

\$5.00

Summer 2022 (July-September)

PETAH TIKVAH

"Door of Hope"

Yom Teruah 2022

"WAKE UP, O SLEEPER, RISE
FROM THE DEAD..."
EPHESIANS 5:14-16

APMF ACTIVITIES
THAT BROUGHT THE MESSIANIC
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

10 Israeli Innovations
THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

The parting ways
between *Judaism*
and *Christianity*

Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship- Edition

Tammuz-Elul 5782 | Volume 40 #3



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July - Sept 2022
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Welcome to Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition!!

APMF Edition PT Spring 2022

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

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

Dave@APMFInc.com

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

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

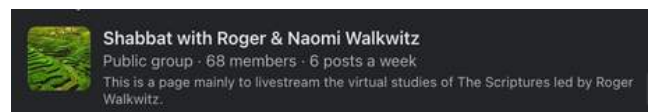
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**Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition
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Rav Sha'ul (Paul) tells us, "What advantage then has the Jew? Or what profit is there of circumcision?"

²Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God (Romans 3:1-2)."

I would interpret this to mean that the entire Bible would have to have been written by Jews, who were the oracles of God. However, there is one interesting fellow who was a prophet of God who has an entire book named after him who was not born Jewish, but was actually a **convert** to Judaism. I should also qualify the word "book" in this case. It is considered the "book" of Obadiah in Christian Bibles. However, it is only a couple of pages. I would not call it a book, and neither do the Jews. In Jewish Bibles, Obadiah is stuck into the "Book of Minor Prophets," along with 11 other minor prophets as only one book of the Bible instead of 12.

According to the **Talmud**¹ (Sanhedrin 39b), Obadiah was a **convert** to Judaism from Edom. He was an Edomite according to the flesh, but Jewish by choice. In this respect, he falls into a long line of others who joined themselves to Israel. Exodus 12:38 tells us that a "mixed multitude" joined the Israelites at the time that the Israelites escaped from Egypt. When they finally entered the Promised Land, the land was divided up for the Twelve Tribes. However, there was no special portion for the "tribe of mixed multitude" because this mixed multitude had been adopted into the other Twelve Tribes of Israel.

One famous convert to Judaism was Ruth the Moabitess. In Ruth 1:16-17, we read what Ruth said to Naomi, her Israelite mother-in-law: "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may YHWH do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me." I don't see any Rabbinic conversion that took place. Conversion is first and foremost a matter of the heart. Obviously, Ruth's conversion was very genuine. In the very last verses the book of Ruth, we discover that Ruth was the ancestor of King David, who

¹ Rabbinic commentary on Torah including religion, ethics, ritual, liturgy, philosophy, jurisprudence, etc. The Talmud is often composed of dozens of volumes, and is very expensive.

OBADIAH The Proselyte

In turn was the ancestor of Yeshua. In Esther 8:17, we read of many more Gentiles who became Jews.

So, although it wasn't unusual for Gentiles to become converts to Judaism, the conversion of Obadiah was rather extreme, because Obadiah was an Edomite. The Edomites were indeed related to the Israelites, having Abraham and Isaac as common ancestors. (The

Edomites are descended from Esau, a son of Isaac.) However, there was a family dispute, and family disputes can be rather severe at times. We can see this also in the animosities between the Arabs and the Jews, who are both descendants of Abraham. The Edomites became mortal enemies of the Israelites. Obadiah the Edomite converted to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Most scholars believe he was prophesying shortly before the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE.²

God chose Obadiah to be the prophet to prophesy against Edom, perhaps specifically because Obadiah himself was an Edomite. Who would be better to do it? In much the same way, the modern nation of Germany has done much to condemn the crimes of Nazi Germany. Germans show genuine repentance with the many memorials to the Holocaust throughout Germany. German children are educated about the horrors of the Holocaust in their schools. Germany has also poured billions of dollars into reparations to Jewish survivors of the Holocaust, and today has very close relations with Israel.

All of this doesn't bring back any of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. However, it does show that nations can repent and change their evil ways. I am also inspired by people who are descendants of Nazis who go to Israel to work as volunteers for various projects in Israel. I am also inspired when I hear about neo-Nazis who repent, and now invest much of their lives fighting against anti-Semitism and various other forms of racism. We all have the opportunity to repent and change our evil ways.

The "book" of Obadiah is an oracle concerning the divine judgment against Edom, as well as the restoration of Israel. As is true with much of Hebrew scripture, Obadiah provides the reader with a consistent message, that denial of wrongs does no good, and that both personal and national repentance occur only

² "Before Common Era," equivalent to B.C.

Richard
"Aharon"
Chamberlin

when we as individuals or as a nation accept responsibility for our personal and collective actions.

The Edomites lived south of Jerusalem, and many lived in what is today called Jordan. They took advantage of an already down-trodden nation in the time of Obadiah, when Israel was already under occupation by the Babylonians.

Not all Edomites were enemies of Israel. "But King Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites (I Kings 11:1)." Unfortunately, these "strange women" that Solomon loved eventually led to his downfall into various sins and idolatry. Solomon eventually repented, and is credited with writing the book of Ecclesiastes.

There is an earlier prophet also named Obadiah, in about the year 918 BCE. He remained faithful to God even after being a servant to the wicked King Ahab and Ahab's wicked wife Jezebel. He proved his faithfulness to YHWH by hiding 100 prophets of God from Ahab and Jezebel, keeping them alive in two caves and providing them with bread and water (1 Kings 18:4).

There is also a **third** Obadiah, who I found to be very interesting. I found the following item on Wikipedia.com. Wikipedia did a great job with it. I don't think I could improve on it, so I am giving their rendition:

"Obadiah the Proselyte (Hebrew: עובדיה הגר) was an early-12th-century Italian convert to Judaism. He is best known for his memoirs and the oldest surviving notation of Jewish music, both unique survivals.

"He was born Johannes, son of Dreux, around 1070 in Oppido Lucano, a small town in South Italy. A Catholic priest or a Norman-Italian baronet, he converted to Judaism in 1102. It was common practice for proselytes to choose the name "Obadiah" because of the tradition that Obadiah the prophet was an Edomite who converted to Judaism

"His reasons are not entirely clear. It is believed he had been inspired by the Jewish people during the First Crusade, as well as the story of Andreas, the archbishop of Bari who had converted to Judaism circa 1066–1078. Obadiah's understanding of the Bible may have also played a role.

"He is known for recording medieval Jewish chant in Gregorian notation. There is

a dispute whether this Gregorian melody used is of Jewish origin or of non-Jewish origin."

If you not of Jewish ancestry, but you believe in Yeshua, you should also be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree described in Romans 11. However, Rav Sha'ul also includes the following "good news" and "bad news":

"And if some of the branches be broken off, and you, being a wild olive branch, were grafted in among them, and with them partake of the root and fatness of the (Jewish) Olive Tree; ¹⁸Boast not against the branches. But if you boast, remember, you do not bear the root, but the root bears you. ¹⁹You will say then, 'The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.' ²⁰Quite right, because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear:

²¹For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest He also not spare you. ²²Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, *if* you continue in *His* goodness: otherwise you also shalt be cut off. ²³And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good Olive Tree: how much more shall these, which are the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own Olive Tree?" *Romans 11:17-24*

Rav Sha'ul also tells us, "Remember that you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called the Uncircumcision by the so-called circumcision, which is performed in the flesh by human hands— Remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the **commonwealth** of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in this world. But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who were formerly afar off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the middle wall of partition. (Eph. 2:11-14)."

It should be noted that the word translated "commonwealth" is **politeo**, which is a Greek word always correctly translated as "citizenship" in every other location in scripture, including Eph. 2:19. **Citizenship** is a much closer relationship than **commonwealth**. As a citizen, you have the rights, privileges, and obligations of the nation you share citizenship with. You also obey the laws of that nation. Have you been grafted into the Olive Tree? This is one more reason for respecting Torah.

Recently someone emailed me links to a 3-part series explaining Isaiah 53 from a modern Orthodox point of view, in which Isaiah 53 is really about Israel, and is **not** about the Messiah.

For many years, I had a whole set of 5 books of Rashi's commentary on the Torah. These Orthodox Jews in the videos made heavy use of Rashi's commentary to "prove" that Isaiah 53 was really about Israel, and not about the Messiah. I used to go to Rashi's commentaries as a reference tool on occasion. Much of the time I felt it was a waste of time. I eventually gave away the whole set. It took up too much room on my book shelves. Rashi was also a famed wine maker. Being a vintner is an honorable profession. However, I began to get the idea that he was drinking too much of his famous wine, which might have clouded his judgment! ☺

In Exodus 12:41, Moshe says that the Israelites were in Egypt for 430 years "to the very day." That's very specific. But Rashi said it was only 210 years, and of course Rashi is a very intelligent fellow, so he must be right. Then the Rabbis got together and tried to figure out the reasons how Torah can be right and Rashi can be right. In my humble opinion, I go with Moshe and not with Rashi.

Before Rashi came along, the common understanding in Judaism was that Isaiah 53 was about Mashiach. But then Rashi came along, and said it was about Israel. Well, Rashi is a really smart guy, so we will go along with him. Now we have to go through a bunch of intellectual gymnastics in order to confirm that Rashi was correct. There are some earlier chapters in Isaiah where Israel is also a type of the Messiah, such as Isaiah 49. However, Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12 clearly speak of an individual, the suffering servant Messiah. As with Psalm 22, we can see the suffering servant Messiah. As you may know, in ancient times, Jews believed in a suffering servant Messiah, Mashiach ben Yosef, as well as a kingly Messiah, Mashiach ben David. As Isaiah 53:1 clearly points out, the suffering servant Messiah would be rejected.

Commentary on Isaiah 53



In Zechariah 12:10 to 13:1, Israel will recognize her Messiah. However, it won't be the anti-Torah, anti-Semitic Greek god Jesus that they will recognize. It will be the very Jewish pro-Torah Yeshua that they will recognize. Jews were perfectly correct in

rejecting the counterfeit Jesus that was shown to them. G-d isn't going to send these Jews to Hell for not accepting this counterfeit Jesus. Jews were correct in rejecting the counterfeit messiah. However, I don't believe Ha-Shem will be so merciful for those who reject the Jewish Jesus. With tears and mourning, all Israel will come to recognize the pierced one, the true Messiah. When that day comes, many Christians will be forced to repent for following "another Jesus" that Rav Sha'ul warned of in 2 Cor. 11:4, and persecuting Jews for not accepting the

counterfeit Jesus. Yeshua will be returning to set up the Messianic Kingdom, and the Torah shall go forth from Zion, with Jerusalem being the capital of the world, as we see in Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4.

Down below, I have Isaiah 53, word-for-word, as it is printed in my Jewish Publication Society production of **The Holy Scriptures**, © 1917. I am unsure of when copyright expired, but it has been more than 100 years since the copyright, so hopefully you won't have to visit me in prison!

Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

Isaiah 53

¹ Who would have believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of the LORD been revealed.

² For he shot up right forth as a sapling, and as a root out of dry ground. He had no form nor comeliness that we should look upon him, nor beauty that we should delight in him.

³ He was despised, and forsaken of men, a man of pains, and acquainted with disease, and as one from whom men hide their face, he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely our diseases he did bear, and our

pains he carried; whereas we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded because of our transgressions. He was crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement of our welfare was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep did go astray. We turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath made to light on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, though he humbled himself and opened not his mouth. As a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before her shearers is dumb, yea, he opened not his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away, and with his generation who did reason? For he was cut off out of the land of the living, for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due.

9 And they made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich his tomb, although he had done no violence. Neither was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to crush him by disease, to see if his soul would offer itself in restitution, that he might see his seed, prolong his days, and that the purpose of the LORD might prosper by his hand.

11 Of the travail of his soul he shall see to the full, even My servant, who by his knowledge did justify the Righteous One to the many, and their iniquities he did bear.

12 Therefore will I divide him a portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the mighty, because he bared his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors. Yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Read Isaiah chapter 53 for yourself, and tell me who you believe Isaiah was speaking about. The really amazing thing is that Isaiah wrote his prophecies over seven centuries before the birth of Yeshua. Down below is a link of a young Israeli fellow sharing Isaiah 53 with people in Israel. It is spoken entirely in Hebrew. However, it is fully captioned in English so you should be able to follow along with no problems:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGz9BVJk6s

If you have a problem using the above link, you can go to www.youtube.com and type "The Forbidden Chapter Isaiah 53" in the search box. I believe you will find it interesting and useful, and you might even share the link with others!

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**REVEREND
TWISTRUTH
& HIS DISCIPLES**

by Daniel Botkin



"LITTLE GOY BLUE
COME BLOW YOUR HORN"

TO PROVE WE'RE NOT ANTI-SEMITIC, WE'VE INVITED RABBI ROSEN TO TALK ABOUT JUDAISM AND TO SHOW US SOME OF THE STRANGE RELIGIOUS PARAPHERNALIA THAT THE JEWS USE FOR THEIR BIZARRE, ECCENTRIC RITUALS!



BEFORE I BEGIN, REVEREND TWISTRUTH, I NEED TO RUN OUT TO THE PARKING LOT FOR JUST A SECOND--I LEFT MY SHOFAR IN THE CAR!

OKAY!



THAT'S STRANGE! WHY DIDN'T HE TELL HIS CHAUFFER TO COME IN WITH HIM EARLIER?



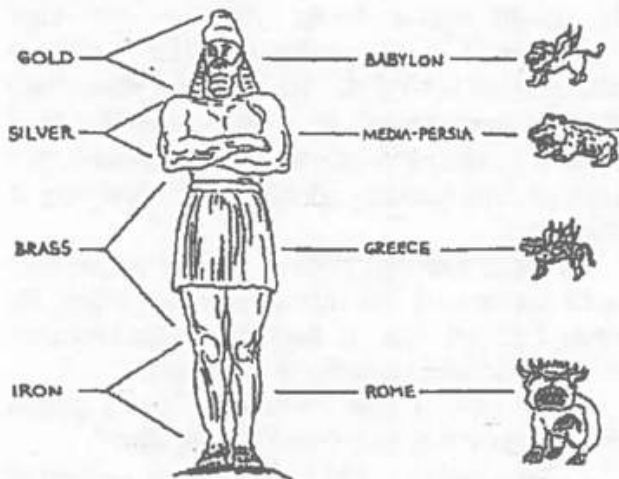
Daniel 7:25 is an important verse that is overlooked by a lot of Christians. In the KJV it says this:

"And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

"Daniel, why is this verse important for Christians? Who is it in this verse that is speaking against the Most High, and wearing out the saints of the most High, and changing times and laws? Which 'times and laws' is he changing, and why?"

I'm so glad you asked! To answer the above questions, we need to look at the background of this verse in the Book of Daniel.

In Daniel chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great image made of four different metals. The Prophet Daniel interpreted this dream and explained that the four metals represented four great kingdoms. Babylon, the kingdom which Nebuchadnezzar was then ruling, would be followed by three more kingdoms. We know from history that the three kingdoms which followed Babylon were Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome.



Years later, Daniel had a dream. He saw four great beasts come up from the sea. The first was like a lion with eagle's wings; the second was like a bear; the third was like a leopard with four wings; the fourth was unlike the others, and described by Daniel as "dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth ... and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it" (Dan. 7:7). Daniel asked for an interpretation of this vision, and he learned that these four beasts

Changing Times

corresponded to the four metals in Nebuchadnezzar's image.

The fourth beast, Rome, especially intrigued Daniel: "Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast," Daniel said to the one who was explaining the vision. Among other things, Daniel was told that this fourth beast, Rome, would "speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and

Daniel Shabbatnik alias Daniel Botkin

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

laws" (Dan. 7:25).

This answers the question of who was prophesied to speak against the most High and wear out the saints of the most High. It was Rome.

Now ask yourself: *Whose* "times and laws" would Rome, the enemy of the Most High, want to change?

If Rome spoke against *the Most High*, wore out the saints of *the Most High*, then it follows that the "times and laws" Rome would try to change would be the times and laws of *the Most High*.

What are the "times and laws" of the Most High? The laws of the Most High are written in the Torah. The times of the Most High are likewise written in the Torah, in Leviticus chapter 23.

Leviticus 23 lists God's appointed times, the days He designated as holy days for His people. God's appointed times in Leviticus 23 are the weekly Sabbath (the seventh day of the week), followed by the seven annual appointed times: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits,¹ Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Does Rome celebrate these appointed times of the LORD? Except for Pentecost, no. The Roman Catholic Church (and most Protestant churches) substitute Sunday for the Sabbath and the Eucharist and Easter for Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits. Thus Rome thinks to change the appointed times and laws of the most High.

"Daniel, what makes you so sure that the 'times' Rome thinks to change are the sacred times on God's calendar?"

Let me answer that question with a ques-

¹ Rabbinically, each day of Unleavened Bread is Passover, as seen on every Jewish calendar. Mark 14:1 and Luke 22:1 confirm that both are the same holiday. **RAC**

tion. What other times of the most High would the enemy of the most High want to change, other than the sacred times of the most High?

But you do not need to just take my word for it. Here are several English translations of Daniel 7:25. Notice that five of them specifically say "sacred feasts/seasons/festivals."

"He will defy the Most High and wear down the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws." New Living Translation (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1996).

"He shall speak words against the Most High, shall wear out the holy ones of the Most High, and shall attempt to change the sacred seasons and the law." The New Revised Standard Version (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989).

"He shall vaunt himself against the Most High, and harass the saints of the Most High: he shall plan to alter the sacred seasons and the law..." Moffat Bible

He will speak against the supreme God and oppress God's people. He will try to change their religious laws and festivals." Good News Bible (New York: American Bible Society, 1976).

"And he shall speak against the Most High, thinking to change the feast days and the law." New American Bible

The 1968 Jerusalem Bible (New York: Doubleday & Co.) says in its footnote that Daniel 7:25 refers to "the observance of the Sabbath and the feast days."

Yes, Christian friend, Daniel Shabbatnik is harping about Shabbat again, reminding readers that the Sabbath is the seventh day, Saturday, and **not** Sunday, the first day of the week. "So what?" some people respond. "So Christians keep the Sabbath a day late. Does God care? Does it really matter which day of the week is used for the Sabbath?"

Let me answer that question with a question. If it does not matter, then why would Rome, the enemy of God and the enemy of the saints, want to change it? Why would Rome want to "change times and laws" if it does not matter? What would Rome have to gain from this change if it does not matter?

John Shirm, in his book *A Search for Truth*, tells about his discovery of the Sabbath:

"While going to the Methodist church as a child, one lesson I learned was about creation in Genesis 1 and 2. The thing I remembered

most was that it said God created the seventh day and sanctified it and called it His Sabbath Day. One day early in the 1930s, I looked at the calendar and put my finger on Sunday and said, 'One.' Then I put my finger on Monday and said, 'Two.' And I continued across the page until I came to Saturday and it was **seven**. *Well, there's something wrong here, I thought. I better ask Mom about this.* So I did.

"Mom," I asked, "Why is it we go to church on Sunday and call it the Sabbath and the Lord's Day, and it's the first day of the week, and the Bible says that the Sabbath is the seventh day, and that is Saturday on the calendar?"

"Sadly enough, as many other parents answer their kids' important questions, my mother answered with something like, 'John, don't ask such silly questions. Sunday is the day we go to church and you're going and don't try to wiggle out of it.' Period. I went. But I also said to myself that I believed Saturday was the Sabbath and if I ever found anyone who attends church on Saturday when I grew up and was my own boss, that was where I'd go."

As a child, John Shirm discovered which day of the week is the Sabbath by simply looking at a calendar. Unfortunately, nowadays some calendars are printed with Monday as the first day of the week.

Every year I buy a pocket-sized calendar to record appointments, mileage, etc. Last December I went to the local office supply store to get a calendar for the new year. They had an assortment of colorful covers. As I looked inside each calendar, I discovered that they all had Monday printed as the first day of the week.

I kept looking, hoping to find a calendar with Sunday as the first day of the week. Finally I found one. It had cute little unicorns and hearts and flowers on the cover.

"Oh, no," I said to myself. "Am I gonna have to buy this girly-looking calendar?"

I kept looking, and finally found a different calendar with Sunday as the first day of the week. This one even had a Bible verse from Psalm 118 on the cover. "Let us rejoice today and be glad."

I rejoiced that day and was glad that I did not have to buy a girly calendar with unicorns, hearts, and flowers on the cover. And it included a calendar for 2022 as well as for 2021, so I'm covered for this coming year. We'll see if I can find a proper calendar for 2023 next year. If I can't, I guess I'll have to make one.

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

"The
 Calendar
 Repair Man"

REVEREND TWISTRUTH, AS CHRISTIANS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS! ONE OF THOSE TEN IS "REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY"!

YES, WE DO THAT BY GOING TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY!



I KNOW, BUT IT SAYS "THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH"! I NOTICED ON THE CALENDAR THAT THE SEVENTH DAY OF THE WEEK IS SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY! SEE?

GREAT SCOTT! HE'S RIGHT! I BET THAT'S WHY THE JEWS GO TO CHURCH ON SATURDAY INSTEAD OF SUNDAY!

WE DON'T WANNA BE JEWS, REVEREND TWISTRUTH! JEWS CAN'T EAT BACON! BUT WE DON'T WANT TO DISOBEY ONE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS! WHAT CAN WE DO REVEREND T?

GIVE ME SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT THIS...



PROBLEM SOLVED! I REALIZED THAT EITHER THE BIBLE IS WRONG, OR OUR CALENDARS ARE WRONG! THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD, SO IT CAN'T BE WRONG! THEREFORE I CONCLUDED THAT OUR CALENDARS MUST BE WRONG...

SO FOR THIS NEW YEAR, I ORDERED SOME CALENDARS WITH MONDAY PRINTED AS THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK! SO NOW WE'LL BE KEEPING SUNDAY AS THE SEVENTH DAY OF THE WEEK!



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IN HEBREWS chapter 3, we were introduced to Yeshua as the **Kohen HaGadol** (High Priest) of our faith. Unfortunately, the word "priest" sounds somewhat "Catholic" to most western ears. My Random House dictionary gives three different definitions to the word כֹּהֵן "priest," the first definition being, "A person whose office it is to perform religious rites, and especially to make sacrificial offerings." This would

be close to the biblical definition of a כֹּהֵן "priest." Just for the record, even Jewish Bibles use the term "priest." The Hebrew word for "priest" is *kohen* (also spelled *cohen*).

A Jewish priest is born, not made. It is a hereditary position. Any Jewish male who is descended patrilineally from Aharon (Aaron) the brother of Moshe (Moses) is a kohen. The patrilineal priesthood shows up among Jewish men with names such as Cohen, Katz, and other similar names. They normally occupy a place of esteem in the synagogue. However, none actually serves as a priest in the biblical sense, because today there is no Temple with Temple sacrifices. The Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE (A.D.). According to D'varim (Deut.) 16:2,5, the only place in which animal sacrifices could be made was at the place in which "Yahweh chose to establish His name," which is on the Temple Mount (Har HaBayit) in Jerusalem. In some future time, according to Ezekiel 40-48, the Temple will be rebuilt, and the kohanim (priests) will resume sacrifices.

Among the twelve tribes of Israel, the Levites were considered the "priestly" tribe. However, most Levites would have been ineligible to be priests. It isn't enough to be a descendant of Levi to be a priest; one had to be a Levite who is descended from Aaron. There were various other jobs for Levites who were not priests, among them being judges, teachers, musicians, and singers in the Temple.

Although there were many kohanim (priests) in Israel, there was only one High Priest. The High Priest was the only man in all of Israel who could enter the Holy of Holies, and then only on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) each year.

In Hebrews chapter 5, we are introduced to Yeshua as the perfect High Priest. In Hebrews 5:1-3, we read:

"For every Kohen HaGadol taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both **gifts and sacrifices for sins**. ²He can have com-

The Perfect High Priest

Hebrews Chapter 5
Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

passion on the **ignorant, and on them that are wayward**, for that he himself also is beset with weakness. ³And because of it, he is obligated to offer *sacrifices* for sins, for himself and for the people."

In verse one, we learn that the High Priest offers both "gifts and sacrifices for sins." This may be controversial to some, but a blood atonement wasn't always required to provide an atone-

ment for sin. If an individual was too poor to purchase an animal to sacrifice for atonement, he could offer up an ephah of flour instead, according to Leviticus 5:11-13. Therefore, we read of "gifts and sacrifices for sins."

The High Priest that served in the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) 2,000 years ago had compassion on the **ignorant and wayward**, because he himself was "beset with weakness," as it says in verse 2. The **ignorant** would be those who committed a transgression ignorantly, such as transgressing a commandment that he was not aware of. The **wayward** would be those who rebelliously transgressed a commandment. For instance, one person might eat pork inadvertently, perhaps not even realizing it is forbidden in Scripture. Another person is aware of the prohibition, but flagrantly disobeys the commandment. It was only on Yom Kippur that there were sacrifices that covered both sins of ignorance, and those of rebellion.

In Hebrews 5:3, we learn that the High Priest offered sacrifices first for his own sins, and only then did he offer up sacrifices for the sins of the people. We see this in Leviticus 16:6, where the High Priest offered up sacrifices for himself and his household, and only then would he be cleansed to the point where he could offer up sacrifices for the people.

Hebrews 5:4 tells us, "And **no man takes this honor unto himself**, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." This verse is somewhat political, as well as spiritual. It was a jab at the *k'hunah* (priesthood) that existed in the First Century. The High Priest is chosen from among the descendants of Aaron. It was supposed to be based on his spirituality and righteous lifestyle as well as his lineage as a descendant of Aaron. However, at the time of Yeshua, the office of High Priest had become a politicized office of prestige, power, and influence. It was one of the few positions under Roman domination in which a Jew had real

power. Usually, the High Priest obtained this position by paying the Roman authorities for the privilege of becoming High Priest, and taking the **honor unto himself**. The office of High Priest had become corrupted in the century before Yeshua. Therefore, there were many who objected to the power of the High Priest and the Temple system in Jerusalem. Some, such as the Essenes, opted out of the system altogether, and set up religious communities that had nothing to do with the Temple in Jerusalem. In Hebrews 5:5-6, we read:

"So also, Messiah glorified not Himself to become a High Priest; but He that said to Him, 'Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee.'" ⁶ As He said also in another place, 'Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.'"

Yeshua as High Priest represented a major departure from the priesthood of the First Century of the Common Era. According to the passage above, Yeshua did not seek the glory of becoming the High Priest; this honor was bestowed upon Yeshua by God.

The writer of Hebrews then quotes Psalm 2, one of the Messianic Psalms of Scripture. In context, it reads:

"I will declare the decree: YHWH hath said unto me, 'Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten Thee. ⁸ Ask of me, and I shall give Thee the nations for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. ⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'"

Traditionally, Jews like to insist that God doesn't have a son. Yet here we have a passage of scripture which declares that God indeed **does** have a son. This passage also declares that YHWH has given his Son the nations as an inheritance. In other words, Yeshua is not just the Messiah of the Jews, but is also Messiah of the Gentiles. That's the good news! The bad news is that the nations shall be broken into pieces. We like to think of the upcoming Messianic Era as just being a time of peace. Yes, the peace is coming, but first Yeshua will have to break the nations. Yeshua will be ruling as with a rod of iron according to

the above passage. Anti-Semites often proclaim that the Jews are trying to take over the world. In this case, they got it *somewhat* right. Yeshua – the **Jewish** Messiah – will be ruling the entire world. The capital of this upcoming Kingdom isn't going to be New York, London, Paris, or Moscow. The capital of the Messianic Kingdom is going to be Jerusalem, which is the capital of Israel, not Palestine, and will be the capital of the entire world!

MELCHIZEDEK

After quoting from Psalm 2, Rav Shaul quotes from Psalm 110. In context, we read:

"YHWH said unto my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.' ² YHWH shall send the rod of Thy strength out of Zion, saying, 'Rule in the

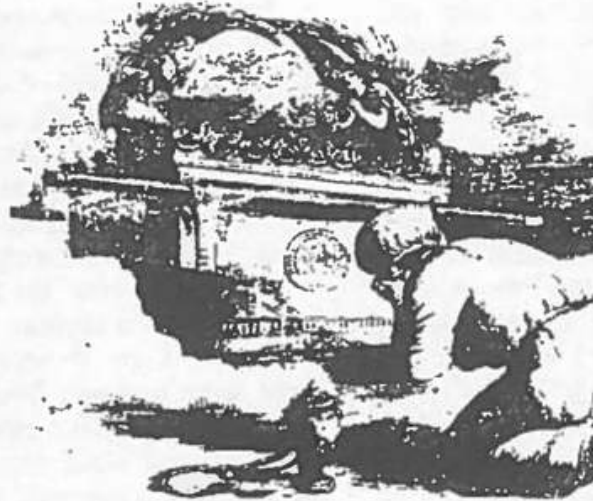
midst of Thine enemies.' ³ Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: Thou hast the dew of Thy youth. ⁴ YHWH has sworn, and will not repent, 'Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.'

⁵The Lord at Thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. ⁶ He shall judge among the heathen; He

shall fill the places with the dead bodies. He shall wound the chief men of many countries. ⁷He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore He shall lift up the head."

The first Being is identified as being YHWH, whereas the second being is identified as being Adonai. According to the Companion Bible, Jewish scribes altered the text, and in the original passage, both beings are identified as being יהוה (YHWH), but I don't know if this is accurate. It doesn't really matter much. In this Psalm, we have two divine, heavenly beings, regardless of what you call them. Scripture tells us that they are *echad*, that is, "one," also translated as a unity. The great statement of faith in Deuteronomy 6:4 says, *Sh'ma Yisrael, YHWH (Adonai) Eloheinu, YHWH (Adonai) echad*. The last phrase tells us that God is one, but it doesn't necessarily mean a singular one. The term *echad* can also be used for a compound unity, as in Genesis 2:24 where a husband and wife are described as being *basar echad* (one flesh).

The verse being quoted by the author of Hebrews is Psalm 110:4, in which this future



priest will reign **forever**, and is according to the **order of Melchizedek** (Melki-tsedek – King of Righteousness). This is important, because as we mentioned earlier in this article, the priests who served in the Temple were all descendants of Aaron. Yeshua was not a descendant of Aaron. He wasn't even a Levite! Therefore, Yeshua was ineligible to be even an ordinary priest (kohen) in the Temple. However, Yeshua is a priest according to the order of Melchizedek. We first met Melchizedek in Genesis (Beresheet) 14:18-20:

"And **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was **the priest** of the most high God. ¹⁹And he (Melchizedek) blessed him, and said, 'Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth.' ²⁰And blessed be the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he (Abram) gave him tithes of all."

It is an indisputable fact that Melchizedek was not a descendant of Aaron or Levi, because these guys hadn't even been born yet! Yet, Melchizedek is called "the priest of the most high God"! Also, Abram (later called Abraham) gave tithes to Melchizedek. At a later date, the tithes went to the tribe of Levi.

We will be learning more about Melchizedek in Hebrews chapter 7, so I leave that for a future study. Just who is this guy? Stay tuned, and you will find out later. In any event, we learn that the Messiah is a priest after the order of Melchizedek. This means that the Messiah is **not** of the lineage of Aaron! Also, according to both Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 5:6, the Messiah will be a priest **forever**! The priests who served in the Temple only served until they were 50 years old! As we read in Hebrews 7:25, Yeshua "ever liveth to make intercession for them." He lives forever to intercede for all who call upon His name.

We read in Heb. 5:7: "In the days of his flesh, He **offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying** and tears unto Him that was able to save him from death, and was heard because of His piety." Yeshua "**offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying.**" Remember Yeshua in the Garden of Gethsemane (Gat-Sh'manim). As He anticipated the horrible death He was going to endure at the hands of the Romans, He sweated great drops of blood, and cried out to God, "If it be Thy will, let this cup part from Me. Nevertheless, Thy will, not My will be done."¹ (See more on this in Matthew 26 and

Luke 22.) Yeshua was not looking forward to such suffering. He wasn't a masochist! Everything He endured, He endured for us, to make an atonement for our sins. God heard his cries, and could have saved Yeshua from what lay before Him. However, as we learn in John 3:16, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever should believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." God gave His Son for us!

In Hebrews 5:8, we have an interesting concept: "Although He was a Son, He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." Even though He was the Son of God, it was necessary for Him to **learn obedience** (not that He was ever **disobedient!**) to the point of willingly going to the cross for us! In Hebrews 5:9-10, we read:

"And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey Him**; ¹⁰ called of God as a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek." He brings salvation to those who **obey Him**. The temptation of many is to "**only believe.**" However, as Ya'akov says, "Faith without works is **dead.**"² Hebrews 5 concludes with:

"Concerning Him, we have many things to say, and hard to explain, since you are dull of hearing. ¹² Even though by this time, you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teaches you again the elementary principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk, and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to them that are mature, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Rav Shaul is now speaking to Believers who should now be mature believers teaching others, but instead he has to lay again the basic, elementary principles of their faith. They are still spiritual babes in need of "spiritual milk," because they are not yet ready to learn the more advanced matters of faith. We have all seen people like that. It's like they want "just enough salvation" so they don't go to Hell, but never seem to grow beyond that level of maturity. He urges us to continue to grow, not to be satisfied with where we are, and to continue to become knowledgeable in the Word

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see Yeshua praying to the Father. We never see the Father praying to Yeshua. (See also John 5:19; 14:28.

² Ya'akov (James) 2:26 (See also 2:17, 2:22)

¹ Yeshua is indeed divine. However, Yeshua was in complete submission to the Father. Also, we

EARLY EARTH ENIGMAS Part 4

Divinely designed DNA?

When the cell of a bacterium divides, it becomes two bacteria, not two amoebae. Apple trees bear apples, not oranges. A smooth-coated Siamese cat cannot give birth to thick-furred Persian kittens, although they belong to the same feline family. All living species, as well as varieties within them, stay the same specie or variety from one generation to the next.

The Creator had apparently intended it to be that way from the very beginning: "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so" (Gen 1:24).

Physically responsible for this biological order is a chemical molecule called deoxyribonucleic acid

(DNA), which forms part of threadlike chromosomes inside all living cells (except red blood cells and some viruses). In the form of two intertwined chains in a double helix (spiral), like a twisted ladder, each DNA comprises thousands of encoded genes that govern heredity, the transmission of physical characteristics from parent to offspring.

"Chicken or egg" paradox

Proteins depend on DNA for their formation. Yet, DNA cannot form without pre-existing protein. Which came first?

Chemistry lecturer John C. Walton further lamented: "The origin of the genetic code presents formidable unsolved problems. The coded information in the nucleotide sequence is meaningless without the translation machinery, but the specification for this machinery is itself coded in the DNA. Thus without the machinery the information is meaningless, but without the coded information the machinery cannot be produced! This presents a paradox of the 'chicken and egg' variety, and attempts to solve it have so far been sterile."⁹⁴

Stored genetic information

DNA is stored information written in a genetic language with a four-letter (nucleotide) alphabet and grammatical rules, telling the cells how to function and reproduce. Despite having only four letters, through their various combinations DNA is able to maintain the distinctions not only among all species, but also be-

tween individuals of each species. The language components in the human gene are identical to that of other organisms, say, a snail. Only the sequence is different.⁹⁵

One of the tiniest one-celled organisms is the bacterium *R. coli*. Scientists estimate it has about 2,000 genes, with some 1,000 enzymes each. Every enzyme contains roughly one billion nucleotides or letters of the chemical alphabet, comparable to bytes in computer language.

Physicist Jonathan Sarfati reckons that the "amount of information that could be stored in a pinhead's volume of DNA is equivalent to a pile of paperback books 500 times as high as the distance from Earth to the moon, each with a different, yet specific content. Putting it another way, while we think that our new 40 gigabyte hard drives are advanced tech-

nology, a pinhead of DNA could hold 100 million times more information."⁹⁶

Information from intelligence

Information is nonmaterial and, therefore, could not have originated from matter. Information can only come from intelligence. Co-authors L. Lester and R. Bohlin tell us: "Intelligence is a necessity in the origin of any informational code, including the genetic code..."⁹⁷ The vast amounts of information in the DNA can only have come from an intelligent source.

1962 Nobel Prize winner Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the DNA structure, had said that the more he studied the DNA double-helix, the more he became convinced that it could not have evolved by chance. In his book *Life Itself*, he wrote: "An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that, in some sense, the origins of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle."⁹⁸

On December 16, 2010, the History Channel aired interviews with scientists who admitted that evolution of the DNA molecule by chance or accident is totally impossible.⁹⁹

Designed on purpose. Biochemist Michael Behe of Lehigh University in Pennsylvania (*Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*, 1996) construes that "the straightforward conclusion is that many biochemical systems were designed. They were designed not by the laws of nature, not by

by MaxTuason@yahoo.com

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

chance and necessity; rather they were *planned*. The designer knew what the systems would look like when they were completed, then took steps to bring the systems about... Life on earth at its most fundamental level, in its most critical components, is the product of intelligent design."¹⁰⁰

Natural processes, such as mutation, cannot alter the DNA. I.L. Cohen says that "any physical change of any size, shape or form is strictly the result of purposeful alignment of billions of nucleotides (in the DNA). Nature or species do not have the capacity to rearrange them nor to add to them... The only way we know for a DNA to be altered is through a meaningful intervention from an outside source of intelligence – one who knows what it is doing, such as our genetic engineers are now performing in the laboratories..."¹⁰¹

Every living cell (except a few highly specialized ones) carries in its DNA all the information needed reproduce a new, identical organism. To clone an entire human being, the scientist needs just one cell.

Alternative theories

The absence in the fossil record of transitional forms that would prove the Theory of Evolution has led many frustrated evolutionists to consider alternative theories for the development of life forms on Earth.

Theistic Evolution

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Catholics and Protestants accepted Theistic Evolution, the belief that the process of biological evolution was divinely supervised. Theistic evolutionists believe that God created the first cell, then afterward allowed evolution to proceed, intervening only occasionally. He waited for primitive man to evolve into the first perfect human being before endowing him with a soul. The hybrid doctrine is a combination of divine creation and Darwinian evolution.

Botanist Asa Gray (d. 1888), one of Darwin's leading American disciples, embraced a variant of the concept. He argued that, only in special cases like those of human beings and complex organs such as the eye, did God carry out direct special creation.

Geologist Arnold Guyot, a staunch anti-Darwinist, advocated at least three interventions by the Creator: first, when He created matter; second, when He created life; and, third, when He created man.¹⁰²

Punctuated Equilibrium.

In an attempt to explain the absence of transitional forms, Stephen Jay Gould and Niles El-

dredge, American Museum of Natural History curator, jointly proposed the theory of Punctuated Equilibrium in several articles in scientific publications (*Mammals in Paleontology*, 1972; *Nature*, 1993; *Paleontology*, 2007).^{103,104,105} *Newsweek* magazine reported on March 29, 1982: "In 1972 Gould and Niles Eldredge collaborated on a paper intended... to resolve a professional embarrassment for paleontologists: their inability to find the fossils of transitional forms between species, the so-called 'missing links'." Their concept: "Instead of changing gradually as one generation shades into the next, evolution as Gould sees it, proceeds in discrete leaps. According to the theory of punctuated equilibrium there are no transitional forms between species, and thus no missing links!"¹⁰⁶

Gould and Eldredge speculate that speciation (the change from an old species to a new one) usually occurs in small, isolated, peripheral groups rather than in the main populations of species, making their fossilized remains harder to find. Fossils of the general population are usually found, which creates the impression of the unchanging nature or stasis of most species over millions of years.¹⁰⁷

Panspermia (spores from space)

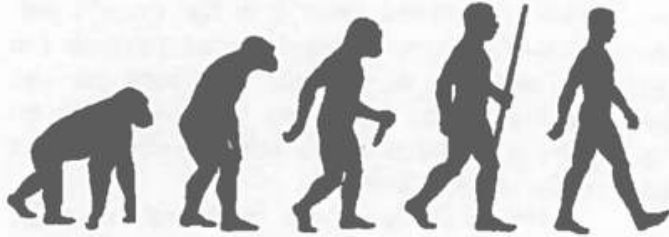
Sir Fred Hoyle mused that "life could not have originated here on the Earth. Nor does it look as though biological evolution can be explained from within an earth-bound theory of life."¹⁰⁸ Earlier, in 1908, Svante Arrhenius theorized that spores could have drifted to Earth from other star systems. These gave rise to the first living cells that later evolved into more complex organisms.¹⁰⁹

Nobel laureate Francis Crick similarly proposed that "life on earth may have sprung from tiny organisms from a distant planet, sent here by space ship as part of a deliberate act of seeding"¹¹⁰ Crick gave the old theory, known as "panspermia" (from Greek *pan*, "of all," and *sperma*, "seed"), a new twist: "directed panspermia." Some people find this plausible. J. Horgan wrote in the *Scientific American* (February 1992): "Given the weaknesses of all theories of terrestrial genesis (the origin of life on Earth), directed panspermia (the deliberate planting of life on Earth) should still be considered a serious possibility."¹¹¹

Panspermia, though, fails to answer the question of life's origin. It merely takes the problem of creation out to space. Just how life arose on a planet many light years away is not explained.

Progressive Creation

In the 1930s Russell L. Mixer, a Wheaton College graduate, formed the concept that God created the universe and the various forms of life on earth gradually, over millions and billions of years. Creation was accomplished in



progressive steps – hence the name of the doctrine: Progressive Creationism. In 1954 theologian Bernard Ramm wrote *The Christian View of Science and Scripture*, popularizing the idea which no longer demanded a young Earth and the recent creation of man.¹¹²

Progressive Creationism is thus a form of Old Earth creationism, accepting geological and cosmological estimates for the age of the Earth and the universe, while teaching that the successive species of plants and animals in the fossil record were the products of divine creation, not Darwinian evolution. As earlier organisms died off and became extinct, God created new species to replace them.

Most of God's replacements were typically improved models. Each time, the basic forms or "templates" of previously existing life are used – with just a few minor adjustments. For instance, the DNA of a gorilla has been found to be 97.8% similar to a man's; the chimpanzee's DNA resembles that of a human being by 98.2%.

The leading proponents of Progressive Creationism are Reasons to Believe, organized by astronomer Hugh Ross, and Answers in Creation, another organization set up in 2003 to publish rebuttals to Young Earth Creationists' scientific claims, which are regarded as pseudoscience.¹¹³

Spurious specimens

Of all fossilized organisms discovered, about 95% are those of marine invertebrates. Around 4.7% consist of the older algae and primitive plants. About 0.2% are insects and other invertebrates. Only some 0.1% are vertebrates. And just a very tiny fraction of these represents primates (lemurs, monkeys, apes, and humans).¹¹⁴ Nicholas Wade said in *The New York Times* of October 4, 1982: "The known fossil remains of man's ancestors would fit on a billiard table. That makes a poor platform from which to peer into the mists of the last few million years."¹¹⁵

Hominid fossils are so rare paleoanthropologists are overly eager to declare almost every promising find a hominid. For that reason, we hardly hear about anybody unearthing the fossilized ancestors of modern monkeys and apes.

One of the most archaic mammals scientists say was an ancestor of both apes and humans was a small rodent-like animal that died around 70 million years ago. In the book *Lucy: The Beginnings of Humankind* (1981), authors Donald C. Johanson and Maitland A. Edey described the species as "insect-eating quadrupeds about the size and shape of a squirrel."¹¹⁶ Richard Leakey called the animal a "rat-like primate."¹¹⁷

Harvard zoology professor emeritus Ernst Mayr, former American Museum of Natural History curator and lifelong evolutionist, fears that the origin of the human species is a "puzzle" that may never be solved. No link leading directly to *homo sapiens* has ever been found.¹¹⁸

Pre-Adamic pictures

The majority of scientists who write about the evolution of man have never actually seen a hominid fossil, much less examined one up close. Most scientific papers on evolution are based on published photos and descriptions; a rare few on casts of the original finds. Access to the fossils is usually restricted to the discoverer and a few favored individuals.¹¹⁹

Donald Johanson, Lucy's discoverer, averred: "No one can be sure just what an extinct hominid looked like."¹²⁰

What about the pictures and reconstructions of "ape-men" that we see in books, magazines, and scientific publications? According to Francis Hitching (*The Neck of the Giraffe*, 1982), the portrayals of "ape-men" are "pure fiction in most respects... sheer invention."¹²¹ *Science Digest* concurs: "The vast majority of artists' conceptions are based more on imagination than on evidence... Artists must create something between an ape and a human being; the older the specimen is said to be, the more apelike they make it."¹²² James C. King (*The Biology of Race*, 1971) elaborates: "The flesh and hair on such reconstructions have to be filled in by resorting to the imagination... Skin color; the color, form, and distribution of the hair; the form of the features; and the aspect of the face – of these characters we know absolutely nothing for any prehistoric men."¹²³

Stephen Jay Gould (*Hen's Teeth and Horse's Toes*, 1983) recounts that in one in-

stance an apelike "missing link" was drawn and presented to the media. It was later revealed that the "evidence" consisted of only one tooth that turned out to be that of an extinct form of pig!¹²⁴

The perfected paradigm

The Creator appears to have given man the most efficient physical design suitable to conditions on Earth – the form He Himself and His angels make use of. Modern man, *Homo sapiens sapiens*, is the highest form of life on the planet – the perfected paradigm of God's creation.

David sang: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour" (Ps 8:4-5).

Just the right size?

What is the right size for man? Why not as small as an ant or as tall as a giraffe? This quizzical thought probably led Jonathan Swift to write the novel *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), wherein the hero met men just 1/12 his size in Lilliput and people 12 times bigger than him in Brobdingnag.

Let us consider one vital factor: body temperature. If man were twice as tall, his body mass would increase eight times, while the surface of the skin would only increase fourfold. The rate of heat loss from the body would be cut in half, and the body would overheat. The bigger the body, the slower the heat loss.¹²⁵ That is why in humid central Africa, where perspiration does not easily evaporate, Pygmies with small bodies do well. The Masai in the arid savannas of east Africa are tall, but they make up for it with slender bodies and long extremities that allow larger areas of skin to sweat.

On the other hand, a much smaller man half the size of the average person would lose body heat twice as fast. For this reason, the Inuit (Eskimos) tend to have short, stout bodies that conserve heat in the extreme cold of the Arctic region. This also proves Santa Claus cannot have elves working for him in the North Pole. The diminutive elves would quickly succumb to the frigid temperatures. There is an optimum value for perfection. The size range of humans seems to be just perfect.

The "divine proportion"

Other than in a golden rectangle, the golden ratio can be made out in any straight line divided into two sections with the 1-to-0.618 ratio. Awed Renaissance writers were the first to name it "divine proportion."

Curiously, everything in the universe seems to be based on the divine proportion – from space to nature, from inanimate objects to living things. The physicist sees it in the behavior of light and atoms. A mathematician can discover it in the dimensions of the pentagram. A botanist finds it in the growth patterns of flowers. An entomologist analyzes it in the anatomy of an ant. The zoologist can graph it in the genealogy of guinea pigs. An analyst observes it in a bulls-and-bears chart of the stock market.¹²⁶

Man, too, has been genetically encoded with the divine proportion. There exists a universal standard for physical beauty that applies to every person, with the divine proportion as its basis.

A standard for beauty. The Creator gave Adam and Eve physical bodies patterned after His own image. That divine image is divinely proportioned. The human anatomical structure has been discovered to be configured according to the divine proportion – inside and out, from top to bottom. Some experts say there are "millions, possibly billions," of examples of the divine proportion all over the human body.

Starting with the human stature, if top of head to navel = 1, then navel to soles of feet = 1.618. If shoulder to opposite fingertip = 1, then the ideal height (male or female) = 1.618. The human head reveals countless divine proportions, whether frontally or in profile. Faces that conform to the divine proportion, regardless of race, sex, age, and other variables, are intuitively perceived to be beautiful. A beautiful face is enclosed by a golden rectangle formed by the hairline, the cheeks and the chin, with the most prominent features – the eyes, nose, and mouth – characterized by divine proportion. If height of the face = 1.618, then distance of chin to the eyes = 1, mouth to eyes = .618, top of eyes to hairline = .618; right eye corner/cheek to left eye corner/cheek = 1; midpoint of nose at eye level to either cheek = .618. If mouth to eyes = 1, then mouth to chin = .618. If width of nose = 1, then width of mouth = 1.618.¹²⁷ The many incidences of divine proportion in the human figure is irrefutable proof that man is truly the product of divine design, the perfect image of the Grand Designer of the cosmos.

As David sang to God about three thousand years ago, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Ps 139:14).



Is 'Ardi' the Missing Link?

You might be wondering what this odd collection of bones is to the lower left of this page. These are bones from a creature that many scientists believe to be an ancestor of modern man. This is also how all the news media are also treating it. They are all claiming with straight faces that this is an ancestor of modern humans.

In an article in **The Week** (Oct 16, 2009), we read the following:

"Scientists have found a **nearly complete skeleton** of a newly discovered human ancestor that pushes back the horizon of our species' evolution by 1 million years, and overturns previous theories about how humans evolved. The new hominid species, named *Ardepithecus ramidus*, or 'Ardi,' lived in Africa 4.4 million years ago – long before the famous 'Lucy,' who was previously the oldest known hominid."

Did you get that? Take a good look at the bones of "Ardi" to the left. This is described as

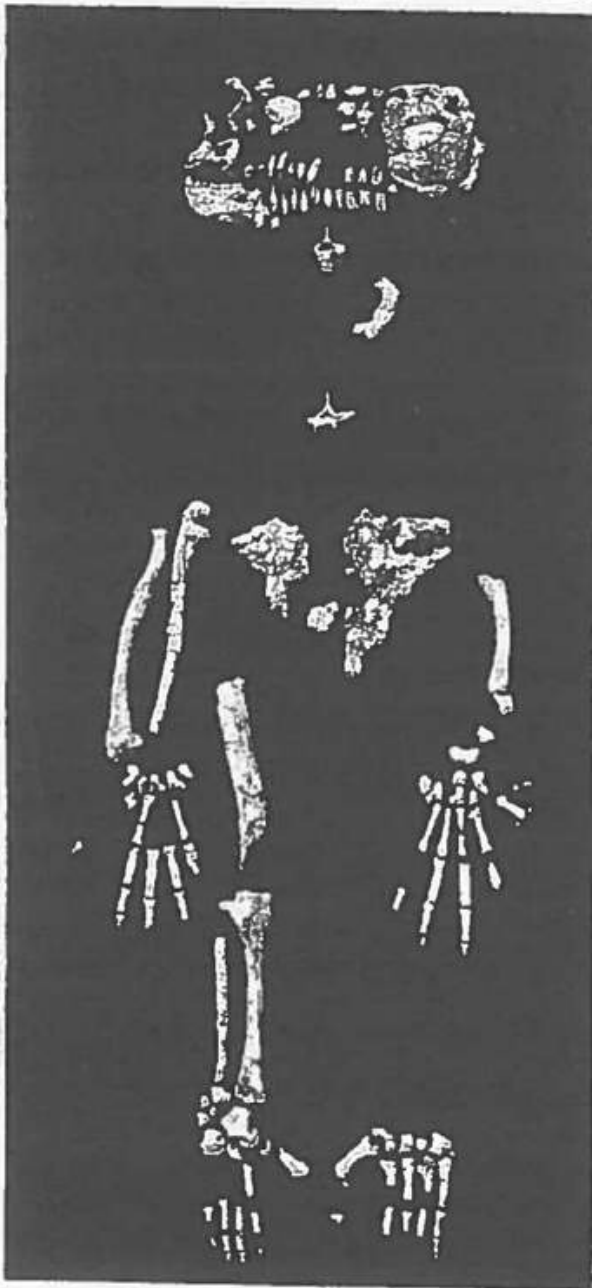
a "**nearly complete skeleton**" (!!!) You could have fooled me! I don't even see how they can say all those bones even come from the same critter! And how do they "know" that this creature is 4.4 million years old?

Something that is even more amazing is that "scientists" were able to produce a picture of what "Ardi" looked like. Do you want to know what she looked like? Well, here she is, a picture of her as published in **The Week**. How in the world did scientists ever construct such a



picture of "Ardi" from this odd collection of bones? It takes a **very** active imagination.

The theory of evolution is, after all, a religion. There is virtually no scientific "proof" of evolution, and considerable evidence against evolution. Evolution is more "religion" than science. However, for such "scientists," anybody who contradicts them is guilty of heresy.



Above picture of "Ardi" is from **Time** (Oct 12, 2009, p. 43)

Ancient Israel was under foreign occupation, specifically, under the occupation of the Roman army, which was quite often very brutal, ruling with an iron hand. Many thousands of Jews and non-Jews had been tortured and even crucified by Roman soldiers.

Yeshua had established quite a following, with multitudes of Jews believing that He was the Messiah. The expectation was that the Messiah would fight off the Roman occupation and begin an age of peace. Previous false messiahs had brought the Jewish nation nothing but death and destruction.

Dr. Luke tells us about Theudas, who gathered 400 men. He brought his men to the Jordan River, telling them that the Jordan River would part for them just as it did for Joshua almost 1500 years earlier. The Roman army was waiting for them. When the Jordan River didn't part, the Romans attacked Theudas and his men. Theudas was killed, and most of the men managed to escape with their lives.

Another false messiah was Judas of Galilee, who arose at about the same year in which Yeshua was born. He was also killed and his followers were scattered.¹ Various others tried to instigate revolts against Rome, which resulted in the death of hundreds of Jews.

As a result, the Jewish leadership had good reason to be suspicious of any other Jewish radicals that might bring more death and mayhem to Israel. Although most Jews were expecting or hoping for the Messiah to come to Israel, Yeshua didn't fit the preconceived ideas of what Messiah should be. He didn't come from the Religious Establishment, and certainly didn't come from the Political Establishment. Yeshua was born into a poor family with little power or influence. Plus, Yeshua preached too much "love," even love for one's enemies. He didn't fit the image of the conquering Messiah who would set up the Messianic Kingdom and institute an era of worldwide peace.

As a result, the "powers-that-be" at-

tempted to trip Yeshua up with some trick questions. They wanted to stop Yeshua before He gained more followers, and perhaps led to more and bigger problems with Rome. In ancient Israel, there were three Jewish sects that competed for power and influence. None was happy with the others. First, there were

the Pharisees, who had the greatest popularity with the people. Then there were the Herodians, who collaborated with the Roman occupation. They were hated by the other Jews, but were favored by the Romans because of the support they gave Rome. Lastly, there were the Sadducees. The Sadducees were given jurisdiction over the Temple

and Temple worship. Other groups such as the Essenes separated themselves from the rest of Israel, and exerted very little power and influence.

The one thing that united the Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees was their mutual distrust of Yeshua. I hasten to add: Not all Pharisees were opposed to Yeshua. Acts 15:6 mentions Pharisees who believed in Yeshua. Also, Rav Sha'ul, more commonly known as Paul, was also a Pharisee, per Acts 23:6.

TRICKERY AND DECEIT

Politics sometimes makes strange alliances. Such was the case when an alliance of Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees gathered together to trick Yeshua with some seemingly impossible questions. The first to try were the Pharisees. First, they tried to butter him up, to get him to let down his guard. They said, "Rabbi, we know that you are truthful, and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no man, for you are not partial to any. Tell us, therefore, What do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" There really wasn't a "right" answer that they were seeking. If Yeshua said to pay taxes to the hated Romans, then the Pharisees would report this to the people, who would turn against Yeshua. If Yeshua said not to pay taxes to Rome, then the Herodians would report this to the Roman authorities, who would then arrest Yeshua.

Yeshua had a wisdom which was truly supernatural. Yeshua perceived their malice, and

SOUL SLEEP?

RICK AHARON
CHAMBERLIN

¹ Acts 5:36-37.

said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used to pay the tax." Then they brought a coin to Yeshua. He said, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then Yeshua said to them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."² They marveled at his answer, and walked away.

SADDUCEES TRY TO TRICK YESHUA

The burden then fell upon the Sadducees to try to trick Yeshua. The Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead. (That's why they were 'Sad-you-see.')

They brought to him the hypothetical example of a woman who married a man with six brothers. The man died, and according to the Law of Moses, when a man dies not producing any offspring, then it is the duty of his brother to take the wife and produce and raise an offspring for the dead brother.³ The baby would carry the name of the dead brother, and would count as the dead man's son for inheritance purposes.⁴

According to the Sadducees, this man died, producing no offspring. A brother took her, also producing no offspring and dying. Eventually, all seven of the men took her, producing no offspring, and all seven died. Last of all, the woman died. Then they asked, "In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife shall she be? For they all had her."

Yeshua again had an answer, "You do err, not knowing the scriptures or the power of God. For in the resurrection, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels of heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."⁵ They went away astonished at his teaching.

² Matthew 22:15-22.

³ Deuteronomy 25:5-10.

⁴ This was the practice even in Talmudic times, but over the centuries this practice (known as 'levirate marriage') is now forbidden according to modern Rabbinic Halachah, which in this case is directly contrary to the Law of Moses. Very unusual!

⁵ Matthew 22:30-32.

This was an important point that Yeshua made. There are many who teach a doctrine called "soul sleep." According to this doctrine, when we pass from this life, our souls "sleep" until the day of the resurrection. There is no consciousness at all for those who have departed from this world. However, YHWH identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.⁶ And since He is the God of the living, then it follows that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were alive at the time that He identified Himself to Moses at Mount Sinai. Not only that, but the hypothetical woman who had married the seven brothers were also alive in the spirit someplace.

Prior to the crucifixion, nobody was in "heaven" per se. Sheol, the abode of the dead, was divided into Gehenna, a place of torment for the evil, and Abraham's bosom, the place where the righteous went. Yeshua told us about this place in Luke 16:19-31, in the story about the Rich Man and Lazarus. The Rich Man, who lived a life of selfish greed, went to Gehenna, whereas Lazarus went to the place of reward called Abraham's bosom. Even "heaven" was defiled prior to Yeshua's resurrection, as a result of the rebellion of Satan and his angels, and therefore was not where the righteous went at that time. Yeshua cleansed the Heavenly Holy of Holies,⁷ making it possible for the righteous dead of this earth to also enter into the heaven.

Belief in the resurrection is one of the articles of faith of Judaism. According to the rabbis, when we pass away from this life, we continue to live in the spirit. Rabbi Selwyn Franklin, a traditional rabbi in Sydney, Australia, uses the analogy of a balloon. Once the air is dissipated, the balloon becomes lifeless while the air continues in an amorphous form. Rabbis also interpret Ezekiel 37 very literally for the future resurrection of the dead, a very physical resurrection. There is a heavenly Gan Eden ("Garden of Eden") to which the righteous will go.

Rav Sha'ul said that he would rather "be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."⁸

⁶ Exodus 3:6.

⁷ Hebrews 9:11-25.

⁸ 2 Cor. 5:8.

In a previous issue of **Petah Tikvah**, I had an article called "How to Raise a Messianic Cat." Rabbi Mark Hart of Baltimore enjoyed that article, but requested equal time for dogs. So in all fairness to all of the canine populations of the world, I have an article about dogs, often called **man's best friend**. However, in the interest of being egalitarian and including the ladies, perhaps I should say **human's best friend**.

I grew up with dogs. I enjoyed playing with them, including some real roughhousing. They were loyal and loving. They could also do some really disgusting things, like go outside and rolling around on a dead animal and then want to come into the house. Our dog couldn't figure why we had such a horrid reaction, and kicked him outside. Dogs also eat disgusting things, which I won't go into here.

Dogs are also high maintenance. They also need lots of your time, so if you don't have the necessary time to spend with your dog, don't get a dog. One last thing: Puppies are adorable, but they have the habit of growing up to be dogs. So if you don't really care for dogs, please do NOT get a puppy. Also, for those seeking a dog, I would recommend getting a mut, a real mongrel mixed-breed. The pure-bred dogs are so in-bred that they often carry around many genetic defects, and end up costing their owners lots of money on veterinarian bills.

Since this is something of a religious publication, I feel obligated to go to **Strong's Bible Concordance** (great resource, highly recommended!) to learn more about dogs. I don't want people to think that **Petah Tikvah** is going to the dogs. Therefore, please try to pay attention to this article. It might be the last article I write about dogs.

First of all, I would like to go to the end of the Bible to clear up something that can be easily misunderstood. Revelation 22:15 says, "Outside are the **dogs** and the sorcerers, and the immoral persons and the murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and prac-

tices lying." This is in reference to the New Jerusalem, which many believe to be Heaven. And the very first ones to be excluded are the dogs! How rude!

Deuteronomy 23:18 talks about the "wages of a dog." However, the word that is used in this passage is **kadesh**, which is the Hebrew word for a male temple prostitute working in a pagan temple. A similar word, **kedelisha**, is the word for a female temple prostitute. Both of these words are related to the Hebrew word **kadosh**, which is normally translated as "holy," but more accurately it should translate as "set apart." In this case, these are prostitutes who are "set apart" to ply their trade in pagan temples.¹

These male prostitutes were also called "dogs." In most other places in the Hebrew Scriptures, the word used for a male prostitute is **kelev**, which also means "dog."

It has taken me a couple paragraphs to get there, but this helps to explain Revelation 22:15. I would prefer to translate that pas-

sage to read, "Outside are the male prostitutes..." because this verse has nothing to do with Fido or Spot. Does that mean that dogs are in Heaven? Frankly, I don't know for sure. But you can't use Revelation 22:15 to prove that dogs are not in Heaven.

Dogs often do much work for us humans, but I never heard of a dog having wages or receiving a paycheck. However, the word for "dog" is actually the Hebrew word **kelev**. In most other places in the correct translation is

the Hebrew Bible, indeed "dog."

There is also a very important man in the Bible whose name literally means "dog." He was one of the two spies who supported going into the Promised Land, whereas ten spies were fearful and opposed going into the Land. Therefore, of the Twelve Spies, only Caleb ("dog") and Joshua were able to go into the Promised Land. The other ten spies died in the

Do Dogs Go to Heaven?

Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin



¹ **Kadosh** is usually used for things such as the "set apart" (or "holy") days, foods, places, etc.

wilderness. It should also be noted that the word **kelev** in the original Hebrew spelling can also be translated as "like a heart." This would apply well to Caleb, as well as your friends Fido and Spot. Dogs have lots of heart, and will often sacrifice their own lives to protect their owners.

Well, that's the good news about dogs in the Bible. Some other references aren't so kind. In Proverbs 26:11, we read, "Like a dog that returns to its vomit, is a fool that repeats his folly." I presume that both are disgusting. However, at least the dog cleans up his mess! We also read in 2 Kings 9:36 that dogs ate the wicked Queen Jezebel. I believe these dogs performed a good deed. She really didn't deserve an honorable burial.

The Newer Testament also isn't very kind to dogs. Rav Sha'ul in Phillippians 3:2 write, "Beware of the **dogs**, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision." He wasn't talking about our four-legged friends, but it wasn't very nice to use the term "dogs" when referring to such nasty people.

Yeshua also wasn't exactly complimentary to dogs. In Matthew 15:26, a Canaanite woman came to Yeshua, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with demons." However, Yeshua ignored her cries. Eventually Yeshua replied, saying, "It is not good, to take the children's bread, and to cast it to the **dogs**." Ouch! How insulting! However, I believe that Yeshua was testing the woman's faith. The woman said, "Yes, Lord. Yet even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the master's table." Yeshua then said, "O woman. Great is your faith. It shall be done for you as you wish."

Well, that's some of the good and bad news about dogs in the Bible. On a personal level, I prefer pets that don't bark. However, dogs perform many wonderful things that my lovely pussy cat is simply incapable of doing.

Dogs have been "hired" to work in the military. I was a military policeman when I was in the army. There were also military police dogs that worked with some military policemen, but not with me. Many army and police dogs have been recognized as heroes, and even awarded medals, some of which were awarded posthumously, along with a hero's burial. There are bomb-sniffing dogs, as well as dogs that sniff out dangerous drugs. I was met by a drug-sniffing dog on one of my return trips from Colombia many years ago. Police dogs help to apprehend dangerous criminals. Bloodhounds are famous for tracking down criminals with

their amazing sense of smell. As far as I know, cats have **never** been hired for such duties.

Long before dogs got drafted into the military and police academy, they were used to shepherd sheep and other critters. I have seen them in action, and they demonstrate incredible skills. They also protect the animals in their care from wolves and other carnivores. At the other end of the spectrum, many dogs are useful for hunters. It might be hard to believe, but originally poodles were bred to be hunting dogs.

There are seeing-eye dogs that lead their visually impaired owners on their travels, including negotiating city traffic. And Fido at home provides much love and comfort to his family. Some dogs are "hired" as emotional support dogs. Many assisted-living homes, as well as nursing homes, have invited dogs to live with the residents, improving their quality of life.

And, of course, many dogs serve as guard dogs for various households. And if you have a dog in the house, you have a living garbage disposal, who will eagerly clean up your leftovers or any food that falls on the floor. You don't have to thank Fido for cleaning up your mess. He was happy to do it! He will also gladly lick your pots, pans, and dishes clean before you put them into the dishwasher. And then he will quench his thirst by drinking water out of the toilet. You don't even need to provide a water bowl for him! ☺

I should probably explain something about the cartoon on the previous page. Most Orthodox Jews do not drive on Shabbat. They take the biblical prohibition of not kindling a fire on Shabbat very seriously. There are countless little explosions taking place in the motors of their cars. Their synagogues often do not have parking lots, since most will walk to shul. However, most other Jews, including the Modern Orthodox, do drive on Shabbat, and often have large parking lots.

We also drive on Shabbat. Regardless of the fires being ignited by the spark plugs, it should not stop you from driving on Shabbat for services. Each Shabbat and Holy Day is a **mikra Kodesh**, a holy convocation where we are commanded to assemble. That is more important than how you feel about the little fires in your engine compartment.

By the way, do you know why dog breeds such as boxers and bulldogs have such flat faces? It comes from chasing parked cars. ☺ Did you hear about the dyslexic atheist? He didn't believe in dog.

The Axolotl Salamander

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

The **axolotl** is a salamander related to the tiger salamander. The species was originally found in several lakes, such as Lake Xochimilco underlying Mexico City. Axolotls are unusual among amphibians in that they reach adulthood without undergoing metamorphosis. Instead of taking to the land, adults remain aquatic and gilled.



Regeneration

The feature of the axolotl that attracts most attention is its healing ability: the axolotl does not heal by scarring and is capable of the regeneration of entire lost appendages in a period of months, and, in certain cases, more vital structures, such as tail, limb, central nervous system, and tissues of the eye and heart. They can even restore less vital parts of their brains. They can also readily accept transplants from other individuals, including eyes and parts of the brain—restoring these alien organs to full functionality.

In some cases, axolotls have been known to repair a damaged limb, as well as regenerating an additional one, ending up with an extra appendage that makes them attractive to pet owners as a novelty... The axolotl is therefore used as a model for the development of limbs in vertebrates. There are three basic requirements for regeneration of the limb. The wound epithelium, nerve signaling, and the presence of cells from the different limb axes. A wound epidermis is quickly formed by the cells to cover up the site of the wound. In the following days, the cells of the wound epidermis divide and grow quickly forming a blastema, which means the wound is ready to heal and undergo patterning to form the new limb.

Genome

The 32 billion base pair long sequence of the axolotl's genome was published in 2018 and is the **largest** animal genome completed so far. It revealed species-specific genetic pathways that may be responsible for limb regeneration. Although the axolotl genome is about 10 times as large as the human genome, it encodes a similar

number of proteins, namely 23,251 (the human genome encodes about 20,000 proteins). The size difference is mostly explained by a large fraction of repetitive sequences, but such repeated elements also contribute to increased median intron sizes (22,759 bp) which are 13, 16 and 25 times that observed in human (1,750 bp), mouse (1,469 bp) and Tibetan frog (906 bp) respectively. (The original article on Wikipedia is far larger, and contains a full load of footnotes for further study.)

Editor's Note: The axolotl is a salamander, supposedly way down the line of evolution — above the fish, but below the reptiles, and certainly way below us humans. Although I might be a bit smarter than an axolotl, the genome of an axolotl is **ten times** larger than mine. He is one extremely complex little fellow! He also has more proteins than me and **13 times** larger intron sizes as a result of far more repetitive sequences. I am not a biologist, but I would assume that these repetitive sequences enable the axolotl to grow new limbs, tail, and even parts of their brain when something gets swallowed up by another critter! Gee, I wish I could do that. I think I could use an extra brain once in a while. My grandfather lost just a finger as a young man, and was never able to grow a new finger. This supposedly primitive creature, way down on the supposed evolution chain, can do things far more complex than us humans. I wonder how Darwin would attempt to explain this. **RAC**

Israeli PM: Israel Only Place in Region Protecting Christian Life

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett issued Christmas greetings to Christians worldwide along with a message of brotherhood and unity, highlighting Israel's determination to protect Christian life and thanking Christian "brothers and sisters" who are "united in our love for Jerusalem" for "caring about us" and "fighting for the state of Israel."

He also highlighted what he described as the "common heritage" of both Jews and Christians. "It's here in this ancient land where our forefathers lived the stories we all read in the Bible from the Galilee to the Holy City of Jerusalem, right here," he said. "You see, the land of Israel is the land of our common heritage, and it remains a beacon of religious freedom, tolerance, and prosperity."

Noting the increased persecution of Christians in the region, Bennett highlighted Israel's role in protecting Christian life there. "In a region where Christians are routinely persecuted, there's only one place, one country, that protects Christian life — where the Christian community is growing, thriving, and prospering — and that's right here in Israel," he said. (VFI News)

The title to the right is an abbreviation of what Rav Sha'ul (Paul) wrote in 2 Timothy 4:10. This statement is part of the conclusion of his second letter to Timothy, expressing his concerns, desires, and needs. He begins with Demas. In verse 10, he writes, "for Demas, having loved this present world, has forsaken me, and gone to Thessalonica."

These are chilling words, because at one time, Demas apparently had a very close relationship with Rav Sha'ul and with God. He mentions Demas as being among his beloved brethren in Colossians 4:14. Demas was with Rav Sha'ul in Rome, along with others, such as the beloved Luke, who was Rav Sha'ul's personal physician. Rav Sha'ul was in prison, apparently awaiting trial. During this time, he was writing letters to various congregations, many of which have found their way into the Newer Testament.

In Philemon 24, Rav Sha'ul refers to Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke as "my fellow workers." Demas was apparently a very close friend and co-worker with Rav Sha'ul. However, years later, when he wrote his second letter to Timothy, he said, "for Demas, having loved this present world, has forsaken me, and gone to Thessalonica."

He had abandoned Paul and his faith in Yeshua. Why? It was because he "loved this present world." He loved the pleasures of this world more than he loved his Savior.

Many years ago, I had a friend who was at one time a fellow hippy. He was radically saved, with a complete change in lifestyle. When I was a new believer so long ago, he was a great encouragement to me. He had been a heavy user of various drugs, but was now "addicted" to Jesus. He and I would spend time together during lunch and coffee breaks at work, fellowshiping and studying the Bible together.

I lost contact with him over the years. However, another friend shared with me that this man had abandoned God and became addicted to crack cocaine. He left his wife and kids, and was living alone as a hermit. Something happened, perhaps a bad experience at the church he was attending. He returned to his old lifestyle. Perhaps like Demas, he "loved this present world" more than he loved God.

We have seen many others fall away from the Lord. They haven't always abandoned faith entirely. Some have simply gone off on a spiritual tangent. One fellow used to attend

Petah Tikvah. He acted like he was some sort of Super Jew. He went down south, trying to convince Messianic congregations that he should be their rabbi. However, he was always rejected. Years later, he surprised us by visiting us during one of our Shabbat services. He was wearing a long black robe with a large crucifix hanging down on his chest. He had converted to an Eastern Orthodox Christian sect and had become a monk!

Other Messianic Jewish friends from years ago converted to Catholicism. One of them led a Messianic Jewish congregation in Buffalo, which he handed over to Rav Frank Lowinger, who has led that congregation for 39 years.

Another former member of Petah Tikvah left us and eventually renounced Yeshua and converted to Orthodox Judaism. We also had good Messianic Jewish friends who lived in the southern New York State who eventually renounced Yeshua and became part of Chabad.

We also were friends of Messianic rabbis in California and Florida who eventually become **rabbinically** Torah-observant. This means that they were strictly observing traditions that were not mandated in Scripture, but were and are traditionally observed in Orthodox Judaism. The one in California made aliyah to Israel and is now a Chassid, and is part of a Chassidic congregation in Israel. There have also been many Christian pastors and televangelists who have fallen into adulterous affairs after gaining much material wealth.

HaSatan (the Adversary) is actively trying to destroy those of faith. I believe that there is far more truth in Messianic Judaism than in most of Christianity. Therefore, Messianic Judaism is a particular threat to HaSatan. He especially likes to attack the head, meaning the leaders in Messianic Judaism.

Whether you are a new believer or a disciple of Yeshua for many decades, you are not immune to the devices of the enemy. There are many spiritual deceptions that can entrap us. And, as with Demas, it can be the pleasures of this world. I take no pleasure in seeing people fall from the faith. All of us are susceptible. "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8)." Also, "**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)." Zooming is okay in a pinch, but we really need "in person" fellowship. **RAC**

Demas Has Forsaken Me

ABRAM is one of the most important people in Scripture, honored in Judaism, Christianity, and in Islam. However, in Islam, Abraham is transformed into an Islamic prophet. I am sure Abraham would object to this characterization! The Koran also claims that Jesus (Yeshua) was a Muslim prophet.

We went to the Machpelah Cave in Hebron. This is the place where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are buried, along with the wives, Sarah, Rebecca, and Leah.¹ (Rachel was buried in Bethlehem.) After the Arab pogrom against the Jews of Hebron in 1929, the Jews (who had lived in Hebron for many centuries!) were expelled by the British. (Under the British Mandate of Palestine, the British were more concerned about keeping peace with the Arabs than performing justice to the Jews.) Also, after 1929, Jews were forbidden to worship at the cave at Machpelah.

Abraham purchased the cave at Machpelah from Ephron, the son of Zohar.² However, the Arabs turned the cave at Machpelah into a mosque and an Islamic shrine, and it is recognized as such by UNESCO, which totally ignores the Jewish connection to this place.

However, the Arab nations conspired together to destroy Israel in 1967. In what became known as the Six-Day War, Israel defeated the combined armies of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. As a result, each lost territory to the victorious Israeli army. Once again, the cave at Machpelah was safely in Jewish control. The Arabs living in Hebron fully expected the Jewish army to take vengeance on them for the murder of dozens of Jews in 1929, and fled the city. They were on their way to Jordan, when they were stopped by General Moshe Dayan. They fully expected to be killed. Instead, Moshe Dayan returned them to their homes in Hebron. He also allowed them to

¹ We were surprised to learn that Adam and Chava (Eve) are also (supposedly) buried at the cave at Machpelah. We even saw the door leading to their burial place!

² Genesis 23:8-18. The title deeds to Joseph's Tomb in Shechem and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem are also in Scripture, both purchased by the people of Israel. All three of these places are claimed today by the Arab people. However, all three places were owned by the Jewish people thousands of years before the Arab invasion of Israel.

Legends about Abraham

Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

continue worshipping at the cave at Machpelah. However, after 1967, Jews were once again able to worship at the burial place of their ancestors.

The Scriptures contain much information about Abraham. However, there are also many "blank spots," which have been filled in by what is called "Midrash," which might be termed "Legends of the Jews." Some of it is very fanciful, the product of very active imaginations. Other Midrash appears to be much more honest. However, **Midrash** should never be confused as "Scripture."

The more fanciful stories of Midrash are contained in a book called **Legends of the Bible**, compiled by Louis Ginzberg. This book doesn't rate highly on my list of "must read" books. Much of it could be termed "Jewish fairy tales." Another interesting volume is the **Book of Jasher**. The Scriptures make mention of the Book of Jasher (Joshua 10:13 & 2 Samuel 1:18). However, the **Book of Jasher** that you can find in bookstores today might not be the same book referred to in Scripture. I suspect that it is a very clever Hebrew forgery, based on stories found in **Midrash** and **Talmud**. However, it is a very convenient source to read many of the Midrashic stories taught in Judaism today, but which are not found in the Bible.

There are many fascinating legends about Abraham found in Midrash and in the Book of Jasher. Again, I am not promoting these legends as "Gospel truth." However, there do seem to be kernels of truth in some of these legends. They are taught as actual facts in most Orthodox synagogues. When spending time with religious Jews, it is good to be somewhat familiar with these legends.

In Midrash, the story of Abraham (Abram) begins before his birth. In Jasher chapter 8, we read about the day that Abram was born. Terah (the father of Abram) as well as the wise men of Nimrod were rejoicing with Terah over the birth of his son. However, when they went out of Terah's house, they saw a very large star that swallowed up four other stars. They understood this phenomenon to mean that the child (Abram) who had been born to Terah would grow up to supplant Nimrod.

They reported this event to Nimrod.³ Nim-

³ The fact that Nimrod was still alive in the time of Abraham might sound fanciful. However, according to the Biblical genealogies,

rod decreed that Abram should be killed. This all sounds remarkably similar to the Newer Testament account of the birth of Yeshua, which was heralded by the appearance of a mysterious star, along with wise men who determined that this star announced the birth of a new king in Israel. Also (as with Yeshua) the king (in this case, Nimrod) was jealous of this newborn king and decreed that this king should be killed.

However, Terah substituted the newborn son of his handmaid to Nimrod, who was killed instead of Abram. Similarly, in the N.T. account of Yeshua, Joseph was warned in a dream to take the child to Egypt. King Herod could not locate the newborn king, and ended up killing all Jewish boys found in Bethlehem, aged two and under.

Terah took Abram to a cave, where he lived for about ten years, along with his mother and a nurse, and brought them the provisions that they would need to survive.

When Abram came out of the cave, he went to the home of Shem, the son of Noah. According to the Rabbis, Shem ran a yeshiva,⁴ where Abram studied for several years. After leaving the yeshiva of Shem, Abram returned to the home of his father, Terah.

Terah was an idol maker, and sold the idols for his livelihood. Abram gave idolatry a whirl, and tried worshipping the idols. He even prepared sumptuous meats as offerings to the idols. However, he soon discovered that these idols did not eat the meals he had prepared. In fact, they did not even attempt to reach them. They just stood there motionless.

Abram decided that these idols were false gods. One day, he took an ax and destroyed all of his father's idols in his father's shop, except for the biggest idol. He then put the ax next to the big idol. When his father returned home, he rightly surmised that his son Abram had destroyed the idols. However, Abram denied responsibility, claiming that the big idol

had destroyed all the other idols, pointing to the ax that was next to the big idol.

Terah accused Abram of lying, because these idols do not move, eat, smell, speak, see, or hear. Abram then agreed with his father, but demanded, "Why then do you worship them?"

You might have expected that Terah would agree that his religion was foolishness, but you would be wrong. Instead, Terah went to Nimrod, and told him that 50 years earlier, he had given up the child of his handmaid, and that his son Abram was still alive. He also told Nimrod about the destruction of the idols. However,

Terah was also afraid of Nimrod, so he blamed his brother Haran for the deception. Nimrod decreed that both Abram and Haran should be arrested and killed.

Nimrod had a large furnace, which he heated to a high temperature. He ordered his servants to throw Abram and Haran into the furnace, but initially, Nimrod's servants were killed by the heat of the furnace. He finally devised a way to have Abram and Haran thrown into the hot furnace without the servants being killed. Haran quickly perished in the flames. However, Abram survived the flames. Please note: Doesn't this sound an awful lot like the story of the 3 Israelite youths thrown into the furnace of Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon in Daniel chapter 3?

These are, of course, all legends. We cannot vouch for the veracity of these legends. However, in the Tanakh (O.T.), we can discover the real Abraham. In Hebrews 11:8-12, Abraham is listed as one of the great persons of faith. "By faith, Abraham, when he was called, **obeyed** by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance, and he went out, not knowing where he was going."⁵ In other words, because of his faith, he **did** something. Galatians 3:29 tells us, "And if you belong to Messiah, you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." Therefore, Abraham is the ancestor both the Jews and those who put their trust in Yeshua for salvation. Have you put your trust in Him? **■**

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⁵ Hebrews 11:8.

even Noah was still alive at the time Abram was born, because of the long life spans.

⁴ A religious school. Today, yeshivas are places that young Jewish males go to study Torah. However, more time is spent studying Talmud and Midrash than in the actual study of the Tanakh (O.T.).



"The 'parting of the ways' has in recent years become a standard model for describing the split between Judaism and Christianity" (Judith Lieu). **James Dunn, however, claims that the split wasn't between Christianity and Judaism, but between Gentile and Jewish Yeshua followers.**

The debate was not, "should I be Jewish or Christian?" but...

1. Should a Jewish Yeshua follower still practice the ceremonial requirements of Torah (namely kashrut, circumcision, Shabbat, and the Feasts), and
2. Is Christianity still connected to Judaism/The God of Israel?

Some see this 'parting' in

the late first century. Judaism emerged from the disastrous Great Revolt in 70 CE as Rabbinic Pharisaical Judaism under Ben Zacc'ai (who made a deal with General Vespasian to escape Jerusalem and form a school in southern Israel). This is also possibly the time when the 19th benediction against Nazarenes was added, whereby a **Jewish believer in Yeshua would have to pray curses on himself when praying at the synagogue, thus rooting Messianic Jews out.** They see this as when Judaism broke from Christianity and vice versa.

But Mark Kinzer points out in "Post Missionary Messianic Judaism" that within the ekklesia (church), they were arguing about Jewish life within the life of the Jewish believer and the non-Jewish believer **still in the late fourth century.**

Scholar Phillip Cunningham claims that... *"Many Christians continued to be strongly attracted by Jewish traditions. This fascination not only led these Gentiles to adopt some Jewish customs in an informal way but also encouraged a significant number of [believers]—both Jews and Gentiles—to continue some degree of Jewish practice within church communities.*

"It appears that for centuries some Christians would frequent synagogue functions as well as local church liturgies. The boundaries between the two groups remained quite porous for a considerable period (long after the first century)."

Lindemann, Albert S.; Levy, Richard S... Antisemitism (p. 57). OUP Oxford. Kindle Edition.

The Parting of the Ways Between Judaism and Christianity

By Ron Cantor

Ron has a very active ministry in Israel. You can learn more about him by going to his website: www.roncantor.com

This was problematic for many of the bishops who were threatened by the continued fascination with Jewish life by their constituents. This led to some of the most ruthless diatribes from jealous leaders against the Jewish people. The orators took passages from the New Testament that, in context, were interfamilial debates and reimagined them in a way that made Yeshua (a faithful Jew, Torah-observant in every way) antisemitic.

Rebukes against corrupt leaders were made to appear as rebukes against Jews in general. Remember, every follower of Yeshua was Jewish, and He was beloved by the Jewish masses. They arrested Him in secret be-

cause "they feared the throngs" of Jews! (Matt. 21:46)

Cunningham continues, "Taking polemical passages from the New Testament, which had mostly arisen as part of an inter Jewish debate, and reading the internal criticisms of the Hebrew prophets as evidence of constant Jewish failures, Christian teachers attacked Judaism's respectability," with extreme rhetoric.

In the third century, the scholar Origen **accused the entire Jewish nation of "conspiring against the Savior of the human race."**

One of the most antisemitic, demonic diatribes against the Jewish people came from John Chrysostom in Antioch in his series of sermons "Against the Jews" (that was the title!). Where he claimed, amongst other things, that it was every Christian's duty to hate the Jews. Here is an excerpt:

The synagogue is worse than a brothel...it is the den of scoundrels and the repair of wild beasts...the temple of demons devoted to idolatrous cults...the refuge of brigands and debauchees, and the cavern of devils. It is a criminal assembly of Jews...a place of meeting for the assassins of Christ...a house worse than a drinking shop...a den of thieves, a house of ill fame, a dwelling of iniquity, the refuge of devils, a gulf and an abyss of perdition...I would say the same things about their souls... As for me, I hate the synagogue... I hate the Jews for the same reason."

He prohibited his members from going to the synagogue. Why? Because many were going to the Jewish synagogues in hopes of learning something valuable. While Chrysos-

IMPLICATIONS

What began as an internal schism within the ekklesia became "the schism ... between the multinational ekklesia and the Jewish people" (Kinzer, 211). In other words, before the Church completely split from Judaism, she first split from her Jewish constituents. To paraphrase Jerome of Striden, a fourth-century theologian, "*He who would be both Christian and Jew, can be neither Christian nor Jew,*"—a mantra that both mainstream Christianity and Judaism would come to embrace.

Thus, for healing to take place, Christianity is not merely seeking reconciliation with Judaism but with Jewish Yeshua followers who had to deny their Jewishness to embrace the Jewish Messiah.

Kinzer quotes Thomas Torrance, "The deepest schism in the one People of God is the schism between the Christian and the Jewish Church" (Kinzer, 212) — meaning Gentile believers and Messianic Jews.

You can't treat the result of the disease without dealing with the root of the disease.

ן



tom was antisemitic, clearly, some in his parish were *philosemitic* (having an appreciation for the Jewish people and their history).

If the Jewish/Christian split—the *parting of the ways*—had already taken place by the end of the first century, why are they still talking about it 300 years later?

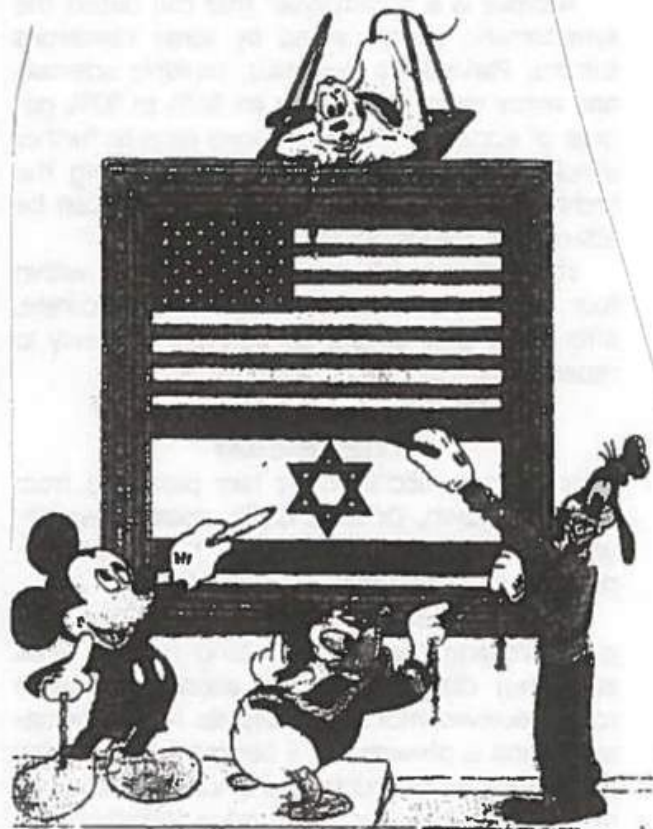
Clearly, many believers, Jews and non-Jews, favorably viewed the Jews and their customs.

We know that up until 325 CE, many in the Church still used the Jewish Passover to remember the death and resurrection of Yeshua. That was one of the main reasons for the Council of Nicaea. This was part of Emperor Constantine's letter at the Council's conclusion.

"It was declared to be particularly unworthy for this, the holiest of all festivals, to follow ... the Jews, who had soiled their hands with the most fearful of crimes, and whose minds were blinded. We ought not, therefore, to have anything in common with the Jews, for the Savior has shown us another way..."

Some bishops, like Victor of Rome in 190 CE, were so threatened by this that they wanted to excommunicate any Christian believer who celebrated the death and resurrection of Yeshua on the Jewish Passover. It would be debated for another 135 years before the Bishops of Nicaea would outlaw it, showing that many Christians continued to celebrate the Passover. *Why outlaw it if no one was observing it?* The Church Council only dealt with relevant issues.

One more example. In 306, in Elvira, Spain, a church council forbade Christians to eat with Jews or allow them to bless their crops. Why? Obviously, this was taking place at a level that had the bishops alarmed.



Art by Mark Weyand, CA

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It's no secret that Israel – the 'start-up nation' – is a global center for technology. Culture Trip explores the country's home-grown developments that are making an impact on a global scale.

In the world of technology, Israel is king. The country has more hi-tech start-ups per capita than anywhere else in the world and is second only to the US in venture capital funds. This is an impressive feat for any state, but more so for one that is only 70 years old and home to just under nine million people.

Despite its relatively small population, the 'start-up nation' has produced hundreds of tech developments, from everyday items like USB drives to futuristic medical devices that can offer diagnoses in an instant.

Medical technology

SniffPhone – the device that can smell disease

The SniffPhone is a diagnostic tool that can literally sniff out disease. Currently undergoing field trials, this project is an evolution of the 'NaNose' technology developed by Professor Hossam Hakeem of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

NaNose is a breathalyser that can detect the symptomatic odors caused by some cancerous tumors, Parkinson's dementia, multiple sclerosis and many more diseases to an 86% to 93% degree of accuracy. The SniffPhone aims to further simplify this diagnostic process by making the technology accessible via a plug-in that can be attached to smartphones.

It is estimated to become commercial within four to six years and will be "highly accurate, affordable, easy to use, comfortable and easy to repeat", according to its developers.

ReWalk – a battery-packed 'exoskeleton'

After a tragic accident left him paralysed from the waist down, Dr Amit Goffer spent years developing a way for paraplegics to be less dependent on wheelchairs.

Enter the ReWalk by Argo Medical Technologies. Allowing the user to stand upright, walk and even climb stairs, this exoskeleton-esque robot receives movement signals from a wrist-watch and is powered by a backpack battery. It's been available for public use since 2014 and has made appearances at the London Marathon and the 2012 London Paralympics.

PillCam – a swallowable medical camera

Inspired by a personal experience with chronic stomach pain, scientist Gavriel Iddan of Given Imaging (now Medtronic) came up with the idea of creating a digestible, disposable camera that

transmits data to a receiver outside the body. FDA-approved, the PillCam is now used across the globe to diagnose infection, intestinal disorders and cancers in the digestive system. It's also able to access areas of the digestive system that are typically out of range during a conventional procedure.

The PillCam has revolutionized modern medicine by allowing patients to avoid visits to the hospital. For his invention, Iddan received the European Inventor Award in 2011, 14 years after the prototype was first released.

The PillCam is a miniature camera about one inch long that is fashioned to look and feel like an oversized pill. Once swallowed the camera takes around 60,000 photos of the intestinal tract as it travels through the body and transmits them back to a data recorder. The photos are then stitched together to form a slow video that can be analysed by the doctor. The camera is used as an alternative to more invasive endoscopic procedures.

The Flexible Stent – preventative medical tech

Millions of people owe their lives to the flexible stent – a tube-shaped device used to open up arteries to treat coronary heart disease and blockages, preventing the need for open-heart surgery. Traditional, rigid stents made for more complicated operations and so, with the introduction of the first ever flexible stent in 1996, surgery became easier and safer.

Known in the medical world as the NIR stent or EluNIR™ it was developed by Medinol, a company operated by husband-and-wife team Kobi and Judith Richter. Thanks to their invention, the Richters were at one point ranked among Israel's richest people, according to Forbes.

Software developments

Firewall – the original protection against malware

The software that protects our data from dangerous cyber activity is one of the cornerstones of computer security. The biological parents of the firewall are widely accepted to be Gil Shwed, Marius Nacht and Shlomo Kramer of Israel-based Check Point Software Technologies. The team developed the first ever fully viable commercial firewall in 1993, and since then Check Point has expanded, opening subsidiaries overseas and partnering with major tech companies, including Nokia. In 2018, Shwed was awarded the state of Israel's highest honor, the Israel Prize, for contributions towards technology and innovation.

Disk on Key –

the world's first USB drive

An Israeli patent paved the way for one of the

10 Israeli Innovations That Changed the World

theculturetrip.com

world's most common everyday items – the portable USB memory drive. The technology itself is a marriage of 2 innovative prototypes: flash memory was developed by Toshiba in the 1980s, and just a decade before a coalition of industry leaders developed Universal Serial Bus – or USB – a standardized port to connect devices.

It wasn't until 1999 that Israel-based company M-Systems filed a patent for the "USB-based PC flash disk", opening the door for the development and production of the portable USB that we all know and love.

Agriculture and environment Netafim – a desert-friendly irrigation system

For decades, farmers in Israel struggled to grow crops in the country's arid desert climate. Things changed for the better in 1965, when engineer Simcha Blass had a Newtonian moment while observing two adjacent trees. One was large and the other small, leading Blass to discover a tiny crack in the water pipe next to the bigger tree. This was enough for him to realise that a few regular drips of water are enough to make a huge difference in plant growth.

And so micro-irrigation was born: Blass designed a pipe that would drip water on to crops, making it possible to grow them while using a limited amount of water.

By 1967, Netafim – literally meaning 'drops of water' – had improved crop yields by 70% in the Arava desert in Israel, all while reducing water usage in the region by 5%. The technology soon spread across the country, and across the globe. Today, Netafim is present in 110 countries, and has revitalized over 10 million hectares of land.

Watergen – drinking water produced from thin air

It may sound far-fetched, but this start-up is producing clean drinking water out of thin air using nothing more than a portable generator. Founded in 2010 by Arye Kohavi, Watergen's devices use patented GENius technology to extract humidity from the air – i.e. vaporized water that is present in the atmosphere everywhere from rainforests to desert climates like Israel's.

Watergen's generators cool and liquidise the air vapor, producing up to four litres of water for every kilowatt-hour of electricity they use. The generators also include built-in filtration technology for air pollution, and further treat the extracted water to ensure it is safe to consume.

The life-saving device is already being used in disaster zones across the globe, including 2017's Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. It has even bigger ambitions, though, aiming to provide clean drinking water for millions, from people in economically unstable climates to office workers in major cities looking to quench their thirst more sustainably.

BioBee – harmless pest control

With its headquarters located in a kibbutz in northern Israel's Beit Shean Valley, BioBee is now a multinational company that focuses on biological pest control. Perfecting its biotechnology since 1983 under the guidance of bug lover Akiva Falk, it aims to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture, using the natural power of insects to make crops safer to eat and their habitat a more secure place to be.

BioBee runs three projects simultaneously: breeding bumblebees for pollination in greenhouses, using 'friendly insects' like mites, wasps and beetles to attack harmful pests, and reducing the number of harmful insects by genetically modifying their ability to reproduce.

Navigation and road safety Mobileye – life-saving AI

"Sensing the Future" is the mantra at Mobileye, an Israeli security company valued at USD\$10 billion. The car technology was developed in 1999 by Amon Shashua who, with his business partner Ziv Aviram, turned his academic thesis on machine learning into a reality by developing algorithms that would allow a tiny camera placed in cars to alert drivers of potential hazards, such as pedestrians or steering out of the lane.

Today, more than 25 global automakers use Mobileye technology to make driving safer, and over 15 million vehicles worldwide are equipped with its technology. The number of lives it has saved is countless.

Waze – a navigation device with a twist

When Ehud Shabati first tried using a GPS, he was simultaneously delighted and disappointed. The engineer – a notoriously bad navigator – made it from A to B, but his journey was hindered by traffic and road works.

He looked into other GPS systems and found they were all effective at guiding their users, even in remote locations, but they fell short in the same way: they couldn't provide traffic information in real time.

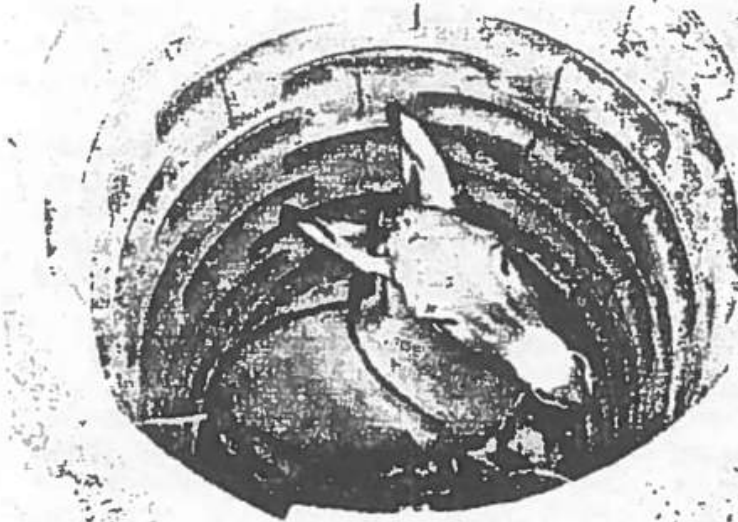
So, Shabati took matters into his own hands. The engineer mapped out his native Israel, first on his own and later with co-founders Uri Levine and Amir Shinar, aiming to make a community-based navigation device that provided road reports on the go.

Soon, the engineers had built a community of thousands of drivers on Waze, using crowd-sourcing to collect incident reports such as accidents and road works. Waze was sold to Google for USD\$1.1 billion in 2013, and today provides real-time traffic information to more than 50 million users.

This article is an updated version of an article created by Reuben Lewis, Taly Sharon, Patricia Clarke and Maya Sapijka.

The Farmer's Donkey

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do.



Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing... He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up...

Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

REMEMBER THE FIVE SIMPLE RULES TO BE HAPPY:

Free your heart from hatred - Forgive.

Free your mind from worries - Most never happen.

Live simply and appreciate what you have.

Give more.

Expect less

LATER

The donkey later came back, and bit the farmer who had tried to bury him. The gash from the bite got infected and the farmer eventually died in agony from septic shock.

MORAL FROM TODAY'S LESSON:

When you do something wrong, and try to cover your ass, it always comes back to bite you.



Submitted by Annie Jesko

Check out the Petah Tikvah website, now with articles in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and Polish!
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Psalm 122:6 **שְׁאֵלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם**
PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM



MARCH 2023

 אדר - ניסן תשפ"ג
 ADAR - NISAN 5783

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 Spiritual Leader
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JEWISH CALENDARS

The new **5783 Petah Tikvah** calendars are now available. They cover the period from **Sept 2022 to Sept 2023**. The cost for US readers remains **\$5 each** with free shipping and handling and **US \$7** for our Canadian friends. We ask our friends overseas to send an extra \$5 for overseas postage (**US\$10 total**). We want to ensure that everyone will be able to obtain beautiful, high-quality Jewish calendars at a low cost. In addition, prison inmates can receive a **free** calendar. However, we request that inmates **send 4 stamps** (or a money order for \$2) for mailing costs.

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!

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A Messianic Jewish Commentary

The Book of Acts is the history of Messianic Judaism prior to the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE (A.D.). This commentary is told in the original Hebraic context as it would have been understood by Jewish readers in the First Century. The cost is only **\$10 each**, free shipping and handling, checks made out to **Petah Tikvah**. (Cost for inmates is **8 stamps** or \$4 money order 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 **\$12**:

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Or you can send \$45 and get 16 issues (4 years) of back issues of **Petah Tikvah**.

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A Messianic Jewish Commentary

This book 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.)

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

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

Rav Richard 'Aharon' and Miriam 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. 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. 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 write a letter at least once every 10 months requesting us to renew your subscription. Subscriptions to inmates are free. However, we ask that prison inmates send **4 postage stamps** or a money order for \$2.00 for postage for their subscriptions. We depend upon you, our readers, to meet our many needs. Contributions are **tax-deductible**. Please fill out the form below, or simply write to us!

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Make copies for friends!

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Dear Rick & Miriam ~

I hope you and the family are okay. I am fine. I enjoy my life here. It could not have been better. However, I am so saddened about what Putin is doing to the Ukraine. I can't hold back my tears.

On Purim, I got calls from volunteers and some sweet gifts. I also do interviews for churches from Sweden. The manager here says, "You have become famous." Ha ha. My book is now being translated into German.

Renate Kaufmann, Haifa, **ISRAEL**

Editor's Note: Renate is a child Holocaust survivor from Germany. After World War II, she eventually moved to the USA, living in Colorado and Alaska. Then she moved to Rochester, where she discovered **Petah Tikvah**. She attended services with us for about two decades. She made aliyah (moved to Israel) several years ago, and now lives in the beautiful city of Haifa, in a home run by the International Christian Embassy for Holocaust survivors. **RAC**

If you say we are legalistic, we say thank you for the great compliment!!!

For the King of all creation would never give any commandments that are bad.

If you say the Law was nailed to the cross
We say the Law was resurrected 3 days later!

If you say we are Jewdiasers we say,
Yes, we are!!!

For the Messiah is the same yesterday, today
and forever... He still is a Jew.

Source for the above:

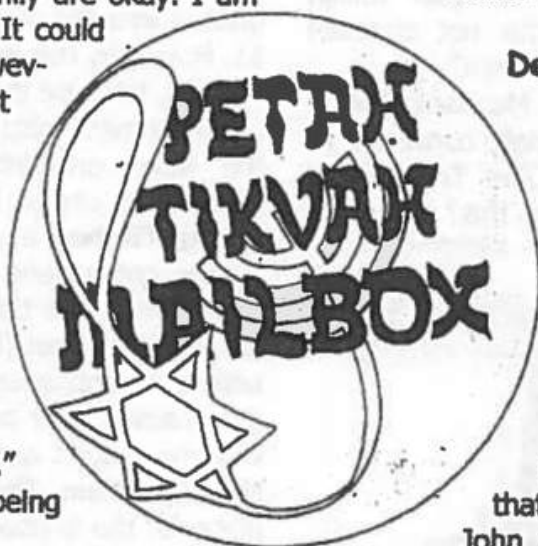
Beth Goyim Messianic Congregation
800 West 3rd Ave. Lexington, NC 27292
www.bethgoyim.org (973)338-7800

Rick & Miriam ~

As soon as the recent issue of **PT** arrived, I saw the article, "How to Raise a Messianic Cat." I had to read that one first! Being a cat person, I got a big kick out of it. And it was so different from the usual articles. Too funny!

Thanks for showing another side of you!
And of course, the rest of the magazine is

wonderful, as usual. God bless you both!
Marion Osborn, Colorado



Dear Ones ~

I am sending a letter that I hoped I would never have to send. My husband John left this earth for a better home with our Messiah Yeshua. I am also enclosing pictures of our wedding day and 50th anniversary. Although I miss him dearly, I believe that he is in a better place.

John was reared in an atheistic family, so church was not a part of his younger years. He was able to be part of a Bible group in high school, then while he served in the U.S. Air Force. Some years after we were married, we became interested in Messianic teachings. What an eye opener! We continued to learn.

Thank you for your articles and insights. We always enjoyed the letters from subscribers. One of our sons and his wife are interested and read the magazines as well. Our conversations have been very good. Thank you for putting time into this work.

John and I received the latest edition of **Petah Tikvah** just before he went to the hospital, and he took it to read it there. After his death, I was able to read it more completely. I saw the segment about the book, **The Dressmakers of Auschwitz** which appeared interesting. I contacted the library and reserved a copy. It was one of the hardest books I have ever read. It was well-written and presented to much information about those who were involved in various aspects of the concentration camps and the horrors that Jews faced. Thank you for commenting on this wonderful book. I hope others decide to read it, for it will change them. I will continue to support your work as much as I can.

Nondis Walker, OHIO

Shalom to all at Petah Tikvah ~

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

John Montgomery, MARYLAND

Richard, Shalom ~

If we are commanded to wear tefillin (Deut. 6:8), then why is this not stressed more? And where can we get them?

Also, I am hearing from a Messianic Jewish teacher that we must be formally converted to be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree of Romans 11. What is your view on this?

L.M., TEXAS



OUR REPLY: Regarding tefillin (phylacteries), Exodus 13:6-10 tells us that eating matzah during the week of Passover "serves as a sign on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead..." It might be nice to have physical tefillin, but it isn't necessary to have them. However, for those who would like to acquire them, they are available on the Internet, beginning at \$200 plus S&H, and going far higher for a really good set. The picture above is of an Israeli soldier wearing tefillin.

Also, it is not necessary to have a formal conversion to Judaism (or to Messianic Judaism) to be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree of Romans 11. Conversion is foremost a matter of the heart, as we see in Ruth 1:16-17: "And Ruth said (to Naomi), 'Intreat me not to leave you, or to return from following after you. For where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge: Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you dies, I will die, and there I will be buried: YHWH do so to me, and more also, if anything but death part you and me.'" Her conversion happened at that time. No rabbi was involved. We also see incidents of mass conversions to Judaism in Exodus 12:38 and Esther 8:17.

Rabbinic conversions (whether Messianic or non-Messianic) only confirm what has already

taken place internally. Lastly, the answer is **No**. Conversions are not necessary to be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree of Romans 11. However, this would seem to exclude anti-semites, because this tree is Jewish!

Antisemites also would not want to enter the New Jerusalem. Yochanan (John) describes this city as he peered into the future, saying, "It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates; and names were written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel (Revelation 21:12)." I don't believe an antisemite would want to enter any gate named after an Israeli tribe. That's okay with me. I don't want to see antisemites in the New Jerusalem. There happens to be another place for the antisemite to go to after this life ends. But it won't be pleasant. **RAC**

To the folks who shine forth, like y'all

It's fun to share your work. We print a piece and pin it to the neighborhood bulletin board with the source. Some we mail out or place in the neighbor library boxes!

Nathan & Rayne Koppe, South Carolina

Shalom Richard ~

What a lovely surprise to open the **Petah Tikvah Magazine** and find the full-page ad for **Be'ad Chaim** on page 5 (April-June 2022). As a result of your advertisements, we even get letters and donations from inmates. I really appreciate your faithfulness as you stand with us for the lives of the unborn in Israel. We really liked your comments about Moses.

Sandy Shoshani, Be'ad Chaim ("Pro-Life")

PO Box 2623, Jerusalem 9102601, ISRAEL

WWW.BEADCHAIM.COM

Our Comment: For those who care about the lives of the unborn in Israel, we recommend contacting Sandy at the above address. Israel is always looking for new **olim** (Jewish immigrants to Israel). An excellent source would be the Israeli unborn, who would be grateful to be born into the Land of Israel. There is a shortage of babies and children to adopt in Israel, resulting in many thousands of Israelis going to places like Brazil to adopt children. It would be much better if these Israelis could adopt Jewish children saved from abortion by organizations like **Be'ad Chaim**. Over 40,000 Jewish children are aborted each year in Israel. Often the mothers would like to carry their babies to full-term and give birth. Often the reason that they do not do so is financial. Be'ad Chaim provides emotional and financial support, saving lives of the unborn.

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

I am renewing my subscription and enclosing extra dollars for your ministry. **Petah Tikvah** is such a blessing, and has been for me for many years. It is always interesting and informative. Thanks also for the calendar.

Olive Sturges, **ENGLAND, U.K.**

On a Lighter Note...

While riding my motorcycle, I swerved to avoid hitting a deer, lost control, and landed in a ditch, severely banging my head.

Dazed and confused, I crawled out of the ditch to the edge of the road, when a shiny convertible pulled up with a very beautiful woman inside who asked, "Are you okay?"

I looked up and noticed she was wearing a low-cut blouse with a cleavage to die for. "I'm okay I think," I replied as I pulled myself up for a closer look.

She said, "Get in and I'll take you home, so I can clean and bandage that nasty scrape on your head." I answered, "That's very nice of you, but I don't think my wife will like me for doing that."

"Oh, come now, I'm a nurse," she insisted. "I need to see if you have any more scrapes, so I can treat them properly."

Well, she was really pretty and very persuasive. Being shaken and weak, I agreed, but I repeated, "I'm sure my wife won't like this."

We arrived at her place, which was just a few miles away, and after a couple of cold beers and bandaging, I thanked her and said, "I feel a lot better, but I know my wife is going to be really upset, so I'd better go now."

"Don't be silly," she said with a smile. "Stay for a while. She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?"

"My guess is that she is still in the ditch."

(Submitted by Michael Bidwell, Texas)

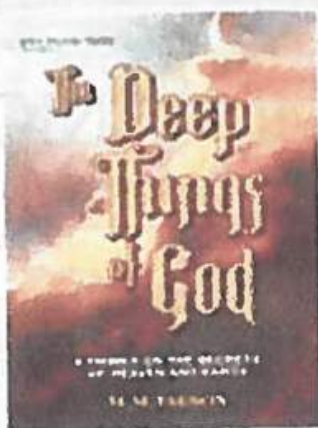
A congregant came up to her rabbi and said, "Rabbi, that was the worst sermon I have ever heard. You insulted our intelligence and rambled on and on." Another congregant overheard what was said. He approached the rabbi and said, "Don't pay any attention to her. She has no mind of her own. She just repeats what everyone else is saying."

Employer: "We need someone for this job who is responsible." **Applicant:** "Sir, I'm perfect for the job. In my previous job, whenever anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."



We would like to introduce a new book to our readers written by Mr. Zollie Byrd. It is a collection of thoughts and anecdotes accumulated by Zollie over the years. He spent nine years in prison. He considers it a time well-spent. He has been out of prison for several years. He used these years to research the Bible, faith, and Messianic Judaism. His book contains lots of "good stuff" written in short statements to make the reader ponder the truths therein, similar to the various statements written in the Book of Proverbs. This book is available on Kindle for \$9.99 or paperback for \$17.95 plus S&H, available from www.Amazon.com and [Barnes and Noble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com) with 291 pages in large, easy to read print. However, do **not** order this book from Petah Tikvah. We do not sell it. Our readers can also write to Zollie Byrd, 1423 Boyd Rd, Pinewood SC 29125. **RAC**



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Great Tribulation • End Time • The Day of the LORD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Millennium • MORE Bible Secrets • The Philippines and Prophecy • Unholy Holidays • Secrets of the Scriptures • Decrypting Bible Secrets |
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melodies
are well suited for

JEWISH BASICS

Music CDs and
Deluxe Lyric Booklets

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

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

We highly recommend this CD for those wishing to learn Jewish liturgy. This CD is useful both to cantors and to congregants. Many also use these CDs for worship in their homes.

The CD and the accompanying booklet contain most of the liturgy commonly used for Shabbat (Sabbath) worship, including the blessings and songs used in the Torah service.

The booklet contains the Shabbat liturgy in Hebrew, transliterated Hebrew, and also the English translations for all the pieces. As you listen and read along (or sing along!), you will greatly increase your ability to correctly pronounce Hebrew. We are also including a Hebrew alphabet chart for those who are unfamiliar with written Hebrew. The singing and cantorial are all in Hebrew, using the Sephardic pronunciation, just as Hebrew is spoken in Israel today.

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

This doubles as a
Shabbat siddur

Shalom Uv'rachot B'Shem Yeshua ~

Toda raba for **Petah Tikvah**. I have found great insights and understandings. I'm the ro'eh here in this small Messianic **kehillah** (assembly), so I am presenting this question: How can I obtain teaching DVDs for the **Moadim** (Appointed Times)? I have been writing to other Messianic ministries, but to no avail. I am also placing my order for three of your Jewish calendars.

Antoinette McShan,
Brooksville FL

OUR REPLY: Regretfully, we do not supply DVDs, nor do we have any available. I do hope that Daniel Botkin won't mind if I recommend his ministry. Write to: Gates of Eden, PO Box 2257, East Peoria IL 61611-0257.

He has a number of teachings available on DVDs and CDs. You will need to go through the chaplain, and need to receive the chaplain's permission. Daniel often provides such materials for free to inmates as he is enabled by contributors. We recommend Daniel and Gates of Eden.

Rav Richard & Miriam ~

Thank you for your absolutely fabulous publication! The wide-ranging information, faith-building foundational teachings, and all things Messianic Jewish are a blessing to me and to the small group of like-minded believers here at this unit. Toda raba!

I am also enclosing postage for securing the new calendar. I got your calendar from last year, and really enjoy all of the visuals and info included for each month. I will also be sending postage to "re-up" my subscription. Your magazine is too important to miss. We have also been blessed by the many related links you provide to other organizations and their services. Several of us have taken advantage of these addresses.

Charles Hawkins, Bridgeport TX

Editor's Note: We have been truly blessed by our readers in the "free world" who have been generously sending donations specifically toward the prison ministry of **Petah Tikvah**. I am not opposed to other ministries sending out fundraising letters. However, in our case, we have never had to do so, which is great... because I'm not very good at begging for money. We are very grateful, and our many readers in prison (such as those above) also very much appreciate those who give generously to the prison minis-

try. About half of our readers in the USA are behind prison walls. And about 75% of our incoming mail is also from inmates. We remain very wise and careful stewards of all funds. **RAC**



Dear Rav Richard ~

May YHVH bless you. Please note my **change of address**. I am being granted parole pursuant to a program, thank the Lord. God has been showering His blessings on those who believe in Him and keep His commandments.

You have been a rock for us prisoners, and your work (as well as Daniel Botkin and others) is the best! Thank you so much. I am also placing my order for one of the calendars.

Sam Daugherty, Huntsville TX

Editor's Note: We very much appreciate being informed of address changes. It costs us \$2.43 for each undeliverable magazine that the post office returns to us, in addition to the cost of the magazine itself. In addition, the intended recipient doesn't get to read what we have available!

Shalom Rabbi Richard & Miriam ~

Enclosed is a donation to assist you with your ministry, especially your ministry to inmates. I did not receive the Jewish calendar you sent to me. The facility is enforcing a S.O.P. (Standard Operating Procedure) that the largest calendar we can receive is 4 inches by 7 inches. (**Editor's Note:** There is no such thing as a Jewish calendar that small. **RAC**)

I have one more year, and then we redeploy to another facility as ministry teams. Because of school, I am often unable to attend the Friday (6th day) Messianic service. The leader does well. Perhaps in the future, we will be allowed to assemble on Shabbat.

Many who "know" about the faith only know what they have been taught by others, who, likewise, do not truly know. Such issues as how to pronounce HaShem's sacred name have caused divisions. (**Editor's Note:** Nobody alive today can know with precision the pronunciation of the Name. Such arguments are divisive, and should be avoided. **RAC**) May Hashem bless you both as we await our Lord and Savior, Yeshua HaMashiach.

John Worthey, Nashville NC

Rav ~

Shalom Aleichem. I am updating my address so that I don't miss any issues of **PT**. I realize that you might not be able to reply to this letter because of the volume of your mail. However, I am in need of guidance on a personal issue.

My oldest son (20) has been gay for a while. When he first told me, I told him that I do not agree with it, that it is biblically wrong. Then I told him that I am still his father, and will always be there for him.

A few months ago, I got a letter from him asking for my approval of his decision to undergo transgender surgery, and for me to call him my daughter. Included in the letter were two pictures of him in full drag. I cried.

I told him that he is most certainly not my daughter, and that because of my belief in the Bible, I will not and cannot condone that. I will not give him my approval. I am having a hard time being at peace about how to handle this situation. I am offended by this whole transgender movement. I don't know how to deal with this. This surgery is irreversible. Jean D., Indiantown FL

OUR REPLY: This letter greatly saddens me. We are saddened for both the father and for his son, who is indeed his **son**, and can never become his **daughter**. The best he can hope for is to become a eunuch – a castrated male. And as mentioned above, this surgery is irreversible.

We offer our prayers for both father and son. We also pray that the son will accept his father's advice and not go through with transgender surgery. Many – perhaps most – who go through transgender surgery end up regretting it, and by then it is too late. Regretfully the media, schools, etc., have all climbed onto the transgender wagon, offering full support and even celebrating those who become transgender. This is also part of the new "civil rights" agenda. If we don't support and celebrate transgenderism, we are accused of being bigots. **RAC**

Dear Mr. Chamberlin ~

Thank you for all of the hard work that you and your wife put forth on a daily basis in order to expand the knowledge and message of our Lord and Savior, Yeshua. I look forward to each issue of your wonderful booklet/magazine, and devour them like a kid in the candy shop. I am also writing to update my address.

Irving Robertson, Madison FL

Dear Rav Chamberlin ~

We at Beaumont were inspired by the cover of Vol. 40, No. 2. The Golden Menorah, white dove, and fire lion heads by Frank Byrd now adorn our new Afikomen bag that graced this year's Passover seder ceremony. Enclosed is postage to renew my subscription and for the calendar. Raymond Horsfall, Beaumont TX

A Song / Poem from Jesus Amador

U thought I was worth saving,
So U came and changed my life.
U thought I was worth keeping,
So U cleaned me up inside.
U thought I was to die for,
So U sacrificed your life,
So I can be free, so I can be whole,
So I can tell everyone I know,
That U thought I was worth saving.
Glory to the God who saved my life!

Beautiful Hebrew-English

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

Shalom ~

Thank you for the many years that you have published **Petah Tikvah**. You have been a great blessing to more people than you will ever know. Lives have been changed and many who thought there was no hope left have found a new start.

Michael Newbury
Lexington OK

Dear friends ~

We are blessed that they are supplying us with special meals during the week of Passover, as many states do not do that for prisoners. I am grateful for the loving-kindness our Heavenly Father has shown us in sacrificing His Son for us. The record of sins I had was a lot to forgive, but He did. Now I strive to be obedient in all situations.

I deserved to die for my wrongs. Bless His holy name – Yahweh – for giving me the chance to live long enough to recognize my wickedness so I could turn to Him. There is a big difference between being sorry for the wrong deeds and being sorry just for the consequences! He forgave me, and allowed me to live so as to give me a chance to be obedient to Him. Thank you and your wife for your part in helping me to learn of His ways. You are doing a good work in His Name. Please do not use my name if you decide to print this letter, as I kind of spilled my guts here. **Anonymous**

Messianic Jewish Commentary on the Book of Matthew

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

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

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



Do NOT order this book from Petah Tikvah.

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

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

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

www.RockFoundationRanch.com

Order online or by check payable to:

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

(Recommended to our readers! RAC)

Question about haircuts and beards: Hello ~

Dear Rav Richard & Miriam ~

I have a hard time figuring out this verse: "You shall not round off the side-growth of your heads, nor harm the edges of your beard (Leviticus 19:27)." I have seen pictures of rabbis, both non-Messianic and Messianic, who have long beards, trimmed beards, or no beards at all. I want to keep the commandments, but don't know how to keep this one. Unfortunately, the North Carolina Department of Corrections no longer allows us to receive letters anymore. They are in the process of moving to an electronic mail system.

James Sawyer, Spruce Pine NC

OUR REPLY: James is absolutely correct. I sent him a reply, but the letter was returned with a note telling me that the inmates in North Carolina are no longer allowed to receive letters, not even letters from ministries and approved vendors, although they are still allowed to receive publications and books. This seems to be simply another form of harassment. If they are truly interested in rehabilitation, they would allow inmates to receive letters. Here is my reply. I do hope that James will see it in this issue of **PT**:

I also don't fully understand what the rounding of the corners of the head and beard mean. There are also different rabbinic interpretations. Chassidic Jews (Ultra-Orthodox) often go to extremes, having long side-curls (called peyas or pe'ot) that extend several inches from the head. Most also don't cut or trim their beards.

Most other Orthodox Jewish men have trimmed beards. And some (including Orthodox rabbis!) shave their beards, but only with electric razors. The reason for this is because the electric razor acts like tiny scissors, and do not cut the beard down to skin level. Therefore, even if you don't see a beard, it is still there, only very short. That is a bit ridiculous to me.

On a personal note, I see nothing biblically wrong with trimming the beard and mustache. I do find it disgusting when mustaches get so long that they hang way over the mouth, besides being very unsanitary. I would oppose shaving the sideburns off, as I have seen done. I also believe it would be against the commandment to shave the head. When I was in the army (drafted in 1968), I was not allowed to have a beard. And I also got a short army haircut. The barber asked me if I would like to keep my sideburns. Well, yes, of course! He shaved them off and put them in my hand. Nice guy!

RAC

Please be advised that the Florida prison system has seen fit to ban ALL incoming envelopes stuck inside magazines, etc. So, before each issue of **Petah Tikvah** is sent, please remove the envelope. Otherwise, the magazines will be returned to you.

Victor Scroggins,
Raiford FL

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

Yeshiyahu (Isaiah) 42:6-7

Editor's Note: Yes, I found out the hard way, when issues of **Petah Tikvah** were returned to us with the envelopes

enclosed inside with a note regarding the new rule. This new rule is for the entire state of Florida, although not all Florida prisons are enforcing it. This is another form of harassment. **RAC**

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

Please find enclosed postage for renewing my subscription to **Petah Tikvah** and for the new 5783 Jewish calendar. As always, I continue to find your magazine to be educational, informative, and entertaining. I continue to learn from and share each issue. And the calendar keeps me on track with Scripture readings and Holy Days.

Eldon Tinsley, Cameron MO

Shalom Friends at Petah Tikvah ~

I enjoy reading your quarterly magazine immensely. I always pass it around for others to read. I am enclosing postage to continue the subscription.

I want to share a story with you. I had a strong desire to wear tsitsit (ritual fringes) on my four belt loops representing the four corners (Numbers 15:37-40). I checked from the Personal Property list, but these are not available. I was denied the opportunity to purchase tsitsit from an outside source. I decided to make my own. So I ordered some white yarn from the prison Arts and Craft. I found out that blue yard not available. I then ordered blue and white acrylic paint.

When the supplies came in, I proceeded to make the four tsitsits, according to the specifications in the July-Sept 2021 **Petah Tikvah** p. 17. I made four of them and wore them on Shabbat. I got stopped by a Corrections Sergeant, and she inquired about what I was wearing. I went through the entire explanation including the Torah references and the story of Yeshua's fringes on his garment (Matt. 9:20-22). She listened intently and even invited another officer over, and both of them listened and remarked that they were just wondering because they had never seen them before, and then they thanked me!

Harry Smith, Capron VA

Shalom Rav Chaimberlin ~

In a previous issue of **P.T.**, an inmate asked about Messianic correspondence courses. I have been a student of two: Kh'rev Torah Yeshiva, affiliated with United Messianic Jewish Ministries; PO Box 122; Brandon VT 05733, which was mentioned in **Petah Tikvah**. The other is GRM Bible School, 52 Tuscan Way #202-412; St. Augustine FL 32092. The GRM offers their courses on the JPay Pantern application as well as class materials that can be sent to the prison chaplain.

It has been a great blessing reading the **P.T.** publications and my association with Rav Everage and Rav Sexton of the UMJM. They have become my friends.

Steven Yoresh Purvis, Ralford FL

Shalom Rav Richard ~

Thank you for your years of service and dedication to **P.T.** It was in an issue of **PT** that I saw an address for a Messianic siddur through the UMJM. (See the letter at the top for the address. **RAC**). I inquired about it. They sent it, and asked if I would be interested in a Messianic Jewish correspondence course.

I was, but I did not know how much I would enjoy learning. This is an accredited college course. Thus far, I'm surprisingly maintaining a high GPA. I would encourage anyone who wants to learn more about where we come from.

I would like to say a special hello to Wayne Harbison in Defuniak Springs. He was very instrumental in my decision to become Messianic.

Dwayne Devine, Orlando FL

Dear People at Petah Tikvah ~

What is wrong with you people? (Ecc. 7:20; Romans 3:23). Why do you want to be observant of the Old Testament law? (Romans 7:12; Deut. 10:12-13). Don't you know that the Law is too hard to live by? (Matt. 11:30). And the Messiah did away with the Law, as everyone knows! (Matt. 5:17-19).

Okay, seriously, you produced another excellent issue. I always look forward to your magazines, and wish that it was published more often. I am so grateful to have been introduced to your ministry, and I just love your calendars. I don't get much from the outside, so I can't afford much, but please find the enclosed postage to pay for another prisoner to receive a subscription and they can thank Yahweh.

J.W., Sterling CO

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you very much for your wonderful ministry. Through the years you have stayed true on point with your teaching and articles. We here in prison have been blessed by it. The same goes for the news that you publish from around

the world regarding the issues on morality, technology, science, and of course news related to our beloved Israel. I am enclosing postage to receive the new calendar. It is my GPS to keep track of the moadim (appointed times) and more.

Martin Hernandez, Lowell FL

Shalom ~

I am a practitioner of the Messianic Jewish way of life. I would want it no other way, that is, to practice another faith. I see this as the truest path, and I have always maintained an interest in Judaism. We have a few other followers of Yeshua here. They are looking for and waiting for their new copies of **Petah Tikvah** to show up in the mail. Good stuff always. We absolutely love your insights and teachings.

Blake Butler, St. Cross City FL

GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

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

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

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

Source: www.gatesofeden.online

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

Pres. Biden Endorses Sex-Change Procedures on Minors

www.afa.net

President Joe Biden is championing transgenderism, purposely endangering our nation's youth by encouraging unnatural, unhealthy and irreversible body modifications. Biden even went so far as to invoke God as a co-conspirator in the approval of government sanctioned sex-change operations. In a video celebrating Transgender Day of Visibility, Biden said he sees transgenders "for who you are, made in the image of God..."

In conjunction with recent policies released by the president's Health and Human Services (HHS) department, Biden said, "We're committed to advancing transgender equality in the classroom, on the playing field, at work, in our military, in our housing and health care systems — everywhere. Simply everywhere."



HHS documents describe the administration's promotion of transgender ideology for children "at any age or stage." Those documents also describe what it calls appropriate treatments for transgender adolescents, including: "Top' surgery — to create male-typical chest shape or enhance breasts;" and "'Bottom' surgery — surgery on genitals or reproductive organs, facial feminization or other procedures."

In other words, the Biden administration condones the practice of body mutilation, even for youth. Continuing this confused state of gender reality, Biden promised to fight and oppose recently adopted state laws that rightfully protect women's sports by **not allowing males to compete on women's teams in schools and universities**. Biden said these commonsense laws are "simply wrong" and "hateful."

I could go on, but I think you get the idea. The President is taking our nation and, more importantly, our young people down a dangerous path that will lead to more mental confusion and more self-destruction.

Editor's Note: Just for the record, I didn't vote for Biden or Trump in the 2020 elections. I believe that **both** were unqualified for the highest office in the Land. I believe that Biden is a nice guy. However, he is much more radical than Obama. Biden's policies are dangerous. **RAC**

Zelensky: Ukraine Will Be like Israel, Not Demilitarized like Switzerland After War

<https://vfinews.com/news>

Ukraine plans to model itself after Israel and not Switzerland in the aftermath of the Russian invasion when it comes to issues of national security, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on April 5. "I think all our people will be our great army. We cannot talk about 'Switzerland of the future' — probably, our state will be able to be like this a long time after," Zelensky said. "But we will definitely become a 'big Israel' with its own face."

"We will not be surprised that we will have representatives of the Armed Forces or the National Guard in all institutions, supermarkets, cinemas, there will be people with weapons. I am sure that our security issue will be number one in the next ten years," he explained.

Ukraine has persistently resisted Russian demands that it demilitarize, with Zelensky clarifying on Tuesday that his country must have an army to defend its people against Russian aggression in the future. There will also need to be countries that provide Ukraine with security guarantees, Zelensky said as he listed Israel as one of those countries.

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

Editor's Note: Vision for Israel is a great source for news from Israel, as well as a worthwhile charity helping to meet the needs of many poor and needy Israelis, including supplying school needs so that poverty is not perpetuated.

Dry Bones

The Russians are Coming!
The Russians are Coming!



'A Historic Milestone': Israel and UAE Sign Free Trade Agreement

<https://vfinews.com/news>

After five months of negotiations, Israel and the United Arab Emirates signed a free trade agreement on Friday, April 1, hailed as a "significant and historic milestone." Economy Minister Orna Barbivai met in Jerusalem with Thanil bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, for the fourth and final round of talks.

"Since the establishment of the Abraham Accords, the Economy and Industry Ministry has been working to expand economic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and to realize its economic potential," said Barbivai.

"The finalization of the negotiations is a significant and historic milestone in the relationship between the countries and we will continue to assist the Israeli business community in establishing trade relations in the United Arab Emirates," she added.

The agreement will officially take effect following a ratification process in both countries. Government lawyers are currently drawing up the detailed documents needed to put the agreements into practice. The "comprehensive" agreement covers regulation, customs, services, government procurement, e-commerce, and protection of intellectual property rights, the Economy Ministry said in a statement.

Some 95% of products traded between the countries, including food, agriculture, cosmetics, medical equipment, and medication, will be exempt from customs duty, according to the statement. A number of products will be exempt immediately, while others will gradually be granted exemptions. (TOI / VFI News)

Supreme Court Nominee Refuses to Define the Term 'Woman'

<https://thepostmillennial.com>

Senator Marsha Blackburn asked Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson about the definition for the word "woman" on March 22nd of the Biden's SCOTUS nominee's confirmation hearings drew to a close. Jackson would not define the word. "I'm not a biologist" Ketanji Brown Jackson said.

"Can you provide a definition for the word 'woman'?" Blackburn asked simply. "Can I provide a definition?" Jackson responded. "No, I can't."

"You can't?" Blackburn asked. (Both the Senator and the judge are, in fact, women.) "Not in this context," Jackson said. "I'm not a biologist."

"You mean the meaning of the word 'woman' is so unclear and controversial that you can't give me a definition?"

"Senator, in my work as a judge, what I do is I address disputes. If there's a dispute about a definition, people make arguments and I look at

the law and I decide, so I'm not—" Jackson said.

"Well the fact that you can't give me a straight answer about something as fundamental as what a woman is underscored the kind of progressive education that we are hearing about," Blackburn said. "Just last week, an entire generation of young girls watched as our taxpayer funded institutions permitted a biological man to compete, and beat, a biological woman in the NCAA swimming championships.

"What message do you think this sends to girls," Blackburn asked, "who aspire to win in sports at the highest levels?" "Senator, I'm not sure what message that sends," Jackson responded. "If you're asking me about the legal issues related to it, um those are topics that are being hotly discussed, as you say, and could come to the Court, so..."

The Biden administration is full of individuals who won't define the terms man and woman. Biden's Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra failed even to define the term "birthing person."

"If we're talking about those who give birth, I think we're talking about..." Becerra trailed off. "I don't know how else to explain it to you other than..." But he wouldn't complete the sentence.

Becerra's assistant secretary at HHS is biological male Rachel Levine, who self-identifies as a woman. Sitting representatives, as well as media outlets, and others, are routinely banned on Twitter for pointing out Levine's biology.

Biden's budget proposal omitted words for gender-based relationships, like mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, replacing them instead with parent, sibling, parent's parent, or parent's sibling. Democratic Congresswoman Cori Bush, during testimony about her own pregnancy, referred to pregnant women as "birthing people."

On his first day in office in January 2021, Biden signed an executive order conflating the concept of gender identity with the immutable reality of biological sex, extending the sex-based protections that women had fought for under law to biological male persons who have stated that they are actually women in male bodies.

It is unlikely that Jackson does not know what a woman is, since she is one, but rather that, as Blackburn noted, progressive ideology has such a tight hold on American academia and institutions that a woman feels uneasy in saying what she is. A dictionary definition of the word woman is found to be an "adult human female." That is the biological reality.

Editor's Comment: Judge Jackson has been proclaimed as being the first black woman to be nominated to the Supreme Court. Perhaps we need a biologist to verify her gender. Judge Jackson was confirmed by the Senate vote 53 to 47 for the Supreme Court on April 7. **RAC**

100 of the 193 members of the UN's General Assembly refuse to boot Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.

And so the disunited and fractured UN continues to drift further and further off into obvious irrelevance.

Dry Bones by Kirchen



Israel Ready to Export Gas to Europe via Egypt in September

<https://vfi.news.com/news>

Israel is preparing to step into the gap in Europe's energy market left by sanctions on Russian natural gas as soon as this summer, according to Energy Minister Karin Elharrar. "The European energy market is facing a substantial shortage following the Russia crisis," Elharrar said. "Israel sees an opportunity, and will take full advantage of it."

Russia provides Europe with about 40% of its natural gas consumption per year – more than 150 billion cubic meters (BCM). Israel cannot entirely take Russia's place, but eastern Mediterranean states can provide about 20 BCM annually, most of which would come from Israel. The US promised Europe 15-20 BCM of liquefied natural gas (LNG) following the Russia sanctions, and Qatar is expected to export 20-30 BCM to Europe.

"We're not a replacement for Russian gas, but we have a good amount that we can export," a senior diplomatic source said this week, commenting that the energy issue comes up as "a huge issue for everyone" in most conversations between top Israeli officials and foreign counterparts.... (JPost / VFI News)

Indoctrination in Public Schools

Source: American Family Association

Michigan high school student David Stout is suing his school and its officials because he was suspended from classes and all extracurricular activities for three days for "bullying."

How was he a bully? According to the lawsuit, when asked by another student for his opinion, Stout explained the biblical teachings on homosexuality and gender identity – which offended the student, who complained. A teacher at the school told Stout never to share his Christian beliefs on those issues even on social media while away from school. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil (Isalah 5:20)."

The new "National Sex Education Standards"

(NSES) are being rolled out to schools for grades K-12. Here are some examples of the content found in those standards:

By the end of second grade, the standards insist that children be able to "define gender, gender identity, and gender-role stereotypes" in a way that is accepting of the transgender movement...

Schools are exhorted to teach that all adults – including parents, teachers, and administrators – "should respect and use the pronouns each student uses for themselves." Especially worrisome is that one of the targets of the NSES is the "emotionally harmful" trauma that can result from "the influence of environments such as ... religious institutions," regarding the dynamics of "homophobia."

According to figures from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 41% of public-school districts in the U.S. have adopted the NSES standards. Whether that percentage increases will depend on the alertness of parents across the nation.

Please make friends aware of these perverse standards on human sexuality and encourage them to check to see if they've taken root in their local district. Our schools will better serve our children when parents take seriously their God-given responsibilities of oversight...

A 12-year-old Florida girl attempted suicide at her school after school officials encouraged her – without informing her parents – to consider "transitioning" to become a boy.

Since such "encouragement" seems to be in line with the policies of the Biden administration, the incident led Rep. Virginia Foxx (R) and Sen. Richard Burr (R) of North Carolina to send a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Education criticizing the policy. They wrote:

According to the girl's father, the school had been in conversations with the girl about a gender transition, had begun calling her a boy, and had assigned her a new name. They did all of this without notifying the parents.

In California, a mom has begun legal proceedings against Spreckels Union School District after two teachers allegedly convinced her 11-year-old daughter that she was a transgender boy. According to media reports, the girl's mom said teachers ... went so far as giving her daughter tips on "binding" her breasts so they would stop developing.

Iran Tops Agenda at 'Historic' Summit Between Israel and Four Arab Countries in Israel

03-28-2022 Chris Mitchell

www1.cbn.com/cbnnews

JERUSALEM, Israel - The foreign ministers of four Arab countries joined US Secretary of State Antony Blinken for a historic conference in Israel focused on the development of the Abraham Accords and the mutual threat of Iran.

Foreign ministers from Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Egypt convened in the Israeli desert on Monday for what's been called the "Negev Summit." The two-day meeting took place at the former home and gravesite of David Ben Gurion, the father of modern Israel. At a joint press conference with all six diplomats following the meetings, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said the summit focused on creating "a regional security architecture based on progress, technology, religious tolerance, security and intelligence cooperation."

"This new architecture, the shared capabilities we are building, intimidates and deters our common enemies - first and foremost Iran and its proxies," he said. "They certainly have something to fear."

Lapid also announced that the summit is just the beginning of a permanent regional forum between Israel and its Arab partners. Blinken praised the summit, saying that "once-impossible things have become possible."

The Negev Summit is the result of the US-brokered Abraham Accords (under former President Trump), which saw Israel normalize ties with Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, and the UAE. Blinken said the Biden administration would continue to support and foster the accords.

Former Israeli Ambassador to the US Michael Oren tells CBN news the summit is "quite an extraordinary moment. The fact that they are coming here to be with us, to recognize that Israel is not just here, but Israel is a regional power and is an ally regional power. We're an essential ally of these Arab states."

50,000 Tons of Israeli Produce May be Destroyed Due to Ukraine War

<https://vfinews.com/news>

Israeli farmers are destroying thousands of tons of fresh vegetables as produce exports to Russia and Ukraine have ground to a halt due to the ongoing war. Carrots, celery, potatoes, radishes, and more: Up to 50,000 tons of agricultural products are rotting in warehouses or facing certain destruction.

Payments for goods have also stopped ... in response to the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine. The situation has resulted in a crisis for hundreds of Israeli farmers, with some having

been forced to destroy entire crops after finding no alternative places to sell their produce.

Ofir Trabelsi heads Yeron Agricultural Works, a vegetable wholesaler located in the southern town of Sharsheret. Trabelsi, who sells 95% of his crops to Russia, told The Media Line that so far, they had had to destroy 60 dunams (15 acres) of radishes, and 50 dunams (12 acres) of celery.

"We've destroyed fields and what I have here in cold storage will also likely be destroyed," Trabelsi said. "We don't know what's going to happen and have had no response from any government body. We're searching for other markets, which is not so simple because it's all last minute."

Trabelsi added that he had been trying to find alternatives to Russia for years, even before the war started, but had not been successful because of the strong shekel. Many European markets already have their own produce suppliers. (JPost / VFI News)

Editor's Note: A century ago, Israel was pretty much a wasteland. The Land came back to life with the arrival of influxes of Jews. Despite a high population density, Israel now produces so much agricultural produce that it exports huge amounts of farm goods around the world. **RAC**

Israel Urges Christians: Come Back to the Holy Land!

www.israeltoday.co.il

With the skies again open, and promises of no more closures, President Herzog beseeches Christian tourists to return. "We are eager to welcome you all back in Jerusalem," Israel President **Isaac Herzog** told a group of Christians in America last week via video.

The coronavirus pandemic dealt a near-fatal blow to Israel's tourism industry, and the Jewish state is now working hard to encourage Christians that it's again safe to visit the Holy Land.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, Israel had been registering record numbers of tourists. With infection rates now continually on the decline, Israel has removed its coronavirus restrictions, including the draconian requirements on incoming foreign visitors.

In short, tourism is reopened in Israel. For good this time, if the government is to be believed. That's music to the ears of many Christians, who had for two years been longing for the Land of Israel. And Herzog knew just what they needed to hear.

"...Walk through [Jerusalem's] gates, worship at its holy sites, see the beauty of the Holy Land. And experience the modern-day miracle that is Israel," he told participants in the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast in Dallas.

Israeli Population at 9.5 Million Ahead of 74th Independence Day

[HTTPS://VFINEWS.COM/NEWS](https://vfi-news.com/news)

Just ahead of the celebration of Israel's 74th anniversary, the population of the Jewish state stands at 9,506,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) announced on May 1.

That includes nearly 7.02 million Jews, accounting for 73.9 percent of the population; 2 million Arabs, just over one-fifth of the population; and 478,000 members of other groups, amounting to 5% of the population. About 79% of Israel's Jews are native-born.

Since last year's Independence Day, 191,000 babies were born, 55,000 people died, and 38,000 people immigrated to the country, according to CBS... This was the largest number of new immigrants to reach Israel's shores in 20 years, according to the Jewish Agency, the quasi-governmental organization tasked with encouraging and facilitating immigration to Israel.

Roughly half of the 38,000 immigrants came from Ukraine and Russia, overwhelmingly since Moscow launched its invasion. The remaining 19,000 immigrants came from the United States, France, Belarus, Argentina, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, Ethiopia, and Canada, among other countries, the Jewish Agency said.

"Every Jew and Jewess who immigrates to Israel contributes to the resilience of the state and the strength of Israeli society," the acting chairman of the Jewish Agency said in a statement. Overall, the Israeli population increased by some 176,000 people, amounting to a 1.9% rise. (TOI / VFI News)

The Ongoing Jewish Reclamation of Jesus

Two examples of influential Israelis having an impact on Jewish attitudes toward Jesus.

By **David Lazarus** www.israeltoday.co.il

For nearly 2,000 years, as a people, the Jews have unwaveringly rejected Jesus as their Messiah, often with deep loathing. But since the Six-Day War in 1967 and the restoration of Jerusalem, Israel and the Jewish people's attitudes toward Jesus are changing dramatically.

Many top Israeli scholars, government leaders and media personalities, both secular and religious, express publicly their admiration for... Yeshua (Jesus). Many are actively trying to make the case to the Jewish people that they should stop rejecting Yeshua and take another, positive look at his Messianic claims.

Here are just two examples of influential Israelis who are having a major impact on Jewish attitudes toward Jesus:

Yochi Brandes: Background

Yochi Brandes was born in Haifa in 1959, the daughter of the famous Hassidic Rabbi Yitzhak Rabinovitz. Brandes' family tree is littered with eminent rabbis, and she herself was a star student in ultra-Orthodox schools, obtaining a BA in Biblical Studies and an MA in Judaic Studies. She has been teaching Bible and Judaism for many years and has written and produced courses on Jewish thought that are taught in schools throughout Israel. Her novels are bestsellers in Israel, and she has been awarded the Book Publishers Association Platinum Book Prize for seven of her Bible-based works.

Brandes on Jesus

"I love Yeshua [Jesus]. My study on the 1st century origins of Christianity led me to understand that he is not responsible for the persecutions and anti-Semitism Christians committed in his name against the Jews. Yeshua lived as a Jew and died a Jew. A good Jew. A faithful Jew. A righteous Jew who followed God's laws.

"Growing up in the Orthodox Jewish world, I was taught that Yeshua is 'Yeshu,' an acronym for 'May his name and memory be blotted out.' Therefore, I make it a point today to call him Yeshua ['salvation' in Hebrew]. In this way I express my love and adoration for this great Jew."

Amnon Rubinstein: Background

Amnon Rubinstein was born in Tel Aviv in 1931 and served as Dean of the Law Faculty of Tel Aviv University from 1961-75. He is a writer for Israel's largest daily newspaper, *Ha'aretz*. After the Yom Kippur War in 1973, Rubinstein entered the world of Israeli politics and founded the centrist *Shinui* party. He served for 35 years in the government in a variety of capacities, including Minister of Education.

In 2006, Rubinstein was awarded the Israel Prize. At the ceremony, the panel of judges said of Rubinstein, "Few can equal Prof. Amnon Rubinstein's contribution to the State of Israel, as a public figure and a member of the legislative and executive branches of government."

Rubenstein on Jesus

"Yeshua said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law.' The historical Yeshua did not take one thing away from Judaism; he only added to Judaism his vision concerning the Kingdom of Heaven. If he would be resurrected in our days, Yeshua would prefer to pray in a small synagogue and not in one of the magnificent cathedrals built in his name. He died before Christianity became a crusade against his own people..."

By *Janine Winkler*, <https://forward.com>

The war crimes Russian President Vladimir Putin, his generals and his army are committing against Ukrainians — raping, torturing and murdering civilians, leaving cities and towns in rubble — are shocking, but to Holocaust survivors and their descendants, they are far from surprising.

Though I was at first transfixed at images of the atrocities, I now turn away. The “second generation” trauma that many children of Holocaust survivors like myself experience washes over me like dirty water. That’s not only because the Russian war crimes remind me of Nazi atrocities, but also of Soviet ones.

The comparisons Nazi atrocities are all too obvious. But the shocking, brutal ways Russian soldiers treated Jewish survivors is rarely discussed. Their trauma was met with empathy and care by their American liberators, while the Russian soldiers reacted very differently.

As a so-called second-generation child of a survivor the images of Russian tanks rumbling down country roads bring back to me the stories of my late father Cantor Andre Winkler’s interactions with this so-called “liberating” army. By some method of intergenerational transference, those stories have entered my psyche.

In 1944, just after Passover, the Germans invaded Hungary, my father’s family was moved into a ghetto and then transported to Auschwitz. My father, like many other young and strong Jewish boys, was forced into a civilian labor battalion under the control of the notorious Hungarian gendarmes.

In the winter of 1944, as the Russians came closer, his labor force was moved towards the German territories to avoid being captured by the Russians. Hungarian command was transferred to the SA, the German Stormtroopers, who forced thousands of Jews, from teenage boys to men in their fifties, to dig wide and deep trenches, sometimes with their bare hands, to stop advancing Russian tanks.

During that time, my father lived day by day. The laborers knew that at any time the German guards could take them into the forests and shoot them, that their overseers were not answerable to anyone.

On the day he was liberated, my father recalled in an interview, one of the Jewish boys saw a Russian soldier on horseback appear. “There was such a feeling of hope that this aroused in us,” he said. “We didn’t know what to say after all the hardships we had been through.” The exhilaration he felt was immediately tempered as my father witnessed a Russian soldier demand a watch from one of the liberated boys. “The Russians were mad about watch-

es,” my father said. “They just took it from him.”

The Jewish boys soon recognized that the Russian soldiers were not at all moved by what had happened to the Jews during the war. In fact, the survivors of the labor force were warned that Russian soldiers were on the lookout for the strong boys who had worked so hard for the Germans.

As my father and his friends were returning home to search for any family survivors, they learned to sit in the dark in the train carriages as Russian soldiers roamed the aisles fulfilling quotas for boys to take to work in the coal mines of Siberia. My father recalled seeing Jewish boys on their knees, begging not to be taken after being imprisoned by the Germans for four years. “They couldn’t care less,” my father said. “If they were instructed to take 25 people they would take 25 people, not caring who they were or what they had been through.”

The Soviets were the first to liberate a concentration camp in 1944, Majdanek, and Soviet troops were first to liberate Auschwitz, in January 1945. The Soviets were unmoved by the horrors they uncovered, according to Lawrence Rees, who produced the BBC documentary, “Auschwitz: The Nazis And The Final Solution,” based on his book of the same name.

“They did horrible things to them,” said a woman survivor who witnessed Soviet soldiers raping and killing Jewish women. “Right up to the last minute we couldn’t believe that we were still meant to survive. We thought if we didn’t die of the Germans, we’d die of the Russians.”

One story in particular, buried in our own family’s history, echoes in the most disturbing stories we hear from Ukraine, even some 75 years later. My father’s brother had married a young Jewish Slovakian woman during the war. They were approached by a Russian soldier on a train going back to her hometown in Slovakia.

The young woman, Suvi, was wearing a gold necklace. “Apparently a Russian soldier wanted to take that gold chain,” my cousin recounted. Suvi refused. “The soldier pulled out a gun and shot her right in front of my father. Then he opened the door and pushed her off the train.”

As a child of a survivor, it is impossible to forget what happened to the Jews who suffered at the hands of the Russians, *after* they had suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Those who knew my father also knew that his war time experiences defined his entire life. At this moment, it is our responsibility not to look away from that history, but unbury those memories of a shameful past and bring them back to life once again.

“What the Russians did with the Jews after the war was unforgivable,” my father said. “They were animals, not human beings, in my opinion.”

Shocked by Russian War Crimes? My Father Never Forgot them

Abortion in Israel

By **Rober Alphon** www.haaretz.com

The chairman of Efrat – The Committee for the Rescue of Israel's Babies, who introduces himself in his yekke accent as "Dr. Eliyahu Yosef Schussheim, a millionaire from Jerusalem," is a graying man who wears a yarmulke and speaks in a didactic staccato. He was given a chance to present his views on a feature called "Dokotayim" on the Kan Broadcasting Corporation website, and his bottom line is that even if a pregnant 14-year-old girl "continues her pregnancy, I can guarantee that she won't regret it." It is terminating the pregnancy, Schussheim declares knowledgeably and expertly, that will leave her with emotional scars.

"It's inconceivable that because of money we will end life," he says, angrily, and his organization will provide financial support. He terms the phenomenon of abortions in Israel "an epidemic." Like swine flu, the plague or AIDS. An epidemic. Abortion is a fatal disease that murders fetuses. What is a fetus, from this perspective? It's a very tiny baby. What is a very tiny baby? A person. His worldview, therefore, implies that whoever performs an abortion is a murderer. Whoever allows a woman to abort is spreading a deadly disease, a plague that kills babies.

What does terminating life mean? It means to murder. To deliberately murder, with premeditation. A helpless creature, a fetus, a very, very tiny baby, a miniature person. Hitler systematically murdered six million Jews. Here in Israel they are killing 60,000 little Jews a year. That's what Schussheim is saying. There is no other way to understand his remarks. There is no other way to understand the relevance of the first clause, which relates to the Holocaust, to the final clause, which relates to abortions. According to Schussheim, abortion is the continuation of the Holocaust by other means. Hitler wanted to destroy the Jewish people. Abortions are destroying part of the Jewish people. After all, as Schussheim says at the beginning of the item, a Jewish child that's born will give birth to children, who in turn will also bear children, and so on.

Gun Violence in America

First off, I want to inform our readers that I fully defend the right to bear arms enshrined in the US Constitution. However, I served in the US Army in the late 1960s. There are many weapons which are wonderful for our military, but they are not civilian weapons. Firearms in use when the Constitution was written were usually the very primitive ball and musket.

The writers of the Constitution never dreamed of semi-automatic and fully-automatic assault rifles with magazine clips holding dozens of bullets, most of which are correctly catego-

rized as assault rifles. They are designed specifically as anti-personnel weapons.

I remember when the Columbine High School massacre occurred on April 20, 1999. It was in the news almost every day for several weeks. Now mass shootings occur every week, and rarely make the news for more than a day or two. Mass shootings are no longer big news. Each is usually just another mass shooting.

The vast majority of mass shootings involve a semi-automatic or fully-automatic firearms, commonly called assault rifles. These are the weapons of choice for those who want to kill or maim as many people as possible, with large magazine clips holding dozens of bullets.

In 1994, the US Congress passed a bill to ban assault rifles which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. This ban was supported by former presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and even Ronald Reagan. It had a ten-year sunset clause, meaning that after September 3, 2004, assault weapons could once again be manufactured, bought, and sold.

During that decade, people were free to buy and sell guns and rifles, and they did. They were simply forbidden to manufacture or purchase assault weapons. It was simply common-sense gun control, such as having background checks to keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals. I hasten to add: most of the gun violence currently killing over 45,000 Americans each year is done with ordinary guns and rifles, not assault rifles. However, for those seeking to kill or maim many people, assault weapons are still the weapon of choice.

The USA had 154 mass shootings between January 1st and April 24th in 2022. Not all mass shootings involved large losses of lives, although some did, including in places like schools, concerts, subways, random street shootings, at shopping plazas and malls, and even in churches and synagogues. No place is totally safe from random gun violence. Many of the mass violence incidents are committed by White Supremacists.

Firearms became the leading cause of death in children in 2020, surpassing auto accidents, which was the number one cause of death among children for decades. Overall gun-related deaths increased by 13.5% from 2019 to 2020, but researchers from the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) found that these fatalities rose nearly 30% for those under the age of 19. These gun-related deaths include suicide, accidental shootings, and homicides. Road rage is another cause of gun violence. I never heard of road rage years ago. In the past, when an accident occurred, people settled the problems amicably. All too often, when accidents occur today, someone pulls out a gun and shoots the other party, usually with a legally purchased gun.

Arab Israeli Wins Kickboxing World Championship in Turkey, Drapes Himself in Israeli Flag

By TOI STAFF 18 May 2022
www.TimesOfIsrael.com



Israeli kickboxer Loai Sakas won a gold medal on Thursday at the world championships in Turkey. Sakas, a Christian Arab from the northern town of Kafr Yasif, draped himself with the Israeli flag as he stood in the ring after he defeated his Slovakian opponent in the under-75-kilogram (165.3 pound) weight class of K-1 style kickboxing.

Speaking with Channel 12, Sakas said that his goal in representing Israel in international competitions is to promote coexistence. "I'm first and foremost an Israeli citizen," he said. "It isn't about Judaism, Islam, Christianity, or Druze — I represent the country and **want everyone here to live in peace with each other.**"

However, Sakas's experience in the competition was not entirely smooth. Right after winning the match that sent him to the finals, his Moroccan opponent refused to shake his hand in protest.

"The Moroccan delegation, along with their entourage, also shouted at us all sorts of things during the fight and made a small demonstration, but of course, I did not react to it," he said, recounting the incident.

Sakas said that his being a Christian Arab was not a reason for him not to wave the Israeli flag after taking the gold.

"I don't remember a single school shooting when I was a kid. What I do remember is our teacher having us begin the day reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, reading from the Bible, and praying. We also had the Ten Commandments on the wall. Maybe getting rid of those things wasn't such a good idea after all."

Iraq Approves: Death Penalty for Normalization with Israel

[HTTPS://VFINEWS.COM/NEWS](https://vfinews.com/news)

Iraqi lawmakers on May 26 passed a bill criminalizing the normalization of ties and any relations, including business ties, with Israel, The Associated Press reported. The legislation says that violation of the law is punishable with the death sentence or life imprisonment.

The law was approved with 275 lawmakers voting in favor of it in the 329-seat assembly. A parliament statement said the legislation is "a true reflection of the will of the people", according to the report.

Influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose party won the largest number of seats in Iraq's parliamentary elections last year, called for Iraqis to take to the streets to celebrate this "great achievement." Hundreds later gathered in central Baghdad, chanting anti-Israel slogans.

Iraq has not recognized Israel since Israel's formation in 1948. The two nations have no diplomatic relations. Four Arab countries - the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Bahrain, and Morocco - established diplomatic relations with Israel as part of the US-brokered Abraham Accords in 2020. Iraqi lawmakers are adamant that Iraq will not join the Abraham Accords, despite calls for it to do so.

The Iraqi government condemned the conference, and a Baghdad court later issued an arrest warrant for two people who participated in it. (INN/ VFI News) **Source:** Vision for Israel · PO Box 7743 · Charlotte, NC 28241-7743 · USA

The Iraqi government condemned the conference, and a Baghdad court later issued an arrest warrant for two people who participated in it. (INN/ VFI News) **Source:** Vision for Israel · PO Box 7743 · Charlotte, NC 28241-7743 · USA

Israeli Orchestra Performs in Egypt for First Time in 40 Years

An Israeli orchestra has performed in Egypt for the first time in 40 years, surprising locals by playing Egyptian classics from the 50s and 60s.

Ariel Cohen, the conductor, and co-founder of the Firqat Alnoor orchestra described the excitement of being able to perform in the Arab country, which signed a peace deal with Israel in 1979, but has seen relations remain frosty.

"The Egyptian audience that attended the event were astonished to see an [Israeli] orchestra performing Egyptian music... and to play it as it was played in Egypt in the 50s or the 60s — they really appreciated it and complimented us. It was a great pleasure to perform in front of such an audience," Cohen said.

And while Cohen said he wasn't sure if music alone could create a warm relationship between Egyptians and Israelis, he said that "music, when it's done properly, can bring people together, and that's what we saw when we performed there." (TOI/ VFI News) <https://vfinews.com>

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Tisha B'Av (9th of Av) observed: Aug 7
 Rosh HaShana ("Trumpets"): Sept 26

Protecting Imprisoned Women From Men Who Say They're Women

newsletter@christianpost.com

Writer Nicole Russell explains why discrimination policies "should not trump safety and privacy," highlighting the recent sentencing of a male inmate that raped a female inmate in a women's facility at New York's Rikers Island jail. Pointing to recent pressure by such facilities to "bend to a vocal minority and house male prisoners who identify as female with women," Russell explores how such policies are harmful and the ways some women are fighting back.

Oregon Schools Place Tampons in Boys' and Girls' Restrooms For "Menstrual Dignity"

State advises schools to say 'menstruating students' instead of girls

By Samantha Kamman

www.christianpost.com

Schools in Oregon will place menstrual products in all student restrooms, including the boys' bathroom, reportedly to affirm the right to "menstrual dignity" for their "transgender, intersex, nonbinary, and two spirit students."

The Oregon Department of Education released a "Menstrual Dignity for Students Toolkit" in March, instructing schools to place women's hygiene products in the boys' and girls' restrooms by the end of the 2023 school year. All education providers must also provide instructions on how to use the products in a way that is "medically-accurate" and affirms students' gender identities.

The toolkit also advises schools to use "gender-affirming language" when talking about menstruation, such as "menstruating students" instead of "girls." During puberty education, staff members should say, "someone with a uterus and ovaries may begin to menstruate" instead of "girls may begin to menstruate."

In addition, the document says that schools should use the term "menstrual products" instead of "feminine hygiene products" for the sake of inclusivity. When referring to students, the toolkit suggests using "students," "folks" "everyone," "learners," or "they/them" instead of "boys and girls" or "he or she."

Oregon's Department of Education appears to be complying with House Bill 3294, "The Menstrual Dignity Act," signed into law last year by Gov. Kate Brown. The act requires schools to provide free menstrual products for all students in elementary, middle and high school. The legislation also created the Menstrual Dignity for Students Program to alleviate the economic and "experiences of shame" that can prevent access to period products. (You can't make this stuff up, ladies and gentlemen. Crazy stuff. RAC)

Creed that Jewish Converts to Christianity Were Forced to Say Centuries Ago

It is one of the great tragedies of history that Christianity became a mortal enemy to the Jewish people, the very same people that gave Jesus (Yeshua) to the world.

The very few Jews who might have been attracted to this mutant form of Christianity were forced to pronounce curses upon themselves if they should ever "backslide" into observance of the **mitzvot** (commandments) given to them by God. Down below is a sample of vows that Jews would be forced to say before being accepted into the warped Christianity of earlier centuries. I am quoting from MessianicBible.com:

Anti-Semitism was so rampant that a 4th century church in Constantinople held the following creed:

I renounce all customs, rites, legalisms, unleavened breads and sacrifices of lambs of the Hebrews, and all other feasts of the Hebrews, sacrifices, prayers, aspersions, purifications, sanctifications and propitiations and fasts, and new moons, and Sabbaths, and superstitions, and hymns and chants and observances and Synagogues, and the food and drink of the Hebrews; in one word,

I renounce everything Jewish, every law, rite and custom and if afterwards I shall wish to deny and return to Jewish superstition, or shall be found eating with the Jews, or feasting with them, or secretly conversing and condemning the Christian religion instead of openly confuting them and condemning their vain faith, then let the trembling of Gehazi cleave to me, as well as the legal punishments to which I acknowledge myself liable. And may I be anathema in the world to come, and may my soul be set down with Satan and the devils. (*The Conflict of the Church and the Synagogue, by James Parks*)

Apparently these "Christians" who produced this wretched set of vows had little use for the words of Yeshua, who assured us in Matthew 5:17-19 that all the words of the Law and Prophets would never pass away. Similar anti-Semitic vows were promulgated in various other church councils, in which Jews would be forced to pronounce such heresies before being accepted into the paganized Christianity of those early centuries.

They also apparently had little regard for Paul's writings in Romans 9-11 of the eternal covenant that God has with the Jewish people. In Romans 11:18, he warned the Gentile believers to not be arrogant against the Jews. These words seemingly fell on deaf ears. Anti-Semitic creeds resulted in much Jewish suffering.

Christian Arab Officer Honored for Heroically Fighting Palestinian Terrorist

By Israel Today Staff | March 30, 2022
www.israeltoday.co.il



Amir Khoury

Among the five people killed in March 28th terrorist shooting attack in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bnei Barak was 32-year-old **Amir Khoury**, an Arab Christian who served as a police officer in the predominantly ultra-Orthodox Jewish town. (Two Ukrainians were among the five who were murdered. **RAC**)

Khoury was one of two motorcycle response officers dispatched to confront the terrorist. They managed to quickly neutralize the shooter, but not before Khoury was hit in an exchange of fire. Khoury was born and raised in Nof Hagallil, a mixed Jewish-Arab town on the outskirts of Nazareth. He leaves behind his parents and two sisters.

In a personal call to Amir's father, **Jaris Khoury**, following the tragic incident, Israel Police Commissioner **Kobi Shabtai** said: "It is important for me to tell you that your son saved the lives of many civilians. His actions will become a legacy and memory of heroism for the whole country."

The Jewish state's praise for Khoury comes just days after a Church spokesman falsely claimed that Israel discriminates against and is trying to push out the local Christian population. (In actuality, Israel is the only nation in the Middle East and North Africa where the Christian population is growing. It should also be noted that the Christian population is decreasing in the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority. **RAC**)

Imagine You Were Born in 1900

By Jonathan Blaze Harper

Imagine you were born in 1900. When you are 14, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday with 22 million people killed. Later that year, the Spanish flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until you are 20. Fifty million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million.

When you are 29, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment in the USA hits 25%, and global GDP drops 27%. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet.

When you are 41, the United States has fully pulled into World War II. Between your 39th and 45th birthdays, 75 million people perish in the war, including six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. At age 52, the Korean War starts and five million perish.

At 62, you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet could have ended. Great leaders prevented it from happening. At 64, the Vietnam War begins, and doesn't end for many years.

Editor's Note: My grandmother, Theresa De LeVernege, was born on February 19, 1900. She married Murray Leonard (my grandfather) on February 19, 1919 on her 19th birthday. We called her the "19 woman." She lived through all of these horrors listed above. She also saw the beginning of the automobile industry, and the beginning of air travel progressing to jet airliners and to astronauts landing on the moon.

She went from outhouses to indoor plumbing, and from oil lamps to electricity. She was there when the record player was invented and people first were able to go to the motion picture show, which was silent except for the accompanying piano player. The radio brought live music and news into homes. Then came movies with sound and eventually televisions into the homes – and even in color later on! Yes, she saw all of that and much more happen in her lifetime. **RAC**

Singapore to Open Embassy in Israel After 57 Years of Ties

<https://vfinews.com>

Singapore will upgrade its presence in Israel from consulate to embassy, in the latest move reflecting thawing relations between Israel and Muslim countries.

Israel and Singapore forged diplomatic ties in 1965 and have enjoyed friendly relations for decades. Israel sells Singapore defense equipment and has had a consulate in the country since 1968.

However, Singapore, mindful of its huge Muslim-majority neighbors, Malaysia and Indonesia, has sought to keep the ties out of the public eye. **The Times of Israel** reported that Israel's defense minister, Benny Gantz, visited the country last year but kept it quiet out of deference to Singapore. Now, Singapore is openly boasting about its Israel relations.

Saudis Say Temple Mount and Al Aqsa Not Important to Islam

In further departure from Palestinian narrative, Saudis recognize Jewish connection to the Temple Mount. www.israeltoday.co.il

By Israel Today Staff | April 17, 2022

Editor's Note: This article was first published last year, and has again gained relevance amidst the ongoing violence atop the Temple Mount, fueled by the confluence of Ramadan and Passover.

Palestinian politicians, clerics and terrorist warlords tirelessly invoke the Temple Mount and Al Aqsa Mosque as a rallying cry to stir up pan-Muslim emotions against Israel. The Jews are threatening to "Judaize" this Islamic holy site, claim the Palestinians, even as they reject the biblical history of Mount Moriah.

But according to a bunch of Saudis and other Middle East Arabs on social media, the Temple Mount and even, gasp(!), Al Aqsa itself aren't all that holy to them. On Twitter, Saudis conducted a campaign promoting Islam's true holy sites, Mecca and Medina, while downplaying the importance of Jerusalem in their religion.

One of the more viral tweets was posted by Saudi cartoonist Fahd al-Jabiri, who wrote that "the direction of the prayers of the Jews is not important to us, what is important to us is only our homeland." By referencing the "direction of the prayers of the Jews," al-Jabiri implicitly recognized the Jewish connection to the Temple Mount, thus contradicting the Palestinian narrative on the matter.

An English-language tweet from Morocco really got people heated by not only emphasizing that the Temple Mount is of no particular importance to Muslims, but also by expressing hope that the Third Jewish Temple will soon be built there.

Dear brothers and sisters, join the Saudi hashtag "#قبلة_اليهود_لا تعني_لنا". This recent Saudi twitter movement believes that there is no importance of the temple mount to Muslims, and the waiting for the [Jewish] third temple. A new era, one of peace:

#إبتسام Zejiga (@IbtissamZegiga) March 4, 2021

There were a flood of tweets expressing support and even love for Israel. Most were in Arabic, but the few in English were no less heart-warming. One reacted to a previous tweet calling Jerusalem the "occupied" Palestinian capital. The Saudi corrected the original by noting that Jerusalem is actually the "eternal capital of the Jewish people."

Hey look! It's the eternal capital of the Jewish people! #قبلة_اليهود_لا تعني_لنا

<https://t.co/tu7nsTolsk>

— Khalid Faisal Khalid Alakoor Al-Hudhayli Albogami (@fkjms73) March 7, 2021

Another expressed his deep desire for there to soon be peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia so he can visit Tel Aviv and meet "our cousins," the Jews.

I hope there will be Saudi-Israel peace deal. I want to visit Tel Aviv so bad, and meet our cousins. ♥

قبلة_اليهود_لا تعني_لنا

[plc.twitter.com/szbqaux71p](https://t.co/plc.twitter.com/szbqaux71p)

— Onyx (@ionyx01) March 5, 2021

Tom Nissani, head of the Temple Heritage Foundation, told Arutz 7 that this is a golden opportunity. "In the end, it is becoming increasingly clear that the main obstacle – the Temple Mount – is in our hands," he said.

"This is a historic opportunity to expel the hostile *Waqf* from the Temple Mount and transfer it to full Israeli management that will allow full freedom of access and religion to the mountain in cooperation with the Emirates, Saudis and Moroccans, Jews and non-Jews who will attain shared goals."

Black Lives Matter

Yes, Black lives matter. We are totally opposed to racism. This is why we **oppose** the organization called "Black Lives Matter," while at the same time supporting the full civil rights of Blacks, Orientals, etc. You can Google "Antisemitism in Black Lives Matter" and find numerous examples of antisemitism and anti-Zionism in the Black Lives Matter movement, especially in the leadership. I would never support a pro-Israel movement that was racist against Blacks. Meanwhile it is wrong to support Black Lives Matter when that same movement is spreading vicious falsehoods about Jews and Israel.

Among other things, Black Lives Matter supports the ludicrous claim that Israel is an apartheid nation. They also support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement targeting Israel and only Israel for supposed human rights violations, and therefore is opposed to all trade or support for Israel. Israel has the best human rights record of any country in the Middle East or North Africa. Why are they not opposed to the onerous human rights violations in the Palestinian Authority (PA) or in Gaza? I would much rather be a Palestinian living in Israel than to be a Palestinian living in the PA or Gaza. Israel also supports the religious rights of Jews, Christians, Muslims, Druse, and Bahal living in their midst. And Israel is the **only** country in the Middle East where the Christian population is growing.

Curiously, Palestinians living in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan are treated horribly. Why is there no protest about the treatment of Palestinians living in those countries? **RAC**

Standing on the Shoulders of Survivors

by Deborah Fineblum ~ JNS

www.bridgesforpeace.com

In the winter of 1945, a time when 10-year-old Yitzhak Perlmutter¹ spent his days pushing wheelbarrows full of coal from train to factory in Möllersdorf, a concentration camp subcamp, saving his extra piece of bread each day for his little sister, the youngster could not possibly have envisioned that he'd have children of his own someday, much less grandchildren. And certainly not that his grandson would be a soldier for a Jewish state he could never have dreamed would exist.

But last week, the Hungarian native had the opportunity to tour a brand-new center designed to show Israel's soldiers the horror that he and other Jews experienced during the years of World War II and the Holocaust. And alongside him was his grandson, Matan, an officer in the Israel Defense Forces [IDF].

As such, he is part of a family legacy. In the early years of the state, Perlmutter served in the IDF. "And now, my grandchild is continuing in our way," he adds. "Seeing my grandchildren in uniform is a source of tremendous pride and the greatest form of victory over what we endured during the *Shoah* [Holocaust]."

Now, timed to coincide with *Yom HaShoah* [Holocaust Remembrance Day]—the day all of Israel stops to remember the Holocaust—"Before My Very Eyes," the Yad Vashem Educational Center for Holocaust Remembrance, is opening at the Ariel Sharon IDF training campus in the Negev Desert.

Here, thousands of IDF trainees each year are expected to learn more deeply about the Holocaust through a series of interactive exhibits and workshops connecting them in new ways with the Jewish experience during those terrible years.

One natural connection is the love many Holocaust-era Jews held for Israel, a land where they dreamed of being free to live as proud Jews. One photo at the center features a woman in the Lodz Ghetto teaching children with a map of Israel on the wall. "Imagine that of the few things they were allowed to take to the ghetto someone chose to take that map—the dream of Israel meant that much to them," notes Farhi. "A woman who had lost everything teaching children who may not have a future to love a land

¹ Rabbi Simcha Perlmutter might not be a close relative, but he had the same last name. Rabbi Perlmutter was a close friend of mine. He called himself an Orthodox Jew who believed in Yeshua. He passed away on his kibbutz in Israel in 1999.

that must have seemed so far-fetched, but still, they hung to it."

All of which greatly pleases survivor—and now great-grandfather—Perlmutter, who came to Israel in 1946, after being liberated with his mother and sister, and returning to Hungary long enough to learn of the murders of his brother and the rest of their family in Auschwitz.

"I feel that every Jew, and of course, every soldier, has to know exactly what happened and know the story of the Holocaust," he says. "A nation that does not know her past has no future."

That is something that makes one IDF soldier particularly proud. "Not only as a grandson of a Holocaust survivor but as an officer," says 24-year-old Matan Perlmutter. "I think the soldiers' connection to the Jewish people's past is very important in that we are the continuation and future of Israel and the Jewish people."

Israeli Laser-Based Air Defense Shoots Down Drones

[HTTPS://VFINEWS.COM/NEWS](https://vfi.news.com/news)

The Defense Ministry revealed on April 14, that a laser air defense system it is developing successfully shot down drones, rockets, mortars, and anti-tank missiles in the first series of tests last month. According to the head of the ministry's research and development team, Brig. Gen. (res.) Yaniv Rotem, the tests were conducted at "challenging" ranges and timings.

"The use of a laser is a 'game changer' and the technology is simple to operate and proves to be economically viable," he said. In a video released by the ministry, the laser-based system can be seen intercepting a rocket, a mortar, and a drone at an undisclosed location in southern Israel's Negev desert, in March of this year.

The ministry has been testing the laser-based defense system for several years, shooting down a drone with it last year. The recent tests were the first to be successful against the other threats, including unguided projectiles and anti-tank guided missiles.

Its research and development department initially planned to deploy the anti-missile system by 2024, but the military has pushed for an earlier deployment. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett announced in February that Israel would deploy the system within the year. (TOI / VFI News)

It's called "Magen Or" – Hebrew for **Light Shield**. "It marks the first time that a high-power, Israeli-made laser system successfully intercepted various targets, constituting a breakthrough on a global scale," said Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

*You are my hammer and weapon of war:
with you I break nations in pieces; with you
I destroy kingdoms. – Jeremiah 51:20*

After 800 Years, Church of England Apologizes to Jews for Laws that Led to Expulsion

[HTTPS://VFINEWS.COM/NEWS](https://vfi.news.com/news)

The Church of England on Sunday, May 8, apologized for anti-Jewish laws that were passed 800 years ago and eventually led to the expulsion of Jews from the kingdom for hundreds of years.

A special service held at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford was attended by Britain's Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and representatives of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby to mark the Synod of Oxford, passed in 1222.

The synod forbade social interactions between Jews and Christians, placed a specific tithe on Jews, and required them to wear an identifying badge. They were also banned from some professions and from building new synagogues. The decrees were followed by more anti-Jewish laws, and eventually the mass expulsion of England's 3,000 Jews of the time in 1290. It would be another 360 years before Jews were permitted to return.

"Today's service is an opportunity to remember, repent and rebuild," Welby tweeted. "Let us pray it inspires Christians today to reject contemporary forms of anti-Judaism and antisemitism and to appreciate and receive the gift of our Jewish neighbors."

"Our intention is for this commemoration to be a strong signal of such rich potential, reflected in the depth of interfaith encounter and service that increasingly exists in Oxford and across our society," the Diocese of Oxford said in a statement ahead of the event. (TOI / VFI News)

Judge Blocks Biden Administration Mandate on Trans Surgeries

by Michael Gryboski, www.ChristianPost.com

Judge Daniel Traynor of the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota issued an order Monday that placed a temporary block on the enforcement of a Biden administration mandate requiring an alliance of Christian employers to pay for or provide health plans that cover gender transition surgeries. The Christian Employers Alliance, an organization that provides support to Christian businesses and nonprofits, filed suit against the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Health & Human Services, seeking to block the enforcement of the mandate that requires coverage of trans-affirming counseling and medical services that violate the beliefs of its members. In issuing the order, Judge Traynor, a Trump appointee, wrote, "The Alliance must either **violate its sincerely held beliefs** or face monetary losses, fines, and even civil liabilities."

Editor's Comment: Matters have become really strange since same-sex marriage became the law of the land as a result of our Supreme Court "discovered" that it was unconstitutional to forbid same-sex marriage in its 2015 decision. And since that time a bunch of new sexual minorities have arisen that must also be accommodated, including non-binary, pansexual, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, etc. Freedom of religion is in Amendment One of the U.S. Constitution, and now people of faith (bakers, florists, etc.) are being required to make wedding cakes and floral arrangements for same-sex marriages, even though it goes against their religious beliefs.

The big "civil rights" agenda today concerns transsexuals and transgenders. These are gender dysphorias whereby males believe they are really females and vice-versa. We are being required to accommodate trans females (biological males who believe they are females) to be on female swim teams, etc., even though they are stronger than the real females. This is very unfair competition, and is a threat to women's rights and the rights of girls in girls' sports.

I understand that this makes me transphobic to some folks. That term isn't even in my dictionary, nor is transsexual in my dictionaries. (These terms might be in new dictionaries.) By the way, phobias are fears. I am not transphobic. Neither am I homophobic. I am not afraid of any of these sexual minorities. Therefore, I am not homophobic, nor am I transphobic.

I do not support the Biden administration's mandate requiring insurance companies or taxpayers to cover gender transition surgeries. This applies to both secular companies as well as those companies headed by people of faith. A man can never become a woman. The best he can hope for is to become a castrated man. Likewise, a woman can never become a man.

As Daniel Botkin rightly says, "People are assigned their gender by God, and there is nothing they can do to change their gender. No amount of bodily mutilation, hormone treatment, and cross dressing can change a person's gender. I do not fear transgendered people, because transgendered people do not exist. Why should I fear something that does not exist?"

I don't always agree with Florida Governor DeSantis. However, the law forbidding the teaching of transgender, transsexual, etc. to grades K-3 should be common sense. These young children should not be indoctrinated with gender dysphoria. There's enough confusion in this world without adding additional confusions.

My cat might feel that she is a human stuck in a cat's body, but she will always be a cat, regardless of what she feels. (Actually, my cat is quite happy and content being a cat, and has absolutely zero desire to be human.) **RAC**

One of the most important things my father, Rabbi Ben Zion Blech of blessed memory, taught me is that to be silent in the face of evil is to be complicit in its consequences.

Activism is in my genes. My father not only emphasized this message by words, he showed it to me by deeds.

One of them was both heroic and historic. My father was one of the 400 rabbis who marched on Washington on October 6, 1943, when news of the Holocaust and its atrocities were no longer secret and two million Jews had already been brutally slaughtered. The rabbis could not remain silent. It was two days before Yom Kippur. You can imagine their communal responsibilities. Many of the rabbis, my father included, were immigrants who could hardly speak English. But they knew how they would be judged by God and by history if they failed at least to make a superhuman effort, no matter how unlikely its success... Indeed, the fact that a demonstration desperately urging a response to rescue refugees and to condemn the Nazi atrocities against Jews was only able to bring out 400 rabbis makes a statement about Jewish passivity of that time, which in retrospect is incomprehensible and shameful.

I was a little boy at the time but I knew my father was going to Washington to try to speak with Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I wondered to myself how my father dared to imagine that he could sway the President of the United States. My father was a great orator – but only in Yiddish, and in my childish mind I debated with myself whether it was possible that the president understood our language as well. Years later, when I realized the absurdity of that possibility, I asked my father, "But you knew you couldn't speak English. How did you imagine, if you had the opportunity, that you could communicate your fears and your efforts to help save Jewish lives?" My father answered simply, "I had no other choice. And if the president could not understand my words, surely he could grasp the meaning of my tears."

Let me tell you what happened. My father and his brother, Rabbi Dr. Moshe Blech were part of that remarkable group of 400 rabbis. The newspapers reported the scene at the Washington DC railroad station, as conductors, amazed and bewildered by so many black hatted bearded Jews, kept shouting, "Make way for the rabbis, make way for the rabbis!" The rabbis marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to Capitol Hill. Next, they walked to the White House. They urgently requested a meeting with the President. **Roosevelt wanted no part of it.** He snuck out by a rear door to avoid a confrontation or even a

minimal show of respect or greeting.

The snub of clergymen did not go unnoticed by some of the press. The headline in the Washington Times-Herald the next day took note: "Rabbis report cold welcome at the White House."

Some Jews even began to think that Roosevelt was not truly the great friend of the Jews they had always imagined... The excuse then – and for many Roosevelt admirers to this day – was that it

would have been political suicide for the president to intervene on behalf of the Jews, even though they were being horrifically tortured and murdered. Roosevelt had to be responsive to the prevailing American sentiment.

In Nov 2018, we learned how much this excuse remains no more than an untruthful cover-up. Dr. Rafael Medoff, founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, alerted us to a remarkable omission this past November 28 at the opening of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's new exhibit, "Americans and the Holocaust." Gallup's editor-in-chief, Frank Newport, as a keynote speaker, took pains to describe the polls his organization took in the 1930s and early 1940s which demonstrated overwhelming opposition to the admission of Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis.

He strongly emphasized that Roosevelt could do no more to help the Jews because of the powerful voice of public opinion. He quoted the poll, taken in April 1938, that "the persecution of Jews in Europe was their own fault and 65% of Americans said the Jews were partly or entirely to blame." After Kristallnacht, the Gallup poll showed that while 94% disapproved of the pogrom, 72% were still against admitting any refugees. In 1939, 1940 and 1941, Gallup polls continued to show Americans indifferent to the plight of European Jewry.

Strangely, Gallup's editor-in-chief then mysteriously jumped to the polls conducted in the postwar period. He did not mention the poll Gallup took when the United States joined with the Allies in fighting the war and the full horror of the Holocaust began to be known. That poll showed the exact opposite of all those preceding! In April of 1944, Gallup found that 70 percent of the public supported giving "temporary protection and refuge" in the United States to "those people in Europe who have been persecuted by the Nazis." That poll confirmed the powerful change in public opinion in light of the full awareness of German atrocities. And the new Museum simply ignores the results of the poll which proves Americans in the main heard the voice of their consciences even though their President didn't.


My Father, FDR, & the Rabbis March

by Rabbi Benjamin Blech
Dec 15, 2018 www.aish.com

REVEREND TWISTRUTH

by HIS DISCIPLES
by Daniel Botkin

"A Glorious Church,
Without S.P.O.T."
Ephesians 5:27



SOMEONE HAS BEEN ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT OLD TESTAMENT LAW...

"SEVEN TIMES A DAY I PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS LAWS" PS. 119:164



SO TODAY I WANT TO CONTRAST THE SUPERIORITY OF NEW TESTAMENT GRACE WITH THE INFERIORITY OF O.T. LAW!

AGAIN? PRAISE GOD! "GREAT PEACE HAVE THEY THAT LOVE THY LAW" PS. 119:165



GOD GAVE HIS COMMANDMENTS TO THE JEWS AT MOUNT SINAI...



BUT IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE LORD REALIZED IT JUST WASN'T GOING TO WORK...

ATTACK! LAST WEEK OFFER 9213



NOW GOD HAD A REAL PROBLEM ON HIS HANDS...

GEE, MAYBE THESE "COMMANDMENTS WEREN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA AFTER ALL..."


SCRATCH SCRATCH



BUT GOD IS SMART! HE FINALLY THOUGHT OF A WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM HIS LAWS HAD CREATED...

HEY, I KNOW! I'LL SEND MY SON DOWN THERE TO DO AWAY WITH THE LAW!

SNAP!



SO JESUS CAME TO EARTH, AND WAS RAISED BY MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH CHRIST, A NICE JEWISH COUPLE...

MARY XMAS!

DEC 25



continued →

BUT THIS CAUSED A PROBLEM! BEING RAISED JEWISH, JESUS THOUGHT GOD STILL WANTED PEOPLE TO OBEY THE LAW!

... AND HE WHO DOES AND TEACHES THE COMMANDMENTS WILL BE CALLED GREAT IN THE KINGDOM! *

DO WHAT THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES TELL YOU TO DO WHEN THEY SIT IN MOSES' SEAT! *

RATS!

*MATT. 5:17-19

*MATT. 23:1-3

AFTER JESUS RETURNED TO HEAVEN, THE APOSTLES STILL DIDN'T REALIZE THE LAW WAS ABOLISHED! THEY WOULDN'T EVEN EAT PORK!

NO THANKS!

4 SHEKELS!

FINALLY GOD GOT TIRED OF ALL THIS, AND DECIDED TO STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT!

I'VE GOT A SWELL IDEA! I'LL SEND A VISION TO PETER! EVERYONE RESPECTS PETER!

SO GOD SHOWED PETER THAT HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT THE FOOD LAWS...

RISE PETER! KILL AND EAT!

PRaise GOD! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TASTE THOSE THINGS!

PETER BROUGHT THE GOOD NEWS TO THE OTHER APOSTLES...

GOD HATH SHOWN ME THAT I SHOULD CALL NO ANIMAL COMMON OR UNCLEAN! *

BARUCH HASHEM!

THAT'S GREAT!

* ACTS 10:28, RTV

SO THE FIRST STEP IN GOD'S PLAN TO RESCUE MAN FROM THE LAW WAS SUCCESSFUL!

מסעדה "כל-כשר" ברוכים הבאים

LATER, GOD REVEALED TO PAUL THAT THE SABBATH & HOLY DAYS WERE JUST BONDAGE, AS WELL AS LAWS ABOUT THINGS LIKE WEARING FRINGES, SHAVING, ETC....

DEAR LORD, PLEASE HELP ME WRITE SOME MORE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SO PEOPLE WILL KNOW THEY DON'T HAVE TO OBEY YOUR LAWS. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN!

SO THE APOSTLES CUT THE FRINGES OFF THEIR CLOAKS, ENCOURAGED EVERYONE TO SHAVE, AND QUIT MEETING ON THE SABBATH...

LET'S MEET ON SUN-GOD DAY, LIKE THE MITHRA WORSHIPERS DO!

YEA! AND THE PAGANS HAVE SOME SWELL HOLIDAYS FOR THE VERNAL EQUINOX AND WINTER SOLSTICE WE CAN USE FOR WORSHIP!

THUS WAS THE START OF "A GLORIOUS CHURCH, WITHOUT S.P.O.T.": WITHOUT SABBATH, PROPHETS, OR TORAH!

I was Wrong about the 21st Century

13 March 2022

By **Robert Reich** www.theguardian.com

I used to believe several things about the 21st century that Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine and Donald Trump's election in 2016 have shown me are false. I assumed:

Nationalism is disappearing.

I expected globalization would blur borders, create economic interdependence among nations and regions and extend a modern consumer and artistic culture worldwide.

I was wrong. Both Putin and Trump have exploited xenophobic nationalism to build their power. (Putin's aggression has also ignited an inspiring patriotism in Ukraine.)

Nations can no longer control what their citizens know.

I assumed that emerging digital technologies, including the internet, would make it impossible to control worldwide flows of information and knowledge. Tyrants could no longer keep their people in the dark or hoodwink them with propaganda.

Wrong again. Trump filled the media with lies, as has Putin. Putin has also cut off Russian citizens from the truth about what's occurring in Ukraine.

Advanced nations will no longer war over geographic territory.

I thought that in the "new economy", land was becoming less valuable than technological knowhow and innovation. Competition among nations would therefore be over the development of cutting-edge inventions.

I was only partly right. While skills and innovation are critical, land still provides access to critical raw materials and buffers against potential foreign aggressors.

Major nuclear powers will never risk war against each other because of the certainty of "mutually assured destruction"

I bought the conventional wisdom that nuclear war was unthinkable. I fear I was wrong. Putin is now resorting to dangerous nuclear brinkmanship.

Civilization will never again be held hostage by crazy isolated men with the power to wreak havoc.

I assumed this was a phenomenon of the 20th century and that 21st century governments, even totalitarian ones, would constrain tyrants... I was mistaken.

Advances in warfare, such as cyber-warfare and precision weapons, will minimize civilian casualties.

I was persuaded by specialists in defense strategy that it no longer made sense for sophisticated

powers to target civilians. Utterly wrong. Civilian casualties in Ukraine confirm this.

Democracy is inevitable.

I formed this belief in the early 1990s, when the Soviet Union had imploded and China was still poor. It seemed to me that totalitarian regimes didn't stand a chance in the new technologically driven, globalized world. Sure, petty dictatorships would remain in some retrograde regions of the world. But modernity came with democracy, and democracy with modernity.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians are showing that Trump's and Putin's efforts to turn back the clock on the 21st century can only be addressed with a democracy powerful enough to counteract autocrats like them. They are also displaying with inspiring clarity that democracy cannot be taken for granted. Democracy is not a spectator sport. It's **not** what **governments** do. Democracy is what **people** do....

Putin and Trump have convinced me I was wrong about how far we had come in the 21st century. Technology, globalization and modern systems of governance haven't altered the ways of tyranny. But I, like millions of others around the world, have been inspired by the Ukrainian people – who are reteaching us lessons we once knew.

Robert Reich is a former US secretary of labor and is professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and author of several books.

Trans-Identified Swimmer Wins NCAA Women's Championship Amid Protests Over Fairness

By **Ryan Foly**, Christian Post Reporter

A trans-identified swimmer has won an NCAA championship, sparking outrage from critics who oppose allowing biological males who identify as females to compete on women's sports teams.

Will Thomas, a trans-identified swimmer who now goes by the name Lia, won the 500-yard freestyle in the NCAA Division I national championship at the Georgia Institute of Technology Thursday. Thomas, who competes on the University of Pennsylvania women's swimming team, edged out the second-place finisher by nearly two seconds.

Multiple groups opposed to rules allowing biological males who identify as females from competing in women's sports protested outside and inside Georgia Tech's McAuley Aquatic Center.

Members of Concerned Women for America, a socially conservative advocacy group filed a civil a civil rights complaint against the University of Pennsylvania for allowing Thomas to compete on the women's team...

They were young. The world's most unlikely soldiers. As teenagers they had escaped

The Ritchie Boys

the Nazis. They trained in intelligence work and psychological warfare, and returned to Europe as US soldiers - with the greatest motivation to fight this war: They were Jewish. They called themselves "The Ritchie Boys."

Christian Bauer's film "The Ritchie Boys" tells a story that's never been told before. It begins in Camp Ritchie, Maryland, the birthplace of modern psychological warfare, and it ends with the defeat of Germany in May of 1945. After D-Day the Ritchie Boys became a decisive force in the war. Nobody knew the enemy, his culture and his language better than they. Their mission: ascertain and break the enemy's morale.

The surviving Ritchie Boys are in their nineties now. They never met for reunions; they did not join veteran associations. When the war was over, their German accents and unusual histories did not make them welcome in the usual veterans' circles. In the end, the Ritchie Boys quietly left the war behind them and went on to enjoy quite remarkable careers - in arts and politics, in business and academia. They never forgot the war. They just never spoke about it.

In "The Ritchie Boys" these remarkable, funny, sharp, brave men share their memories with us. They tell about a war, quite different from the one we have known so far, a war of words. They had no idea what it would be like to see their homeland again, they did not know what had happened to the families and friends they had left behind.

On the front lines from the beaches of Normandy onwards, the Ritchie Boys interrogated German prisoners, defectors and civilians, collected information of tactical and strategic importance: about troop size and movements, about the psychological situation of the enemy, and the inner workings of the Nazi regime. They drafted leaflets, produced radio broadcasts and even published a German newspaper dropped behind enemy lines. In trucks equipped with amplifiers and loudspeakers, they went to the front lines and under heavy fire tried to persuade their German opponents to surrender.

The Ritchie Boys were in Paris even before its liberation. They fought in the Battle of the Bulge - in danger of being shot as spies by the Americans because of their accents, and by the Germans who might find out about their backgrounds. They were among those who

liberated the concentration camps.

They worked for the Nuremberg Trials and determined the policy for the de-Nazification of Germany.

Ritchie Boy Fred Howard "felt rage at what had happened to Europe, I felt rage at what happened to Jews - Europe was raped, by a very powerful, very disciplined, well-oiled military machine." Victor Brombert, Professor Emeritus at Princeton adds: "Our teams were bright, available, not always courageous - not always expert warriors, but certainly our heart was in it." Guy Stern, Distinguished Professor at Wayne State University in Detroit agrees: "We worked harder than anyone could have driven us. We were crusaders. This was our kind of war." Fred Howard, who later invented "Leggs" (pantyhose in eggs) again puts a different spin on it: "We were all basket cases - kids! But these friendships were very wonderful!"

Their stories are as much breathtaking, as they are funny and moving: How Fred and Guy invented the capture of Hitler's latrine orderly, and the swift reaction of the Pentagon. How Werner Angress decided to parachute into enemy territory on the evening of D-Day - his first jump ever - just to stay with his buddies and to be like them. How Victor goes AWOL to be in Paris, his hometown, before its liberation, and how he loses his division in the wake of the celebration. How Phillip is captured during the Battle of the Bulge and his life in a German camp for POWs. And how Morris is still haunted by his reaction to the survivors of a concentration camp.

Their effort shortened the war and saved many lives on both sides. However, the story of their heroism, their achievements and their long-term impact on military tactics remained forgotten. The film "The Ritchie Boys" not only tells the story of their bravery, it also reveals the contribution the Ritchie Boys made to the victory over Nazi-Germany. This is a deeply personal account of a decisive moment in history given by the last of the surviving Ritchie Boys. In "The Ritchie Boys" they once again show their determination, courage, humor, and imagination. © TANGRAM 2004

Editor's Note: This film won many awards from around the world. Franky, I had never heard of them until the amazing story of them was told on CBS' Sixty Minutes, with interviews with surviving members of the Ritchie Boys, over 90 years old. The film is available on Youtube.com

RAC

Iranian Jews Bought Tomb of Esther and Mordechai in 1971

Hanan Greenwood, Israel Hayom



Tomb of Esther and Mordechai

Israel's National Library has revealed an exchange of historical letters proving that Iranian Jews purchased the Tomb of Esther and Mordechai in the Iranian city of Hamadan in 1971. The purchase marked 2,500 years to Persian King Cyrus the Great's edict allowing Babylonians to worship the god of their choice.

The letters reveal negotiations between Jewish representatives in the country and officials in Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's government regarding the purchase of the plot in which according to tradition, Mordechai and Esther, whose story is read in the Book of Esther on Purim, are buried. The extraordinary exchange was preserved by the ORT organization, maintained in the central archive in the National Library's Central Zionist Archives.

There is no mention of their burial site in Jewish texts, but according to several local traditions dating back to the Middle Ages, the two are buried in Hamadan. According to one of the traditions, following the death of King Ahasuerus, supporters of Haman, who attempted to have all the Jews in the kingdom killed, sought to exact revenge, prompting Esther and Mordechai to flee to Hamadan.

Initial evidence of the mausoleum's ties to the Jewish figures was provided by medieval Jewish traveler Benjamin of Tudela in the 12th century, who estimated Hamadan to have about 50,000 Jewish residents and described the tomb as being situated in front of the synagogue.

According to Dr. Samuel Thrope, the curator of the National Library's Middle East and Islam Collection, the letters are a testament to Iran's last shah having seen himself as Cyrus's

successor and having sought to portray that image to his country's Jews. The 2,500-year anniversary to the Edict of Cyrus was precisely the event that the shah had been looking for, said Thrope.

In a 1968 letter to the Iranian Jewish community's representative in parliament, Lotfollah Hay, Iranian Archaeology and Public Education Department Director-General Abdolali Pourmand clarified that the country's Education Ministry would assist the Jewish community in Iran with purchasing the tomb and the surrounding lands from its owner at the time, the Bazargani Bank. The acquisition would be paid for through the sale of tickets to enter the tomb, they explained.

Amnesty's U.S. Director: Israel Shouldn't Exist as a Jewish State

WASHINGTON (JTA) — An Amnesty International official said that the organization is opposed to Israel continuing to exist as a Jewish state. Jewish Insider first reported the remarks. O'Brien also said he did not believe polls showing overwhelming US Jewish support for Israel.

"We are opposed to the idea — and this, I think, is an existential part of the debate — that Israel should be preserved as a state for the Jewish people," Paul O'Brien, the human rights monitor's US director, said in a luncheon this week with the Women's National Democratic Club in Washington.

Taking a position on whether and how an established state should continue to exist is unusual for organizations with responsibilities limited to monitoring compliance with international laws governing freedoms and human rights. O'Brien's comments immediately drew a torrent of condemnation from Jewish groups.

"If there was any doubt about Amnesty's credibility as a legitimate voice of authority, it is now abundantly clear that they are firmly entrenched in the cadre of extremist anti-Israel provocateurs," William Daroff, the CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Friday in an interview. Earlier he had tweeted that O'Brien's remarks were outrageous. "It is clear that their true vision is a Middle East without Israel as a Jewish state."

Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, called on O'Brien to apologize to Jews. "Your obsessive, relentless focus on Israel, and the erasure of the Jewish right to self-determination illustrates a dangerous degree of bias," he tweeted.

ZOA Co-Sponsors Judea/Samaria Mega Event with President Herzog By Tovah Lazaroff

MARCH 6, 2022 / JERUSALEM POST) Jewish archaeological sites in the West Bank must be preserved, President Isaac Herzog told the English-speaking community in Israel and abroad. He delivered the short virtual address during the third in a series of Judea and Samaria mega-events. "Much of the Jewish People's history in this land is rooted in the hills and valleys of Judea and Samaria," Herzog said.

"Here our Patriarchs and Matriarchs lived and were laid to rest. Here Joshua led the Sons and Daughters of Israel, Bnei Yisrael, into the land; King David began his rule; our prophets spread their teachings, which we teach today, and every Shabbat; and Jewish rebels—from the Maccabees to Bar Kochva—fought for what they believed in," he explained.

"Beyond any political dispute we should all agree to protect the integrity of Jewish historical and archaeological sites throughout the Land of Israel, as well as the historical sites belonging to other religions and cultures which have left their stamp on this region throughout the ages," he explained.

"This is not just a Jewish or Israeli issue, but an issue of protecting the heritage of all humanity in the Holy Land," Herzog said. He also took a moment to speak of Israel's status as both the Jewish national homeland and a democracy "built on equality and religious freedom."

It is also important, he said, to work for a future of peace, cooperation and dialogue, particularly through the Abraham Accords, under whose rubric Israel normalized ties with four of its Arab neighbors. His statement to the group was among a number of strong statements Herzog has made in support of the Jewish and Israeli connection to the West Bank, including his visit to the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

The mega-events have been sponsored by the Yesha Council, My Israel and the Zionist Organization of America. The first event focused on the need for Israeli sovereignty in Area C of the West Bank, the second on the issue of illegal Palestinian building and the third on the need to preserve the Jewish archaeological heritage in that area, also known as the biblical heartland.

The Yesha Council and right-wing organizations have long campaigned for the preservation of biblical archaeology in the West Bank, warning that the Palestinian Authority was usurping and destroying the ancient Jewish heritage in that region.

Among the examples the speakers at the event later gave was Sebastia, the capital of the northern kingdom of ancient Israel, as well as a burial cave for priests from the Second Temple

near Jericho. Binyamin Regional Council head Israel Ganz said that "more than 80% of the ancient historical sites" in Judea and Samaria have been damaged.

ZOA Israel Representative Dan Illouz said that "it is important to know that Jewish history did not originate in Tel Aviv, but in Judea and Samaria. Therefore, the roots to the rights to our land are specifically in Judea and Samaria."

In Memoriam: Rick Coghill

This obituary is a bit late, but I just found out about his death from liver cancer. Rick Coghill (March 25, 1947 to Dec. 13, 2021) was perhaps the greatest musician and pioneer in the Messianic Jewish world. He performed with Joel Chernoff in the Messianic Jewish music duo, LAMB. Rick was a guitarist on the same level as Eric Clapton, as well as a terrific performer on stage. He was also phenomenal as a music mixer with the sound equipment.

Prior to coming to faith in Yeshua at Beth Yeshua, Rick was in the secular world, part of the Lemon Pipers rock band, famous for the song, "Green Tambourine." He was also a heroin addict until coming to faith. His heroin addiction was instantly healed, with no withdrawals.

Rick was the heart of Messianic Jewish music from the early 1970s to the mid-1990s. He was a non-Jew by birth who came among Israel with his immense gifts and used them for the sake of the Jewish people. LAMB was also immensely popular in the contemporary Christian music scene. LAMB performed in venues internationally, including Israel.

Rick Coghill was also the "producer" for other Messianic Jewish groups and musicians such as Liberated Walling Wall, Nagila, Nancy Santiago, Mirjam, Kol Simcha, etc. The Messianic Jewish world owes much to Rick Coghill.

I first saw a LAMB vinyl record album at a Christian book store in 1976, one year after I had come to faith. I saw the big Star of David on the cover, and was excited about owning this album that I had never heard of before. An older Christian man saw me gleefully holding the album and said, "You aren't buying that, are you? Don't you know that the Jews killed Christ?" I then asked him if he believed that Jesus died for his sins. He said, "Yes." I replied, "Then you are a Christ-killer." We almost had a fist fight.

Then in 1977, my wife, daughter, and I got to see LAMB in person at the annual Messiah Conference in Pennsylvania. We got to see and hear him and Joel performing their great concerts each year until LAMB split up. Rick disappeared from the Messianic music scene in the early 1990s. I don't know what happened. However, Rick suspended his great talents thereafter and descended into grief. We owe much gratitude to him. We miss you, Rick. **RAC**

Messianic Directory

◆ 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 **Congregation of Yahshua Messiah.** Cong. Grand Junction CO. Email Dennis at: Krostostme@msn.com

◆ FLORIDA

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

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

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

◆ GEORGIA

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

◆ ILLINOIS

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

◆ MASSACHUSETTS

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

Petah Tikvah Magazine is an official publication of the UMJA.

◆ NEBRASKA

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

◆ NEW JERSEY

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

◆ NEW YORK

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

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

◆ PENNSYLVANIA

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

BeitTorah2015@gmail.com

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

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

◆ RHODE ISLAND

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

◆ TEXAS

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

◆ VERMONT

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

◆ WISCONSIN

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

"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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Yom Teruah 2022

"WAKE UP, O SLEEPER, RISE
FROM THE DEAD..."
EPHESIANS 5:14-16

Written by: Jane Madrid, #ThirstDay



During Yom Teruah or the Feast of Trumpets, shofars are being blown. This special time is often referred to as the 'High Holy Days'. It is an opportunity for deep introspection, reflection, and an honest examination of one's spiritual state. The blast of the shofar is to remind us that the King is coming **SOON!** The Day of the Lord is at hand - the Messiah is coming back and we need to make our hearts & lives ready. The sound of the shofar is like an alarm call as if to tell us:

14 "Sleepers, arise from your slumber, and those who are dozing, awake from your lethargy. Review your actions, repent from your sins, and remember your Creator!" Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Messiah will shine on you. Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:14-16)

In the New Testament we are also exhorted to **WAKE UP** out of our spiritual slumber and make the most of our time, not following vanity or frivolous pursuits but loving and following God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

We need to truly wake up out of our spiritual slumbers and work while there is still light, for our redemption draws near.

If you claim to be worshipping the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, why do you exclude yourself from His commandments? This feast, God is sounding His shofar, He is calling you. He calls you to repent and turn back to Him. Tomorrow maybe too late.

Today, if you hear His Voice, do not harden your heart. Do not wrestle anymore thinking you know better than our Creator. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. (James 4:6)

*L'shanah tovah
tikatevu ve techatemu!*

"May you and yours be inscribed and sealed
[in the Book of Life] for a good year."



APMF ACTIVITIES

That brought Messianic Communities together

B'NEI B'RITH PROGRAM

The elders/leaders of the Asia-Pacific Messianic Fellowship (APMF) have started contemplating and discussing about a **Bar-Bat Mitzvah (Son-Daughter of the Commandment) program** since as far back as September 2020. We were well within the Pandemic period already during that time. The elders and leaders have expressed the need to have special programs to cater to the very young children and the teens. Among the congregations in fellowship with APMF, HaYesod (The Foundation) program (the 1st edition by FFOZ (First Fruits of Zion)), is quite popular as a program for young adults, young professionals and older, but who are not yet among the leadership. HaYesod teaches the Hebraic Roots of Christianity and helps develop the appreciation, understanding, and love for the God, Scriptures, people, and land of Israel. A few communities have a program for their kids, but for the rest, there was none. Nevertheless, the **Kids Torah Sessions (KTS)** was launched in **April 7, 2021**. HalleluYah! But the details of that program are a subject of another report by someone else.

What's a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

A Bar Mitzvah (son of the commandment) or Bat Mitzvah (daughter of the commandment) ceremony takes place when a young man or young woman reaches the age of 12 or 13. This ceremony is not commanded in scripture but is a tradition in Hebrew culture. When a young man or young woman is ready to decide to follow a path of obedience to the scriptures, it means that he or she desires to become a bar or bat mitzvah. Those students who desire to publicly declare their decision to obey the scriptures typically perform certain tasks, memorize portions of scripture, and learn common traditions and customs prior to the mitzvah ceremony. **(Allen & Allen, MESSIANIC BAR & BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM 2016)**

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TEXTBOOKS
MESSIANIC BAR & BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM
BAR BARAKAH: A PARENT'S GUIDE TO A CHRISTIAN BAR MITZVAH
CRAIG HILL
RESTORING THE WAY MINISTRIES

In July 2020, there have been talks and plans already for an APMF Conference in 2021. And one of the proposed speakers was Yoel Berkowitz. Fast forward, with the grace of God, that conference came into fruition in August 29-30, 2021; more than a year since its first inception. We have requested Yoel to give us a presentation about Bar-Bat Mitzvah. In his session entitled “Teaching the Next Generation Sound Doctrine, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and The use of Social Media”, Yoel discussed the following:

- The Usefulness of Adopting and Adapting the Bar Mitzvah Culture
- Rite of Passage
- Why at ages 12 and 13?
- Bar Mitzvah “A son / disciple of the commandments”
- The function of community and ritual in fostering healthy, happy children and mature adults
- Jewish Tradition and the Importance of Ritual to convey and transmit identity
- How to formulate guidelines for constructing modern, culturally familiar, rites of passage

It was an eye-opening and truly enlightening session! Baruch HaShem YHWH! We got really excited to formulate our own “Rite of passage”. A few of the things that struck us are as follows:

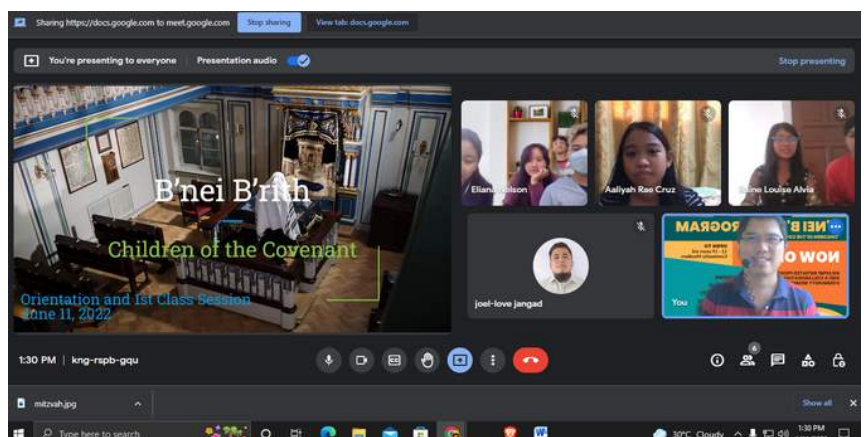
- Going through a Rite of Passage shows one’s desire to grow into maturity as a responsible member of the adult community.
- The commandments serve to aid one’s process of maturing, growing into wisdom and understanding/insight
 - Proverbs 1:4 to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth
 - Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
 - Proverbs 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.
- Should a non-Jewish bar-mitzvah ritual ceremony be practiced “exactly” like a traditional Jewish ceremony of Rabbinic ritual-culture? What about a “Messianic Jewish” bar-mitzvah?
 - If you like it, if it is helpful, if it agrees with Scripture, then do it. If not, then don’t.

Since then, we have sought volunteers from among congregations that are in fellowship with APMF who can join the Bar-Bat Mitzvah committee and can also be among the teachers. It took a while, but in April 24, 2022, a committee meeting has convened. The committee members are as follows:

1. Kuya Joel of Cebu Messianic Community and Eagles Wings Messianic Congregation
2. Kuya Oni of Kehillat Beith Yeshua HaMashiach Mishpocha
3. Kuya Raygee of Emunah Torah Community, Cavite
4. Kuya Alfred of Tagaytay Torah Community
5. Kuya Christopher of Emunah Torah Community, Cavite

Our discussion encompassed the following matters:

1. The descriptions and possible name/s of the program
2. The Biblical bases of the program
3. The textbook/s to be used
 - a. Messianic Bar & Bat Mitzvah Program- 2ND EDITION
 - b. <https://restoringtheway.org/product/messianic-bar-bat-mitzvah-program-2nd-edition/>
 - c. Bar Barakah by Craig Hill
 - i. Family foundations international
4. The courses and teachers
5. The target students and age group
6. The ceremony at the end of the program
7. And many more...



There is a lot to unpack here, but in summary:

The committee considered the socio-cultural context of coming up with a Rite of Passage for the Messianic Communities in the Asia-Pacific Region. The primary, though not exclusive, name that we will use in referring to the program is **B'nei B'rith**, meaning, “**Children of the Covenant**”, to highlight the importance of God’s enduring covenant to His people, whether Jew or non-Jew. We found that the textbooks listed above are sufficient and very helpful and holistic. The primary audience is the individuals from 12 to 19 years old, but we are open to accept young professionals to the program. **The participants from different communities or congregations attend the sessions online using a video conferencing platform called Google Meet. Their lessons include the knowledge and understanding about God, their Father, their identity, the Messianic or Torah lifestyle, and some of the traditions to name a few. They get to read and memorize a lot of Scriptures and reflect on the lessons within their own context, thoughts and behavior.**

We see B'nei B'rith as a course that ideally comes after **KTS**, and before HaYesod. As of now the schedule is for two Saturday nights per month. And at the end of the program, there will be a ceremony similar to a Bar-Bar Mitzvah ceremony, the highlight of which is to call the child to read a portion of the passage during Shabbat and, later on, give his/her commentary or insight about the passage.

Baptism/Immersion may also be included as part of the Rite which may occur before or after the ceremony. It is also encouraged that boys who have not been circumcised yet be circumcised around this time.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact of the above-mentioned committee members.

May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob continue to bless this program and give knowledge, wisdom, and strength to the teachers and facilitators of the program, their students, as well as the parents and community elders and leaders.

Shalom, B'Shem Yeshua HaMashiach

Kuya Joel Cruz, Cebu Messianic Community



APMF ACTIVITIES

That brought Messianic Communities together

KIDS TORAH STUDY

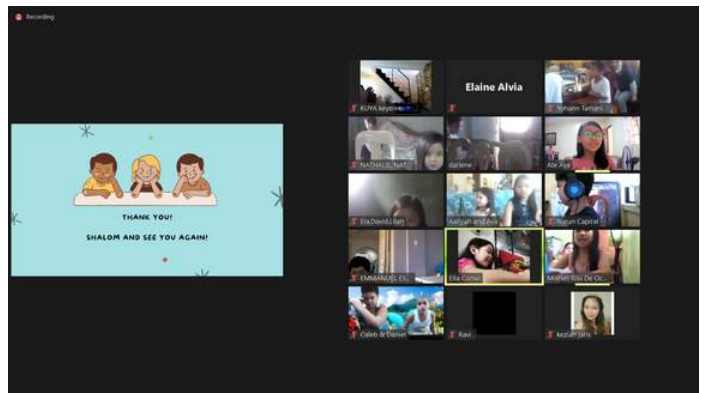
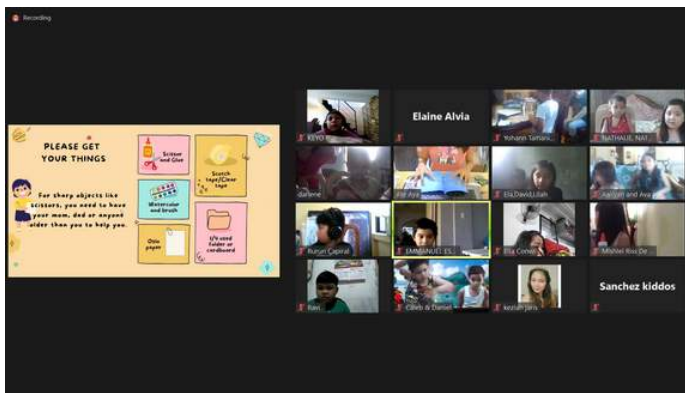
Shalom!

We all know the global COVID-19 pandemic has created a crisis of suffering. During that time, we were thinking about what will happen to our kids. No social life, always at home. **But God turned this suffering into a blessing.** It started when my sister, Jane Madrid with his son, Keyo invited my daughter Mishlei and Dra. Eva's grandson, Emman to a zoom meeting.

From a simple chit chat of kids, exchanging greetings to telling stories to each other, we thought, why not do it again but this time with a Torah lesson.



We are happy to announce that **ETC Cavite** has started our first **"Torah for kids"** for 10 yrs old below. Kids from different Messianic communities were invited too by the help of kuya Raygee Timbol. **KTS officially started last April 09, 2021 as a trial with ate Keziah Jaris Madrid (11 yrs old) as their teacher.** Since it's Pesach/Unleavened bread week, our topic was **"from Passover to Crossover"**. From there, KTS Ministry flourish with the help of Volunteer Teachers from different APMF communities; Emunah Torah Community-Cavite, Baguio City Messianic Community, Cebu City Messianic Community, Tagaytay Torah Community and Eagles Wings Messianic Congregation.



It was a challenge at first since there's no available KTS Teacher to volunteer. Most are working and have a very busy schedule. Baruch haShem, Adonai touched the hearts of these teachers. They committed their time to the Lord. They are a blessing to each one of us, contributing to the spiritual growth of our children. **KIDS TORAH STUDY is teamwork of Messianic teachers, parents and kids.**

We hold our KTS every Sunday via Zoom and Google meet. We have story time where we discuss the Parasha (for that shabbat week), singing time, games, memory verse and the arty party to discover the talent of our kids and help them improve it so eventually they could use it for Adonai's glory! One of the best things about KTS is the strong foundation of our children. KTS is just the beginning. After KTS, B'nei Torah, a Bat-Bar Mitzvah program will follow. It will be a continuous learning of Adonai's Torah. Most importantly, immersing our children in the Torah will protect them from the norms and lies of this world.

If you want your kids to grow and have a solid foundation in the early years of their life, let's encourage them to join KTS.

Let us pray for this ministry and also for our children for they will be the next generation.

Ate Jessica De Ocampo, Head of Kids Torah Study





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

INDONESIA

Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia

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

Bintaro Messianic Congregation

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

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

Central Java Sat 10AM

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

East Java Sat 5PM

Kehilat Mesianik Congregation

JL Wonokromo 7/5, Mojosari,
Kab Mojokerto, East Java
Contact: Judo Nugroho +62-81913224624

South Kalimantan Sat 10AM

Banjarmasin Messianic Congregation

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

North Sulawesi Sat 10AM

Yerushalayim Congregation

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

PAPUA Sat 10AM

El Shaddai Messianic Congregation

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

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation

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

South Korea

Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat meeting at 2PM
F2,16, Gyeongin-ro 940beon-Gil, Bupyeong-gu,
Incheon, 21424, Korea.
Contact: Yehoshua Jo, yehoshuajo@msn.com,
+82-10-5090-5821

Japan

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10AM
4-14-11 Midorigaoka, Taihaku-ku, Sendai-shi,
Miyagi 982
Contact: Takashi Yokoyama +81-22-285-9227,
jmf@bekkoame.ne.jp

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat Service at 1PM R# 301, 3-9-12
Shinmachi Kitaku, Tokyo, Japan 114-0012
Contact: +81-3-3810-8828, yehoshuajo@me.com

New Zealand

Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand

www.messianic.org.nz

Hawkes Bay Kehillah

Nasi: Grame Purdie talmidimak@gmail.com
+64 277101157

Auckland Kehillah

Nasi: Ashok Kumar talmidimak@gmail.com
+64 21 029 08194
PO Box 8654 Havelock North, 4157 NZ (Talmidei
Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand may
not necessarily accept or agree with all the views
expressed in this magazine)

Singapore

The Congregation that Song Lai Hee has founded
"Noahide," a totally false pathway so he is alone
now until Yeshua forms a true Kehillah there. He
lives at Blk 620 Bukit, Batok Central #29-522,
Singapore 650620
Contact: Song Lai Hee +6590027471
laihee@gmail.com

Thailand

Bangkok Messianic House

Shabbat 10:30AM 33/5 Soi Nai-Lert, Wireless rd.
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
Contact: Nobuyuki Ito +66-81-915-6154
nobubosuke77@gmail.com

Philippine APMF Diaspora in Canada

Calgary L'Chaim Bible Fellowship

Shabbat service 4PM 138 Bridlewood Ave. SW
Calgary Alberta, Canada
Contact: Louwell Ogbinar +1 (403)-700-2131
loubinar@yahoo.com; Marvin Mayo
+1(403)-796-7657 marvin.mayo@hotmail.com
www.lechaimbiblefellowship.org

Philippines

APMF Officers Philippines

Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com
Joel Cruz: joel@apmfinc.com
Ted Franco: ted_franco@yahoo.com
Amos Baucas: albaucas@hotmail.com

Member of APMF:

La Trinidad

La Trinidad Bible Congregation (LTBC)

Shabbat Service 10AM Cruz, La Trinidad
PO Box 133, La Trinidad, Benguet 2601
Contact: Amos Baucas (0928) 332 2201
lbaucas@yahoo.com

In Fellowship with APMF

Baguio City

Baguio City Messianic (BCMC)

Shabbat service at 9:30AM
#7 Modesa St., Mines View, Baguio City 2600
Contact: Dave Angiwan dave@apmfinc.com

Ifugao

Banaue Messianic Fellowship

3601 Banaue, Ifugao
Contact: Jose Sarol (0967) 966 3562
clairesarolsarol@gmail.com



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

Cebu

Cebu Messianic Community

Shabbat Service 10AM, 1PM
Contact: Joel Cruz (0922) 822 5327, Imee Cruz
(0922) 851 2454

Bukidnon

Talakag Messianic Fellowship

Talakag Bukidnon, Mindanao
Shabbat gathering 10AM-6PM
Contact: Solomon Buasag (0977) 802 1025 &
(0935) 297 4405, vivsbuasag@yahoo.com

Rizal

Cainta Torah Community

Shabbat Service at 10:30AM
Dayspring Academy Sunset Drive Brookside
Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal 1900
Contact: Willy and Lita Miranda (0939) 325 3000
(0927) 704 8000 willyz_miranda@yahoo.com

Eagles Wings Messianic Congregations

Friday 6:30PM and Saturday 9:30AM
#7 Saratoga St. Park Place Executive Village,
Cainta Rizal
Contact: Jenny Joven (0928) 655 5469 Christy
Cruz (0995) 194 1502
Also Saturday 9AM #450 L Cerrero St. Brgy.
Macamot, Binangonan Rizal
Contact: Tony Arceo (0926) 829 6338

Paranaque City

Eemunah Tabgha Community

Executive Heights, Paranaque City
Contact: Eva Agustin (0917) 896 0995
Shabbat service 10:30AM

Tagaytay

Tagaytay Torah Community

Shabbat Service 10:30AM
Contact: Ning (0919) 984-0878

Davao Oriental

Pujada Community

Yakal St. Barangay Sainz, City of Mati, Davao
Oriental 8200: Saturday 3-6 PM
Contact: Mark Pineda (0918) 353 2549

Lupon Torah Community

Panuncialman St., Purok Hayahay
Brgy. Poblacion Lupon, Davao Oriental
8AM-11:30AM every Shabbat
Contacts: Petronio (Bong) Conte
bongskik04@gmail.com (0907) 731 9723
Alen Kelly Conte billionairealenkelly@gmail.com,
(0917) 162 3763

Greater Manila Area

Cavite

Eemunah Torah Community

Shabbat service 9:30AM
Block 3 Lot 21 Java St., Cybergreen Hills, General
Trias Cavite 4107
Contact: Christopher Madrid (0932) 844 2958
christophermadrid75@gmail.com or
emunahtorahcommunity@gmail.com

Quezon City

Mishpachat Ha'Mashiach Torah Community

Shabbat Service 2-6PM
Bldg. 11 BLPC, Road 3, Quezon City
Contact: Ian Asuncion or Cecilia Agustin
(0918) 573 6838

Mandaluyong City

Metro Strata Learning Center

Shabbat Service 9:30AM
11th Floor 685 Nueve de Pebrero Ave.
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Contact: Tanggol Esquerra (0915) 320 8083

Laguna

Chesed V'Emeth Community

Shabbat Service 12:30PM
Block 11 Lot 36 Calendola Village
San Pedro, Laguna
Contact: Monette Guiruela (0920) 658 3847



PETRAH TIKVAH

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Rochester NY 14623-1348

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