even compared "the scent of humiliation [that] permeated the air" to that attending the "last helicopter on the [US] embassy roof in Vietnam."

Editor's Note: Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon 20 years ago in the dead of night was a major betrayal of the South Lebanese Army that fought side by side with the Israeli army for 17 years. It also did not work out well for Israel, or for the SLA. The attacks from Hezbollah have increased in intensity since Israel's withdrawal. Hezbollah now has many tens of thousands of missiles aimed at Israel. However, Israel did not learn from the withdrawal from Lebanon in the year 2000. A few years later, Israel made a complete withdrawal from Gaza. We all know how badly that turned out. Appeasement does not bring peace when dealing with Islamic terrorists. Appeasement means weakness to them. And more wars. **RAC**

And Here is What Trump Believes:

Over three years ago, President Trump visited the Western (Wailing) Wall. Wearing a black kippah and placing a prayer inside the crack of the historic wall, Trump sent a clear message that this holy site belongs to the Jewish People.

"I was humbled to place my hand upon the wall and to pray in that holy place for wisdom from God," Trump said at Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum. "The ties of the Jewish People to this Holy Land are ancient and eternal," he added.

Operation Solomon: Israel Airlifts 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Safety in Unparalleled Mission

www.worldjewishcongress.org

501 Madison Ave, New York NY 10022

On 24 May 1991, the Government of Israel orchestrated an unprecedented covert operation to airlift 14,325 Ethiopian Jews to safety. Operation Solomon remains Israel's greatest aerial expedition to date, and holds the world record for the most passengers ever carried on an aircraft.

Within 36 hours, the Ethiopian families were transported to Ben Gurion Airport via 35 aircrafts, including Israel Air Force C-130s and El Al Boeing 747s, and 400 buses.

The operation took place against the backdrop of a decades-long civil war in Ethiopia, which had increased concern for Ethiopian Jews' safety amid the violent instability. The humanitarian effort for the Ethiopian Jews was carried out with the support of the United States and the sitting Ethiopian government, which agreed to the American request to allow the community to immigrate to Israel after years of permitting emigration in exchange for weaponry.

The mission was originally forecast to take 10-15 days, but was eventually whittled down to 48 hours. Beginning on a Thursday, the mission was executed so methodically that it was completed by the end of Saturday. (To save lives, it is permitted to do work normally forbidden on Shabbat. **RAC**)

Operation Solomon airlifted almost twice as many Ethiopian Jews to Israel as the previous effort, Operation Moses, in 1984, and set a world record for a single-flight passenger load on 24 May 1991, when an El Al 747 carried 1,122 passengers to Israel. Of these, only 1,087 passengers were registered - the rest comprised dozens of children who hid in their mothers' clothing. The aircrafts themselves were meant to hold 760 passengers, but many more were able to squeeze in due to their lightness amid a climate of starvation. Five babies were born aboard the planes.

Between 1990 and 1999, over 39,000 members of the Beta Israel community immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia.

It was my first ever time in Israel, and I was terrified. As I made my way through the security check at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, my fear turned to full-on panic when an Israeli security officer took a close look at my passport and read my incredibly Arab-sounding name aloud:

Haneen Razzouk.

When I looked up to face the officer, I was immediately given a glare of scrutiny. I was interrogated and my belongings rifled through. I tearfully pleaded with the TSA agent as she threw away my prescription medicine.

She was just doing her job, which, considering the situation in Israel, demanded an understandably high level of precaution. But even knowing this, it was still hard for me not to take it personally. I was being scrutinized, yet ironically, not seen.

After all, my name doesn't reflect my full story – I was born to a Palestinian father and a Jewish mother in Sacramento, California. Where I was raised, most people applauded a family like mine for its uniqueness and for the hope for diversity and acceptance that we embodied.

Still, my dual identity has elicited plenty of polarizing reactions from people from all different backgrounds. Perhaps most painful were those of my own relatives. My father's family made their distaste for my Jewish heritage evident, and the tension was palpable to me, even as a child. When I was around them, I felt the need to de-emphasize my Jewish identity.

I had a foot in each family, but wasn't fully comfortable in either one. My own discomfort was always evident to me when I would go to fill out a form, application, or census. It would tell me to simply, "Select your ethnicity," and I'd hover over the boxes for way too long, unsure of which one to check.

These experiences have fueled my own internal conflict of identity. I don't always know what to acknowledge first – my Palestinian identity or my Jewish identity. Sometimes, the answer changes depending on who's asking. **The truth is, I cannot choose just one, and God does not ask me to.**

My experiences are only a microcosm of an age-old conflict which, like many, is filtered through the chaos of history, religion, and bloodline. It's in the ancient accounts of the Scriptures that this conflict was born. When Hagar and her son, Ishmael, were forced to flee from her resentful mistress, Sarai (Genesis 16), it began a long and complicated relationship between the Arab and Jewish people. But through the same story, I also see one constant: **the faithfulness of God to care for and pursue all people.**

I'm Palestinian and Jewish: Here's Why I Don't Choose Sides

by Haneen Razzouk

In Genesis 12:2, God makes the first of many promises to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, saying, "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." It's only a few chapters later, in the same book, that God tells Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, the ancestor of the Arab nations, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude" (Genesis 16:10). My own existence is direct evidence of those promises fulfilled thousands of years later.

Through His promises to Abraham and Hagar, I see that God is faithful to *all* who sincerely call on Him in faith. **This faithfulness is personal, not just national.** Though God was faithful to Abraham, He also met Hagar in her moment of despair, being the "God of seeing" (Genesis 16:13). He saw them both in their unique positions and promised a legacy and hope to each one.

I've found that the conflict is so intense and real that it can lead otherwise-kind people to develop an aversion or abhorrence for the "other side." This, however, is a complete deviation from how God actually views those He has created. God is in the business of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18–20). He told Abraham that the promises He made to him and his descendants would bless *all the nations* (Genesis 12:3). God's plan of redemption was always bigger than one people group. The fulfillment of this is most chiefly evident to me when He sent the Messiah to the Jewish people to bring hope, healing, and reconciliation to any person (to one another and to God) or to any nation who places their faith in him.

Everyone has the ability to work towards peace and reconciliation because we have the power to examine our own internal conflicts. And everyone has access to a personal relationship with the God of the universe, the true source of internal peace.

I might not be able to solve the Middle Eastern conflict, but I can still pursue wholeness for my own heart and identity. I can stand by God's promises to both my Arab and Jewish ancestors, finding joy in knowing that through the beauty of my lineage, I get to exemplify the love He displayed to all people, and to see His active redemption for all nations. I can choose both sides. *Source:*

<https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/issues>

Jews for Jesus, 60 Haight St,
San Francisco CA 94102

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Hungarian Official Honors Holocaust Amid Corona Crisis

With much of Hungary in lockdown, a minister attended a quite ceremony to remember the 600,000 Hungarian Jews killed in the Holocaust. Justice Minister Judit Varga made clear those who died should never be forgotten. Dressed in black, she placed pebbles, flowers, and candles at the Shoes on the Danube embankment monument in Budapest, the capital. She did so at a time when much attention focuses on the coronavirus pandemic. Source: Vision for Israel, PO Box 7743, Charlotte NC 28241-7743 • USA

Pakistan Christians: Convert to Islam or Starve

Christians and other minorities in Pakistan face starvation as they are denied food aid for refusing to convert to Islam, aid workers say. International Christian Concern (ICC) reports Pakistani Christians were denied food aid amid the COVID-19 crisis in the fourth incident ICC has documented since Pakistan was placed on lockdown by authorities seeking to combat the pandemic. In the Facebook video, a young Christian man claims that a local mosque committee distributed food on 2 April 2020, however, village Christians were told to leave the mosque compound because the food aid was meant for only Muslims.

Other such incidents have been reported since the beginning of April 2020. On 11 April 2020 an incident took place in which Christians were forced to make the Islamic profession of faith to get food aid. "Denying food aid and discriminating among citizens is a crime," Aftab Hayat, a Pakistani NGO leader, told ICC. "Christians often face discrimination and are victims of religious hatred. However, the situation for Christians amid the COVID-19 crisis is alarming and becoming worse." (VFI News)

Bless Israel in This Time of Crisis

We at Vision for Israel, continue to extend a desperate cry to our readers and donors to help us meet the requests for aid and financial assistance that are pouring into our VFI offices by the hour. We are working day and night to meet those needs, but we have never been so challenged to raise the necessary funds that are called for in this unprecedented crisis. Over a million people have been suddenly left jobless and entire families are suffering. We need supernatural divine provisions. We ask you also to take the time to review the projects we continue to undergird and the accomplishments that are taking place as you give to Vision for Israel. To see our many areas of outreach, including those to children at risk, entire families in need, the elderly, Holocaust survivors and much more, go to <https://www.visionforisrael.com/en/outreach>

Jewish Liberator of Nazi Camp, Wife of 78 Years Die Hours Apart

Source: The Times of Israel

LONGMEADOW, Massachusetts — A World War II veteran and his wife of nearly eight decades who had tested positive for COVID-19 died together on the same day. David and Muriel Cohen died within hours of each other at a Longmeadow nursing home on April 10.

Muriel, 97, had tested positive for the virus and David, 102, had been sick but his test results came back negative. The couple decided to remain together even as the Jewish Nursing Home tried to transfer residents who were infected to a separate unit.

Fran Grosnick, their daughter, gave the nursing home permission to let her parents stay together. "The only time they'd ever been separated was when my father served in World War II, and when my sister and I were born," she told The Boston Globe. "Otherwise they were always together."

David Cohen served as a radio operator in the Army during World War II. He was also a liberator at the Ohrdruf concentration camp in Germany. Photos he took during the liberation are displayed at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington DC.

When he returned to the US after fulfilling his service, David became a history teacher in Queens, New York, where he and Muriel raised their two daughters. The couple moved to Longmeadow after retirement to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Grosnick said the last time she saw her parents in person was on March 12, when the facility halted visiting hours. "They did not suffer, and they were together," she said. "I take comfort in that."

Why Do Democrats Want to Save Iran's Theocracy?

by A.J. Caschetta www.meforum.org

At a time when Iran's oppressive totalitarian regime is coming under increasing pressure from within and its grip on power is being tested daily, Democrats are rushing in with sanctions relief plans that would shore up its control. Ignorance, naiveté and a warped sense of priorities explains much of their recent activity.

Since last fall, protests in Iran have become bold. Rather than "Death to America!", the chants in Tehran increasingly are "Death to the Dictator!" and "We don't want the Ayatollahs!" If Ali Khamenei loses control because of his regime's inept response to Iran's COVID-19 deaths, it might be the only good thing to come out of the pandemic. That is, unless the Democrats have their way.

Jewish Population Stands Far Below Pre-Holocaust Numbers

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." Isaiah 40:1-2.

A new report released by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics revealed that the global Jewish population was recorded at 14.7 million people by the end of 2018. According to the information, presented on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the total Jewish population worldwide remains well below its pre-Holocaust peak. Jews living around the world by the eve of World War II in 1939, had grown to a population of over 16.6 million. (**Editor's Note:** Most other estimates are that the number of Jews in the world was closer to 18 million in 1939.)

In 1948, on the eve of the establishment of the State, the number of Jews worldwide was 11.5 million, of whom 650,000 were in Israel (6%). By the end of 2018, the worldwide Jewish population had risen to 14.7 million, with 6.7 million, or 45.6%, living in the State of Israel. The second-largest Jewish population in the world is in the USA, with 5.7 million Jews, followed by France, with about 450,000 Jews. www.VisionForIsrael.com

We read the tragic chapters of the past that have recorded the decrease of the Jewish population due to anti-Semitic hatred and violence. Yet whether we look to the past, present or future we praise God that He is in the process of fulfilling the promise made to His people thousands of years ago: "And the Lord your God will bring you to the land that your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it, and He will make you more prosperous and more numerous than your fathers." Deuteronomy 30:5.



Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.
What do you see here?
A pretty princess?
Now turn this picture upside down.

US Gives its Blessing to Israeli Annexation World Israel News

The U.S. State Department gave its blessing to Israel on April 26 if the Jewish State decides to proceed with its plans to annex parts of Judea and Samaria. "As we have made consistently clear, we are prepared to recognize Israeli actions to extend Israeli sovereignty and the application of Israeli law to areas of the Judea and Samaria that the vision foresees as being part of the State of Israel," a spokesperson for the State Department said.

However, the spokesperson did say that recognition would only be granted if Israel keeps its part of the deal, by holding talks with the Palestinians in accordance with measures set out by the deal of the century...

"Three months ago, the Trump peace plan recognized Israel's rights in all Judea and Samaria and President Trump pledged to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Jewish communities there and in the Jordan Valley," PM Netanyahu said at the time. "A couple of months from now, I am confident that that pledge will be honored, that we will be able to celebrate another historic moment in the history of Zionism," he said. Israel gained control of Judea and Samaria in the 1967 Six-Day War, a conflict in which four Arab nations conspired together to attack and destroy the Jewish state. Hundreds of thousands of Israeli Jews live in Judea and Samaria, in addition to another 200,000 Israelis who live in eastern portions of Jerusalem.

Source: www.out-of-zion.com

Editor's Comment: Historically, the US State Department has been anti-Semitic and hostile to Israel. This has changed under the Trump administration. Israel would be required to hold peace talks with the Palestinian Authority under this plan. However, we can be sure that the PA will reject any plan that ensures the survival of Israel, as they have done repeatedly in the past. **RAC**

♦ CALIFORNIA

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

♦ COLORADO

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

♦ FLORIDA

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.

Kehillat Elohim Messianic Synagogue. Rabbi John Schutz, 4815 Executive Park Ct #201, Jacksonville FL 32216. Call 904-318-6002. Shabbat service at 3 pm.

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

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

Mishkan Congregation. 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.

♦ 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 MJ Fellowship. Rav Joseph Kresfsky. 51 No Lincoln Ave, Washington NJ 07882. Shabbat Service at 10:30 am. Call 908-674-5601.

♦ NEW YORK

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

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

♦ PENNSYLVANIA

Belt Torah. 689 Hillview Rd, Allentown PA 18103. (Located in the Annex of Trinity Baptist) Call 484-425-3499. BeltTorah2015@gmail.com

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

372-5173. pathwayoflight.org

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

♦ RHODE ISLAND

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

♦ TEXAS

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

♦ 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

♦ VERMONT

United Messianic Jewish Ministries, PO Box 122, Brandon VT 05733. umjewishministries.com

♦ 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. www.Hebrew-Roots.net Great magazine! **RAC** Call 715-757-2775.

Messianic Directory

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

HEBREWS 10 : 25



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YOUR LOCAL
MESSIANIC
CONGREGATION**



INTERNATIONAL

BRAZIL

A.G. Jewish Congregation and Petah Tikvah Yeshiva. Messianic Rabbis J. Berlandi and David Cassady. Mauricio Amancio, 297, Camoxinga, Santana do Ipanema, Alagoas, 57500-000. Jew-Cassady0@gmail.com

ETHIOPIA

Obtain beautiful Judaka, hand-crafted by Bete-Israelis (black Jews) in Ethiopia. Contact: Daniel Belay, PO Box 4941, Addis Ababa.

daniel_belay95@yahoo.com

HOLLAND (Netherlands)

Beth Yeshua. Rabbi Lion Ervteman. Veluwelaan 20, Amsterdam. www.beth-yeshua.nl Call 31-20-890-6950. info@beth-yeshua.nl

INDIA

Kehilat Beth Lechem. R' Joseph John, PO Box 13; Sainikpuri, Hyderabad 500 094 TS, INDIA www.bethlechem.com

INDONESIA

Moriah Messianic Ministries. Jakarta Coltwo id@wilhardio.com

NIGERIA

B'rit Olam Kehillah. PO Box 47, Ijeshatedo 101015, Lagos. britolamkehilah@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINES

Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship. PO Box 212, 2600 Baguio City. Write to this address for the Asian edition of *Petah Tikvah Magazine*

Baguio City Messianic Congregation. PO Box 212, 2600 Baguio City. Shabbat services. bonicari@gmail.com

Bayit HaShem. PO Box 3272, 1200 Makati City. Visit blog at bayithashem.com. Max 'Nonong' Tuason. (Author of great books! RAC)

La Trinidad Bible Congregation. PO Box 133, 2601 LaTrinidad, Benguet. Shabbat services. Ph. 63-74-445-5144

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

Check out our website. We appreciate the work of our webmaster, Josiah Lebowitz. We have separate sections for articles in Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, English, Indonesian, and Estonian. English articles are divided up according to topic (History, Bible, Holy Days, News Items, Israel)

INFO ON THE COVER ART

Our cover art has once again done for us by **Bryan Picken**, 380 N Harris Rd, Ypsilanti MI 48198. He is remarkably gifted, and devoted to HaShem. Bryan's artwork has been a great addition to *Petah Tikvah*. He is now a free man, having been released from prison!

SHALOM, GOODBYE, ADIOS!

Don't let your subscription expire! Have we heard from you lately? Has your address changed? Please let us know.



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ASIA
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MESSIANIC
FELLOWSHIP



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

Indonesia

Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia

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

Pengakuan KemenAg Kanwil DKI

KW.09.7/BAO1.1/149/2013 **Jakarta** Sat 5PM

Sun 8AM.

Bintaro Messianic Congregation

Bumi Bintaro Permai D7-8 **South Jakarta** 12320.

Contact: Benyamin Obadyah +62217364258

Sat 10AM and 5PM

Shoresh Messianic Fellowship Plaza

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

Kelapa Gading, **North Jakarta**

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

CENTRAL JAVA Sat 10AM

Purwokerto Messianic Congregation Jl Jend

Sudirman 883, Purwokerto, Central Java

Contact: Bambang Rianto +62-8886657801

EAST JAVA Sat 5 pm Kehilat Mesianik

Congregation JL Wonokromo 7/5, Mojosari, Kab

Mojokerto, East Java Contact: Judo Nugroho

+62-81913224624

SOUTH KALIMANTAN Sat 10 am Banjarmasin

Messianic Congregation Jl Pasar Baru 2,

Banjarmasin , South Kalimantan Contact: Edy

Purwanto +62-8125189517

NORTH SULAWESI Sat 10 am Yerushalayim

Messianic Congregation Manado , North

Sulawesi Contact: Jefrey Rualemba +62-

89655471976 Sat 10 am Netivyah Ministry Jl

Garuda 37, Manado , North Sulawesi . Contact:

Oral Bollegraf. +62-853 98128567

PAPUA Sat 10 am El Shaddai Messianic

Congregation Jl Argapura Kanon, Jayapura,

Papua Conact: Seblum Karubaba +62-

81247562203 Sat 10AM

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation Jl Pasir

Dua, Jayapura, Papua. Contact: Benny Karubaba

+62-812 47082149

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

South Korea

Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat meeting at 2PM.

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

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

Japan

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10AM

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

Miyagi 982 Contact: Takashi Yokoyama

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

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia,

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

Shinmachi Kitaku, Tokyo, Japan 114-0012

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

New Zealand

TALMIDEI YESHUA MESSIANIC MINISTRY OF NEW ZEALAND

www.messianic.org.nz

HAWKES BAY KEHILAH. Nasi: Graeme Purdie
talmidimnz@gmail.com +64 277101157

AUCKLAND KEHILAH: Nasi: Ashok Kumar
talmidimak@gmail.com +64 21 029 08194

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

Singapore

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

Thailand

Bangkok Messianic House

Shabbat 10:30am 33/5 Soi Nai-Lert, Wireless

Rd. Bangkok 10330 Thailand. Contact: Nobuyuki Ito +66-81-915-6154 nobunosuke77@gmail.com.

Philippine APMF Diaspora in Canada

Calgary L'Chaim Bible Fellowship

Shabbat Service 4:00 PM. 138 Bridlewood Ave.

SW Calgary, Alberta, Canada

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

loubinar@yahoo.com; Marvin Mayo +1(403)-402-

6763 marvin.mayo@hotmail.com

www.lechaimbiblefellowship.org

Philippines

APMF Officers Philippines

Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com

Joel Cruz: joel@apmfinc.com,

Ted Franco: ted_franco@yahoo.com

Amos Baucas: albaucas@hotmail.com

Member of APMF:

La Trinidad

La Trinidad Bible Congregation (LTBC)

Shabbat Service 10:00 AM Cruz, La Trinidad PO Box 133, LaTrinidad, Benguet 2601

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

In fellowship with APMF:

Baguio City

Baguio City Messianic Community (BCMC)

Shabbat Service at 9:30AM

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

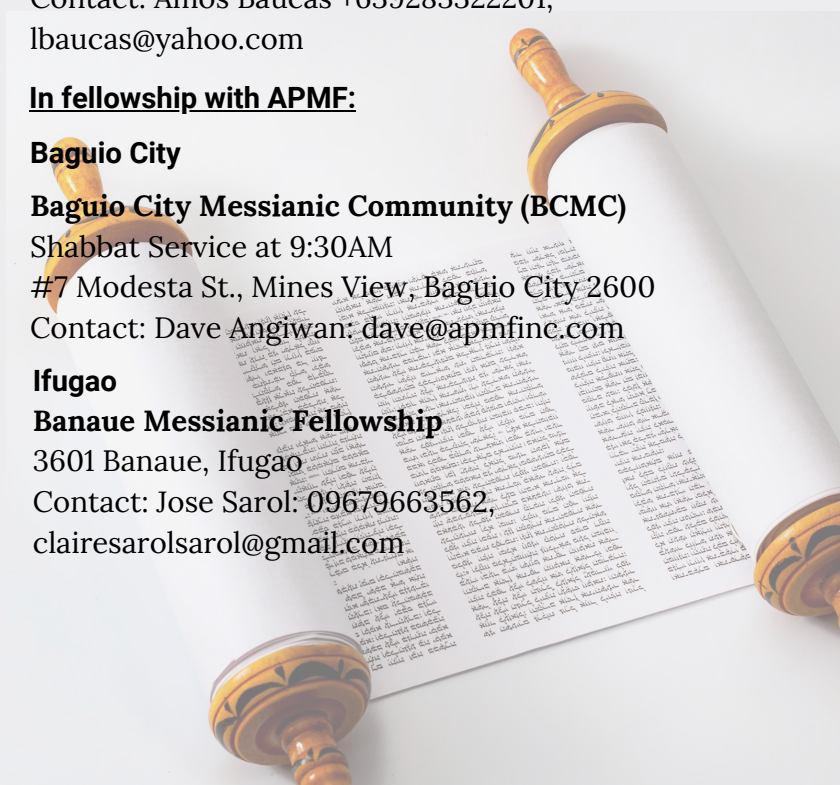
Contact: Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com

Ifugao

Banaue Messianic Fellowship

3601 Banaue, Ifugao

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



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

Cebu

Cebu Messianic Community

Shabbat Service 10:00AM, 1:00PM

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

Bukidnon

Talakag Messianic Fellowship

Talakag Bukidnon, Mindanao

Shabbat gathering 10 AM - 6 PM

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

Davao Oriental

Pujada Community

Yakal St., Barangay Sainz, City of Mati, Davao
Oriental 8200: Saturday 3-6 PM.

Contact: Mark Pineda: +639183532549

Lupon Torah Community

Panuncialman St., Purok Hayahay

Brgy. Poblacion, Lupon, Davao Oriental

8:00am - 11:30am every Shabbat

Contacts: Petronio (Bong) Conte

bongskik04@gmail.com, 09077319723

Alen Kelly Conte, billionairealenkelly@gmail.com.
09171623763

Greater Manila Area

Rizal

Cainta Torah Community

Shabbat Service at 10:30 AM

Dayspring Academy Sunset Drive Brookside
Subdivision, **Cainta, Rizal** 1900

Contact: Willy and Lita Miranda +63 9393253000
+63 927 7048000 willyz_miranda@yahoo.com.

Eagles Wings Messianic Congregations

Friday 6:30PM and Saturday 9:30AM

#7 Saratoga St. Park Place Executive Village,
Cainta, Rizal Contact: Jenny Joven +63286555469
Christy Cruz +639951941502

Also Saturday 9:00 AM #450 L. Cerrero St. Bgy.
Macamot, Binangonan, Rizal Contact: Tony Arceo
+639268296338.

Paranaque City

Emunah Tabgha Community

Executive Heights, Paranaque City

Contact Eva Agustin: +639178960995
Shabbat Service 10:30AM

Tagaytay City

Tagaytay Torah Community

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

Contact: Ning +639199840878,

Cavite

Emunah Torah Community

Shabbat service 10am

Block 3 lot 21 Java St. Cyber green subdivision,
General Trias, Cavite.

Contact: Christopher Madrid: 09328442958.
christophermadrid75@gmail.com

Quezon City

Mishpachah Ha'Mashiach Torah Community

Shabbat Service 2-6 PM

Bldg 11 BLPC, Road 3, Quezon City

Contact: Ian Asuncion or Cecilia Agustin
+639185736838.

Mandaluyong City

Metro Strata Learning Center

Shabbat Service 9:30AM

11th Floor 685 Nueve de Pebrero Ave.

Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

Contact: Tanggol Esquerra: +639153208083.

Laguna

Chesed V'Emeth Community

Shabbat Service 12:30 PM

Blk 11 Lot 36 Calendola Village San Pedro, Laguna

Contact: Monette Guiruela +639206583847

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