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WELCOME to Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition!!

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

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

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

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

To be included, contact the Publisher.

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

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

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

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

Greetings from Roger

“The Age of Deception” and “The Enemy Within” are two recent books whose titles remind us of the tactics of the enemy, Satan. I constantly pray that all of us will have “discernment” to recognize what Satan is up to in the world, in Israel, in the USA, in APMF and in our personal lives. Satan & Co never let up but relentlessly push on, while our God “never slumbers nor sleeps,” but knows exactly what is going on. To understand, we need a good Bible background to help give us spiritual insights which will never be in any media.

First take a look at the world situation, much of it in an unstable condition because of the virus. Documents have surfaced that show this Pandemic was planned by the “elite” from 2015 to “bring in their New World Order,” to be unleashed in September 2020. A world in chaos is what Satan wants in order to offer his son, the false messiah, to rule and bring order to the world, to bring in “peace and safety.” The world will be deceived and gladly accept him and his mark!!! We will not and not be able to buy or sell. The Great Tribulation began in Acts 7 but now the final blast will occur.....

Next look at **Israel** with an unstable government after 4 inconclusive elections in 2 years. Israelis are divided now into pro-Bibi and anti-Bibi factions. Bibi has done more for Israel than anyone, from Socialism into a Free Market Economy and making peace with several Muslim Arab countries. His problem seems to be that he sees himself as the only one capable to lead Israel and therefore marginalizes any competitors...he does not make disciples as we do. Iran and other enemies of Israel continue to harass but seem afraid to attack.

The enemy within the USA became more obvious with the election of B. Hussein Obama, as people foolishly voted for the first black president, who made it clear he was going to change the USA into a Marxist country. By the Grace of God, He had Donald J Trump elected as President to give us a chance to Repent and come back to Him, but the USA got worse and worse with the LGBTQ agenda, gross abortion and deep hatred. Many betrayed us and Trump in the Nov 3 election, boldly stealing it, ending with “Judas” VP Mike Pence validating the fraudulent delegates, putting the last nail into the coffin of the Republic of the USA. Obama continues to direct Biden & Co into his Marxist agenda. We still pray for a genuine spiritual revival....

Satanic attacks come upon somewhat isolated APMF Kehilot when leaders are influenced by outside sources that claim that they have more accurate information to teach, such as the Sacred Name of God, the Calendar, the Deity of Yeshua and more. Lockdowns increase isolation but many are using the Internet, like Zoom, to meet together. As a result, some who have migrated to other countries into spiritually dry areas are now able to join Bible classes with others, a wonderful new benefit to bring them “back to life again!” A virtual APMF Annual Bible Conference is planned for May, 2021 – please check www.APMFInc.com for more information.

Greetings from Roger

For us personally, Ecclesiastes 12:1 states it well. Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth (we both put our Trust in Yeshua in our teens, and have served Him ever since), before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them." It is true, we have no pleasure in our day by day life like we used to, because of our various afflictions.

Naomi has been an invalid in a wheelchair for 5 years; me for 3 months since I suddenly lost my balance, a mystery that the VA doctors have not solved yet. I think I have been spiritually afflicted, maybe as a test to see how I handle it. My most serious affliction is my eyes. My left eye went out 22 years ago with wet ARMD. My right eye has dry ARMD which is not supposed to more, but mine has been and is now covering part of my central vision, making it very difficult to read. Did God do this, also, to see if I can handle blindness? What about the Bible classes I participate in on Shabbat? What about my "No Bible? No breakfast !" routine? I need fellowship with God in His Word every morning.....

Thankfully, son Ron is next door and has picked up the pieces, doing laundry and fixing breakfast every morning, and some other meals during the day. He also does all the shopping and errands since I can no longer drive. For Nomi, we have had to hire a local caregiver who needed a job. Government "help" is to put Naomi in a facility at big expense, which we had to do for 3 weeks which was psychologically devastating in lockdown with no visitors!! We intend to stay at home until we Graduate.....

Rom also takes care of our 2-bedromm Guest House where friends and students can come to stay for a while, usually for several days of Bible study with us. Thankfully I have published 3 volumes of According to Roger in which Bible students can find answers to many questions, saving me a lot of personal teaching time. All are available on Amazon.com or from me. Some friends come down as snow birds and that is ok, also. We can no longer visit you, so you are welcome to come visit us!!

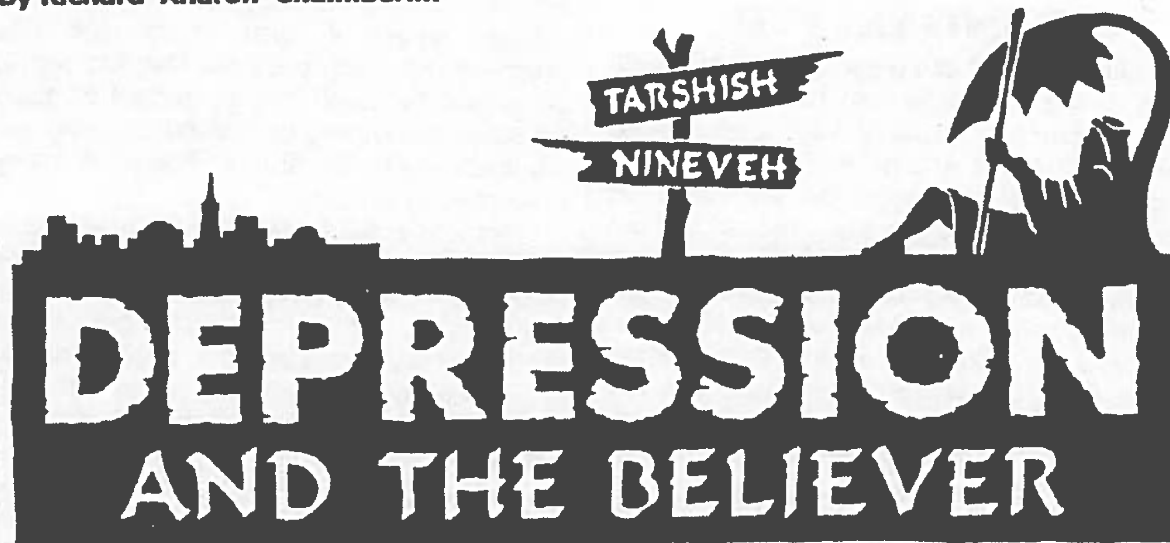
With our love and appreciation,
Roger with Naomi



**ASIA
 PACIFIC
 MESSIANIC
 FELLOWSHIP**

Roger Walkwitz

Founder, Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship



CURIOS TITLE, EH? Everybody knows that Believers don't get depressed, right? Oh, that it were so! Believers today get depressed, and Believers way back yonder in Bible days also got depressed.

The first person in the Bible suffering from depression was Cain. Of course, he was no shining example for us today, but he serves as a case to be studied for the lessons it has for us. We can learn from the errors of others, or we can make our own mistakes and learn from them! The former is a lot less painful!

Cain became jealous when God didn't accept his offering of the produce of the land, but did accept Abel's offering of the firstling of the flock.¹ It's the opinion of many (including myself) that Cain might have been aware of the requirement that a blood sacrifice would have been more pleasing to HaShem.² When his offering was rejected, he could have offered up an animal sacrifice. But instead, he allowed his jealousy to turn to anger. He could have then repented of his anger and gotten right with God.³ But instead he chose to give in to HaSatan, who wants us to sin.⁴ Ultimately, his anger let him to depression.

YHWH said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you must master it."⁵

Cain's "countenance" had fallen. This is one of the tell-tale signs of depression. You know

the look: long face, sad expression. Instead of "doing well" as God instructed him, Cain chose to sin, with the result that he ended up killing his brother Abel. YHWH can (and will) change your circumstances for the better if you obey Him. He can make you to prosper if you walk in obedience to the Book of the Law.⁶ Or you can choose to suffer the curses for disobedience enumerated in Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

Don't ever get the idea that everything always goes great for the Believer, because it doesn't. Yeshua said, "In the world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."⁷ Jeremiah lived at a time when the kingdom of Judah was ruled by wicked kings and had fallen into gross immorality. The wicked kings of Judah contributed greatly to the spiritual decline of the people. Jeremiah suffered so much that he is commonly referred to as the "weeping prophet." He even wrote the book of Lamentations. When you read the books of 2nd Chronicles and Jeremiah's own books, you can see he had good reason to be depressed, because of the awful times that both he and the nation of Judah were experiencing.

One of the chief things that can rob a Believer of joy is sin. Sin is defined in Scripture as follows: "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the Law: for **sin is the transgression of the Law.**"⁸ Our Dispensational friends might like to take note of this. This is the New Testament definition of sin. The New Testament definition of sin remains as it was in the "Old" Testament: **Sin is the transgression of Torah ("the Law").**

¹ B'reisheet (Genesis) 4:1-15).

² "The Name (of God)."

³ 1 Yochanan (John) 1:8-10.

⁴ 1 Peter 5:8.

⁵ B'reisheet 4:6-7.

⁶ Joshua 1:8-9.

⁷ Yochanan (John) 16:33.

⁸ 1 John 3:4.

KING DAVID

King David fell into great sin. It started with him gazing upon a woman bathing. It led to him committing adultery with this married woman. It ended with his having the woman's husband killed to conceal the sin. David did indeed repent of these sins. The original sin that he had thought would bring him much pleasure had instead robbed him of much joy. David sensed a real separation between himself and his God. He prayed, "Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy willing spirit. 13 Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee (Psalm 51)." We have the choice of the joy of a clean conscience, or torment of a guilty conscience.

JOB

Job suffered tremendously. If you don't believe me, read Job chapter 3. He had suffered the loss of all that was dear to him, including his sons and daughters. Lastly, he lost his health. Of course he was depressed! However, when we get to chapter 42, we find that faithful Job had all his fortunes restored, including even more children than he had before! It is a story with a happy ending!



Jonah -

The Reluctant Prophet

One of my favorite depressed people of all time is Jonah. He's the guy you see resting under the plant by the title of this article. Jonah was called by God to preach to Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria, an incredibly cruel and barbaric nation, located roughly in the same area where the modern nation of Iraq exists today. Israel and other nations had suffered horribly at the hands of the Assyrians. Jonah hated them, and who could blame him?

YHWH commanded Jonah to "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me." Jonah

was fearful that the people of Nineveh might actually repent if such a message was preached. He much preferred that the people be judged for their sins, so instead of going eastward to Nineveh, he hopped on a ship going westward to Tarshish, a Phoenician colony in southwestern Spain.

This was about as far away as a Jew could travel in those days. The Phoenicians ruled the high seas. They invented legends of horrible sea monsters and ships falling off the ends of the earth, thus ensuring their near monopoly of long-distance sea voyages would continue. No doubt the ship Jonah climbed aboard was run by Phoenicians. Apparently, Jonah thought he could escape from the God of Israel by going as far away from Israel as possible! As you may know, a tremendous storm arose on his journey across the Mediterranean Sea. The men on the ship felt that someone on board was somehow responsible for the storm. They had all those on board draw lots to find out

who the guilty party was, and discovered it was Jonah. They fired a bunch of questions at him, and then Jonah replied: "I am a Hebrew; and I fear YHWH, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land." The men became even more fearful when they found that Jonah was trying to run away from his God.

Jonah told the men to throw him into the sea, and the sea would become calm again. The men were reluctant to throw Jonah overboard, and tried again to row the ship as best as

they could, but the storm became even worse, so they reluctantly threw Jonah overboard. The storm ceased, and the men on board the ship became the first converts. Rashi claims that these men formally converted to Judaism, including circumcision, and then offered up sacrifices to YHWH.

The book of Jonah is read on the afternoon of Yom Kippur in most synagogues. Yom Kippur is Israel's national day of atonement, when Jews around the world recall how the Kohen HaGadol (High Priest) would pray over the scapegoat, and also enter the Holy of Holies only on Yom Kippur to make atonement for the sins of Israel. Jonah is read as a demonstration of the fact that God also

cares about the other nations of the world, including those on board the ship and the people of Nineveh.

After Jonah was thrown overboard, a great fish swallowed up Jonah, and he lay in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. Bible skeptics have a ball with this one. Legend has it that an atheist approached a young woman evangelizing on the street. He decided to amuse himself at her expense. "Young lady," he said, "Do you believe that Jonah actually spent three days in the belly of a fish?" She replied, "The Bible said it, so I believe it." He roared with laughter, and said, "If he was in the belly of the fish for three days, how did he breathe?" She answered, "I don't know. When I get to heaven, I'll ask him." He said, "What if Jonah isn't in heaven?" She replied, "Then you ask him."

Keep in mind that this was a specially prepared fish (Jonah 1:17). According to the Rabbits, this fish was specially prepared at Creation for its future mission of swallowing Jonah! If modern man can build submarines that can hold a crew for weeks at a time, it seems logical that the Creator can prepare a fish to hold a man for three days. In Matthew 12:40, we read the words of Yeshua: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the great fish's belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." So it is obvious that Yeshua believed the story of Jonah. It should also lay to rest the idea of Yeshua being in the heart of the earth only from Friday night to Sunday morning, because that doesn't translate into three days and three nights.

It took three days in the belly of the great fish before Jonah repented, and the great fish vomited Jonah onto the land. Then YHWH commanded Jonah again to go to Nineveh, and this time Jonah agreed to go. It was a huge city, about 55 miles (89 kilometers) in circumference according to Diodorus Siculus, or a three day walk around it, according to Jonah 3:3. Jonah's message to the Ninevites was simple: **"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."** He didn't preach to them about repentance or anything else. However, the people of Nineveh repented in sackcloth and ashes and fastings. The king of Nineveh said, "Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"

When God saw that they turned away from their wickedness, He relented concerning the destruction that He had declared would come upon Nineveh.

This, of course, greatly displeased Jonah, who eagerly awaited the destruction of Nineveh. At this point, Jonah became very depressed, in which would perhaps be called clinical depression. He prayed to YHWH, saying, "I pray thee, O YHWH, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish, for I knew that Thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and relents concerning calamity. 3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live."

Jonah had a real pity party for himself, because the people repented and the judgment upon Nineveh was spared. Perhaps most exasperating, it was his preaching that led to the Ninevites repenting. God's mercy is great to all who will repent and call upon Him. While this was a hard lesson for Jonah, it can be a great source of comfort to us today.

Depression can be debilitating. Those who suffer from it experience sluggishness. Some attempt suicide. Women attempt suicide more often than men, but the men are more often "successful" at it. Suicide has become the second leading cause of death among teenagers in America. People are often driven to suicide by psychic pain (painful thinking). Their lives are filled with pessimism, self-destructive thought patterns, anxiety, and tension.

According to Dr. Joel Ehrlich, a clinical psychologist and former Messianic pastor, "Depression occurs among believers because the body is weak and chooses what it wants to believe rather than believing the whole Word of God. People treat the Word like a buffet, and say, 'I like this, I don't like that.' When people choose what they want to believe, they eliminate most of the power of God."

To overcome depression, real spiritual warfare must be fought. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. 16 Above all, take up the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery

darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and alert with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."⁹

The spirit world is more real than the physical world we see around us, because the spirit world is eternal, whereas the physical world is all temporal, including our bodies, homes, and nearly everything we can sense with our physical senses. Jacob (James) 4:7-8 tells us: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded."

Causes of Depression:

LOOSE COMMITMENT. Some say that they have made Yeshua their Savior. But they obviously haven't made Him their Lord (Master). They are prone to walk according to their feelings and senses rather than the Word of God.

FAMILIAR SPIRITS. Some of these seem to be hereditary, and the curse must be broken. They know your habits and weaknesses. They seek to destroy families, marriages, jobs, health, and particularly your relationship to YHWH.

SIN. (1 John 3:4.) Sin allows HaSatan to gain dominion over you. We must confess, repent, and put away sin. Daily reading of the Scriptures can help us to identify sin in our lives. This can be painful to discover, but ultimately will benefit us spiritually and well as emotionally as we put away sin.

CONCERNS OF THE WORLD. Remember the seed that was scattered among the thorns?¹⁰ The seed sprouted up, but was choked by the thorns. Many receive the Word gladly, but the cares (and temptations) of this world choke the Word from them, and rob them of joy.

To this, I would add, **TRAGEDIES AND DISASTERS.** There are legitimate causes for depression. However, take heed to Yeshua, who said, "In the world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."¹¹ The writer of Psalm 34:19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but YHWH delivers him out of them all." There are transient "down" periods which everyone ex-

periences through normal mood swings and as a result of events transpiring around them. They cannot be compared to the debilitating depression which is a disease of the spirit which eventually strains the body and its organs, causing everything from headaches and sleepless nights to cancer and heart disease.

Cures for Depression:

REJOICE. We are commanded to rejoice according to the Torah given to us by Moses in Deuteronomy 12:7 & 12, as well as many other places. Philippians 4:4 & 7 tells us, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice... 7 And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Messiah Yeshua."

BE CONSISTENT FOR YESHUA. "No man can serve two masters..."¹² We will be like the "wave upon the ocean" if we are inconsistent, according to Jacob (James) 1:6. Inconsistent believers ride a spiritual and emotional roller coaster, which huge mood swings, some spiritual peaks, and great spiritual valleys.

WALK IN THE SPIRIT. The fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) are ours if we remain obedient to Him and are sensitive to the leading of His Spirit.¹³ Anyone walking contrary to Torah isn't being led of the Spirit, because it is God's Spirit that enables us to walk in obedience to Torah.¹⁴

MAKE FRIENDS. I don't have a Bible verse for this one. In order to make friends, you have to be a friend. While YHWH is a friend that "sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24)," we need companionship of a more earthly kind as well. I am also a great advocate of pets, which have also improved the emotional health of many.

MEDICINE. We are not opposed to medicine (including herbal) where needed. Some depressions may be a result of a hormonal imbalance. We should also have a **proper diet and exercise.**

ACCEPT YESHUA AS YOUR SAVIOR (if you haven't already done so). Recognize that He has paid the eternal penalties for your sins, and ask Him to live in you. I can tell you that this has brought great fulfillment and peace to yours truly. n

Artwork by Kristin Volck. Toda raba!

⁹ Ephesians 6:10-18.

¹⁰ Matthew 13:7, 22.

¹¹ Yochanan (John) 16:33.

¹² Matthew 6:24-25.

¹³ Galatians 5:16-26.

¹⁴ Ezekiel 36:26-27; Acts 5:32.

Many Orthodox rabbis believe that the original language of mankind was Hebrew. Whether it was Hebrew or not, at one time there was only one language, which would have been the language spoken by Noah and family. Zephaniah 3:8-9 indicates that Hebrew might also be the language of all nations in the future.

In Genesis 11:1, we read, "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech." The word used for "language" in this chapter is **נֹפֶת** (safat), which also means **lip** or **shoreline**. The more common word for "language" is **לָשׁוֹן** (lashon), which in Hebrew also means "tongue," the organ that enables you to speak and move the food around in your mouth. And of course, it also means "language." In Hebrew, when you say that someone speaks in **tongues**, it means that you are talking about someone who speaks more than one language.

In just a few generations after the Great Flood, we read that the people sought to build a tower in Shinar that would "reach into heaven." God was very displeased with their efforts. This tower is commonly called "the tower of Babylon." The Hebrew word for Babylon is **Bavel**, which means "confusion." God said, "Come, let Us¹ go down there and confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech (Gen. 11:7)."

The Rabbis tell us that the original language was then split into seventy languages. In Hebrew, you would say that they spoke in "tongues," although I doubt that they were Pentecostals! Thereafter, the people scattered from Shinar to eventually populate the world. There are various tidbits of Hebrew which have filtered into various languages. For instance, the Polynesian islanders had a high priest called the great **kahuna**, which is the Hebrew word for "high priest." The Polynesians were also the original surfers. When surfing was brought to America, it was common to call the top surfer "the great **kahuna**." The Hebrew word **sak** (סַק) is **sack** in English. Many other Hebrew words are in common usage in languages throughout the world.

When we come to Exodus 19:18-19, we read "And Mount Sinai was all in smoke, because YHWH descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of

Tongues

Richard Aharon
Chaimberlin

a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.¹⁹ And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him with **kol**." The word **kol** is a

Hebrew word, often translated as "thunder" or "voice." According to much of Rabbinic Judaism, this "voice" broke up into all seventy of the languages of the ancient world. The "Ten Words (or Sayings)," from the Hebrew **Aseret HaD'varim** are normally translated as "Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28)." This means that the Ten Commandments were meant for the entire world. When God spoke these commandments in seventy different languages, He was speaking in "tongues."

On Shavuot (Pentecost) about 1500 years later, a similar event happened, described in Acts chapter 2. The events described in this chapter happened at the **Belt HaMikdash** (Temple) in Jerusalem. This was the place of **mikra kodesh** (holy convocation) that Jews were commanded to go to on Shavuot, per Deut. 16:16. Yeshua's **talmidim** (disciples) remained observant Jews. "And they were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit was giving them utterance (Acts 2:4)." The words that they shared remains a mystery. However, I would assume that they were sharing the Good News of their beloved Messiah Yeshua.

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.⁷ And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? ⁸And how is it that **we hear them in our own tongue**, wherein we were born?"

Yeshua's talmidim were supernaturally speaking the actual languages of Jews coming from many nations to Jerusalem for this very important pilgrimage festival. Just as the Ten Commandments were given in many different tongues, so too was the Good News given in many tongues. They weren't speaking in "unknown tongues." Then Shimon Kefa (Peter) taught from the book of Joel and from Psalms, totally from memory. Thousands of Jews believed the message that Peter gave. Three thousand were immersed that day (2:41). The Temple Mount was the only place where mass immersions could take place in the many mikveh baths located there.

¹ Curiously, God used a plural pronoun when referring to Himself, as in Genesis 1:26. This may be an expression of compound unity.

Question: Why do you keep the Old Testament Saturday Sabbath? "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Galatians 4:10-11). Romans 14:5 says "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Sounds to me like it's okay to keep any day we please as the Sabbath, or to keep no day as the Sabbath. I've heard of pastors who keep Monday as their Sabbath, and doctors who keep Thursday as their Sabbath. Colossians 2:16 says "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days." You seem to be judging Christians who don't keep the Sabbath.

Answer: I keep the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath because that is the day God specified in the Ten Commandments. The seventh day is the Sabbath, and the Sabbath is the seventh day.

Christians usually appeal to Paul's Epistles as justification for disobeying the Sabbath command. This is somewhat curious, because the word "sabbath" appears *only one time* in all of Paul's Epistles, and nowhere in the Epistles written by the other Apostles - except for Hebrews 4:9, which says in the Greek that "there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God." Yet Christians think the Apostles changed the seventh-day Sabbath to Sunday, or altogether abolished the Sabbath.

People assume that in Galatians 4:10f Paul was scolding the Galatians for keeping the Sabbath and holy days, but that is an erroneous assumption. Paul himself kept the Sabbath and holy days and dietary laws. For proof of this, see Acts 18:21, 20:16, 21:24, 25:8, 28:17, and 1 Corinthians 5:8. If Paul had been scolding the Galatians for observing the Biblical Sabbath and holy days that he himself observed, he would have been a hypocrite. The previous two verses (vss. 8 & 9) show that Paul was scolding the Galatians for reverting back to their former observance of *pagan superstitions* that they had practiced *before they knew God*. Paul was not scolding them for observing *God's* appointed times, but for observing *pagan* times. He was reminding them that the Torah forbids "observing of [pagan] times" (Lev. 19:26 & Deut. 18:10f).

Romans 14:5, like Galatians 4:10f, is erroneously assumed to be talking about Sabbath keeping. This erroneous interpretation is based on the erroneous assumption that the only possible way to "esteem one day above another" is by keeping the "esteemed" day as the Sabbath. However, we know from the Bible that the Jews esteemed certain days on the calendar by fast-

ing, in memory of sad events that happened on those days. (See Zechariah 7:5f.)

To this day, traditional days for fasting are still marked on Jewish calendars: the fast of Gedaliah, the fast of the seige of Jerusalem, the fast of Esther, the fast of the 17th of Tammuz, the fast of the 9th of Av.

None of those fast days were commanded by God, but disciples of Yeshua were (and are) free to "esteem" such days by fasting, or to "esteem them not" by eating on those days. The very next verse shows that this is exactly what Paul was talking about when he said we are free to esteem (iregard) certain days by fasting, or to not esteem them (not regard them) by eating:

"He that regardeth the day [by fasting], regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day [by not fasting], to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks" (Rom. 14:6).

The first time (and the only time, except for Hebrews 4:9) the Sabbath is mentioned in any of the Epistles is in Colossians 2:16. What does Colossians 2:16 mean?

"It means what it says," some Christians say. Of course. Any statement means what it says, especially statements in the Bible. But to correctly understand the meaning of a verse, we must avoid reading something into it that is not there. We have to consider what the verse does *not* say and what it does *not* mean. Colossians 2:16 does *not* say that the Sabbath, feast days, and dietary laws are abolished or unimportant. It simply says to not let *men* judge you if you do not observe them *according to man-made rules and regulations*. The proof of this is in the context, where we see the words "man/men" used six times:

"...lest any **man** should beguile you with enticing words" (2:4) "Beware lest any **man** spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of **men**" (2:8) "Let no man therefore judge you" (2:16) "Let no **man** beguile you" (2:18) "...why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances (Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using) after the commandments and doctrines of **men**?" (2:20-22).


Keeping the Sabbath holy is not a doctrine or tradition of **men**; it is a commandment of **God**.

The Pharisees had hundreds of nitpicky rules that they established to dictate exactly how the Sabbath should be kept. Orthodox Jews today still follow these man-made rules. But disciples of Yeshua are not obligated to keep all the rabbi's man-made rules. However, God does expect us to keep His commandments the way He tells us to in the Bible. - *Daniel Botkin*

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

**"A STICKY
 SABBATH
 QUESTION"**

HEBREWS 8:6 SAYS THE NEW COVENANT IS "A BETTER COVENANT" THAN THE OLD COVENANT! LET ME EXPLAIN IT THIS WAY: IN NUMBERS 15, A MAN WAS STONED TO DEATH FOR PICKING UP STICKS ON THE SABBATH! IF MOSES AND AARON HAD KNOWN ABOUT THE *NEW* COVENANT, THINGS WOULD'VE TURNED OUT MUCH DIFFERENT ...




MOSES, WE FOUND THIS MAN GATHERING STICKS ON THE SABBATH!

WELL, BROTHER, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?




I WASN'T PROFANING THE SABBATH! SEE, I START *MY* WORK WEEK ON *MONDAYS*, SO I KEEP *MY* SABBATH ON *SUNDAY*! I KNOW OF SOME PHYSICIANS IN THE CAMP WHO TAKE *THURSDAY* OFF WORK FOR *THEIR* SABBATH!



SHALL WE STONE HIM, MOSES?


NAH, LET'S NOT GET LEGALISTIC! LET'S JUST LET EVERY INDIVIDUAL DECIDE FOR HIMSELF WHICH DAY TO USE AS *HIS* PERSONAL SABBATH!



LET NO MAN THEREFORE JUDGE YOU IN RESPECT OF A SABBATH!

ONE MAN ESTEEMETH ONE DAY ABOVE ANOTHER, ANOTHER ESTEEMETH EVERY DAY ALIKE! LET EVERY MAN BE FULLY PERSUADED IN HIS OWN MIND!

GO AHEAD AND FINISH GATHERING YOUR STICKS, BROTHER!



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

Whatever happened to the Aron Kodesh (the Ark of the Covenant)? Moshe (Moses) was given specific instructions by God

'ugly' to God. However, when the blood of Yeshua is applied, we become beautiful in His eyes, as He no longer sees our sins.

Whatever Happened to the Ark of the Covenant?

Richard "Aharon" Chaimberlin

Himself as to the construction of the Ark in Exodus 25:10-24. Also, Moshe was given very specific instructions regarding the Mishkan (Tabernacle), the Table of Showbread, and the Temple Menorah. According to Hebrews 9:11&24, the earthly Tabernacle was to be a replica of the Heavenly Tabernacle. As Yeshua said in what is called The Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is done in Heaven." Someday there will be a Messianic Kingdom in which Messiah Yeshua shall reign from Jerusalem. God's eternal Torah will be the Law of this worldwide Kingdom. God was therefore instructing Moshe to construct the Earthly Mishkan after the blueprint of the Heavenly Tabernacle.

The construction of this Tabernacle might be boring to anybody except an architect, with all of the various measurements, materials, and construction. However, it was important to God, and therefore important to Moshe and to those constructing the Ark. There will also be a rebuilt Beit HaMikdash (Temple). You can read all about it in Ezekiel 40-48. It will also be built according to God's instructions.

In Exodus 25:10-22, we read about the measurements, materials, and construction of the Ark. It was a relatively small box for such an important purpose, 2 ½ cubits long, 1 ½ cubits wide, and 1 ½ cubits high. The Biblical cubit was at least 18 inches, perhaps about 19 inches. We are talking about a box less than 4 feet long and about 2¼ feet wide and high. It was constructed with **shittim** (acacia wood), which is from the acacia tree which is one of the very few trees that can grow in the desert. These trees can basically "shut down" during times of extreme drought, and appear to be dead, and then spring back to life when the rare rains appear.

Acacia wood today is sometimes used for kitchen counters. When a very sharp electric saw is used to cut it, and it is polished and shined, it can be very attractive. However, the plain acacia wood that was used to make the Ark would have been very unattractive and rough. Then it was overlaid with gold, making a very ugly box into something beautiful. In like manner, our sins make us appear as very

ubs" of folklore.

In Genesis 3:24, we read that God "stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword" to guard Gan Eden (the Garden of Eden) after casting out Adam and Chava ("Eve"). The cherubim were mighty angels, not the childish angels of folklore. Keep in mind that most angels in the Bible did not have wings. The cherubim and seraphim were the exceptions. Most angels looked like ordinary men. There may also be female angels, but if so, we don't see any female angels in the Bible.

Inside the Ark were the Tablets of the Law ("Ten Commandments"), as well as a golden bowl carrying a sample of the manna that had fed the Israelites for 40 years, and also Aaron's rod that budded (Hebrews 9:4). However, when King Solomon was on the throne, we read that only the two tablets of stone were in the Ark (1 Kings 8:9).

The Ark was carried about with poles inserted into rings mounted on the sides of the Ark, which is how it was carried around for almost 40 years when the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness. Moshe died before the Israelites were to enter the Promised Land. However, before his death, he had anointed Joshua to lead the Israelites as his replacement.

When the Israelites arrived at the Jordan River, the kohanim ("priests") were carrying the Ark by holding the poles. When the kohanim dipped their feet into the Jordan River, the waters of the river stood up in a heap, providing dry ground for the Israelites to cross over, as you can read in Joshua 3:14-17.

When they came to the city of Jericho, they were ordered to march around the city once every day for six days (Joshua 6) while carrying the Ark of the Covenant. On the seventh day, the kohanim marched around Jericho seven times. Then they were to shout and blow on seven shofars. This sounds like a disastrous battle plan. I wonder if the Israelites were wishing for Moshe instead of Joshua to lead the Israelites at this time!

However, as you may know, at the time that they blew the shofar, the walls of Jericho came down, and the Israelites marched in.

Above the Ark were mounted two golden cherubim. No, they were not the naked child angels with tiny wings like the "cher-

These were not ordinary walls like we see today. People had built houses into the walls, much as was the case with Rahab (Joshua 2:13). The top of the wall was a two-lane highway for chariots and pedestrians, as we see in Joel 2:5-9. These walls would have been perhaps 20 feet wide, as was typical of city walls in those days. If the walls had merely fallen over flat against the ground, they would still have been a significant 20-foot barrier to the Israelites seeking to enter the city. No, these walls did not fall over sideways. These walls fell straight down into the ground, and the Israelites were able to scamper across the tops of the walls as on flat ground.

We see an interesting episode in 1 Samuel 5 in which the Philistines had captured the Ark of the Covenant, and placed it in their Temple of Dagon, right next to Dagon. Dagon was the fish deity, and the priests of Dagon had these neat hats that looked like fish. You might have seen similar hats on popes and bishops.

Capturing the Ark, and placing it in a pagan temple was displeasing to YHWH, so He ravished them with hemorrhoids! You can read about it in 1 Samuel 5:6,9, & 12 (KJV). You might find this humorous, but having suffered from bouts of hemorrhoids in the past, I am slightly more sympathetic.

In chapter 6, they discovered that they had offended YHWH, which is the reason for their suffering. They decide to return the Ark, along with a guilt offering of 5 golden mice and 5 golden hemorrhoids in a box at the side of the Ark, and put the Ark on a cart pulled along by two cows, returning the Ark to the Israelites.

After the time of Solomon, we don't read about the Ark anymore, except in prophecy. What happened to it? There are various theories. In the Apocrypha,¹ there are two different scenarios. In 1 Esdras 1:54, we find that the Ark was taken to Babylon.

However, in 2 Maccabees 2:4-7, we read that Jeremiah the prophet "gave orders for the Ark to go with him when he set out for the mountain which Moses had climbed to survey God's heritage (Mount Pisgah). On his arrival, Jeremiah found a cave dwelling, into which he brought the Ark and the altar of incense, afterward blocking up the entrance. Some of his companions came up to mark the way out, but were unable to find it. When Jeremiah learned of this, he reproached them, saying, 'The place is to remain unknown, until God gathers His people together again and shows them His mercy.'" That's very interesting! The Jews are back in the Land today! Perhaps the Ark might be discovered soon! But in Jordan?

There is another option for the location of the Ark. According to this theory, Menelik, the son of the Queen of Sheba, had a replica of the Ark built. He secretly removed the real Ark, and put the counterfeit Ark into the Holy of Holies in the Temple. Then he brought the real Ark to Ethiopia, where it remains to this day in the Maryam Tsiyon Church, which is owned by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians. In January 2021, this church was attacked by Ethiopian government troops, as well as Amhara militia, killing as many as 750 Christians. However, the location of the Ark was not invaded. The Ark is supposedly housed in the Chapel of the Tablet located in the church complex. It is hidden from view. Only one priest is allowed inside this chapel.

Lastly, I happen to have a copy of a letter dated June 13, 1993 (24 Sivan 5793) written by Rabbi Mayer Yehuda Getz of blessed memory. Rabbi Getz was the Rabbi of the Western Wall (Kotel) at the time. The letter was written to Mr. T.F. Green in Cromer, NSW, Australia. In the letter, Rabbi Getz wrote, "I can confirm you that we know the location of the Ark of the Covenant, but, as you can understand it, this subject is very delicate, and we are not interested at all to diffuse everywhere this information."

According to Maimonides (also known as Rambam), in his laws of the Temple, the Ark is hidden under the Temple Mount. There are some rabbis who claim to know where this secret chamber is located.

The movie **Raiders of the Lost Ark** is a terrific movie, very entertaining. As far as I know, the Ark was never, ever hidden in Egypt. But if you have never seen this movie, I recommend it. However, it is pure fiction.



¹ The Apocrypha contains books written in the Inter-Testamental period, after the Tanakh (OT) was written, but before the Newer Testament was written. Generally, the Apocrypha is found in Catholic Bibles, and not found in Jewish or Protestant Bibles. However, the books in the Apocrypha are all good Jewish books, although I would not consider them Scripture.

When religion ruled, the Western World went dark. When the Word of God reappeared, nations arose to create the most advanced civilizations ever. This is the story.

In the year 393 A.D., devout men of God studied the many manuscripts circulating among the churches. They were separating those writings they could certify as genuinely written by the original apostles of Yeshua from the unverifiable manuscripts. Only 27 books would be included in the New Testament. Certainly, much research and prayer went into making such momentous historical decisions.

Even before the New Testament was formally completed as a book, Emperor Constantine had ordered 50 Greek Bibles to be distributed to the various growing churches in Constantinople, his capital. For a short time, the Word of God in Latin and Greek spread rapidly. But when the Roman Empire collapsed (476 A.D.), and the Church took over the government, everything began to change.

A secular *Huffington Post* journalist noted,

"Wouldn't you assume that the newly established Church [by Emperor Constantine] would want its devotees to immerse themselves in the sanctioned New Testament, especially since the Church went to great lengths to eliminate competing Gospels? And wouldn't the best way of spreading the 'good news' be to ensure that every Christian had direct access to the Bible?"¹

That's not what happened. The Church actually discouraged the populace from reading the Bible on their own – a policy that intensified through the Middle Ages and later, with the addition of a prohibition forbidding translation of the Bible into native languages.¹

Other events kicked in that inadvertently slowed the copying of the Bible for the Christian world. Rome divided into two empires, with Rome and Constantinople the two capitals. The overthrow of Rome was not far behind. Latin faded away, replaced by many local European languages. In the Eastern part, known as the Byzantine Empire, Greek became the official language of the elite – but there, too, were many other local languages spoken by the masses.

Bibles continued to be handwritten in Latin and Greek. But most citizens could not read either language. Generally speaking, only highly educated officials and the rich were literate.

Over the centuries, the Roman Catholic Church didn't promote schooling even among their monks. That meant there was a dearth of educated religious scholars. These poorly edu-

cated monks were left to copy the Scriptures in Latin even if they weren't fluent in the language.

"Interestingly, the Christian theologians that did have enormous influence on Christian culture such as Augustine, Jerome, Tertullian and later on Wycliffe, were all highly educated in universities *before* they became monks." (This fact is a lesson for now, as today's universities churn out mostly godless professors, politicians and intellectuals. Education matters – for good or for evil.)²

EDUCATION FOR THE RICH ONLY

During the darkest of the Dark Ages, there were no schools for the poor; however, there was education in many cities and towns for the children of the rich. Oxford and Cambridge grew into universities before 900 A.D.; in 1320 there were 30,000 students at Oxford! Universities existed in Italy, France and Germany – all of which taught

Latin.

By the late Middle Ages, production of both religious and secular texts passed to professional copyists. Booksellers placed shops near the universities and cathedral schools, and so the book trade blossomed. Of course, because most people in the Middle Ages were illiterate, picture Bibles full of wonderful illustrations became popular.

Because of the huge size of complete Bibles, they were divided into several volumes, and each was very costly. Only the rich, cathedrals and universities could afford them. Since so few could read, and since Bibles were incredibly expensive, the Catholic authorities had comfortably come to the conclusion that their parishioners really had little need for the Scriptures themselves. This deprivation would then become law.

STARVING THE SHEEP

So it was for 1,000 years, that the Roman Catholic authorities, with their popes and their councils forcibly took the Word of God from the sheep for which they had responsibility. In doing this, Roman Catholics (who condemned the Jews for their behavior historically) proved that the actions of the Jewish leaders – control and corruption – were simply human nature. The Roman Catholics were committing exactly the same sin that Jeremiah the prophet had accused the Jewish leaders of in bygone times.

As the centuries passed, the domination and control over the people of Europe and everywhere the Church ruled became more extreme. To translate the Bible into one of the local languages became a crime that could cost a scholar his life – by the sword of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Bloody Battle to Liberate the Word of God

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

Decree of the Council of Toulouse (1229 C.E.): "We prohibit also that the laity should be permitted to have the books of the Old or New Testament; but we most strictly forbid their having any translation of these books."

Ruling of the Council of Tarragona of 1234 C.E.: "No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments in the Romance language, and if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days after promulgation of this decree, so that they may be burned..."

With the Word of God forcibly seized from citizens by the authorities with strict regulations to eliminate "heretics," and forbidding the translation of the Bible into the peoples' mother tongues, sin conquered the Church, starting with the leaders and ending with the Christian world.

A COURAGEOUS VOICE ARISES

But there was always an underground stirring and yearning to read the Bible. Many attempts were made to translate the Bible into different languages, but the translators were caught by the Church and punished as heretics. Even in the 10th century, a Bible scholar who actually managed to remain anonymous dared to put the Gospels into English. But he could only circulate it privately because it was forbidden throughout Christendom.

Still others in different European countries tried secretly to translate portions of the Bible. Peter Waldo commissioned a translation in France until the Church excommunicated him in 1184. His followers, called Waldensians, branched out all over Europe and waged an underground campaign to get the Bible to the people. For centuries, the Church launched an endless inquisition to stop their preaching and handing out Bibles; the group was nearly annihilated in the 17th century.

But some had escaped to Italy, France, Spain and Germany. Influenced by them, citizens of these countries joined together in the 13th and 14th centuries to demand complete Bibles in their own languages.

And as Providence would have it, the vernacular languages in Europe now had enough fluidity, precision, breadth of word choice and beauty to support great and memorable versions of Scripture in the people's native languages.³

JOHN WYCLIFFE 1328 – 1384

On the stage appeared a great revolutionary named John Wycliffe, whose central doctrine was, "Every Christian ought to study this book because it is the whole truth!" He was a professor and theologian from Oxford University and the first to translate the New Testament into English to "... helpeth Christian men to study the Gospel in that tongue in which they know best

Christ's sentence."

The Church condemned Wycliffe, but Oxford University shielded him from arrest. He also lashed out against the power and riches of the Church establishment and became a very popular leader at Oxford. As a renowned theologian, he was called in to advise parliament in its negotiations with the pope.

This was a world in which the Church was all-powerful, and the more contact Wycliffe had with Rome, the more indignant he became. The papacy, he believed, reeked of corruption and self-interest and he was determined to do something about it.

Wycliffe firmly believed the Bible should be available to everybody. *He saw literacy as the key to the emancipation of the poor.* Ordinary people, who neither spoke Latin nor were able to read, could only learn about their faith from the clergy, who obviously had their own agenda.

Inevitably, because of pressure from the papacy, he was condemned by the archbishop of Canterbury and was fired from Oxford. However, his conviction of the authority of the Bible rather than the pope stirred great controversy.

He continued with the translation of the whole Bible into English, and though he died three years later, his group of scholars finished the entire Bible in 1395. Despite the church's efforts to suppress the Bibles, the common people were at last beginning to have an opportunity to read God's Word.

For this "heresy" Wycliffe was posthumously condemned by Arundel, the archbishop of Canterbury. By the Council's decree "Wycliffe's bones were exhumed and publicly burned, and the ashes were thrown into the Swift River."

JAN HUS 1372 – 1415

At the same time, there were already other educated men of God rising up in different areas of Europe, demanding that the people receive a Bible in their own language. They paid with their lives. Jan Hus was a Czech theologian from the University in Prague. He is considered the second church reformer after John Wycliffe. He was ordained and became a preacher in Bohemia.

But the big change he underwent was when he discovered the Bible. He testified that he left behind stupidity and foolishness "when the Lord gave me knowledge of Scriptures."

The writings of John Wycliffe had stirred his interest in the Bible. He wanted to place more emphasis on the Bible. Becoming a reformer, he proposed expanding the authority of local church councils – which meant lessening that of the pope! He felt driven to clean up the moral decay of the clergy. He began preaching such ideas as trusting in the Scriptures, "desiring to hold, believe, and assert whatever is contained in them as long as I have breath in me."

Meanwhile, there were three elected popes,

each claiming they were the legitimate pontiff. One of the three popes excommunicated Hus and forbade him to preach. Seeing the utter moral decadence of the papacy, including the accursed indulgences trafficked by the popes to fill their treasury, Hus leaned even more heavily on the Bible which he proclaimed the final authority for the Church.

He spent two years feverishly composing a number of treatises, one of which was called, "The Church." In it he argued that "Christ alone is head of the church...and to rebel against an erring pope is to obey Christ."

In November 1414, the Council of Constance assembled, and he was brought before a kangaroo court which sentenced him to death. His response was, "I appeal to Jesus Christ, the only judge who is almighty and completely just. In his hands I plead my cause, not on the basis of false witnesses and erring councils, but on truth and justice."

He was burned at the stake in 1415, his ashes tossed into a lake so that nothing would remain of the "heretic." Out of those ashes arose a strong Bible-based movement, the Moravian Brethren, who sent out many hundreds of missionaries around the world and played an influential role in the conversion of the Wesley brothers, among others. In fact, the Moravian missionaries were the first large-scale Protestant missionary movement, and it still remains a denomination today.

GUTENBERG PRESS 1450

In the fullness of time, the greatest tool for spreading the Word of God since the Bible was written was invented. It surely was a gift the angels in heaven had been waiting for! The Gutenberg printing press went into operation in the year 1450. Within four years, the first Bible was printed. It was none other than the Vulgate Roman Catholic Bible in Latin – because still, it was only the rich and elite who could read, and the Vulgate was the only Bible widely known. But the Gutenberg printing press brought one of the greatest shifts for all mankind. It was the catalyst that birthed a renewal of true faith in God, the advancement of education and unprecedented prosperity.

The printing press would quickly become the Catholic Church's greatest enemy, because soon Bibles were being printed much faster than the Church could burn them. Nevertheless, it also became a catalyst in the Roman Catholic Church itself, whether desired or not, to slowly break the chains of imprisonment of the Bible to its own members. But the war over the free usage of the Word of God in many languages was far from over.

The same struggle continues in modern Israel where very few of God's chosen people have access to the Word of God in a language they

can understand. Today, you can help bring a new life-giving, readable Bible in Hebrew to the Israeli people. In it, they will have the opportunity to become aware of the depths of God's love for them, as revealed in His own Word.

You can quote me.

תוֹעֵבָה tow'evah {to-ay-vaw'} or to'evah

- 1) a disgusting thing; abhorrent; shameful, detestable action/thing
- 2) ritual sense: unclean food, idols, mixed marriages
- 3) ethical sense: wickedness, evil

(Check out Strong's Concordance, #8441)

Proverbs 28:9:

"He who turns his ear away from hearing TORAH (the Law), even his prayer shall be an ABOMINATION (תוֹעֵבָה)."

According to Scripture, the prayers of people who will not hear/obey Torah are abomination.

Submitted by Myrl Allinder



Featured Community:
Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

For this issue of Petah Tikvah, we will feature the Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia. Our brother in faith in the Messiah, Yehoshua Jo shares his and the congregation's testimony and experiences. Let us read the interesting and wonderful story from our brothers and sisters in South Korea:



Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia in South Korea

I went to Japan in 1994 as a Christian missionary with my family, but I came back to Korea as a Messianic leader and Torah instructor in 2014 along with my wife. My daughters and granddaughters are living in Tokyo, and we have Shabbat Service on line. Our Shabbat Service starts on 2:00 pm. In Korea Service attendees are three persons including me and two families are joined with us on line. At the same time in Japan my daughters and granddaughters are attending the Service on line. On the other hand, I have been sending my parashah notes in Japanese every Friday to Japanese believers for their Torah study on Saturday.

The reason I decided to back to Korea is that one mission group invited me to teach Torah. I expected that it would be a good opportunity to make a way to wake Korean christians toward the truth of Torah. Until now I have been translated Tim Hegg's commentaries (Hebrews and Romans, and half of Matthew are completed) for my teaching, because I thought some day these textbooks would be very helpful.

Since I have been studied theology at the Japanese seminary and ordained as a pastor in Japan before I came to be a messianic believer, I have no any connection with Korean pastors or leaders of churches. Sometimes, it makes me to difficult to join with Korean christian leaders. Or it makes me hard to close to them.

I'd like to explain that messianic movement in Korea as I know. As I know that messianic Jews including Dan Juster and Asher Intrater those who are leaders of Tikkun had a relationship with Korean mission group for twenty five years and they ordained one leader of the group as pastor by them but he never confessed messianic belief.

Featured Community:
Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

In fact, I arranged to make MJB Korea in 2000 cooperating with a Korean church and Jonathan Bernis who is the president of Jewish Voice. But after launching the school I could not join with them because I disagreed with their biblical positions about Acts 15.

The Book the Messianic Church Arising(2006) by Robert Heidler was translated into Korean in 2011 and it influenced some pastors now those who are Korean messianic leaders. There are already some messianic groups in Korea and they also have messianic school(they call it seminary). One messianic church invited Roger Walkwitz and me to teach in 2012. As long as I know, there are five or six messianic churches and two messianic schools. I know them and they also know me. But I myself don't touch with them unless they call me for their teaching because still I felt some differences with their biblical positions.

I deeply appreciate that they launched messianic congregations courageously in Korea. Korean churches and denominations have passionate faiths but on the other hand very stubborn on their beliefs. If I were ministering the church in Korea instead of Japan, I could not become a messianic. Therefore, it could be said that Korean messianic churches are very bold.

Even though they use the name church instead of congregation, I don't want to make an issue with that. However, the disappointed things that I felt are that while they are teaching the Torah and trying to obey it, but the misunderstanding of their teachings causes their members to fall into the error Korean christianity has been taught. Here, I'd like to point their mistake I felt.

In my opinion, it is very important to keep the commandments in the Scriptures. But on the other hand, right understanding and interpretation are important to keep His commandments. Thus, that Korean messianic believers don't change their beliefs or interpretations which they used formerly shows no differences with Korean Christians and causes the obstacle to develop the understanding the Scriptures. We are not imitating the modern Judaism but learning the early Judaism which gives us background of the Second Temple era to study how to understand what Yeshua and His disciples have taught.



Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia in South Korea





Featured Community:

Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Firstly, YHVH the Name of GOD is usually translated in to “LORD” in English. Only ASV translated into “Jehovah” in 19 century and it may be brought by American protestant missionaries those who preached the Gospel first time to Korea. Well known Korean bible version translated YHVH into YEHOVAH, but new version translated into “LORD” as Korean KJV did.

THE SACRED NAME “יהוה” was not given to call Him, but given to know WHO HE IS and WHAT HE WILL DO for us in accordance with the Abrahamic covenant. THE NAME is not to call like person’s name but by THE NAME we are known that He is our MASTER and ABBA. Therefore, really I am surprised that Korean messianic believers pronounce THE NAME as YEHOVAH since I came to know THE NAME after I came to be a messianic.

Secondly, as long as I know the tithe is not a tax of income as church impose but tenth of the product of agriculture in the Land and it is concerning the loyalty or faith of Israel as Abraham and Jacob did. Abraham gave Melchizedek who was a priest of GOD Most High tenth of all he earned from the war. It demonstrated the loyalty to the LORD who blessed him to win the war.

On the other hand, Jacob sworn at Bethel that if he return to his father’s house in safely he will give a tenth to the LORD. However, any description that Jacob gave a tenth to the LORD after he return to the Land is not found in the Scriptures. Did he lie? Never he did not lie. He believed in the LORD and lived out Him. His loyalty is demonstrated in his life and his name is changed to Israel and it became to connect to national selection.

In Leviticus, tithe is also commanded in order to confirm Israel’s faith and loyalty as if King gives His vassal the Land and the vassal offers a tenth of his products. In short, the tithe is symbol of loyalty to the LORD WHO IS KING OF KINGS.

It cannot be deniable that Korean churches have been emphasizing the tithe utilizing Malachi 3:10 and by this the huge mega churches are emerged in Korea as known to the world. But we have been witnessing the Mammon causes the believers to away from GOD’S TRUTH in the world.

I am not saying that no need to gather the money for ministering the congregation or church. If the LORD blessed us money abundantly we can offer for His ministering more than besides tithe. Rather we are to teach sincere faith based on the GOD’d Words rather than keeping the church traditions like offering the money. If we have faith we can do what the LORD wants us to offer more than tenth.

Recently, I completed to translated Tim Hegg’s Romans Commentary into Korean and finally printed out two volumes of it. I believe that it is a slight step for the future in which Torah teaching will be popular in Korean believers.

**Thanks and Shalom in Our Messiah Yeshua,
Yehoshua Jo**

"Behold, the Virgin..."

Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

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

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

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

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Isaiah 7:14 is correctly used as a Messianic passage referring to Yeshua. However, let me give you an Orthodox rabbinic interpretation of this same passage based on the word for "sign" as quoted by Artscroll:

tion of this same passage based on the word for "sign" as quoted by Artscroll:

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

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

AN ORTHODOX JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON ISAIAH 7:14:

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

IT IS CLEAR FROM THE NARRATIVE IN THIS CHAPTER, THAT ISAIAH'S DECLARATION (IS 7:14-16) WAS A PROPHECY ABOUT THE UNSUCCESSFUL SIEGE OF JERUSALEM BY THE TWO ARMIES FROM THE NORTH. THE VERSES ISAIAH 7:15-16 STATE THAT, BY THE TIME THIS CHILD (WHOSE IMMINENT BIRTH

WAS FORETOLD IN ISAIAH 7:14) REACHES THE AGE OF MATURITY ("... HE KNOWS TO REJECT BAD AND CHOOSE GOOD ..."), THE KINGS OF THE TWO ENEMY NATIONS WILL BE GONE. IN FACT, THEY WILL BE KILLED.

TWO BIBLICAL PASSAGES, 2 KINGS 15:29-30 AND 2 KINGS 16:9, CONFIRM THAT THIS PROPHECY WAS CONTEMPORANEOUSLY FULFILLED WHEN THESE TWO KINGS WERE ASSASSINATED. WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTEXT OF ISAIAH 7:14 ALONE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE NAME OF THE CHILD IN ISAIAH 7:14, IMMANU'EL, IS A SIGN WHICH POINTS TO THE DIVINE PROTECTION THAT KING AHAZ AND HIS PEOPLE WOULD ENJOY FROM THEIR OTHERWISE CERTAIN DEMISE AT THE HANDS OF THESE TWO ENEMIES. CLEARLY, ISAIAH 7:14 IS A NEAR-TERM PROPHECY THAT IS PART OF AN HISTORIC NARRATIVE, AND WHICH WAS FULFILLED IN THE IMMEDIATE TIME FRAME, NOT SOME SEVEN-AND-A-HALF CENTURIES IN THE FUTURE.

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

TERM	(PRONUNCIATION)	MEANING	#	REFERENCE
אִימָנוּעֵל	OT (AS IN BOAT)	A VISIBLE SIGN, A SIGNAL	32	ISAIAH 38:22
		AN EXEMPLARY MODEL, A MARVELOUS DEED	36	ISAIAH 44:25
		AN EXAMPLE	9	ISAIAH 19:20
		A SIGN TO DETERMINE TIMES OF FESTIVALS	1	GENESIS 1:14
		A MILITARY INSIGNIA	1	NUMBERS 2:2
TOTAL			79	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I happen to believe that this is one of those verses of prophecy that has dual fulfillment. It no doubt had a fulfillment that occurred in the days of Ahaz, but it also had a supernatural fulfillment with the birth of Yeshua the Messiah. This is disputed among Orthodox Jews, because they say that the word

"almah" actually means "young woman," and that any translation of it as "virgin" is **incorrectly done** by those who don't know Hebrew very well, or (even worse) is a **deliberate** mistranslation.

The word used in Isaiah 7:14 is *עלמה* ("almah"). Most Jewish interpreters say that the Hebrew word for "virgin" is *betulah*, and that if Isaiah meant to refer to a **virgin**, he would have used the word *betulah* instead of *almah*. Of course, if *almah* was only a young woman, it wouldn't have been much of a sign, since it is fairly common practice that young women give birth to children! However, when a virgin gives birth... Well, that is something out of the ordinary.

About 200 years before the Common Era,^[6] the Greek-speaking rulers of Egypt under Ptolemy commissioned six elders from each of the twelve tribes of Israel to translate the Tanakh (O.T.) from Hebrew into Greek. Since there were approximately seventy elders doing the translating, the final translation was called the Septuagint, from the Greek word for "70." When these learned Jews came to Isaiah 7:14, they must have felt that *almah* meant more than simply a young woman, because in their translation, they used the Greek word *parthenos*, which means "virgin."

"Almah" and "Betulah"

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

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

Also, in Judaism, the marriage would be considered null and void if it wasn't consummated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[3] Isaiah 53:4-12.

[4] "Mary"

[5] Matthew 1:18.

[6] Mat. 1:19.

[7] Mat. 1:21.

[8] That is, before Yeshua.

King Jesus, *Melech Yeshua*, is coming back. Psalm chapter two says He will rule with a rod of iron and dash the heathen in pieces like a potter's vessel. No more Mister Nice Guy. No more Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild. The Bible says He is coming back "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Yeshua Messiah, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power" (2 Thes. 1:8f). He is coming back to rule the world as Lord of lords and King of kings.

As I write this, the number one music album in America is Kanye West's *Jesus is King*. Regardless of what you think about rap music or the news of Kanye West's conversion, the Kingship of Jesus is being proclaimed even in the secular heathen world, and the heathens would be wise to submit themselves to His Kingship before He returns in flaming fire with a rod of iron.

"Be wise now therefore, ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little."

"So Jesus is coming back? Yeah, right," the scoffers say. "We've been hearing that for almost 2,000 years."

Peter warned that in the last days there would be scoffers who say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (2 Pet. 3:4).

BELIEVERS AND SCOFFERS

A few famous believers and scoffers have come from my hometown of East Peoria: Christian creationist Kent Hovind, Christian philosopher and apologist William Lane Craig, and the late Gary Richrath, guitarist of REO Speedwagon. I went to high school with all three of these guys. Another famous East Peorian was the comedian Sam Kinison.

Sam Kinison came from a Christian Pentecostal family. After Sam grew up, he became a traveling preacher. He later left the ministry and became a raunchy, foul-mouthed comedian. He made it big in show business with his lewd, outrageous humor.

The Lord tolerated Sam Kinison's foul

mouth, but eventually Sam began to mock the Lord. It's one thing to mock false prophets, false teachings, and hypocrites. Elijah and other prophets did that. But when a former preacher begins to use his filthy language to publicly mock and blaspheme the Lord, he is on the road to destruction.

In the late 1980s Sam Kinison appeared at the Peoria Civic Center. A friend of mine who grew up with Sam and knew him as a kid went to the show. My friend told me that Sam was mocking people who believe in the Second Coming of Christ. Sam shouted to the audience, "Wake up, people! It's

been almost 2,000 years! He's *not* coming back!"

Shortly after this, another Christian friend of mine happened to hear Sam Kinison on television mocking the Lord. "The Lord is going to shut that man's mouth," my friend predicted.

Just a short time later, Sam Kinison was driving his car with his new bride by his side. Their car was hit head-on by a truck that crossed the center line, and Sam was killed.

Sam did not die instantly. According to witnesses at the scene, Sam seemed to be conversing with someone that no one could see. It's possible Sam repented and got right with God in his dying moments and escaped the lake of fire by the skin of his teeth. Regardless of Sam's eternal fate, the Lord permanently shut his blasphemous mouth, as He will shut all blasphemous mouths when He returns.

SIGNS OF THE SECOND COMING

Just because it has been almost 2,000 years, do not think the King is not coming back. Mankind waited approximately 4,000 years for His First Coming. Why then should it seem surprising that we have waited nearly 2,000 years for His Second Coming?

I do not set dates for the Second Coming, not even approximate dates. I do not know when the Lord will return, but I know that today we are one day closer to His Return than we were yesterday. Each passing day brings us a day closer to the Return of the King.

Past generations thought Jesus would return in their lifetime, but He did not. Does our generation have any more or any better reasons to expect His return than past genera-

The Return of the King

by **Daniel Botkin**

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

tions did? Actually we do. We are seeing the restoration of Israel, something that past generations did not see. To understand the restoration of Israel, you need to know some basics about the decline and the exiles of Israel.

ISRAEL'S DECLINE AND EXILES

David was the first king from the tribe of Judah. David ruled over all twelve tribes of Israel, as did his son Solomon who followed him. Israel was blessed by God during the reigns of David and Solomon. But after Solomon died and his son Rehoboam became king, the kingdom of Israel was divided. The ten northern tribes separated from Judah and Benjamin. Jeroboam became king over these ten tribes, which were collectively called "Israel" or "Ephraim." The southern kingdom was called "Judah."

After several generations of kings, the ten northern tribes of Israel were defeated by the Assyrians and taken into exile. About a century and a half later, the southern kingdom of Judah was defeated. The Temple was burned, Jerusalem was destroyed, and the Jews were taken into Babylon.

After seventy years in Babylon, a remnant of Jews returned to the land of Judah and rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple. However, the Jews in the Promised Land remained under Gentile dominion. They were allowed to live in their land and practice their faith, but they still had to live under the rule of foreign powers — the Medes and Persians, then Greece, then Rome.

In AD 70 the Romans burned the Temple and destroyed Jerusalem as the Babylonians had done centuries before, and the Jews were once again cast out of their land. The Jews who survived the wars with Rome were exiled or sold into slavery.

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY ABOUT JEWS AND ISRAEL

The Old Testament Prophets spoke about Israel being restored as a nation. As the Christian faith grew and evolved, Christian leaders and theologians concluded that the Prophets' promises of a restored Israel could not be taken literally. Christian leaders said that the Prophets' promises of future blessings to Israel were meant to be understood only figuratively and applied in a spiritual sense to the Church, not to the Jews or to the literal land of Israel. The Jews were doomed to wander and suffer because of their rejection of Christ, and thereby serve as the objects of God's wrath, Christian theologians said. All the blessings the Prophets promised to Israel now be-

longed to the Church, because the Church had replaced Israel, they said. Of course the Prophets' rebukes and curses still belonged to the Jews, but the promises of glory were for the Church, Christian leaders claimed.

With some exceptions, Christian theologians believed and taught that the Jews would never be restored as a sovereign independent nation in their ancestral homeland in a literal sense. But then came 1948.

1948

Out of the ashes of the Holocaust, the nation of Israel was reborn in 1948. After approximately 2500 years of Gentile lordship over the land of the Jews, the Jews once again had an independent nation in their ancestral homeland. The empires of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, and all the other empires that had ruled over the Promised Land had long ago vanished. Yet here was the independent Jewish State of Israel, reborn in 1948.

After 1948, honest Christians had to rethink their theology. Either the Prophets' promises of a restored Israel really were meant to be taken literally, or this 1948 formation of the Jewish State of Israel was just a weird fluke of history and had nothing at all to do with the prophecies of a restored Israel.

Most Bible-believing Evangelical Christians take the view that the 1948 rebirth of Israel was indeed a fulfillment of prophecy. Some Christians think it was just a fluke of history.

1948: FLUKE OF HISTORY OR FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY?

The Christian naysayers who think it was not a fulfillment of prophecy point out that the Prophets' promises of a restored Israel speak of a nation walking in holiness and righteousness, a nation that loves God and walks in obedience to His commandments. That does not describe the modern State of Israel, the naysayers say.

The naysayers also point out that the Jews who first envisioned a restored Jewish nation in the land of Palestine and worked to make it happen were not religious Jews. Many, perhaps most, were atheists and agnostics. And still today, most Jews in Israel are nonreligious secular Jews. Crime is common. Prostitution is a thriving business. Abortion is legal. Tel-Aviv is the gay capital of the world. How can a nation like this be the fulfillment of the Prophets' promises of a restored Israel that seeks the Lord and walks in holiness?

These are some valid points. I have considered the possibility that the 1948 formation of the State of Israel was not a fulfillment of

prophecy. But then I say to myself: "If it was *not* a fulfillment of prophecy, if God had nothing to do with it, it's *really weird* that it happened. It's really weird that the Jews would survive and preserve their Jewish identity through centuries of persecution, and nurture a desire to return to the homeland of their ancestors. And it's even weirder that they would start trickling back in the 1800s, and that one man, Eliezer Ben Yehudah, would almost single-handedly restore Hebrew as a spoken language after Hebrew as a spoken language had lain dormant for nearly 2,000 years. And it's really weird that atheist and agnostic Jews would be the ones determined to see the nation of Israel reborn, and would be willing to suffer hardship and even death to make it happen. If God had nothing to do with these events, it is the weirdest thing in history that ever happened."

That is my response to the naysayers' fluke-of-history theory. It almost takes more faith -- blind faith -- to believe it was just a fluke of history than to believe that God orchestrated these events.

But what about the fact that the early Jewish Zionists were mostly atheists and agnostics, and the great majority of Jews in Israel today are not seeking God and not walking in obedience to His commandments as the Prophets described? I believe the answer to that question is in Ezekiel.

EZEKIEL'S PROPHECIES

According to Ezekiel, the restoration of Israel is a two-step process. The first step is getting the Jews back to the Land of Israel. They return while still in a state of unbelief and uncleanness. This is a physical restoration. Then at some unspecified time after this physical restoration comes the second step, their spiritual restoration, when God cleanses them of their sins and gives them a new heart, as it is written:

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, to do them" (Ezekiel 36:24-27)....

1967

In 1967 Israel was attacked by several well-armed Arab armies. Though greatly outnumbered, Israel stunned the world by defeating those Arab armies in just six days. On June 6, 1967, the Jews took control of the Old City of Jerusalem, including the Western Wall and the Temple Mount.

This event is significant in light of what Yeshua said about Jerusalem. When the disciples asked Him about signs that would precede His coming, one sign He mentioned was that Jerusalem would be destroyed and that "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 and was trodden down by the Gentiles. Century after century, Gentile nations continued to rule the Old City of Jerusalem. Until 1967. June 6, 1967 marked the fulfillment of the times of the Gentiles. The Old City of Jerusalem was once again under the control of a Jewish government for the first time in 2500 years. It is also very interesting, and I believe significant, that 1967 is viewed by many (even by some Jewish anti-Jesus anti-missionaries) as the year the Messianic Jewish Movement started. If the times of the Gentiles was fulfilled in 1967, when Jerusalem was no longer trodden down by the Gentiles, it makes sense that this would be the appropriate time for the Spirit of God to start opening the eyes of many Jews. And that is exactly what happened in 1967.

Among American hippies, 1967 was called "The Summer of Love." Among the hippies were many young Jews. Unlike previous generations of Jews, many of these Jewish hippies were open to new ideas, ideas that were unthinkable to previous generations of Jews -- ideas like the possibility that maybe Jesus really was the Son of God. Some of these young Jews began looking into the Messianic prophecies in the Tenach (Old Testament), including Daniel chapter 9, "the forbidden chapter" that reveals Messiah had to come before the AD 70 destruction of the Temple, and Isaiah chapter 53, the chapter that, along with the three preceding verses at the end of chapter 52, is deliberately omitted from the weekly Sabbath readings in the synagogues, because it so graphically describes the sufferings and death of Yeshua.

Beginning in 1967 more and more Jews came to believe in Jesus. But unlike previous generations of Jewish believers, these Jews did not hide their Jewishness and assimilate into Christian churches and live like Gentile

Christians. Rather, they celebrated their Jewish identity. They started calling themselves "Messianic Jews" instead of "Hebrew Christians." Soon they started establishing Messianic Jewish congregations.

THE GROWTH OF THE MESSIANIC JEWISH MOVEMENT & ITS IMPACT ON CHRISTIANS

As Messianic Jewish congregations grew in number, many Gentile Christians were attracted to the Messianic Jewish way of worship. Christians who knew the Bible began to see that the Messianic Jews' way of worship was actually more Biblical than the way most Gentile Christian churches worshipped. The Biblical seventh-day Sabbath, the Biblical holidays, and a Biblical diet were more Biblical than observing Sunday, celebrating holidays adapted from pagan idolatry, and having church-sponsored hog roasts. As a result, many non-Jewish believers who wanted to live a Biblical lifestyle started living like Messianic Jews. Soon they began to realize the significance of Gentile believers being grafted into Israel and becoming full-fledged members of the commonwealth of Israel. (See Romans chapter 11 and Ephesians chapter 2.)

HINENU!

So *hinenu*, behold, here we are! Here we are at a time in history that is closer to the Return of the King than we have ever been before. Yes, previous generations of Christians expected Jesus to return in their lifetime. But those generations did not witness the return of the Jews to the Land, the rebirth of the nation of Israel, and the retaking of Jerusalem. Nor did they witness the rebirth of Messianic Judaism and its impact on non-Jewish Christians. Previous generations did not witness the fulfillment of the times of the Gentiles.

Gentiles as individuals can still be saved and are being saved. But 1967 marked the beginning of the end of the times of the Gentiles. God's focus is now turning more and more upon Israel — the land of Israel, the Jews of Israel, and those Christians who have awakened to their identity as members of the commonwealth of Israel. All these things are preparing the way for the Return of the King of Israel.

Anti-Semites claim there is a Jewish conspiracy to rule the world. Well, there is, but it is not a human conspiracy. It is God's plan to enthrone His Jewish Son, Yeshua HaMashiach, in Zion. The world will indeed be ruled by a Jew when that Jew returns.

Psalm chapter two tells about those who oppose the LORD and His *mashiach*, His anointed Messiah. They want to free themselves from God's rule. But God is not threatened by their defiance. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure. Yet have I set My king upon My holy hill of Zion" (Ps. 2:4-6).

If you are a Gentile who believes in Jesus, you need to wake up to your identity as a member of the commonwealth of Israel and begin to live as a Messianic Israelite. The King is coming and we need to be ready for His return.

Editor's Note: In 2 Thess. 2:1-4, we read:

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

If I may paraphrase, these verses tell us that the anti-Messiah (anti-Christ) must come and present himself in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself as being God. This cannot occur until the Temple is rebuilt. These events must occur **before** "our gathering together to him," which many presume to be the Rapture.



HAPPY SHAVUOT!

Although much of Kabbala is occult in origin, there are also biblical truths and insights taught in Kabbalistic circles from which we can benefit. We shouldn't paint all of Kabbala with the broad brush of "heresy," although there is much occult in Kabbalah.

I have only scratched the surface of Kabbalah; there is so much to it. I do not recommend it. Some is biblical, even good meditation. Some of it is quite frankly very boring. But much of it is occult. Some might call it

Jewish occult, but that would be a misnomer, since it borrows so heavily from Hinduism, Babylonianism, and pagan Greek and Egyptian thought with the doctrines of reincarnation, transmigration of the souls, magical incantations, magic amulets, etc. Tacking "Jewish" onto it doesn't make it kosher. Karl Marx was Jewish, but what he did was very un-kosher.

The following article, by Randolph Parrish, concentrates on the occult aspects and origins of Kabbalah. Richard Aharon Chaimberlin

Origins of Kabbalah

by Randolph Parrish

MUCH of what was to become known as Traditional Judaism was formed in the first few centuries of the Common Era against the background of the Jewish diaspora in Egypt (Alexandria) and Babylonia. Naturally any people will be affected by the culture in which they live; and yet, in this instance it is to be regretted that the Sages failed to keep Judaism free from the absorption of ideas which were both foreign to Judaism and to the commands of Moses.

For example, the peoples of both "Babylonia" (and by this I mean the general geographic region including both modern-day Iraq and Persia, and not the ancient nation of Babylon) and Egypt believed in magical spells. They thought that they could invoke the gods by using magical incantations, and thereby effect spells, work magical deeds, and protect themselves or harm their enemies. Amulets might provide protection against such an attack, but only if the amulet were properly made, by one skilled in the magical arts. And when we study the literature of the ancient Greeks and Romans, we find ample evidence of this.

If you needed to ward off an attack by demons, for instance, a recommended pagan remedy was to hold onto your thumbs and repeat a magical formula. (This also worked against the evil eye.) In one example of a Greek incantation for success, you were advised to grab your thumbs and recite a particular charm seven times. [See **Greek Pagan Magic in Translation** -- hereafter noted as **GPMIT** -- p. 273, PGMXXXVI. 161-77] In another incantation, this one to gain power, the same injunction was repeated: hold onto your thumbs, and recite the charm seven times. [GMPIT, p. 297, PGM LXIX. 1-3]

Unfortunately, when we study the Jewish writings of roughly the same period, we can

find evidence of the same belief. To avoid the evil eye, a sage recommended, that a man should hold his thumbs in opposite hands, while repeating, "I, (recite your name), belong to the House of Joseph, over whom the evil eye has no power." (Berakoth 55b)

Another ancient pagan custom was to make up incantations by using a single word, repeated over and over, but reducing it by one letter each time it was spoken. Thus, "Gorgophonas, Orgophonas, Rgophonas, Gophonas, Ophnas, Phonas, Onas, Nas, As, S" was one such chant. Another example: "Rakanarba, Akanarba, Kanarba, Anarba, Narba, Arba, Rba, Ba, A." [Examples from GMPIT, p. 255, PGM XVIIIb 1-7; and p. 14, PGM II 64-183. See also p. 267, PGM XXXIII 1-25; p. 279, PGM XXIX 1-21; p. 272; etc. for further examples.]

Again, this sort of magical chant finds reflection in the Talmud. The sages advise that a man who has drunk water at night—a time thought to be of special activity for demons—could ward them off by repeating, "Shabiri, bariri, riri, iri, ri." (Pesahim 112a)

The ancient pagans also believed that, by using the proper formulas, they could summon the gods, and then appropriate their power to achieve what they wished. Whole books of these "magic" rituals and formulas existed; and a good magician might charge very dearly for the right to use his book, and to be taught the proper methods of summoning the gods.

In one example of such a book, [GMPIT, pp. 172ff, PGM XIII. 1-343] a petitioner is told how to seek a vision from the gods in order to find out about his future. After abstaining (from food or sex?) for 41 days, he was to enter a house which was in a high place, but on level ground, the entrance to which faced west, and in which no one had died during the past year. (The gods must be picky about

their accommodations!) Then, after constructing an altar inside, he was to have seven proper forms of incense ready. (After all, each god required a different incense; and you could never be sure, with visions of this sort, which of the gods might happen to drop in on you.)

Next, after a bit more magic and preparations (involving preparing some more incense precisely twenty-one days before the expected vision), the devotee can then be ready for his night of meeting with the gods. But first he has to know the wondrous Name of the great (single, original) god, which is really nine names, and consists of his name plus the names of his eight facets, as represented in the eight lesser gods which emanated from him. This great Name uses seven special Greek letters, the vowels (these same vowels appear in much of Greek magic).

Now, this name is to be written in a special way, because it can only be pronounced in a special way. Part of it has to be made with a popping sound, part with a hissing sound, part with bellowing, and so forth. (Ordinary speech won't work.) In any event, if you had done all of that correctly, as well as a few other things, then the gods would come to you; otherwise, they might regard you as not really being initiated, and not possessed of the required knowledge, and then they would reject you. Eventually, though, if you did all of this correctly (and there was very much more involved, as well), then you would be able to get what you wished.

With this ritual you could make yourself attractive to someone—or unattractive. You could become invisible. You could kill a snake. Or break a spell. Or influence kings and rulers. And even—if by chance you wanted—you could arrange to cross the Nile on a crocodile. All you had to do was to give the order to the crocodile, as though you were the god himself; and the poor lizard would have to obey, since, even if you were not the god, you had acquired the god's power, which was good enough. [GMPIT, p. 180, PGM XIII. 283-287]

UNFORTUNATELY, because the sages of the Talmudic era were so steeped in magical practice already, they did not reject something like this, but accepted it to such an extent that they even professed belief in the same kind of rituals. That is, they believed that, by manipulating the proper kinds of magical formulas, they could summon the very power of God Himself, and then use it for their own purposes:

"Rabba created a man, and sent him to Rabbi Zira. He spoke with him, but when the other one did not answer him, he said, 'You are from the companions [note: the Soncino edition here translates, 'You are from the magicians'], return to your dust.'

"Rav Hanina and Rav Oshaia used to sit every Sabbath eve and study the Book of Yetzirah, and then created for themselves a three-year-old calf, and ate it." (Sanhedrin 65b)

Here these sages are said to have created both men and animals. Even the very same word used for "create," which is used in the scripture only of God, is here applied to these rabbis. Their powers were secured after having studied the Book of Yetzirah. Rashi, commenting on this passage, says "He created a man by means of the Book of Yetzirah, for it taught him the combination of the letters of the name of God."

Now, what was this "Book of Yetzirah"? It -- or the teachings it is said to contain -- is one of the major foundations for the later Kabbalah. The title means, "The Book of Creation," (or "The Book of Foundation"), and it was a short (less than 2000 words) book of magical formulations, dating probably from sometime anywhere from 100 B.C. to 100 A.D. Its later devotees claimed that it had been authored by Abraham (but if that were so, then Abraham must have known Greek, as well as a few other subjects not generally credited to him, since some of its formulations appear to derive from that language).

It is not very different from similar pagan magical books of the period; and by taking the time to compare the two, we will be able to see even more closely the similarities between this and these pagan magic books. For example:

In the Book of Creation, it is told how the world was first made, and then "sealed" in six ways (for the six directions—the four cardinal points, plus up and down). The Name of God was pronounced at each "sealing" only each time the letters of the Name were spoken jumbled up in a different fashion. (Thus, the secret of how God actually "made" the world is revealed.) And this same sort of "sealing" to the six directions occurs in pagan magic; and again, the various letters which represent the Name of the supreme god are to be repeated six times, each time in a different combination. (This sort of jumbling of the letters of the names of the various gods is very common

in ancient magical texts.) [See, for example, GMPIT, pp. 191-2, PGMXIII. 824-270]

According to the Book of Creation, it is by the power inherent in the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew Alphabet that the world and all things in it were created and sustained. That is, the letters actually possess the reality of the thing they describe (So that the word "table," for example, written in Hebrew, actually contains the substance of what makes a "table." It is not just a descriptive word.) And thus if you knew how to manipulate these letters properly, like any good magician, you could actually "create" real table, using only the power of the letters. And it is those letters which form the name of God which are the original source of all creative power. (Naturally, since these letters represent God.)

And if we look at pagan Egyptian mythology, we will find that the original creator god began his creation by uttering his own name as a "word of power," or "charm;" and thus, after a fashion, he himself comes into being--at least in a form through which he can relate to the world he is about to create. Like most ancient gods, his very name itself contained great power, and if you knew what that name was, and how to pronounce it, then the power of the god could be yours to manipulate. [See "Gods of the Egyptian," E. A. Wallis Budge, pp. 301,306,315]

(As well, if you knew the proper magical names and formulas to write, you might place these on the forehead of an idol, and so cause it to come to life for you, to speak to you, to tell you the future, give you an omen, and so forth. In the later Kaballah, this sort of "power" is used to give life to the "golem," a sort of "man" created by a learned scholar, usually in order to protect his community.)

At any rate, according to this concept, the gods (or God) do not really have any independent power of their own; they too are subject to the "nature of the universe," that is, the power inherent in their names, or in the letters of their magical alphabets; and if a man could learn to use these letters properly, he could appropriate the very power of the gods for his own use (the particular god or gods in question having no say about the matter). Thus such a magician could become all-powerful, and even create life, as did the two rabbis in the Talmud passage above.

In addition, in the Book of Creation, we find that certain letters have more "power" than others. There are seven "double" letters in Hebrew; that is, letters which can have two sounds. These are considered especially sig-

nificant--among other things, they correspond to the seven planetary powers. (Alas, it develops that there are really more than seven planets, but that is a discussion for another place.)

SIMILARLY, in Greek there are seven vowels, which are in pagan magic likewise identified with the seven planetary powers and also with the great Name; the jumbling up of which is a powerful charm. (Hebrew doesn't have vowels, so the double letters were used instead.) A sample pagan text relates how the petitioner for an omen is advised to bring along with him a list of which gods control the hours and days of the weeks; and also a copy of the great Name of seven letters--corresponding to the seven Greek vowels--through which Name all power really comes. [GMPIT, p. 189, PGM XIII. 734-1077]

But as well, the Book of Creation shows a great affinity with Egyptian mythology. It asserts, for example, that God did not "create" the world directly, or *ex nihilo* ("out of nothing"); or by simply speaking it into existence ("Let there be light"). Rather, at first only a series of "emanations" issued forth from him. Then it was through these "emanations" ("*sefirot*"--a word which is thought to derive from the Greek word "sphere"--an odd choice for Abraham to use, if he indeed was the supposed author of this book) that the world was actually made. These emanations (ten in all) did not all issue forth at once, but proceeded one from another, so that there were degrees of emanations, unfolding like an accordion; or like "the skins of an onion," as one later commentary would put it. So, some of these were "closer" to God, and some "farther away;" or, better put, some were "higher," and some were "lower."

In Egyptian mythology, the original great primal god did not "create" the world directly, but did so through a series of lesser gods, which "emanated" from him. (Sometimes he did this by spitting them out; and in other versions, by laughing them out of himself.) These lesser gods married and had children, thus creating more gods, until there were a total of eight "descendants" of the original god.

In the Book of Creation, the ten "emanations" ("*sefirot*") were seen as only extensions of God himself; or as differing aspects of him: justice, mercy, kindness, and so on.) In later Egyptian mythology, the eight lesser gods came to be seen as only differing aspects of the same primal god (justice, mercy, kindness, fate, and so on.) Sometimes these were de-

scribed as "echoes," and sometimes they were described as being from an "utterance" of the original creator God; but in any case, they either were emanations from him — or emanations from emanations. [See, for example, GMPIT, p. 186, PGM XIII. 524-550ff.]

So there is no question but that the Book of Creation contained pagan and occultic magical teachings. Accompanying all the earliest copies of the Book of Creation are tales about a sample magical ritual, a kind of graduation exercise, for those who had finished their studying of the Book. These initiates into the world of magic were to take a clod of earth, and animate it (showing that they had learned their lessons well). Sometimes they were to dance around this clod, or utter magical formulas around it — incorporating various permutations of the name of God — and afterwards their clod was supposed to come to life. It might walk around a little bit; and after its creator walked away from it, repeating the magical formulas in reverse order (a good magical practice), the living thing was

to cease to live, and collapse back into the soil. Or so they said. (It is quite possible, of course, that that celebrants were in such a state of artificially-induced ecstasy — meaning, that they had been indulging in what would today be called prohibited substances — that they were not quite aware of what they were doing or of what was going on around them.) But such was the final test for these sorcerer's apprentices, a kind of rite of passage for the students of the Book.

And it is said to note, that the sages of the Talmudic era accepted the Book of Creation as genuine, and that this stamp of approval resulted in its being studied and commented upon by generation after generation, for centuries to come. How many thousands of hours, and weeks and years of study went into this perusal, can only be guessed. But the best minds of Israel bent themselves to this hopeless task, and produced immense speculations about nothing.

Randolph Parrish, 6813 E Loma Land
Scottsdale AZ 85257



Rev. 5:5

in Hebrew script

Eric Carrillo
Temple TX

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON false assumptions about Messianic Judaism is that it "suddenly" popped up in the last half of the Twentieth Century as a syncretism of Christianity and Judaism. Most honest Bible scholars recognize that most of the believers in the first half of the First Century remained loyal Jews, still observing Torah.¹ Their ethnic heritage was predominantly Jewish, and they continued their traditional Jewish lifestyles. Messianic Judaism predated Christianity.² Even after the Besorah (Good News) went to the Gentiles, the Jewish believers still remained Torah-observant.

When Rav Sha'ul (Paul) returned from one of his missionary journeys, he related enthusiastically to the Messianic Jews in Jerusalem all about the wonderful things that God was doing among the Gentiles. "When they (the Messianic Jews) heard of it, they glorified the Lord, and said to him, 'You see, brother, how many **myriads** (tens of thousands) there are among the Jews who believe, and **they are all zealous for Torah.**'"³ Even Paul, this great "apostle of liberty" (as he is called among Christians) said, "I have committed no offense neither against the Law of the Jews, nor against the Beit HaMikdash (Temple), nor against Caesar."⁴ Later, Rav Sha'ul says, "I have done nothing against our people or the **customs** of the fathers."⁵ This indicates that Paul even observed such Rabbinic, non-biblical traditions such as the separating of milk and meat, as well as various other **Halachic**⁶ methods for observing Torah.

The first Jewish believers in Yeshua were called by such terms as Nazarenes (Netzarim) (Acts 24:5), the sect of the Way (HaDerech) (Acts 22:4; 25:14), and simply Yehudim - Jews (Acts 21:20; 22:3). The earliest record of the terms "Messianic Jew," and "Messianic

¹ Commonly translated as "Law," but more accurately meaning "Instructions." This term is also applied to the first five books of the Bible.

² The actual syncretism was in later centuries when Christians began adopting pagan sabbaths and holidays, and "Christianizing" them.

³ Acts 21:19-20.

⁴ Acts 25:8.

⁵ Acts 28:17.

⁶ Rabbinic methods and prescriptions for observing Torah.

Judaism" being used for Jewish believers in Yeshua was in a publication called **Our Hope**, published by Dr. A.C. Gabelein in March 1895. (Regretfully, Dr. Gabelein later

repudiated Messianic Judaism in 1908 after coming into contact with the writings of J.N. Darby and Dr. C.I. Scofield.) The term **Messianic Judaism** is

of relatively recent vintage. However, it can be used to describe Torah-inspired believers (both Jewish and those grafted in from the Gentiles) in the Messiah in earlier centuries also.

It is also a well-established fact that Messianic Judaism continued as a viable movement for almost 300 years after the coming of Yeshua the Messiah. However, it is commonly believed that Messianic Judaism "died" at about the time of the Council of Nicea in 325 CE.⁷ Many believe that after 325 CE, most Jewish believers in Yeshua simply converted into Christianity, and ceased to be Jewish in any real sense of the word. In some cases, unfortunately, this did indeed happen. Even today, there are tens of thousands of Jewish believers in the churches, with little or no sense of Jewish identity. Many others after Nicea continued to live as Biblically observant Jews. There was a tremendous amount of persecution that resulted from the very anti-Semitic Council of Nicea. As a result, Messianic Judaism became an underground movement. However, it continued to exert an influence for several more centuries. This is the history which this article seeks to address.

The "Forgotten" Years

The so-called "forgotten" history of Messianic Judaism has been well-documented over the centuries. Unfortunately, it was recorded almost entirely by the enemies of Messianic Judaism, in most cases by the scribes of the Roman Catholic Church. The actual writings of the Messianic Jews were nearly always burned when they came into the hands of the Church. Unfortunately, the Church didn't stop with the writings; they also burned Messianic Jews for

⁷ "Common Era," equivalent to A.D. The Council of Nicea was convened by Emperor Constantine after he supposedly converted to Christianity. Even after conversion, he still worshipped the sun god, and insisted on Christian observance of Sunday - the same day deemed holy by the sun worshippers.

The Forgotten History of Messianic Judaism

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

their faith. These writings suffered the same fate when they come into the hands of the non-Messianic Jewish community.

The most important text, in my humble opinion, for studying about Messianic Judaism during the years after Nicea (325 CE) until about 1500 CE is *The History of the Sabbath* by J.N. Andrews and L. Conradi, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, which is an arm of the Seventh Day Adventists. This landmark book was first published in 1887, and republished in 1912.

After years of being out of print, a Third Edition was published in about 1988. Regrettably, most of the references to the Messianic Jews (Nazarenes and Pasaginians) were deleted in the Third Edition. Why did the SDA choose to delete these references to these Jewish believers in Yeshua who were persecuted for observing Shabbat and the Jewish Feasts (which also happen to be the Biblical Feasts)? I don't know for certain. However, the Seventh Day Adventists believe in Replacement Theology, whereby the church (in this case, the SDA) replaced the Jewish people. Perhaps it might have been embarrassing that to acknowledge these Jews.

The Netzarim, which would be the Nazarenes, were named after the village of Netzaret/Nazareth, Yeshua's home town. Curiously, Chasidic Jews also name their sects after the home town of their particular Rebbe. We have the Lubavitch, Breslov, Satmar, and other Chasidic sects, naming their sects after the home towns of their Rebbes.

The other term more often used for Jewish believers in later centuries was **Pasaginians**, after the term **Pasagli**, a Latin term originating from **passagium**, meaning **passage**, because of the wandering, unsettled life of these people. There were also many Gentiles who joined this sect, as was well-documented by Louis Israel Newman, Ph.D., in his book **Jewish Influence on Christian Reform Movements**, published by Columbia University Press, NYC, in 1925. (I have a photocopied version of the pages of this book concerning the Pasaginians.) According to page 278 of this book, "The main center of Passagian activity was the city of Milan." However, the movement (or its influence) spread out also to other parts of Italy, southern France, Bulgaria, Hungary, and even to England.

According to this book, the Pasaginians were so successful in proselytizing that the vast majority of Pasaginians were Gentiles, earning them the pejorative title of "Christian heretics." A similar thing is happening today in

Messianic Judaism, whereby most of those attending Messianic Jewish synagogues happen to be ethnically Gentiles. Truth is truth, regardless of one's ethnic background. Jews don't need the Christian Christ; Christians need the Jewish Jesus.

There is no lack of material about the Jewish believers of earlier centuries. Much of the material is found in books far older than *The History of the Sabbath*. However, with the Internet, many are able to rediscover much of this "forgotten" history. Nevertheless, there is a remarkable ignorance about these Messianic Jews who lived in the Millennium after Nicea. It is almost like they never existed!

I'm sure that the Vatican Library would be another excellent source. Although I am not pleased about the Catholic persecution of Jews (both Messianic and non-Messianic) throughout the centuries, I am grateful that they kept records of who they were persecuting! We are grateful also that the Roman Catholic Church has done much to make amends for past persecutions and anti-Semitism. Perhaps they might someday open the Vatican Library to the study of Messianic Jews who suffered martyrdom. It might not be useful to me personally, as I don't read Latin or Italian. However, for those that do, the Vatican is going on-line! Written artifacts dating as far back as the Second Century are about to meet the medium of the 21st Century! Technicians are making digital images of thousands of ancient manuscripts so that they can be viewed worldwide via the Internet! ⁸

Quotes from early Church "Fathers"

Epiphanius (c. 315 to 402 CE) is one to whom we are indebted for his description of the Nazarenes of his time. He writes:

"We shall now especially consider heretics who call themselves Nazarenes (Netzarim); they are mainly Jews and nothing else. They make use not only of the New Testament, but they also use in a way the Old Testament of the Jews; for they do not forbid the books of the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings... so that they are approved of by the Jews, from whom the Nazarenes do not differ in anything, and they profess all the dogmas pertaining to the prescriptions of the Law and to the customs of the Rabbis, except they believe in Christ [Messiah]... They preach that there is but one God, and his son Jesus Christ. But they are very learned in the He-

⁸ *Washington Post* article published in the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*, 8/13/95.

brew language; for they, like the Jews, read the whole Law, then the Prophets... They differ from the Jews because they believe in Christ, and from the Christians in that they are to this day bound to the Jewish rites, such as circumcision, the Sabbath, and other ceremonies.

"Otherwise, this sect of the Nazarenes thrives most vigorously in the state of Berea, in Coele-Syria, in Decapolis, around Pella, and in Bashan (the Golan)... After they departed from Jerusalem, they made their start from here, as all the disciples dwelt in Pella, having been admonished by Christ to depart Jerusalem (Lk. 21:21) and emigrate because of imminent danger."

"As late as the eleventh century, Cardinal Humbert still referred to the Nazarenes as a Sabbath-keeping Christian body at that time."⁹

The Inquisition did many fiendish, evil things. However, the Inquisition did keep records of those they tormented. Often mentioned are the Pasaginians, beginning with the Council of Verona in 1184. These were Jewish believers in Yeshua who were "persecuted and hunted down like wild game by the Romish Church." They were also called "Circumcisi" (circumcised ones).

Neander, a German church historian born of Jewish parents in 1789, made the following observation of the Pasaginians, "May not this word (Pasagianian) be regarded as an index, pointing to the origin of the sect as one that came... out of intercourse with Palestine (Israel)? May we not suppose that *from very ancient times a party of Judaizing Christians* had survived, of which this sect must be regarded as an offshoot?"¹⁰

Again, quoting *History of the Sabbath*, page 547: "And these so-called 'Judaizing Christians' were none other than the Nazarenes mentioned by Cardinal Humbert... the true Israel of God, who, amid all the persecutions through which they had passed, bore the reproach of Christ more than any other Christian party, wandering about as 'pilgrims and strangers' to preach the faith of Jesus (Yeshua) and the commandments of God." (See Revelation 14:12.)

The Catholic writing of Bonacursus entitled, "Against the Heretics, Who Are Called Pasagill," in about 1185, says, "Let those who are not yet acquainted with them, please note how perverse their belief and doctrine are.

⁹ *History of the Sabbath*, p. 545. Other quotes are from this same book.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 404.

First, they teach that we should obey the Law of Moses according to the letter - the Sabbath, and circumcision, and the legal precepts still being in force. They also teach that Christ the Son of God is not equal with God...¹¹ Furthermore, to increase their error, they condemn and reject all the Church Fathers, and the whole Roman Church. Because they witness of the New Testament and the Prophets, let us slay them with their own sword." Apparently, speaking for the truth, and walking according to the truth, was a major heresy!

Gregorius, of Bergamo, about A.D. 1250, writes this against the Pasaginians:

"There still remains the sect of the Pasaginii. They teach Christ to be the first and pure creature; that the Old Testament festivals are to be observed-- circumcision, distinction of foods, and in nearly all other matters, save the sacrifices, the Old Testament is to be observed as literally as the New. Circumcision is to be kept according to the letter." The Pasagianian "heresy" had spread to Hungary, Bulgaria, France, and even into England and Italy.

Again quoting from *History of the Sabbath*: "Having fully established the fact that the Pasaginians were indeed the true Israel of God, believing all the Scriptures and exercising faith in Christ (Messiah), and having the entire Law of God written in their hearts by the Holy Spirit according to the fulfillment of promise,¹² we shall see how they were treated by the Catholic rulers." The Catholic Church (as well as the Catholic rulers (kings) dealt harshly with the Pasagianian movement, until it was eventually persecuted out of existence by about 1500 CE.

"1492, COLUMBUS WAS A JEW"

One of the problems in writing about this "forgotten" history of Messianic Judaism is the shortage of personalities that we can point to as historical persons. This is largely because these Messianic Jews (or Pasaginians, as their enemies called them) had to live a very secretive existence if they were to survive. There were no large "Pasagianian Revival Meetings." The leaders had to be very secretive about both themselves and their activities in order to avoid being arrested, tortured, and killed. Their lives were much like the **Marranos**, from the Spanish word for **pig**. It became illegal to be a Jew in Spain after 1492. Most Jews chose to leave Spain that year, the same year that Columbus "sailed the ocean blue." Many

¹¹ See Yochanan (John) 14:28.

¹² See Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 36:26-38.

remained in Spain, and supposedly converted to Catholicism. However, most Catholics doubted the sincerity of these conversions, and called such Catholic converts **Marranos**, as a term of insult. In many cases, their suspicions were correct, as many were outwardly Catholic, but secretly practicing Judaism in the privacy of their homes. The Pasaginians likewise lived double lives, hiding their Jewishness from the surrounding Gentile cultures.

Until recent years, historians nearly always assumed that Christopher Columbus was an Italian Gentile sailor. In reality, the

evidence today strongly suggests that Columbus was a Spanish Jew.

My friend Rabbi Judea Miller was the rabbi of Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester NY, until his death in 1995. He accumulated a considerable amount of evidence that Christopher Columbus was a "Marrano." It started with the old doggerel, "1492, Columbus was a Jew," Rabbi Miller said. "As the years wore on, I did more investigating." Miller traveled to Spain to study the historical documents on Christopher Columbus (or Cristobal Colon, as he called himself and as he was known in Spain).

Don Celso Garcia de la Rejga, a Spanish scholar at the beginning of the 20th Century, researched people named Colon. His research established that Colon was a common name among Marranos. (Today, the preferred term for such forced converts to Catholicism is **Anusim**, meaning "forced ones.") His research also established that the explorer's mother - Suzanna Fontanarossa - was Jewish.

Because of increasing persecution, Miller believes that Columbus personally hid his birthplace and origin. It would have cost him considerable social status, and support from the Spanish monarchs for his exploration to the Indies, and could have even cost him his life during the barbaric Spanish Inquisition.

History books generally tell us that Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy. However, he led a Spanish expedition against Genoa in 1473. He never said that he was from Genoa, and never even visited it. He also consistently wrote in Spanish, **never** in Italian.

Columbus' personal doctor was Jewish, as was Abraham Zacuto, his mapmaker. All of Zacuto's astronomical tables were in Hebrew. Columbus also brought along Luis de Torres --

a Jew who spoke Hebrew and Chaldean on his voyages -- in case they came across any "lost tribes" of Israel.

"There was a huge Jewish population in Spain prior to 1492. Ten percent of the population of Spain and Portugal was Jewish. They were successful, very prosperous, cultured," said Miller. "Jews had until August 2, 1492 to convert or leave Spain," which was the 9th of Av on the Jewish calendar. Columbus chose for the voyage to leave on August 3rd.

Miller believes that Columbus was trying to find new lands for the Jews.

Columbus mentions the Jewish exodus from Spain in his diary, and expresses his sadness. Columbus also connected the date of the exodus with the "saddest date on the Jewish calendar, **Tisha B'Av** (the 9th of Av). This date is when the **Beit HaMikdash** (Temple) in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.¹³ On this same date in 70 CE, the rebuilt Temple was destroyed by the Romans. Columbus also mentions in his diary that he first sighted land on HaShanah Rabbah (the 7th day of Sukkot - Tabernacles).

Christopher Columbus was also learned in Hebrew and the Scriptures, both of which were rare among Catholics, who were not permitted to study the Bible.¹⁴

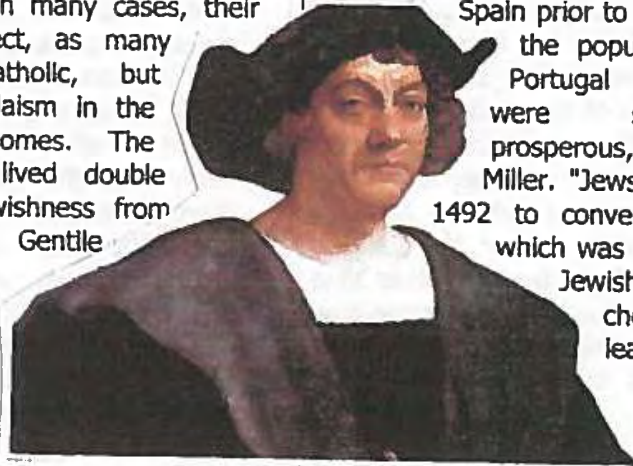
Christopher Columbus, a Messianic Jew

Most Marranos were strongly suspected of secretly practicing Judaism. After all, the other choices were forced exile or death, often by being burned at the stake. It wasn't the most voluntary conversion program around. There were also a few Marranos who sincerely believed in Yeshua as Messiah, and did not find it inconsistent to secretly practice Judaism, which was, after all, the religion of Yeshua.

As time went on, it became more difficult to practice Judaism in secret. The persecution was intense, and assembling for Jewish religious services was nearly impossible, and dangerous to the extreme. Because of the forced secrecy and increasing religious ignorance, the religion of the Marranos eventually

¹³ "Before Common Era," equivalent to B.C.

¹⁴ Source for above information: Article written by Rabbi Judea Miller in October 1987.)



bore little resemblance to Judaism.

The first Jewish (and Biblical) tradition to disappear was circumcision. It would become very dangerous to not have a foreskin. It became dangerous to not go to church. By the time the Inquisition ended in 1821, it was felt that all the "secret Jews" had been discovered and eliminated from Spain and Portugal. Imagine the surprise of the world when Marranos ("secret Jews") were discovered in Portugal in 1915! They had continued to practice a very rudimentary form of Judaism. Although there was no Inquisition to fear, the tradition of secrecy made it difficult for even other Jews to investigate them. However, successive governments in Portugal have been very friendly to the Jews, which today has at least five synagogues!

Jorge Sampaio, of Jewish ancestry, was the 18th President of Portugal, from 1996 to 2006.¹⁵ This is certainly a huge change from the anti-Semitism of the past!

The Spanish historian Jose M. Erugo believes that Columbus was born in the Spanish city of Pontevedra of Jewish parents who became Marranos (forced converts) after the birth of Christopher. I would like to put forth another possibility.

Marranos, including their immediate descendants, were generally not genuine believers in Yeshua. However, as described earlier in this article, there was an ancient sect of Jews who maintained their spiritual identity as Jews, yet continued to believe in Yeshua. These were the Nazarenes, later called Pasaginians.

We already described the very sincere, though somewhat secretive, Jewish aspirations of Columbus. Unlike many Marranos, he was also a genuine believer in Yeshua. This combination of Jewish aspirations and genuine belief in Yeshua would have been most unusual if Columbus were a genuine convert to Catholicism, or was in fact a Marrano.

Columbus, in his *Book of Prophecies*, wrote:

"At an early age, I began to sail upon the ocean. For more than forty years, I have sailed everywhere that people go. I prayed to the merciful Lord about my heart's desire, and He gave me the spirit and the intelligence for the task: seafaring, astronomy, geography, arithmetic, skill in drafting, spherical maps... It was the Lord who put in my mind (I could feel his hand upon me) to sail from here to the Indies.

All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There was no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scriptures ... encouraging me continually to press forward.

"It is possible that those who see this book will accuse me of being unlearned in literature, of being a layman and a sailor. I reply with the words of Matthew 11:25: 'Lord... because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes.' The Holy Scriptures testify in the Old Testament by the prophets and in the New Testament by our Redeemer Jesus Christ that this world must come to an end. The signs of when this must happen are given by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The prophets also predicted many things about it. Our Redeemer Jesus Christ said that before the end of the world, all things must come to pass that had been written by the prophets. Isaiah goes into great detail describing future events." (*Editor: Forgive him for not using Hebraic terminology. His life would be endangered.*)

Columbus wrote also in the same book: "No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior, if it is just and the intention is purely for His service... Day and night, moment by moment, everyone should express to Him their devoted gratitude. These are great and wonderful things on the earth, and the signs are that the Lord is hastening the end. The fact that the Gospel must still be preached in so many lands in such a short time - this is what convinces me."

We can thank our Heavenly Father for sending Columbus, this very famous Messianic Jew, to open the door to a New World, where the persecuted could breathe free. There are now more Jews on the North and South American continents than the rest of the world put together. Prior to Israel's rebirth in 1948, the safest places of refuge for Jews were the continents of North and South America.

The overwhelming evidence is that Columbus was a Messianic Jew. It is my belief that he was a physical descendant of the Nazarenes of the earlier centuries and the Pasaginians of the early Middle Ages. However, Messianic Judaism as a movement had disappeared.

There is then a gap in Messianic Jewish history of a few hundred years, until the early

¹⁵ Wikipedia, "History of Jews in Portugal."

1800s. At that time, certain rabbis - such as Rabbi Isaac Lichtenstein of Hungary, Rabbi Ephraim of Tiberias, and Rabbi Rabinowitz of Russia - came to believe in Yeshua as being the Messiah. Once again, after a gap of a few centuries, Messianic synagogues were brought into existence, even in the midst of persecution. "Here is the perseverance of the saints, who keep the **mitzvot** (commandments) of God, and their faith in Yeshua."¹⁶ Unfortunately, the synagogues of these great men ceased to exist within several years of the deaths of these rabbis. Messianic Judaism had not yet become a movement with a life of its own. It required these great rabbis to keep it alive.

Many Sephardic Jews consider Christopher Columbus to be like a second Moses. He went to the king and queen of Spain, saying, "Let my people go," and opened the way to another Promised Land, a land in which the Jewish people could find sanctuary, until Israel was reborn as a nation in 1948.

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Eric Carrillo



"The sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will... appoint for themselves **one leader** (rosh echad - one head)."

Hosea 1:11 in Christian Bibles

False Prophets

Back in the 1970s, false prophets were telling people that rocks were being shipped from Indiana to Israel for the rebuilding of the Temple. Many Christians got all excited about the prophecy of Ezekiel's (ch. 40-48) being rebuilt. If you have ever been to Israel, you have seen that there is no shortage of rocks in Israel. Israells would be in no hurry to import more rocks!

In the 1980s, false prophets were telling people about a massive increase in Israel's vulture population, and that this was a sign that the Battle of Gog and Magog was about to commence, and the vultures were needed to consume the bodies of those killed in this war. First of all, there was no increase in the vulture population. Secondly, Armageddon did not occur.

In the 2020 elections, many "prophets" were prophesying that President Trump would be re-elected, including some that I had great respect for. In Biblical days, giving a false prophecy was the sign of a false prophet. The penalty for being a false prophet was death (Deut. 18:20). We don't stone false prophets today, so false prophets keep on "prophesying." And many Christians keep on believing in these false prophets.

In Matthew 24:24, Yeshua said, "For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, **even the elect.**" Many who claim to be evangelic Christians, and even Messianic Jews, can be misled. We must put our trust in God, not in men (or women for that matter!). We should not put all of our trust in prophets, spiritual leaders, or even in a president. They can all disappoint us. Yeshua was also warning us about the coming Anti-Messiah who might even mislead "the elect," which I assume would be those who believe in Yeshua (Jesus).



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Netanyahu Praises Trump, Condemns Capitol Rampage

By Julie Stahl WWW1.CBN.COM/CBNNEWS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised President Trump and condemned the violence at the US Capitol. The remarks came in advance of a meeting with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Jerusalem on Thursday.

"For generations American democracy has inspired millions around the world and in Israel. American democracy has always inspired me," Netanyahu said. "Lawlessness and violence are the opposite of the values we know Americans and Israelis cherish. The rampage at the Capitol yesterday was a disgraceful act that must be vigorously condemned. I have no doubt that American democracy will prevail - it always has," Netanyahu added.

A mob of rioters breached the Capitol Building on Wednesday sending lawmakers into lockdown. Mnuchin (Secretary of Treasury under President Trump) also condemned the violence as "completely unacceptable."

"Our democratic institutions have been strong for a very long period of time. Our democracy will prevail and our institutions will remain strong," Mnuchin said. "Now is the time for our nation to come together as one and to respect the democratic process in the United States," Mnuchin added.

Mnuchin was in Sudan on Tuesday for the signing of an "Abraham Accords" agreement, paving the way for that African nation to open up full diplomatic relations with Israel. Sudan was the third country to sign the accords, after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Morocco has also agreed to normalize ties with Israel.

Netanyahu noted that Mnuchin was last in Jerusalem in October when he accompanied the UAE's Minister of State for Financial Affairs, the first ever official visit of a senior Emirati official. "I want to thank President Trump and all of you in the administration for all you have done and are doing for peace," Netanyahu said.

"You've made a real difference, achieving one breakthrough after another, bringing the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan into the circle of peace. I have no doubt that more Arab and Muslim countries will follow," he said.

Netanyahu also commended Trump for what he called "the maximum pressure campaign" against Iran. He thanked Mnuchin and said that under his leadership, the US Dept. of Treasury had played "a crucial role in applying and enforcing sanctions on the Iranian regime."

"It must be continued to prevent Iran from continuing its campaign of aggression and terror throughout the region and to prevent Iran from rushing to a nuclear arsenal," Netanyahu said.

President Trump withdrew the US from the Iranian nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Joe Biden has pledged to re-enter the agreement if Iran sticks to its part of the deal. But just this week, Iran already ramped up its uranium enrichment to 20% at one of its underground nuclear facilities, putting it on track to develop a nuclear weapon.

"If we just go back to the JCPOA, what will happen and may already be happening is that many other countries in the Middle East will rush to arm themselves with nuclear weapons. That is a nightmare and that is folly. It should not happen," Netanyahu said.

Mnuchin also issued a warning for any future talks with Iran. "It is imperative that any future negotiations with Iran on both nuclear as well as ballistic missiles need to be done in conjunction and in consultation with Israel and its Arab neighbors," Mnuchin said.

One of the reasons behind the Abraham Accords at this time, is the threat of Iran common to both Muslim states and Israel. "Iran can never have a nuclear weapon and Iran must stop its terrorist activities that threaten both Israel and its Arab neighbors," Mnuchin said.

What is His Name? Tell Me if You Know

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?

Who has gathered the wind in His fists?

Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is His name, and what is His son's name? Tell me if you know.

Proverbs 30:4

Those who have faith in the son of God know his name is Yeshua which means 'God saves.'

Dennis Prager's Perspective

Question: What book is the opposite of the left?
Answer: The Torah.

The Torah is the foundation of the rest of the Bible, and the rock on which both Judaism and Christianity stand. No Torah, no Judaism. No Torah, no Christianity. No Torah, no God, no divine creation, no Exodus, no Ten Commandments, no "love your neighbor as yourself," no Judeo-Christian values, no Western civilization, and no America.

COLLEGE PARK, Maryland (AP) — For years, legions of QAnon conspiracy theory adherents encouraged one another to “trust the plan” as they waited for the day when US President Donald Trump would orchestrate mass arrests, military tribunals and executions of his Satan-worshipping, child-sacrificing enemies.

Keeping the faith wasn't easy when Inauguration Day didn't usher in “The Storm,” the apocalyptic reckoning that they have believed was coming for prominent Democrats and Trump's “deep state” foes. QAnon followers grappled with anger, confusion and disappointment Wednesday as President Joe Biden was sworn into office.

Some believers found a way to twist the conspiracy theory's convoluted narrative to fit their belief that Biden's victory was an illusion and that Trump would secure a second term in office. Others clung to the notion that Trump will remain a “shadow president” during Biden's term. Some even floated the idea that the inauguration ceremony was computer-generated or that Biden himself could be the mysterious “Q,” who is purportedly a government insider posting cryptic clues about the conspiracy.

For many others, however, Trump's departure sowed doubt. “I am so scared right now, I really feel nothing is going to happen now,” one poster wrote on a Telegram channel popular with QAnon believers. “I'm just devastated.”

Mike Rothschild, author of a forthcoming book on QAnon called “The Storm is Upon Us,” said it's too early to gauge whether the wave of disillusionment that swept through the QAnon ranks Wednesday is a turning point or a fleeting setback for the movement.

“I think these people have given up too much and sacrificed too much in their families and in their personal lives,” he said. “They have believed this so completely that to simply walk away from it is just not in the realm of reality for most of these people.”

On January 20, as it became obvious that Biden's inauguration would proceed, many QAnon message boards and online groups were bombarded by hecklers and trolls making fun of the conspiracy. Some longtime QAnon posters said they planned to step away from social media, if only temporarily.

“Trump has said, ‘THE BEST IS YET TO COME.’ I'm not giving up,” Telegram user Qtah wrote in an announcement to his 30,000 subscribers that he was taking a social media break. Some groups seized the moment to try to recruit disillusioned QAnon supporters to white suprem-

‘Where's the Storm?’ Biden Inauguration Leaves QAnon Adherents Reeling

by **Michael Kunzelman, Amanda Seitz, and David Klepper**
WWW.TIMESOFISRAEL.COM
 (Excellent source for news!)

acy and other far-right neofascist movements like the Proud Boys... Clearly, this is a very low point for Q believers, and once people have been broken, they will look for ways to cling back to hope again.”

QAnon emerged in 2017 through anonymous,

fringe online message boards before migrating to Twitter, Facebook and other mainstream platforms that were slow to purge the conspiracy theory from their sites.

Although Facebook and Twitter platforms vowed last year to rid their sites of QAnon, accounts with thousands of loyal followers remained until this month, when the tech companies finally disabled thousands of users who used violent rhetoric to encourage protests of the election results at the US Capitol on Jan. 6...

The crackdown sent some of the conspiracy theory's most ardent promoters fleeing to less populated social media sites like MeWe and the Telegram messaging app, where they quickly raked in thousands of followers...

Other QAnon believers still found ways to promote their message on Facebook and Twitter, urging followers to hold out hope that Trump would find a way to stay in office or expose the “deep state” network of government leaders who they believe operate a child sex trafficking ring. Videos and posts on Facebook, Telegram and YouTube predicted Trump would take over the emergency broadcast system to declare martial law and arrest prominent Democrats.

“This presidential inauguration that we're going to see coming up ... I'm telling you it's going to be the biggest thing we've ever seen in the history of the United States,” one pro-Trump singer, who promotes QAnon conspiracy theories, warned in a Facebook video viewed more than 350,000 times since January 18. But the peaceful transfer of power from Trump to Biden came and went on January 20.

Among the most notable defectors appeared to be Ron Watkins, a prominent promoter of election fraud conspiracy theories who helps run an online messaging board where QAnon conspiracy theories run wild. “We gave it our all,” Watkins wrote in a Telegram post, minutes after Biden was sworn into office. “Now we need to keep our chins up and go back to our lives as best we are able.” ...Watkins encouraged Trump supporters to travel to Washington for the Jan. 6 rally that led to the Capitol riots...

Other QAnon followers spent their time online on January 20 calling Biden an illegitimate president and accusing Democrats of pulling off voter fraud...

Rehabilitative "Discipline" in the IDF:

An interview with an Israeli Messianic female drill sergeant by **David Shishkoff** www.israeltoday.co.il

At the edge of my village in the Galilee is an army base where the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) seeks to "disciple" at-risk Israeli 18-year-old men. The name of the base is "The Farm of the Guard" (*Havat Hashomer*). Even at eleven o'clock at night you can still hear the young recruits yelling to each other "Listen. Listen." ("Hakshev!") They are rewiring their neurons to listen to their commanders, who happen to be female basic-training drill sergeants. This is a unique army training base. Here, since 1981, the IDF has taken thousands of young men who have "strayed from the narrow path" or who come from very difficult family situations, and has given them an opportunity to gain discipline and tools for becoming productive Israeli adult citizens. All of their drill sergeants are female IDF soldiers! This cancels out the potential for a head-to-head "testosterone/ machismo" conflict between a wild young recruit and his commander; and the army realizes that women also tend to be more sensitive to and aware of the emotional state of fragile recruits.



Women in combat has become the norm in Israel. And today many young recruits are trained by female drill sergeants.

Israel Today asked **Tal Haroni**, who served as one of the female drill sergeants for these troubled young men, to tell us about her service. The following is our exclusive interview with Tal.

Israel Today: What did you do in the army / how do you describe the job?

Tal: During my military service, I served as a drill sergeant for basic training recruits at *Havat Hashomer* – a basic training base for soldiers who came from low socio-

economic backgrounds. In a regular army they would not even be drafted, but since Israel has a "people's army," they are given a chance to serve and be integrated into Israeli society. Many of them succeed and gain access to future opportunities after their army service. My role was to be their commander. I received in each round of basic training about 15 male soldier recruits from different backgrounds, with all kinds of challenges. (I commanded four rounds of basic training over two years). During the 3 months of basic training, I taught them to shoot rifles, give first-aid, operate communications equipment and adapt themselves to army life.

How did you get this army role?

I was assigned to this position even before being drafted. At first, I was slated to be a drill sergeant in a regular basic training base. Prior to enlistment, I transferred to the Education Corps, to be a drill sergeant for problematic and underprivileged young men. Just before completing my service I asked to continue on longer and do one more final round of basic training.

How did you and the other women drill sergeants feel about your role?

We felt a sense of mission. We knew we were doing something outside of our comfort zone. We believed that thanks to this training, these soldiers could become better citizens and have a better future. Some of the recruits went on to get vocational training in the IDF and finish the army with professional experience.

From what you have seen and experienced, please describe the IDF's degree of success in rehabilitating these young men?

I want to believe and hope that thanks to what the military has given them, they can start a family today and have a normal life. I got to meet two of my soldiers "outside" in civilian life. Each had successfully completed a full three years of military service and had landed a job.

Do you see a connection between the Hebrew Scriptures and such an effort by the institutions of Israel?

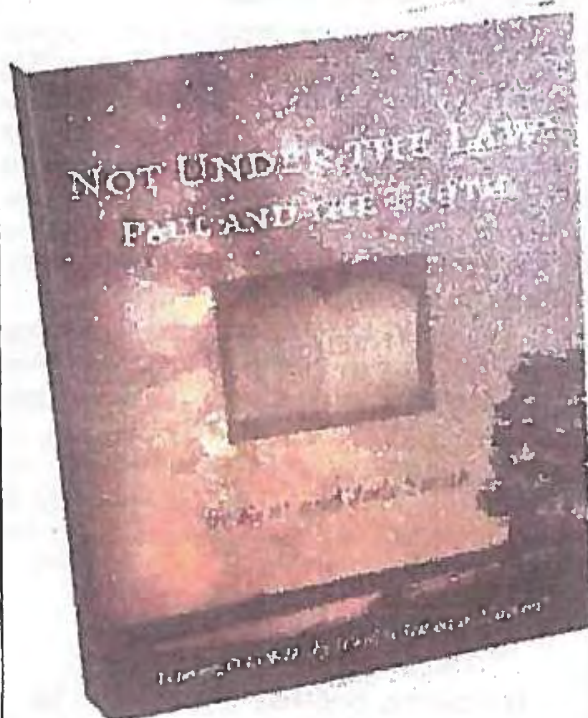
I think there is something in Israeli society, even among the secular Israelis, that is motivated by the Bible. This encourages us to try to reach out to those who are weak. There is a desire to make society more resilient and stable. Israel functions with a degree of mutual assistance... I think it stems from belief in God and not just our humanity. Part of it is the commonality of Jews banding together after having been persecuted elsewhere...

Messianic Jewish Commentary on the Book of Matthew

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

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

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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.

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

(Recommended to our readers! RAC)

Dearest Rick & Miriam ~

First and foremost, I want to thank you both for your unwavering and faithful love for us here in remote northern Alaska for the past 20 plus years. You have inspired us with your spiritually uplifting letters in times of trouble. Considering how cramped and busy your lives are, I find this time you spend with us to be immensely pleasing.

Secondly, I want to thank you for the great work you do, compiling news articles, historical items, and educational articles, and putting it all together in great booklet form each quarter. Amazing! We are now requesting your commentaries on Acts, Hebrews, and Revelation, and sending funds for them. Use the remainder as you see fit for your ministry.

Our little congregation has dwindled to Tranise and me, but we still worship as if we were 100 strong. We also maintain our telephonic Shabbat services with relatives in Idaho and Texas. Our love for Abba Father remains strong.

We may not always 100% agree, but our faith and love for Messiah and belief in the God of all keeps us bound together across the miles and years.

Tomas & Tranise Dickson, ALASKA

Dear Mr. Chaimberlin ~

May the Father continue to mightily bless you and your ministry. Thank you for calling me back. I am enclosing a donation to help you understand the impact your ministry has on those in the prison system.

I have an inmate friend that really enjoys your ministry. He has learned much, and has been blessed by the materials you provide. He said that many men have been greatly blessed by the materials you provide. He received the Stimulus Payment check, and he is sending a tithe to **Petah Tikvah**. Thank you for all that you do. Jim Souder, TEXAS

Editor's Note: We never started out intending for **Petah Tikvah** to have a prison ministry. However, today probably most of our readers in the USA are inmates. And we are thrilled to have a prison ministry. We believe

in healing and other miracles. However, the greatest miracle is changed lives. We are pleased to play a part in this endeavor. **RAC**

Dear Rick ~

Please send me the new calendar and continue my subscription. Thank you for your thoughtfulness to inmates. I hear so many good things about the magazine from inmates.

My home and car and all that I had were caught in the flood. I lost nearly all that I had. Fortunately, I had some of your books and family goods. I also lost the addresses of my inmate friends.

Betty Ames, PO Box 867
Vidor TX 77662

Editor's Note: Betty has been ministering to inmates ever since we came into contact with her decades ago. We sent her the addresses of dozens of Texas inmates on our mail list to help make up for the addresses that she lost.

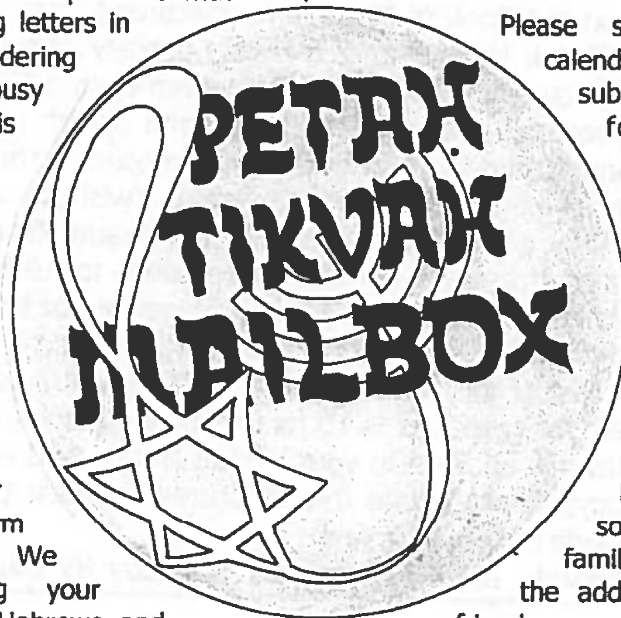
Dear Rav Rick & Miriam ~

The Lord is on the move in West Virginia. Last year, Messiah led my sons and myself to a new fellowship led by Pastors Rick & Sheila Knight, who under gird their teachings with Hebrew understandings and references. I am happy to co-teach the adult Bible studies. Yours is one of the resources I have relied on. I thank God for the work that you have laid in **Petah Tikvah**, and continue to do.

I am blessed by your quarterly teachings, and have shared several in the past. Your ministry to prisoners in bringing truth and light into the hearts of inmates. I am enclosing an order for your commentaries and for two calendars. There is so much that the Body of Messiah does not know. Keep filling in the gaps. Pray for me. Thank you for being a faithful servant.

Mary Ann Harrison, West Virginia

It's funny, because we ask God to change our situation, not realizing that He put us in the situation to change us.



Dear Petah Tikvah ~

I discovered that I did not renew my subscription. I'm nearly frantic! We don't do well without reading **Petah Tikvah**, and anxiously await its arrival in our mail box. Enclosed money is for the renewal.

Nancy B., PENNSYLVANIA

Editor's Note: Actually, Nancy's subscription had not ended. Her issue of **PT** was merely late. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy was appointed by President Trump in May 2020. At least 711 well-functioning mail sorting machines were removed or destroyed at DeJoy's orders, resulting in horribly slow mail delivery throughout the nation. We brought the Jan-March issues of **PT** to the post office for bulk mailing on December 14. Normally, everyone would have received that issue by the end of December. Most local deliveries in NYS arrived in December. However, those in other states received their issues of **Petah Tikvah** in their mail boxes between January 14 and January 29. As I write this, President Biden is attempting to appoint a new Postmaster General.

RAC

Shalom to all at Petah Tikvah ~

It is without regret that I say **adios** to 2020, but I don't expect much improvement for the coming year. (Our reader sent this letter on January 6. We all know what happened later on that day at the Capitol. **RAC**)

I have heard it said, "Things are not falling apart; they are falling into place!" Truly I believe that, and I believe we will endure testing like we have not experienced in the past. With that, I give thanks. Scripture tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances." When things get difficult, He is there to take us through the difficulties. It is in Him that I put my trust. Let us commit ourselves to bring more glory to our great Messiah Yeshua and our Heavenly Father.

Please use this donation to minister to our brothers and sisters who are presently incarcerated or recently released.

John Montgomery, MARYLAND

GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

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

The Good News is that God has provided a Remedy for Sin. This Remedy delivers people from the punishment that they deserve for Sin... This Remedy also delivers people from the power of Sin, so they can quit living a sinful life and start living a holy life. Ultimately, God will deliver His people from the very presence of Sin when His Son returns to earth.

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

Adapted from: www.gatesofeden.online

**"Here is the patience of the saints:
Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."** Revelation 14:12 (KJV)

Editor's Note: This is a blessing for those who keep God's commandments, and also who keep the "faith of Jesus." What was the faith of Jesus? It was Judaism. Jesus did not come to Planet Earth to start a new religion called Christianity. He came as the Messiah for the old religion: **Judaism**. You won't find the words "Christian" or "Christianity" in the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The first people to be called Christians were the new Gentile converts from Antioch (Acts 11:21,22,26).

Shalom Rick ~

Thank you for all you did for me while I was in prison. Your magazine was a ray of hope when things were bad. I've just been released, and am compelled to let you know how much you help people! And the blessings just keep on coming!

Kyle Splattstoesser, WASHINGTON STATE

JEWISH BASICS

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

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

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

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

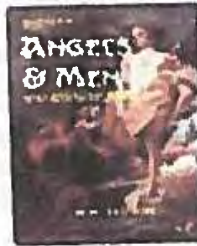
- The cost for both the music CD and the Lyric Booklet is now \$10, US currency.
- Additional Lyric Booklets can be obtained for \$3 each (or 3 stamps for inmates).
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- Send check, cash, or money order to **Petah Tikvah, 165 Doncaster Rd, Rochester NY 14623-1348.**

M.M. Tauson

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Available at: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Israel Makes Top 10 in Ranking of World's Most Innovative Countries

by JNS, 15 February 2021

Israel was ranked seventh among the world's 60 most innovative economies, according to the *Bloomberg Innovation Index*. The Jewish state went down one spot from its standing in 2020 and two places from 2019, where it came in fifth place.

South Korea was ranked as the world's most innovative country and took the title from Germany, which fell to fourth place this year. The East Asian nation has taken the top spot on the index for seven of the nine years that it's been published. Following South Korea were Singapore and Switzerland. Sweden was ranked fifth, followed by Denmark and then Israel.

Finland, the Netherlands and Austria followed the Jewish nation, as the United States dropped out of the top 10 this year, falling two spots to 11th place. The *Bloomberg Innovation Index* ranks the 60 most innovative economies in the world and "analyzes dozens of criteria using seven equally weighted metrics, including research and development spending, manufacturing capability and concentration of high-tech public companies."

USPS Preps Plan for Slower, Pricier Delivery

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy (appointed by President Trump in 2020) is preparing a plan to end air transport of First-Class mail—meaning bills, magazines, and even prescription medicines would suffer mailing delays. He is also planning major hikes in postage fees. (Source: *The Week*) We have already seen major price hikes in the cost of mailings for **Petah Tikvah**. In early January, the cost of First-Class mailing out a single issue to a reader in the USA was 85 cents. At the end of January, the cost increased to \$1.40. The costs of foreign mailings have also gone up to over \$4 for every country overseas for each magazine. We are paying far more for slower, less efficient mail service.

Jihadism still a threat. As right-wing extremism rises, jihadism persists as well, particularly in Europe. Six separate terrorist attacks took place in Europe between late September and late November of last year—three in France, and one each in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. All six were inspired by Salafi-jihadist ideology, which will remain a persistent terrorism threat to the West for the foreseeable future. —*World Politics Review*

Montini: A Stalinist disinfo law in Arizona "[Arizona] House Bill 2569 would deny election officials from receiving either private or public funds to combat disinformation about elections. During the discussion, Rep. John Kavanaugh said, 'One person's disinformation is another person's truth.' **No. Disinformation is the *opposite* of truth. Supporting disinformation is supporting lies.** Worse than that, however, is a group of lawmakers not just supporting the spread of lies, but trying to protect those lies with a law. It's right out of the Communist Party playbook." —EJ Montini in *The Arizona Republic*. EJ Montini is a news columnist at *The Arizona Republic*.

Prison Reform

Most Republicans and Democrats agree that mass incarceration is a disaster. The costs—financial, psychological, and social—do not justify the results. Yes, there are crimes for which the perpetrator should be locked away and the key thrown away. However, many are in prison for relatively minor, even non-violent offences. Prison confinement does more damage than rehabilitation. We also need to ensure they are not allowed to earn an honest livelihood upon release. Otherwise they may be tempted or forced to engage in a dishonest livelihood.

Christian opposition. In an open letter, a coalition of more than 100 evangelical Christian pastors and ministry and seminary leaders condemned the role of "radicalized Christian nationalism" in feeding the political extremism that led to the insurrection. The co-signers are calling on Christian leaders to take a stand against racism, Christian nationalism, conspiracy theories, and political extremism. —*NPR*

Khamenei: Not Even Israel Can Block Our Path to the Bomb

by Ilse Strauss, www.bridgesforpeace.com

If Iran wants a nuclear bomb, nothing and nobody—not even Israel—will stand in its way. This was the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic's message to Israel, the US and the rest of the world in February. Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—who has repeatedly vowed that Israel would block Tehran's path to the bomb—Ayatollah Ali Khamenei posted to his official Twitter account on Monday: "That international Zionist clown has said they won't allow Iran to produce nuclear weapons. First of all, if we had any such intention, even those more powerful than him wouldn't be able to stop us."

Dear Rav Chaimberlin ~

I am glad to let you know that by this time next week, I will be eating home-cooked food! Baruch HaShem!

¹ I've done 3 prison terms. The first two terms I had sooo much faith, but no direction. I was a feel-good Believer. This 3rd term was a real awakening. Yah has shown me that I am able to keep Torah (which defines sin, according to 1 John 3:4) **because** of my faith in Yeshua! Before, I was a reed shaking in the wind, bending to and fro with no direction. The parable of the seeds being planted in different types of soil comes to mind. I'm now in rich soil!

Through the set-apart Spirit, I have had my eyes opened to what His Torah **really** says. Through His Son, I now have His Torah written on my heart and mind (Jer. 31:31-33; Heb. 8:8-10). I used to have a lot of questions, and now have a lot of answers. I now know how to work out my salvation with fear and trembling, and allow others to do the same, without being a stumbling block.

My dad is a hard-core "Christian." Our Creator used him as a teaching tool to help me to reach others by simply allowing my light to shine before men. Faith without works is dead (James 2:17,26). I am now able to set aside my own beliefs and allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, and not pick verses out of context to sooth my itching ears.

Brother and Sister Chaimberlin, I want to thank you both for taking myself and all of the inmates around the country -- not only teaching us, but bringing us together as a congregation. It has been such a blessing to me, and others as well. I pray that I will get the chance to be a contributor to **Petah Tikvah**.

The last 20 days has been in quarantine (Covid-19), giving me days to spend with Him, without distractions! I pray that I will not fail Him when the trials come (because they WILL come!). I love you all very much. May Yah bless you all and keep you faithful. Do not strive with those who are given over to delusion.

Charles Grant, Chino CA

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

¹ "Blessed is the Name (of the Lord)"

Hello Mr. Chaimberlin ~



Thank you for all of the issues you have sent to me, and for the calendars. There is so much to learn. I want to learn Yah's truth and not man's. Please send me your commentaries on Acts, Hebrews, Revelation, and Matthew. I have enclosed the required stamps. I considered myself a Christian when I got to this prison. But after studying Messianic Judaism, I feel that this is where I should be. I always felt that something was missing in my faith, and I feel that I am finding it through Messianic studies.

Fidel Gonzales, Stafford AZ

Dear Sir/Madam ~

I am a Messianic believer of Ashkenazi descent. I recently read one of your magazines. I have never read any material so resourceful of Messianic Judaism in one booklet. I am including postage stamps to receive a subscription.

Ronnie Cisko, Big Stone Gap, VA

Shalom Ray Rick ~

Thank you for all that you do for us who are behind bars. I've received a calendar, commentary on Matthew, and am currently working on your commentary on Revelation.

I am seeking sources which would be valuable investments. Currently I own: Jewish New Testament, Interlinear Bible, Strong's Concordance, Holman's Bible Dictionary, Who's Who of the Bible, Josephus.

I am studying Hebrew, celebrate the Holy Days, and pray from a siddur. I have the desire to be more than a Gentile who is a God-fearer. How do I convert to Messianic Judaism? What is required, and how do I go about doing it? I have learned so much in the past 8 years, and have grown more than I ever thought possible.

Bryan Ewing, Beaumont TX

OUR REPLY: The books that Bryan mentioned are also all excellent. We happen to have them in our library. However, they are not cheap. Strong's Concordance would be the most important. The best source with the lowest price to buy it is: Christianbook.com, PO Box 7000, Peabody MA 01961. Conversion to Messianic Judaism is primarily a matter of the heart. Outward conversions only confirm what has already taken place internally. Ruth 1:16-17 is a good example.

Rav Richard ~

Enclosed is a donation of stamps. I truly appreciated article about the Igbos of Nigeria on p.46 of the Jan-March issue of **PT**. There are other Black Jews in Africa such as the Lemba tribe in southern Africa. DNA tests² have shown that most of the men are **kohanim**, "priests" descended from Aharon, the brother of Moshe. They also embrace Torah practices. Jewish people in the West must learn to embrace those who embrace them.

Emiliano Cross, Corcoran CA

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

I am enclosing stamps to renew my subscription. I want to encourage my brothers and sisters in prison to coordinate services in their units. It doesn't have to be much.

There are also other Messianic ministries that work with inmates such as **Hebrew Roots**, PO Box 400, Lakewood WI 54138 and **First Fruits of Zion**, PO Box 649, Marshfield MO 65706 that provide tools to facilitate services such as Shabbat. Please don't let this pandemic bring us down. It need not be in the chapel or any other special place designated for religious services. Wherever two or more are gathered in His Name, He is in our midst. Reginaldo Morales, Hondo TX

Rav Richard & Miriam ~

I hope you are both doing well in these trying times. I am taking this opportunity to share financial blessings. Might as well not waste a crisis! I am sending a portion of the tithe offering from the stimulus money I was blessed to receive. I was also able to give to two other ministries. Toda raba, Yahshua!

The Temple Project classes are going well. The Temple Project (rebuilding the man) is a faith-based educational program from a Messianic Jewish perspective which I developed. Co-facilitators have been teaching in prison officially since 2014.

² Y-chromosomal Aaron is the name given to the hypothesized most recent common ancestor of the patrilineal Jewish priestly caste known as Kohanim (singular "Kohen", also spelled "Cohen"). According to the Hebrew Bible, this ancestor was Aaron, the brother of Moses.

The original scientific research was based on the hypothesis that a majority of present-day Jewish Kohanim share a pattern of values for six Y-STR markers. Source: Wikipedia

Before Covid-19, we were having two different classes with a total of 33 guys until it shut down. We were blessed to start back up again in December, but are only allowed ten per class. These are the only services we have for the Messianic community. The unit in Grafton OH also is seeking to start up the Temple Project there. I thank you for all you do for the incarcerated.

James Dean, Marion OH

Shalom Aleichem Petah Tikvah ~

I have a question that is bothering me. It seems that every restaurant commercial is advertising one or more meals with unclean animal products. With Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 in mind, is it okay to eat at such establishments?

James Sawyer, Spruce Pine NC

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

Matthew 25:36

OUR REPLY: According to Rabbinic teachings, if less

than one part out of 64 is "unkosher," the food is considered edible. The

Rabbis recognized that we all eat unkosher bugs, etc., that

enter the grains being ground into bread, or vegies such as lettuce and cabbage. We attempt to keep all of these bugs out of our food, but it is impossible to keep them all out.

According to the Rabbis, the animals must also be slaughtered according to Halacha to be Rabbinically kosher. We aren't personally that strict, although we do observe the commands of Lev. 11 and Deut. 14. And certainly less than one part out of 64 of what we eat is "unkosher." We rarely go to restaurants. Yes, they do serve unkosher meats. However, we simply avoid the menu items that transgress the commands in the Bible. According to some rabbis, God's original intention was for man to be vegetarian, per Genesis 1:29-30. It is His permissive will to allow people to eat animals. However, God put restrictions on which animals could be eaten. **RAC**

Dear Chaimberlins ~

Thank you for this latest issue of **Petah Tikvah**. It always seems to arrive at just the right time, with just the right message within. Please note the change of address.

David Tuggle, Jamestown CA

Dear Rav Richard ~

Did God also create woman in His Image?

R.C.S., Texas

OUR REPLY: In Genesis 1:27, we read, "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them." Yes, the ladies are also created in the image of God. (That also shows the beauty of God!)

Najat Al Saied on the UAE's "People-to-People" Peace with Israel

by Marilyn Stern, *Middle East Forum Webinar*

Jan. 16, 2021 WWW.MEFORUM.ORG

Dr. Najat Al Saied, a columnist, author, and independent researcher, spoke to participants in a December 4 Middle East Forum webinar ([video](#)) about the normalization of relations between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel and why it is likely to endure.



Al Saied emphasized that the UAE has established a "warm ... people-to-people peace" with Israel "rather than only government-to-government peace" of the kind that Egypt and Jordan established decades ago. She discussed the major ideational, economic, and strategic drivers that set the stage for this.

Whereas most Egyptians and Jordanians see peace with Israel as a necessary evil at best, Emiratis view the Abraham Accords with immense national pride, engendered by seeing their country as a "symbol and role model of peace and tolerance in the region." ...

Emiratis have been conditioned to live harmoniously with different races and religions due to the large number of expats living in their country – around 7.8 million of its total population of 9.2 million, representing scores of nationalities and different religious faiths.

The groundwork for this national ethos was laid through an education system that teaches tolerance of other cultures. Differing from other Arab countries where textbooks too often engender hatred and suspicion towards foreigners, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan took control of the education ministry from Islamists and pushed to make the curriculum a "roadmap for the young Emirati towards moderation."

According to Al Saied, the UAE has "the first curriculum in the region to separate moral education from religious education." The former consists of four units: character and morality,

the individual and community, cultural studies, and civic studies. Islamic textbooks shy away from supremacism typical of religious curricula elsewhere in the Middle East, notably treating "Judaism as belonging to the Arab region."

The firm support of most Emirates for the Abraham Accords also reflects the high level of trust they have in their leadership compared to citizens of other Arab states. This is the result of shared kinship and blood ties, and of the demonstrable prosperity, development, and stability that have flourished under this leadership for decades. "Once the leaders agree upon certain decision, most of the people agree because they trust the opinion of the leadership." Thus, most Emirates accept their leaders' assurances that the Abraham Accords promoted a two-state solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by warding off the threat of Israeli annexations.

The UAE and Israel have "clear strategic interests in this agreement" because they have "enemies in common," most notably "the Iranian regime ... political Islam in general, and the Muslim Brotherhood in particular." ... With the UAE unburdened by a history of "direct military conflict" with Israel, these threats have engendered the "perception of Israel as a strategic ally," particularly in light of Washington's reduced presence in the Middle East.

The UAE is driven by "ambitious development plans and global competitive aspirations embodied by the UAE Vision 2021 and UAE [Centennial] 2071" strategies. The technological expertise found in Israel's industries and companies make it an ideal regional partner for the UAE's model of development and modernization. The UAE bases its approach on the "practical nature" of "peace through economy" between the people themselves.

A multitude of private sector actors on both sides are fostering "shared opportunities, economic cooperation, and business partnerships between Emiratis and Israelis." A UAE-Israeli Policy Forum has been formed to bring academics, researchers and scholars together in joint programs, for example, and a new Gulf-Israel Women's Forum connects Israeli and Emirati businesswomen.

Expectations of rapidly growing bilateral trade and investment have reinforced warm personal attitudes toward Israel in the UAE, evident in Emirati newspaper headlines that celebrated the Jewish New Year and in the kosher catering now available in many hotels as well as on the UAE airlines. In contrast to films and dramas in Egypt that exacerbate hate against Israel, the Abu Dhabi Film Commission has joined with the Israel Film Fund to promote cultural understanding between the two peoples. An Abrahamic House scheduled to open in 2022 will include a church, synagogue, and mosque...

Shalom Rav Richard & Miriam ~

Your magazine continues to educate and enlighten me. I also enjoy Daniel Botkin's **Reverend Truthtruth** cartoons. I also like his article, "Just Enough Hebrew to be Dangerous," and your article, "Messianic Judaism: What is it?"

Our congregation is doing what it can to conduct services during this time of Covid. I thank Abba that He has given us the opportunity to come together to read His word and discuss the life lessons in that word. A couple of months ago, I became a member of the UMJM Yeshiva, 28338 Holly Run Dr, Carrsville VA 23315, to better my knowledge of Scripture and Hebrew.

John Creel, Tennessee Colony TX

Dear Rav Rick ~

We had a major outbreak of Covid-19. We are currently on lockdown. If we are not allowed to have our Passover seder at the correct time, would it be okay to celebrate it on Shavuot (Pentecost)? Please give Bryan Picken my best regards. I hope he is doing well.

Norman Nunn, St Louis MI 48880

OUR REPLY: Numbers 9:9-12 gives us permission to celebrate Passover one month later if one is unable to celebrate it at the proper time. It is called Pesach Sheni, which begins at sunset on April 25 and ends at sunset on April 26. **RAC**

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

I really enjoy reading **PT**. Each issue is so informative and helpful as I grow in my faith. Please continue my subscription. Enclosed are some stamps. I put each issue into our Messianic library here after I read them, so that all of us can read them and learn. We are not allowed to have services because of Covid. But I try to let everyone know about these back issues at the library, which they can request from the chaplain. Thanks for all the hard work you go through in putting out this valuable and informative magazine. Keep those in prison in prayer.

Kevin Teague, Rosharon TX

To Whom it May Concern ~

I attend the Messianic Jewish community headed by Rav Everage. We are attempting to do our best during this time of Covid-19. I was blessed with a monetary gift. I am enclosing \$30 for a subscription and for your commentaries. **Petah Tikvah** is so valuable to so many inmates

around the nation. You keep us connected to each other and to our brothers and sisters around the world. Peter Rosas, Jarratt VA

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

Shalom Aleichem ~

Unfortunately, my subscription expired. I am enclosing a donation to resume it. **P.T.** has enriched my life with teachings and real news. I recommend it to my brothers here and to my family. I want to thank the **P.T.** staff for their time to help produce it. And also to thank HaShem for putting Rav Richard and Sister Miriam in my life through **P.T.** magazine. Rosalio Rodriguez, PumaTX

PLEASE CANCEL MY SUBSCRIPTION**Dear Brothers ~**

I am about to be released. Please cancel my subscription. Your magazines have been my best companions for the past two years. I only share them with people I consider are going to value its contents. But today, I donated them to the prison library for others to be blessed. Please continue blessing these forgotten inmates.

Saul Vite, Pecos TX

Editor's Note: We appreciate Saul writing to let us know that he is being released, and to cancel his subscription. Each magazine that is returned as undeliverable costs us \$2.11, plus the cost of the magazine itself which is lost. Please also inform us of any change of address.

On another note, some inmates write, asking me to mentor them or to be a pen pal. Regretfully, I don't have time for either one. Others write extremely long letters. Although I read them, I usually don't have time to respond to them. I do have another request: **Please try to write or print legibly.** If using a pencil, please put some muscle into it. The handwriting is often so pale that it is impossible to read. It is also very important that I am able to read your DOC# and address. Thank you. **RAC**

Dear RAC ~

During my years of incarceration, many well-meaning Christians have recommended that I try their favorite Bible correspondence courses. I have signed up, but rarely got beyond the first lesson. The studies focus only on "New Testament" Protestant and Catholic Christianity. Are there any good Messianic Correspondence courses? Any help is appreciated.

OUR REPLY: Some of our inmate readers highly recommend Shalom Bible College, 4007 High St, West Des Moines IA 50265.

MAIL FROM ETHIOPIA

Dear Dr. Richard and sister Miriam ~

May Elohim L'Y'srael bless you abundantly for your unreserved assistance that helped us to be the living witness of our Savior Y'shua HaMaschiah!!

We are so thankful for Elohim, because He watches over Israel day and night. The Devil always attempts to destroy Israel, but instead Israel is thriving in all ways of life. As a result, many Ethiopian Jews became eligible for Aliyah after long delay of mass migration.

"But don't be afraid you, Jacob my servant, neither be dismayed, Israel: for, behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be quiet and at ease, and none shall make him afraid." Jeremiah 46:27

The region called South Gondar is a residence for many Ethiopian Jews. We want to reach these people with the Good News of salvation. They also need clean and safe water supply and solar power for light. It is good to express our faith with good work.

"But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and closes his heart of compassion against him, how does the love of God remain in him? My little children, let's not love in word only, neither with the tongue only, but in deed and truth." I John 3:17-18

We are only waiting for provision of land to launch the organic garden demonstration center. The other name of this project is "Choose Life International Farm". We worked on this idea for many years and were ready to begin last year 2020. Because of the threat created by Corona virus, the project was delayed up to now. Organic garden is very important to provide healthy food for society and generate good income for widows and orphans by enabling high produce in small plot of land.

"A father of the fatherless, and a defender of the widows, is YHVH in his holy habitation." Psalms 68:5

Currently 126 destitute people are direct beneficiaries of our financial support. We are so grateful for your support. These people live in four different locations. We also gave startup money for some widows to create their own business and improve their life standard. This has brought positive impact to widows and single mothers. We encourage destitute people to be self-sufficient instead of always supporting them.

"Honor widows who are widows indeed."

1 Timothy 5:3

El-Shaddai Charity Organization (ESCO) has four major programs to address the social problems in Ethiopia.

- Ø To provide clean and safe drinking water
- Ø To give skill training for poor youths
- Ø To open a center for modern agriculture
- Ø To support widows, orphans, fatherless, elders, and disabled persons.

"Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

We produce handmade tallitot, scarves, kippot and tzitziot to support our fellowship as well as poor families of Bete-Israelis. Would you please visit our products online through these addresses? (Excellent products! RAC)

www.ethiopiajudaica.org

<https://www.facebook.com/ethiopia.judaica/>

We humbly request your prayer support based on the following prayer topics. Please pray for:

- Ø Peace and protection of Israel;
- Ø Salvation of Israel;
- Ø Aliyah;
- Ø Gospel expedition;

May your prayer and generosity be a memorial before YHVH!! Love in Y'shua HaMaschiah!!

Daniel Belay Mekonnen, PO Box 4941
Addis Ababa, **ETHIOPIA**

You can send contributions to Estranged People. "Estranged People" is our U.S. based nonprofit organization.

Estranged People, 107 E Laila Dr.

W. Melbourne FL 32904

Phone number: 321-961-1874.

You can also donate through Pay Pal with the donate button at www.ethiopiajudaica.org

MAIL FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Shalom Rav Rick ~

Finally, I got a motorcycle delivery guy to pick up my accumulated mail of many months, including 3 issues of **Petah Tikvah**. I have a lot of reading to catch up on. As usual, there is so much to learn from the articles in **PT**. It's wonderful how you manage to always fill each issue with freshly interesting chunks of knowledge sprinkled with your incisive insights. I also learn much from your other contributors, like Daniel Botkin, who also tickles my funny bone with his comic strips. Moreover, the write-ups about Israel, recent and ancient, help round up my store of information about the Messianic movement. Toda raba for including the ad for my books.

Max Tuason, **PHILIPPINES**

PEOPLE OF HISTORY

We Jews are a people of history with a God of History, and we have survived all these centuries, when other far more powerful nations have faded from history, because of our remembrance of things past, just as we have done each Passover when we remember our greatest historical event - the Exodus from slavery in Egypt and the triumphal Entry into Eretz Israel - our Promised Land.

Let me tell you the story of a much smaller exodus - that of the Volunteers who left their home countries in 1948 and made their way to a reborn Eretz Israel.¹ In its own way, it is also a story that needs to be told and remembered. My purpose is to tell this story - this history of the Volunteers in Israel's War of Independence. - *Lemad V'Saper*.

THE NEW STATE OF ISRAEL IS PROCLAIMED

On November 29, 1947 and needing a two-thirds majority, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted, to the surprise of many and the consternation of some, 33 to 13 with 10 abstentions to end the British Mandate and partition Palestine into two independent states - one Jewish and the other Arab linked in an economic union. The 13 negative votes were mainly cast by the Arab League with Britain casting one of the 10 abstentions.

After the vote was announced, the six Arab delegations of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen stormed out threatening war and the annihilation of the Palestinian Jews. Pakistan's delegation followed suit. The British, smarting from their dismissal as the mandatory power, refused to cooperate in the partition plan and announced that it would withdraw all military and civilian personnel from Palestine by May 15, 1948. This announcement, needless to say, was met with extreme joy by the entire *Yishuv*² and by

The Machal Story

By Dr. Jason Fenton -
One of the Volunteers

They helped every man his neighbor; And every one said to his brother: "Be of good courage." Isaiah 41:6

www.sabranet.com/machal

Jews everywhere.

May 14 was the day before the British Mandate was to end, and, on that day, some 400 Jews waited at the Tel Aviv Art Museum under the watchful gaze of a heavily armed *Haganah*³ detachment. Before them sat the thirteen men who would govern the new Jewish State. Above their heads flew the blue and white flags emblazoned with the Star of David.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of Israel's statehood, I would like to tell you about one of the best kept secrets of the War of Independence - **The Foreign Volunteers** who left the safety and comfort of their homes and loved ones, gave up their jobs, abandoned their careers and university studies and made their way along a clandestine route to help the reborn State of Israel. And we the volunteers, who played a substantial part in this reborn Israel's War of Independence, have a special reason to recall those incredible days.

Much has been written about modern Israel's first, and costliest war. (Sadly over 6,000 of our brethren lost their lives - an enormous number when you consider that the Jewish population of Israel was only 650,000 in 1948.) Much less has been recorded about the role of the foreign volunteers - the men and women of *Machal* who put their own lives on the line to help ensure that Israel would survive.

THE IDF - THEN AND NOW

These days, when we think of the Israel Defense Forces, we think of one of the most dedicated and powerful armies, pound for pound, in the world today. Most military analysts would further agree that today's Israeli 'Top-Gun' pilots are probably the best in the world. But on May 15, 1948, when five Arab armies invaded the Jewish State, supported by close to one million local Arabs, they came in large numbers, fully equipped with over 120 of



¹ "Land of Israel"

² Jewish population living in what was then called Palestine.

³ Jewish self-defense paramilitary.

the latest British and French fighter planes and bombers, many tanks, heavy guns, plenty of bombs and ammunition, and an abundance of confidence.

To make matters even worse (if that were possible), the borders of this new country were close to impossible to guard, being surrounded on three sides by extremely hostile enemy nations and on the fourth side by water. Add to that the fact that this skinny strip of land was only 9 to 12 miles wide between Hadera and Tel Aviv (and not much wider in a lot of other places!) with literally no place to retreat to, and you get some idea of the desperate situation facing the new State.

When the Arab invasion started, the brand new State of Israel, in stark contrast to her well-equipped Arab enemies, had no regular army. What Israel had was a group of semi-autonomous paramilitary groups each with its own High Command, political loyalty and military agenda. There was the politically centrist *Haganah* - Israel Defense Army - numbering about 10,000; the left-wing *Palmach* - Shock troops - with about 3,000 men and women from the Kibbutzim; and the right-wing *Irgun* (IZL) and *LEHI* - Fighters for the Freedom of Israel - with 2,000 fighters overall.

There was also a Home Guard made up of older citizens; the pre-military *Gadna* Youth Battalions (*G'dudel Noar*) made up of 15 to 17 year olds, who served as signalers and couriers outside the combat areas; and *Nachal* (Fighting Pioneer Youth), who guarded the border settlements from enemy attack.

When Ben Gurion, against the advice of friend and foe alike, announced Israel's independence on May 14, 1948, this wonderful hodgepodge of an army had *no* tanks, *no* military planes, and *no* artillery. It did have a few single-engined sport-planes - mainly Piper Cubs - from which the pilots and co-pilots bombed and strafed the enemy by dropping hand grenades and Molotov cocktails over the side and firing Bren guns through the open cockpit door.

This is an excerpt from Air Transport Command Volunteer Hal Livingston's Book, *No Trophy, No Sword* (p. xiii):

"No one knew his right name, they called him the "Mad Russian." Every night, just before sundown, he climbed into an old Piper Cub and flew off toward Gaza. In his lap were two dozen hand grenades, and in the rear seat a burlap bag filled with empty bottles.

"He dived down to treetop level and hurled the grenades at the Egyptian troops. After exhausting the grenades, he would reach behind

him for the burlap bag and bombard the enemy soldiers with the empty bottles. **One day he did not return.**"

It needs repeating, when the War of Independence began, there was not one modern artillery piece, not one tank, not one military aircraft (Piper Cubs hardly qualify), very few military vehicles of any kind, and only 10,000 rifles for the entire defense of Israel, and even these were scattered over the whole country.

THE *EIN BREIRA* SOLUTION

Israel didn't have the atom bomb. It was more powerful. Israel did have one additional secret weapon in its arsenal, however, and one which the Arabs had not bargained for. The Israelis called it *Ein Breira*, which in Hebrew means "No Alternative!" One of Israel's *ein breira* solutions was to have *Rekhes*, the arms procurement branch of the Haganah, scour the world for weapons left over from WWII in all the junk yards of the world. This search included North and South America, Europe, and North Africa, including the Libyan Desert, where British and German artillery left buried in the desert sand from those World War II battles were dug out of the sand and shipped to Israel. It was usually my unit, the Fourth Troop, 1st Anti-Tank, that got to put the pieces together, find some shells, and test fire the equipment - sometimes with only British shells for German guns and German shells for British guns and usually at the end of a very long rope because the guns could and, on occasion, did misfire or even explode.

There is a wonderful, but true story of the successful purchase of three British Beau-fighter bombers by agents of *Rekhes* but with no way of smuggling them out of England. The planes were then 'sold' to a movie company that supposedly needed them for a film it was producing about WWII. It was shooting some flying scenes at a small airfield in southern England when the three Bristol Beaufighters took off in perfect formation while the cameras rolled, and, like those copper-top batteries in the TV ads, they just kept going and going and going. Later that evening, three Bristol Beaufighters, with their tired but jubilant crews, landed at an airfield in Israel ready to take to the skies to defend Israel and its people.

How Has Israel's Rebirth Impacted Christianity?

From Article by **Aviel Schneider**
www.israeltoday.co.il

◆ "Israel's rebirth is for Christians an absolute proof of the presence of God," the Anglican "Vicar of Baghdad" Andrew White stressed in remarks to **Israel Today**. "God's promise has thus been fulfilled; either the Christian world understands that, or it doesn't. Sadly, there are still many churches worldwide that are opposed to Israel, and some are getting involved in the evil done by the BDS movement against Israel. But the truth is that Israel is the only nation in the Middle East that is courageously protecting the Christian minority in their land. Israel is once again setting the example and influencing the Christian world, even if a large part of that world is not willing to admit it. The return of the Jewish people is not only a profound proclamation and a true interpretation of the Hebrew Bible, it is also concrete proof that our Lord is in the midst of us."

◆ "The rebirth of Israel was a divine and historic world event," Member of Knesset and Temple Mount activist Yehuda Glick told us. "Never before has a nation returned to its homeland after an exile of 2,000 years. The sudden rebirth of the Jewish State was a blow to Christian theology. For many, it was a contradiction of their Christian faith, especially for those who believed that the existence of Israel had served but one purpose, to show the world what a suffering people look like, a people whom God had rejected. When it became clear that Israel's rebirth was not a passing phenomenon, Bible-believing Christians had to correct their interpretations. Israel is a fulfillment of God's promises in the Bible, and now Christians are seeking for how they must fit Israel into their own faith."

"I am too blessed to be stressed!" The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. **Shalom V'Ahava** (Peace and Love) be with you forever, Amen.

Israeli Model Yael Shelbia Hopes to 'Extend Peace in the Middle East' After Her UAE Magazine Cover Shoot by Shiryn Ghermezian

www.algemeiner.com

Tel Aviv-based model Yael Shelbia says she has high hopes for the future of the Middle East, after becoming the first Israeli to appear on the cover of a magazine published in the United Arab Emirates.



"As a Jewish religious, IDF soldier and a model, I'm so very honored to be the first one to participate in such a historical cover," Shelbia, 19, told *The Algemeiner* on December 30th. "I hope that in the near future, we will be privileged to extend the peace in the Middle East."

Shelbia, who started modeling when she was 14, will appear on the cover of the Dubai-based fashion and lifestyle magazine *L'Official Arabia* in its February issue. She flew to New York City for the cover photoshoot for a single day during a snowstorm, Kayla Lask, from Shelbia's Israel-based modeling agency ITM Models, told *The Algemeiner*.

In addition to being featured on the cover, Shelbia will have an 8-page spread in the magazine and will wear looks by Israeli designers. The magazine's February issue will be dedicated solely to Israeli fashion, *The Algemeiner* previously reported.

Shelbia currently lives in Tel Aviv, where she is also serving in the IDF. The Shabbat-observant model is originally from the northern Israeli city of Nahariya and has four brothers and sister. She has already been featured on a number of magazine covers in Israel and was recently voted as 2020's most beautiful woman in the world in a ranking published by *TC Candler*.

Biden Extends LGBTQ Rights

President Biden wrote and signed a historic executive order in January 2021 to interpret civil rights laws as prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The order will ensure that LGBTQ people (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and "Questioning") will receive equal protection in employment, housing, education, health care, and more.

Biden's orders way go too far. By embracing the 'woke' notion that gender is purely a matter of identity, unrelated to biology, female athletes are forced to compete with biological males who will unjustly claim titles, trophies, and scholarships. Trans "girls" who go through puberty as males have huge advantages over biological girls and women. That's why a pair of trans "girls" were able to easily dominate girls' competitions in Connecticut in 2020. The athletic dreams of several biological girls were crushed.

Battered women's shelters are where traumatized women go for shelter. They do not want biological males to be in the same housing with them. The girls in high school locker rooms should not be forced to shower with biological males who suddenly identify as "girls." The Q in LGBTQ stands for "Questioning." Q is for those who don't know which gender they are from day to day. On Monday, he is a boy. On Tuesday, (s)he identifies as a girl, and decides to use the girls' changing and shower areas. This potentially puts girls in danger. Girls should not be forcibly exposed to biological males in such areas.

Changing rooms for clothing stores should be allowed to have separate changing rooms for biological men and biological women. There are good reasons for separate public restrooms for men and women. Aside from privacy concerns, there is also the issue of safety. We are putting women and girls in danger with such policies.

The latest sexual minority which is asking for more rights are the non-binary people who do not identify as male or female. They are demanding special pronouns to be used for them. Where does it all end? For thousands of years, we knew what a male and female was. It is easy to tell with a quick look at the anatomy. Now some new parents are being allowed to choose the gender of the newborn, or no gender at all. // "I will let the child choose his or her own gender when he or she is of age." This is insanity. I am appalled that President Biden would approve of this. By the way, the Presidency is the executive branch of government. The legislative branch is Congress. Biden should not be allowed to produce such dangerous legislation.

We are also opposed to the LGBTQ agenda being promoted in schools. Schools are for education, not indoctrination. Children should not be made confused about their genders. **RAC**

Source: The Week, Feb 5, 2021, p.16

Mitch McConnell Defends Liz Cheney and Condemns Marjory Greene

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has spoken out in defense of Representative Liz Cheney and called folks like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene a "cancer" on the GOP. He also said, "Looney lies and conspiracy theories are a cancer for the Republican Party and for our country." The GOP should not be defined by kooks like Marjory Greene.

Marjorie Greene is a major supporter of QAnon, which promotes false and dangerous conspiracy theories, some of which are very anti-Semitic. She claimed that the California wildfires were ignited by space lasers controlled by Jewish bankers! On Facebook, she "liked" a comment that advocated "a bullet to the head" for Nancy Pelosi. She believes that school massacres such as at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the Sandy Hook Elementary School were staged, didn't really happen. Source: *The Week*, 2/13/2021

New Israeli Drug Cured 29 of 30 Moderate/Serious COVID Cases

Hailing a "huge breakthrough," the hospital said Prof. Nadir Arber's EXO-CD24 substance had been administered to 30 patients whose conditions were moderate or worse, and all 30 recovered — 29 of them within three to five days.

The medicine fights the cytokine storm — a potentially lethal immune overreaction to the coronavirus infection that is believed to be responsible for much of the deaths associated with the disease. (TOI / VFI News)

"God, we ask that you continue to bless us with new medicines and other medical breakthroughs."

From Israel to Dubai: Vertical Farms Agreement Signed

Israeli vertical farm company Future Crops signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Eastern Group (UEG) from the United Arab Emirates to consider the joint establishment of vertical farms in one of the first agricultural cooperations between Israel and UAE companies.

Vertical farms are indoor, multi-level facilities that optimize plant growth in a highly controlled environment, maximizing land usage and produce yields, which allows for pesticide-free produce to be farmed vertically within containers big enough to fit in a parking lot, using only one-tenth the amount of water usually needed.

(JPost / VFI News)

Source for above items: Barry & Batya Segal, Vision for Israel, PO Box 7743, Charlotte NC 28241-7743 · USA

12 Israeli Researchers Among World Top 50 in Their Field, 333 in Top 2%

A dozen Israeli researchers from Tel Aviv University (TAU) were ranked among the world's top 50 in their disciplines, a new study from Stanford University has revealed. Some 333 TAU researchers were among the top 2%, with 155 of them included in the top 1% and 74 in the top 0.5%, said the study, making TAU's achievement even more impressive. (This is even more impressive when you realize that the Jewish population of Israel is less than a tenth of one percent of the world's total population. **RAC**)

"This is a cause for real national pride. TAU is known for its academic excellence and recognized as a leading interdisciplinary university," said the university's vice president for research Prof. Dan Peer, adding that it is ranked among the top 0.4% in the world in nanotechnology. "It is a great honor for us that 333 of our researchers rank among the top 2% of the world's best researchers," he said. (JPost / VFI News)

"God, we ask that you continue to bless the people of Israel with gifted scientists and researchers."



Israel's Population is 9.3 Million

World Israel News Dec 31st
As 2020 drew to a close the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) reported that Israel's population has grown to 9.3 million people. In its annual year-end announcement, the CBS reported that as of Dec 31, 2020, there are 6,870,000 Jews (73.9% of the total population), 1,956,000 Arabs (21.1%) and 456,000 other ethnic groups (5.0%).

The total is almost double the 4.8 million people who lived in Israel in 1990. The population increased this year by 151,000 persons (1.7%) with 176,000 new babies of whom 73.8% were born to Jewish mothers, 23.4% to Arab mothers and 2.8% to mothers of other

ethnicities. In 2020, some 20,000 new immigrants arrived in Israel during the year despite the coronavirus pandemic and another 11,000 Israelis moved back home from abroad. Although aliyah immigration to Israel is down from the roughly 30,000 in 2019, Aliyah offices reported earlier this year that inquiries about moving to Israel have tripled compared to the same period last year. Israel's 3rd lockdown not really working as infection rates rise. The main countries from which immigrants came this year were: Russia (38.1%), Ukraine (15.1%), France (11.0%) and the US (10.7%). During the year another 50,000 Israelis passed away including at least 3,318 who died from the coronavirus, while another 6,000 Israelis moved abroad for more than a year.

Pray that the LORD will continue to stir His people to return to the Promised Land.

Vision for Israel, POB 7743, Charlotte NC 28241

Violent Attack on U.S. Capitol Unconscionable

*After presidential election certification,
time to unite worldjewishcongress.org*

World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder praised the United States Congress for certifying the election of President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. and condemned violent occupation of the U.S. Capitol by insurrectionists (on January 6th) seeking to overturn the results of November's presidential election.

Ambassador Lauder said: "This is a victory for the perseverance of democracy after the brutal onslaught on our nation's integrity and historical traditions that we witnessed (on January 6th). I commend Vice President Pence and the members of the U.S. Congress for upholding American Constitutional norms and reminding us of the majesty of our traditions.

"At the same time, I unambiguously condemn the thugs and criminals who epitomized the worst elements of society by vandalizing the sacred halls and chambers of Congress, together with all who incited and abetted their unconscionable violence that also resulted in a tragic loss of life.

"Now is the time for all Americans of good will, regardless of our political or ideological views, to rally behind President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris and ensure that our government will successfully defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and tackle the many challenges confronting our nation and the world."

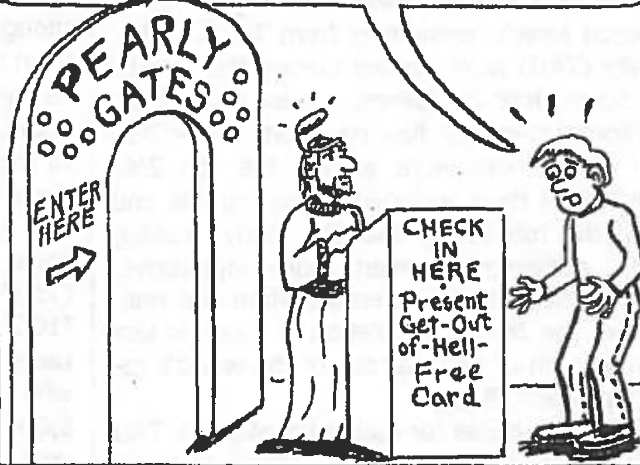
Daniel Botkin Presents

PROVERBS ILLUSTRATED

"He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."

- Proverbs 18:9 -

I **DIED??** THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! I WAS TAUGHT THAT IF WE PRAY WITH TOTAL FAITH FOR SOMETHING, THEN GOD WILL GIVE IT TO US!



I PLANNED TO DO SOME EXPLOITS FOR THE LORD, AND I PRAYED WITH **TOTAL FAITH** AND ASKED GOD TO KEEP ME ALIVE AND GIVE ME ENOUGH TIME TO DO ALL THOSE EXPLOITS BEFORE I DIED!



LET ME CHECK YOUR RECORDS... HMM... IT SAYS HERE THAT GOD **DID ANSWER THAT PRAYER!**

BUT HOW CAN THAT BE?



IT SAYS: "FOR EXPLANATION, SEE 'SCREENS' UNDER INDEX 'S'!"

"SCREENS"? WHAT DOES **THAT** MEAN??



LET'S SEE... IT SAYS GOD GAVE YOU PLENTY OF TIME TO DO ALL THOSE EXPLOITS, BUT YOU FRITTERED AWAY ALL THAT TIME IN FRONT OF YOUR SCREENS -- YOUR TV SCREEN, YOUR COMPUTER SCREEN, YOUR SMART PHONE SCREEN, YOUR I-PAD AND I-POD SCREENS....



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

Echo Chambers

We appreciate the many blessings of the Internet. It is a valuable source for news, connecting with others, and even for entertainment. However, one of the many curses of the Internet has been what are called "echo chambers." Those on both the Left and the Right often go only to Internet sites ("echo chambers") that confirm what they already believe. They then totally avoid any news sources that might contradict what they already believe. Many of the Internet sites that they go to are highly biased, and avoid any news that may make "the other side" look good, and also avoid any news that may make their preferred views look bad. In short, they don't want to be confused with the facts.

We also need to avoid the many wild conspiracy theories that are promoted by the Internet and various other sources, such as radio. The Republican Party must discontinue the path toward autocracy and return to the path of traditional conservative values that was the hallmark of the Republican Party prior to 2016.

Inside this highly polarized environment, we also had a highly polarized election cycle in 2020. Donald Trump has been a great president for Israel, even for the entire Middle East. The political pundits told us that recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel (which is only recognizing reality) would harm US relations with the Arab nations. They said the same thing when Trump moved the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. However, Arab nations are recognizing Israel, and those that have not formally recognized Israel are no longer hostile. These same Islamic nations also have better relations with the United States. Donald Trump has also been great for religious rights. However, he is not our Savior. It would be helpful if Trump would admit that Biden won. Much unrest would cease.

I did **not** vote for Joe Biden. However, Joe Biden won, by a bigger margin with both the popular vote and the electoral vote than what Donald Trump had won against Hillary in 2016. William Barr, Mike Pence, Mitch McConnell, etc., all agree that Joe Biden won. Biden is now our president. This has also been confirmed by over 50 court cases, including a 9 to 0 decision by the US Supreme Court, which included three appointees from Donald Trump. Mitch McConnell also blames Donald Trump for the insurrection that occurred in the Capitol on January 6th.

I am not a fan of Biden. However, Republican governors and attorney generals also agree that Donald Trump lost the election. Elections have consequences. Biden won. It is an assault on our democracy to attempt to overturn the election. Ballots—not bullets, not rioters, and not lawyers with briefcases—decide elections.

It is now time to concentrate on applying pressure on President Biden to do the right things. Biden should not attempt to undo the wonderful things ex-President Trump accomplished in the Middle East. People of faith should not be forced to accommodate homosexual weddings with their bakeries and photo studios. Our public schools should be places of education, not indoctrination. And medical professional people of faith should not be forced to participate in abortions. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion. Any court decisions to the contrary are un-Constitutional, and should be disrespected. **RAC**

Ukraine's President Zelensky Unveils New Babyn Yar Monument

The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky unveiled a new monument commemorating the Babyn Yar massacre on Wednesday, January 27. At the ceremony, marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the start of eightieth-year commemorations of the massacre, messages of support and appreciation were broadcast from international leaders, including Israel's President Reuven Rivlin.

The monument, titled "A Glimpse into the Past" was commissioned by the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center (BYHMC) and created by prominent Ukrainian artist and architect Anna Kamyshan. It includes a tree with broken branches, as a metaphor for a life cut short.

(INN / VFI News)

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die..." - John 11:25-26

Embassy Will Remain in Jerusalem

[HonestReporting.com](https://www.honestreporting.com)

The United States Senate voted 97-3 to support an amendment that affirmed the country's intention to keep its embassy in Jerusalem. It was put forward by Republican Senators Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma and Bill Hagerty of Tennessee.

On the Senate floor, Inhofe said that the "amendment should not be controversial to anyone. It has been our position in the US for 25 years. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and we should have our embassy in Jerusalem." He referenced past Senate votes to place the US Embassy in Jerusalem: "In 1995 the same amendment was 93-5. In 2017 it was 90-0."

Hagerty said that Jerusalem is "the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state of Israel." He added that "establishing this embassy is paving the way for peace across the region and should be preserved. Now our allies there know we will stand with them."

McConnell, After Voting to Acquit: Trump is 'Morally Responsible' for Capitol Riot

In stunning rebuke minutes after acquittal, Republican Senate minority leader says former president still subject to criminal and civil law: 'He didn't get away with anything yet'

By **ALAN FRAM** and **LISA MASCARO**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell excoriated Donald Trump on Saturday for being “morally responsible” for the January 6 attack on the US Capitol, but said he voted to acquit him at the impeachment trial because he believes the Senate had no jurisdiction over a former president.

Washington’s most powerful Republican used his strongest language to date to denounce Trump minutes after the Senate voted 57-43 to convict Trump but fell short of the two-thirds majority to convict. It was a stunningly bitter castigation of Trump by McConnell, who could have used much of the same speech had he instead decided to convict Trump.

If McConnell had voted to find Trump guilty, he has enough respect among his colleagues that many more of them may well have done the same. Clearly angry, the Senate’s longest-serving GOP leader said Trump’s actions surrounding the attack on Congress were “a disgraceful, disgraceful dereliction of duty.” He even noted that though Trump is now out of office, he remains subject to the country’s criminal and civil laws.

Seven Republicans joined all 50 Democrats on that vote, creating a clear majority against Trump and a bipartisan denunciation of his actions in helping spark the violent attack on the Capitol by his supporters.

McConnell had signaled last month that he was open to finding Trump guilty, which in itself was an eye-opening signal of his alienation from the former president. His decision on how he would vote was unclear until he sent a private email to GOP senators Saturday morning saying, “While a close call, I am persuaded that impeachments are a tool primarily of removal and we therefore lack jurisdiction.”

He expanded on his rationale on the Senate floor after the roll call vote but went even further, making clear that his enmity toward Trump’s actions. “There is no question, none, that President Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the event of that day,” he said.

McConnell’s decision to acquit Trump left the party locked in its struggle to define itself in the post-Trump presidency. Numerous and fiercely loyal pro-Trump Republicans and more traditional Republicans who believe the former president

is damaging the party’s national appeal are struggling to decide the GOP’s direction.

A guilty vote by McConnell would have likely done even more to roll GOP waters by signaling an attempt by the party’s most powerful Washington leader to yank the party away from a figure still revered by most of its voters. Many had expected the Kentucky senator to vote to clear Trump of the charges, based on McConnell’s history as a GOP loyalist who takes few major risks. But before Feb 13, he had said little in public or private about his mindset, and no one was certain what he would decide...

Middle East Successes Under Trump

Source: **Republican Jewish Coalition**

President Trump, Kushner, and Berkowitz are being honored for their leading roles in negotiating the historic Abraham Accords. The accords established normalization agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, the first of their kind in more than 25 years.

...The Trump administration implemented a groundbreaking policy in the Middle East by focusing on turning the Arab world toward Israel and away from the terror regime in Iran. That policy resulted in more Middle East peace deals signed in 5 months than had been signed in the previous 70 years.

...Thanks to the Trump administration, if the Biden team is serious about its intentions to bring more peace to the Middle East, the opportunity for additional agreements is ripe. The Abraham Accords have shown Arab countries that peace with Israel can be accomplished safely and will lead to further deals that can improve the security of the entire region. These lessons appear to have been internalized in the Arab world. There has already been speculation that countries such as Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Mauritania are considering normalizing with Israel as well.

Friedman maintains that by coming in as outsiders without any diplomatic experience, he and others in the administration were able to smash precedents and deliver a number of policy objectives long sought by Israel and many in the United States: moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 2018, normalizing with parts of the Arab world, pulling the US out of the Iran nuclear deal, recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights, threatening the International Criminal Court over a war crimes investigation into Israel, declaring that Israel’s West Bank settlements do not violate international law, and calling the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement “a manifestation of anti-Semitism.”

White Supremacists

In 2009, the US Department of Homeland Security issued a report warning of a surge in right-wing extremism which would be greater than Islamic terrorism. At the time, I felt that this was a political report, since we had a left-leaning Democrat (Barak Obama) as our president. Prior to 2009, most of the terror incidents were indeed related to Islamic terrorism, the foremost event being the 9/11 attacks in New York City and Washington DC in 2001, and several more major attacks on Americans in succeeding years. Europe was also bleeding and burning from many attacks by Islamic extremists at the time.

It must be noted that most right-wing conservatives are appalled at any kind of terrorism. However, as it turned out, the Department of Homeland Security was correct. Right-wing extremism has become much more of a threat, far exceeding the threats from Radical Islam in recent years. Experts estimate that there are tens of thousands of far-right extremists in the USA.

The Southern Poverty Law Center counted 181 militias and 155 white nationalist hate groups in 2019, with a total of 576 "extreme anti-government groups," a 55% increase over 2017. In addition, just as with Islamic extremists, there are many "lone wolf" attacks from right-wing extremists, such as Patrick Crusius, 22, who opened fire on Hispanics at a Walmart in El Paso TX killing 23, and Dylann Roof, 26, who murdered 9 black parishioners in a church in Charleston SC. A meteoric increase in right-wing extremism occurred during the presidency of Donald Trump.

President Biden vowed to confront "a rise in political extremism, white supremacy, and domestic terrorism." However, the Democratic victories in the 2020 elections may have energized far-right extremists, such as the insurrectionists who invaded the Capitol Building on January 6. Please pray that we can once again be the United States of America, not the **Dis**united States of America, and that political and religious extremism may cease from our shores.

Here is an item from *The Jewish Press*, Jan 8:

Making a *Berachah* (blessing) on a Good-Looking Woman

Question: The Gemara says that you're supposed to say a *berachah* on seeing a beautiful woman. Is that a *halacha* we are supposed to keep nowadays?

Answer (from Rav Hershel Schlachter): Yes, you probably should.

Question: If we allow people to say a *berachah* on beautiful women, won't some men go around looking for beautiful women to say *berachos*?

Answer: You're not supposed to go looking for a good-looking woman to say this *berachah*. You

can misuse everything. We assume that people will be careful. If you bump into a good-looking woman, you say the *berachah*. But you are not supposed to go looking for them. The Gemara¹ says that Rabbi Akiva bumped into a good-looking woman, and later married her.

Editor's Note: In Judaism, there are blessings for many things, including upon the New Moon, before and after reading a portion from the Torah, upon seeing the ocean, upon relieving oneself, for the gift of sight, over bread, over wine, upon hearing thunder, when washing your hands, being free, before traveling, and many other blessings. I included a condensed version of Rabbi Schlachter's response to a serious question. I also enjoyed his levity. I don't suggest that you learn all of these Jewish blessings. However, we learn from Judaism to **pray our way through the day**, in your own words, even in the instance where you happen to see a beautiful woman. And you probably should say the *berachah* when you see her. (She might be insulted if you don't say the *berachah*.)

One good song from the church goes something like this, "Count your blessings, count them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done. Count your blessings, count your many blessings. Count your blessings, see what God has done." We are often good at *kvetching* (complaining). There are so many ways in which we have been blessed. So be a good Jew, and count your blessings! Say them out loud! **RAC**

Nikki Haley Breaks with Trump

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Nikki Haley has broken with Donald Trump in a move that puts her at the front of the potential Republican presidential pack for moderate conservatives, including pro-Israel Jews who mainly stuck with the party because of Trump's foreign policy.

Haley made the final cut on February 12 in a Politico interview. Trump's inflammatory post-election rhetoric, which Democrats argue culminated in the deadly January 6 riot at the US Capitol, was the final straw. "We need to acknowledge he let us down," Haley said. "He went down a path he shouldn't have, and we shouldn't have followed him, and we shouldn't have listened to him. And we can't let that ever happen again." Many GOP Jews will be happy with Haley's decision and could help her with her presidential ambitions. Haley made fighting anti-Israel policies the centerpiece of her UN tenure.

¹ The Mishnah is the main body of text in the Talmud. It is commentary on the Torah originally written in Hebrew. The Gemara is the commentary on the Mishna, usually in text surrounding the Mishnah in the Talmud, written in Aramaic.

Horrific Crimes Against Humanity

It is curious that the United Nations Human Rights Council continues to target Israel for more human rights violations than any other country in the world. Keep in mind that Israel has the best human rights record of any country in the Middle East or in North Africa, and better than most other countries around the world. Human rights violations in the Palestinian Authority and in Hamas controlled Gaza are also horrendous.

Most Palestinian Arabs would much prefer to live in Israel and enjoy all the civil rights accorded to Israeli Arabs. Israeli Arabs have all the rights that are accorded to Israeli Jews, with the exception of the military draft. Israeli Jews are drafted into the Israel Defense Forces at age 18 or 19 for three years for the men. Israeli women are also drafted, but serve only half as long. Israeli Arabs are not drafted at all, although increasing numbers of Israeli Arabs now volunteer to service in the Israel Defense Forces, and are serving very admirably.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has issued 90 condemnations against Israel for the years 2006 to 2021. Meanwhile, the UNHRC has issued zero condemnations against Pakistan, Somalia, Turkey, Russia, China, and Iraq for human rights violations for those same years. Christians in Pakistan, Somalia, Turkey, and Iraq are all under heavy assault. There would be many anti-Semitic assaults against Jews living in Arab countries. However, 99% of the Jews living in most Arab countries were either forced to leave or chose to leave because of persecution and pogroms, often with little more than the clothes on their backs. Kurds in Turkey and Syria are under very heavy assault. Russia has a terrible human rights record.

However, currently, the worst human rights violations are occurring in China's huge internment camps for ethnic Uighur Muslims. Women are being systematically tortured and raped. Horrific reports of abuses are arriving via the few who have managed to escape these Chinese concentration camps. Tursunay Ziawudun was in these camps for nine months. She fled to the US, and told the BBC that she was tortured with electric shocks in her vagina and was gang-raped three times. She said, "There were many people in those cells who lost their minds."

However, despite all these horrific crimes against Muslims in China, the UNHRC has issued zero condemnations against China, and 90 condemnations against Israel for the years 2006 to 2021. Nations around the world are also singling out Israel for human rights condemnations, and nary a word of condemnation against China and other nations for their many violations of human rights. This is antisemitism, plain and simple, condemning the only Jewish nation in the world.

RAC

Military Coup in Myanmar

Please allow me to digress a bit. In January 2021, former President Trump pardoned former General Michael Flynn for his crimes and misdemeanors, releasing him from prison. This was after Donald Trump's defeat in the November election of 2020. After being released, Michael Flynn then spoke publicly, repeating the lie that Joe Biden had stolen the election through fraudulent means. Therefore, Flynn suggested that Donald Trump declare martial law and overturn the election results. (There should be a law ordering the military to disobey the Commander-in-Chief when he wants to declare martial law to overturn an election.) Fortunately, Trump did not declare martial law, although he said multiple times, "Stop the Steal."

Apparently, Myanmar's military leaders took a cue from Michael Flynn, because they used those very same tactics from Michael Flynn in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. Myanmar's military claimed that Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (which had won 83% of the vote) had stolen the election through fraud. The military then declared martial law, overturning the election, and threw Suu Kyi into prison.

Suu Kyi had originally come to power via free elections in 2015. She fought for human rights and even won the Nobel Peace Prize. However, after being elected in 2015, she did nothing to stop the military's murderous expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims. Prior to the expulsion, these unfortunate people were brutally attacked, women raped, and their villages burned to the ground. Most of the Rohingya Muslims have found refuge in Bangladesh, which is a very poor, overpopulated country. They remain in terrible refugee camps, which is the best that Bangladesh can afford.

Of course, this is another instance in which the United Nations and the UNHRC have proven next to useless. I am not a fan of Islam. However, I am horrified at the treatment of Muslims by the Chinese and the military in Myanmar. The United Nations should take a break from condemning Israel and instead condemn Myanmar and China for genuine human rights violations. Arab nations should also condemn Myanmar and China for their treatment of Muslims. The BDS movement should also stop condemning Israel, and demonstrate against the nations that have genuine human rights violations, including China and Myanmar.

Jesus did not come to Planet Earth to establish a new religion.

He came to Planet Earth to be the Messiah for the old religion: Judaism.

Israel will be Self-Sufficient in Natural Gas by 2022

Israel will rely on its own natural gas supplies without needing external suppliers, starting in 2022, the Energy Ministry has said. Israel maintains an offshore emergency gas supply in a Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) boat off the coast of Hadera. Canceling that unit will save Israelis more than NIS 250 million per year in electricity costs.

Israel operates two major natural gas fields in the Mediterranean Sea: Tamar, which has been pumping gas since 2013, and Leviathan, which began production last year. A third gas source, the Karish field, is expected to start producing gas during the coming year. At that point, the Energy Ministry maintains, there will be no need for external backups.

The existing FSRU infrastructure that was built in 2012 will be maintained in case of future need, the ministry noted. The system allows liquefied natural gas to be imported and stored, and then converted back to a gas and delivered via sea link to Israel's natural gas transmission system. (JPost / VFI News)

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. - 1 Peter 2:16

Jonathan Pollard, Former Jewish Spy, Lands in Israel 35 Years After Arrest

Israeli agent Jonathan Pollard made aliyah (immigrated) early on December 30th, landing in Israel 35 years after he was sentenced to life imprisonment for passing classified US information to an ally.

(Israel and the USA had an agreement that each would supply intelligence information to the other side that was vital to the security of either side. However, the USA was withholding intelligence about Saddam Hussein's production of poison gas and much else that was vital to Israel's security. Jonathan Pollard may have broken the law by illegally providing this intelligence information. However, it was also illegal for the USA to deliberately withhold this information.)

He and his wife, Esther, arrived on the private jet of American billionaire Sheldon Adelson, immediately kissing the ground after coming down the steps of their plane. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu greeted the Pollards at Ben-Gurion Airport, handed Jonathan an identity card, and recited the shehechyanu (you kept us alive). (JPost / VFI News)

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. - James 1:25

Vision for Israel, POB 7743, Charlotte NC 28241

JOSEF GANZ AND THE JEWISH VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE

Ganz, the Jewish car designer who created a prototype vehicle that helped inspire the Hitler-endorsed "Volkswagen" — a small, affordable "people's car" — died at 69 on July 26 in 1967. Ganz had a Hungarian Jewish mother and a German Jewish father. He became a fervent car designer in his early twenties and created the "May Beetle," 1931, a lightweight car that broke with the heavy-chassis models of its day, and the "Standard Superior," 1933, featuring a VW-like chassis. The new German chancellor Adolf Hitler admired for its design and its selling price of only 1,590 Reichsmark. Within weeks of its unveiling at the Berlin auto show, however, Ganz was arrested by the Gestapo, and then fled Germany, whereupon Hitler assigned Ferdinand Porsche to design a "Volkswagen" for 1,000 Reichsmark. Ganz spent some years working for General Motors in Australia, where he died in obscurity.

"[T]he Beetle was more than a collection of technical innovations. To build cars for a whole people, as Henry Ford showed, required the creation of a huge manufacturing, sales and distribution enterprise. In a country as economically desperate as Germany was between the wars, only an ego-driven tyrant would have undertaken such an enterprise. But as history proved, the sound principles underlying the Beetle's design by a Jewish engineer enabled it to outlive the reign of the murderous dictator who made the project possible." —Phil Patton, *New York Times*

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US to Label Products From Parts of Judea and Samaria as 'Made in Israel'

Products from parts of Judea and Samaria sold in the United States will be labeled "Made in Israel" as of December 24 as per regulation issued by US Customs.

According to the US Customs regulation, "Goods produced in the territorial areas of the West Bank where Israel continues to exercise relevant authorities—specifically Area C under the Oslo Accords and the area known as 'H2' which is under Israeli administrative control consistent with the 1997 Hebron protocol—must be marked as [...] 'Made in Israel.'"

On the other hand, "Goods produced in Areas A and B under the Oslo Accords, which are under the civilian oversight of the Palestinian Authority for these purposes, along with the area known as 'H1' from the 1997 Hebron Protocol, must be marked as [...] 'Made in West Bank.'" (INN / VFI News)

Vision for Israel, POB 7743, Charlotte NC 28241

Racism is an issue that has long been a matter of critical importance to the Jewish people. Since their origins in the ancient world of the Middle East, they have been persecuted, hunted, dispersed and murdered—often erroneously in the name of righteousness. It has created in them an awareness of discrimination that few others have. And as believers in the God of Israel, it has entrenched in their national psyche a conviction to protect and defend the “minority among you,” recognizing the likeness of God in all creation.

Today, the subject of racism is on everyone’s lips. The United States, Great Britain, Europe and Australia, to name just a few, are countries that have recently been overwhelmed with demonstrations on behalf of minorities. At the center of much of the global unrest has been an organization called Black Lives Matter (BLM). Originating in the US, BLM finds its beginnings in the history between the black community and the Jewish people of America. Today, however, its impact is global, and the history that undergirds it has been lost, replaced instead with the very racism it claims to repudiate.

The Jewish Role

Though very few people might immediately recognize it as such, July 2, 1964, was a seminal moment in global history. It was then that US President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the American Civil Rights Act. Joined at the White House by congressional leaders and others, including civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., the president signed the most sweeping American civil rights legislation in over a century. It created a legal foundation for the long and arduous journey toward equality for minorities in the United States.

Few at the time would have realized the impact this landmark legislation would have, not just in America but beyond her shores as well. Even fewer were aware that such legislation would not have come into being at all but for the efforts of America’s Jews. And certainly no one would have imagined that the day would come when virulent anti-Semitism would find a home in the very pro-minority organizations that the Jewish community had so staunchly supported.

Tracing the Legacy

As early as the 19th century, Jews were America’s fiercest proponents of equality for black Americans and ending slavery. In the racist south of the 1800s, Jewish storekeepers were virtually the only Southern merchants who addressed black customers as “Mr.” and “Mrs.” and permitted them to try on clothing. Though they often put themselves at risk, these Jewish people

Racial Equality: A Jewish Legacy

by Cheryl Hauer, International
Vice-President, Bridges for Peace

www.BridgesForPeace.com

PO Box 410037

Melbourne FL 32941-0037

did all they could to acknowledge the dignity of each individual, regardless of color, and to care for a black population that suffered in poverty. The result, however, was often additional persecution for an already marginalized Jewish community, with synagogues being dynamited,

cemeteries desecrated and individuals murdered by the Ku Klux Klan.

In the 20th century, the Jewish community was at the forefront in the fight for civil rights. They were the earliest supporters of organizations like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and their participation in the civil rights actions of the 1950s and 1960s was overwhelming. The 1954 Supreme Court decision that called for the integration of America’s schools was strongly influenced by briefs submitted to the court by the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League. It is estimated that 90% of the civil rights lawyers in the south in the 1960s were Jewish and 30% of the white volunteers who rode freedom buses to the South and registered black people to vote were also Jews. The murder of two such Jewish volunteers, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, in Meridian, Mississippi, is credited as being the impetus for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

From Lynchpin to Antagonist

Fast forward 55 years and the fight for racial equality is still raging. Today, a new generation of activists is calling for change, but this time, the movement is sweeping the globe—not just America. Under the banner of BLM, demonstrators have filled the streets in London, Melbourne, Toronto, Brussels, Berlin and Paris with the message that the injustices minorities have faced in their nations—both past and present—must be addressed.

However, BLM is impacting the international community with something other than just its fight for racial equality. At demonstrations held across the world, signs declaring “Black Lives Matter” and “Racism Must End” are intermingled with those that say “Freedom for Palestine” and “Israel is an Apartheid State.” Among their other demands is a call to end all US military support for Israel. According to the *Australian Jewish News*, the activists claim that in a series of secret training sessions, Israeli security forces taught US and UK police to use the deadly stranglehold that killed George Floyd. BLM UK has endorsed Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) and is calling for targeted sanctions against Israel in line with “international law against Israel’s colonial genocidal regime.” ...

Truth is not a political position. Yet, some who disagree with the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) wrongly label it and similar groups "right wing," "ultra right," or even "extreme." Hurling such labels avoids fair, reasoned, fact-based debate on the issues, and instead attempts to delegitimize us.

It wasn't "far right" or "right wing" for ZOA to predict the Oslo accords would lead to more terrorism and not peace – when on the very same date the accords were signed in Washington, Yasser Arafat broadcast his "stages" message in Arabic: "Since we cannot defeat Israel in war, we do this in stages. We take any and every territory that we can of Palestine, and establish sovereignty there, and use it as a springboard to take more. When the time comes we can get the Arab nations to join us for the final blow against Israel."

Then Arafat and later Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas failed to fulfill any of their signed agreements. Arafat and Abbas did not stop inciting hatred and violence against Jews, ban terrorist groups like Hamas, or collect illegal weapons. Instead the PA's leaders named schools, streets, and sports teams after Jew-killers and glorified terrorists with posters and parades. The PA's official emblems, stationery, maps, stamps and school textbooks show all of Israel as Palestine. The PA teaches its children to use knives and car-rammings to "liberate" "Palestine," and pays terrorists to murder Jews. Opposing Oslo was a **rational**, centrist position.

Nor was it "right wing" to oppose the unilateral Gaza/Northern Samaria withdrawal that heartlessly removed 10,000 Jews from their homes. Druse MK Ayoub Kara correctly warned that Hamas – whose charter calls for the murder of all Jews and Israel's destruction – would take over Gaza and make it a base for attacking Israel. Evacuating every Jew from Gaza without any Palestinian concession sent a provocative message of Israeli weakness and that Jews had no right to live there. Opposing the Gaza withdrawal was a rational centrist position. Americans opposed the withdrawal by four to one (63% to 16% – McLaughlin & Associates June 2005 poll).

It's also not "right wing" to oppose dividing Jerusalem. It's a myth that Jerusalem is holy to Islam. The word "Jerusalem" never appears in the Koran; Jerusalem appears 700 times in Judaism's the Tanakh (O.T.). When Jordan occupied eastern Jerusalem (1948 – 1967), it allowed Jerusalem to become a slum and didn't allow Jews access to Jewish hold places. The Jordanians destroyed 58 synagogues in eastern Jerusalem. No Arab leader except Jordan's King Hussein ever visited Jerusalem.

Truth is Not a Political Position

By Morton A. Klein,
President / Zionist Organization of America

Supporting the right of Jews to live in Judea and Samaria ("West Bank") is also a rational, centrist human-rights position. Judea and Samaria is the Jewish people's ancient, historic, and religious homeland, which the Jewish people are entitled to under international law. We are called "Jews" because we

are from Judea. If it's Arab land, why is "Palestine" a Roman name? The PLO's 1964 charter said that the PLO "doesn't exercise any territorial sovereignty over the West Bank." And in 1988, Jordan relinquished all claims to the West Bank. It is racist to not support the right of Jews to live there.

There is also nothing extreme about opposing a Hamas/Fatah Palestinian Arab state... A Palestinian state would be an armed terrorist state threatening Israel, similar to Hamas-controlled Gaza – but with even more dangerous missiles near Israel's major population centers. Polls show that Hamas would win elections in both Gaza and the West Bank (Reuters). Iran bragged three years ago that it had already begun arming the West Bank and that its efforts will lead to Israel's annihilation (AP).

In an October 2016 American Jewish Committee (AJC) poll, 81% of American Jews agreed that the Arabs' goal is not obtaining territory "but rather the destruction of Israel." Surely all these Jews are not "extreme" or "right wing." Most of them voted for Hillary Clinton.

The reality is that the PA does not want a state if it means accepting the Jewish state or making any significant concession. The Palestinian Arabs were offered a state in 1937 (Peel Commission); 1947 (UN Res. 181); 2000 (Ehud Barak offer); 2008 (Ehud Olmert offer) – but said **no** every time. And they never established a state when Arabs controlled the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem and Gaza from 1948-67. Statehood will also not transform the PA into a human rights-loving peaceful society. Syria, Libya, Iran and North Korea are sovereign states. Have they become peace-loving?

Prior to heading the ZOA, I worked with two-time Noble laureate (chemistry/peace) Linus Pauling. Professor Pauling would frequently say: "Mort, what does the evidence require us to believe?" This level-headed reasoning guides ZOA's outlook and policies. We look at the facts, instead of engaging in divorced-from-realities fantasies and wishful thinking. As Winston Churchill said: "You must look at the facts, for the facts are looking at you."

The positions of ZOA and like-minded people have been proven painfully correct. It's time to stop labeling our rational centrist positions as "right wing" or worse.

Victories aren't usually depressing, but recent headlines about Israel include those such as: "Israel Left Off U.N. List of Parties That Kill, Injure, Kids," "Palestinians Abandon Bid to Ban Israel From FIFA," and a couple of headlines about failed motions for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement on college campuses. Surely all of these "victories" are better than the corresponding defeats. But still, we can and should do better.

The problem with these victories is that they reflect a much deeper problem in the strategy of pro-Israel advocates. We tend to play defense far more than offense. Some psychologists might enjoy explaining just why Jews, in general, might prefer this approach, but it's something we must overcome. What's wrong with this strategy was beautifully laid out in Ze'ev Maghen's famous piece, "How to Fight Anti-Semitism."

"A man calls you a pig," he writes. "Do you walk around with a sign explaining that, in fact, you are *not* a pig? Do you hand out leaflets expostulating... upon the manifold differences between you and a pig?"

Of course not. For to do this is already to cede the crucial first move to your enemy. It's to allow that your pig-hood is even a legitimate question in the first place. Playing defense grants the possible legitimacy of the attacks on us. It's time for **us** to go on offense.

There are many forms this can and should take, theoretically and practically. For example, most discussions of Israel's interests in the Middle East focus on its security needs. Those are of course important, but then the overall debate becomes how to balance Palestinians' *right* to their homeland with Israel's security *need*. But that is already to grant their "right," which is to concede that Israel is wrong. That in turn fuels the perception that a "just" solution requires the wrong party, Israel, to make immediate concessions. That is to admit the possibility that you may indeed be a pig for resisting this.

To play offense, by contrast, is to begin with Israel's own multiply grounded right to the land, which is easily demonstrable (as columnist Jeff Jacoby has recently done). Then the story is about conflicting rights, between equal players, and nothing is conceded in advance. Let the Palestinians defend or prove *their* "right" to the land, with actual objective facts, documents, history—do not just concede it. It might, after all, prove a difficult case for them to make.

All the more so with the campus BDS (Boycott, Divestments, & Sanctions) motions that are so frequently in the news. They've become so prevalent that we've stopped noticing how outra-

geous they actually are. That's already a concession, so let's go on offense. First, a small-but-important verbal move.

Let people start associating the acronym with the truth: refer to **BDS** constantly as **Bully, Deceive,**

Smear. Let that be the first thing people think of when they hear or read BDS. Similarly, let SJP become Students for Just Us in Palestine.

Second, more importantly, we've also stopped noticing that the wrong party is being targeted for boycotts. Israel is the **only** entity in the region committed to Western liberal values such as democracy, diversity, and freedoms of the individual, press, and religion. The *other* side is the one that should be targeted - The side that's split between Mahmoud Abbas, a president in the 11th year of his four-year term, and Hamas, a racist and genocidal terrorist group. The side featuring both political and religious oppression. The side insisting that only a *Judenrein* (free of Jews) Palestinian state will suffice. The side that **honors** (and **pays**) its terrorists and celebrates the death of its enemies' children, and *truly* belongs on that U.N. list of parties that harm children.

It's necessary and commendable that Israel advocates are fighting back against the BDS proposals they are facing. But here's a new idea. Wherever a BDS proposal against Israel is raised, one should also be raised against the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. Even better, start raising these proposals *before* the other side raises one against Israel. As a basis for boycotting the Palestinians, simply demonstrate their commitment to violence and terrorism, their corruption and oppression, and their profound violations of human rights—both of their own citizens and of the Israelis they attack. A similar strategy should be adopted against another popular anti-Israel tactic: "apartheid walls" on campus should face "walls of terror," and so on.

We should not merely try to defeat these proposals against us. We should invoke the full force of the law to stop them from being considered in the first place. Shurat HaDin, an Israeli law center, has been doing great work here, of both global and local scope—going after the Palestinian Authority in international arenas and local food co-ops considering grocery boycotts. And of course, South Carolina's recent groundbreaking anti-boycott legislation is an important and *genuine* success. It's time to let the other side play defense for a change. Boot them from FIFA.

Andrew Pessin (www.andrewpessin.com) is a professor of philosophy at Connecticut College and the author of numerous philosophy books for the general reader.

For Pro-Israel Advocates, It's Time to be Offensive

By Andrew Pessin
JNS.org

Kasim Hafeez (34) could have easily turned into a jihadist terrorist. He was already on the right path. At home, in the United Kingdom (UK) Muslim community, and on campus, anti-Jewish and anti-Israel agitation was constant. Kasim's own father harbored anti-Semitic sentiments. He considered Hitler a hero, and felt that his only failing was that he did not kill enough Jews. Growing up in the UK, to Pakistani-Muslim parents, Kasim was exposed to materials and opinions that were at best, condemning Israel for all the evils in the Middle East, and painting Jews as usurpers and murderers. More extreme elements in the Muslim community called for the wholesale destruction of the "Zionist Entity" and all Jews.

By the time he reached his 18th birthday, Kasim was completely indoctrinated into the fold of radical Islamism. His hate for Israel and for Jews was fueled by images of death and destruction set to the backdrop of Arabic melodies about Jihad and speeches by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Osama Bin Laden. Kasim's jihadist views were reinforced when he attended Nakba Day rallies in the center of London, where Jihadi speakers predicted Israel's demise while Hezbollah flags fluttered all around him.

Kasim Hafeez and I met while on his speaking tour in Philadelphia on behalf of StandWithUs, an Israel advocacy and educational organization with offices throughout the U.S., Europe, and in Jerusalem. Kasim, a self-professed "Muslim-Zionist, and proud of it," posited that he experienced high levels of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel activity taking place on British University campuses, because in his own words, "I was the anti-Semitic, and anti-Israel activist."

Joseph Puder: Your personal story is fascinating, and your transformation astounding. To what do you attribute this change with regards to Judaism and Israel?

Kasim Hafeez: The starting point for me was picking up the *Case for Israel*, a book by Professor Alan Dershowitz. The book challenged my fundamental and false beliefs that fueled my anti-Semitism and hatred of Israel. This triggered my research which was an attempt to disprove what I had read in the *Case for Israel*. This eventually led me to visit Israel, and seeing the reality of Israel and the Jewish People. The visit changed not only my views but my life in a dramatic way. The truth set me free in ways I could not have imagined, and the more I learned, the more my strength of conviction about Israel and the Jewish people grew.

JP: Europe, it appears, is gone in terms of sup-

port for Israel, particularly on campus. What are your ideas on how to reverse that situation?

KH: We have a real mess in Europe, which is our own fault. In trying to be "liberal" and "tolerant" we have allowed the worst intolerance to infiltrate every facet of society. This is a truly difficult battle as we have willingly surrendered. The start point must be for Jews and supporters of Israel to show courage and assert their Zionism. We must halt our own retreat. Unfortunately, our universities are now infested with anti-Israel professors, and many of the academic departments are funded by rich Gulf States. We are fighting against all facets of the system to reverse a situation that the meekness of Jewish communal leadership caused.

JP: The Middle East is in turmoil, with ISIS in Iraq and Syria, Al Qaeda in Libya and Yemen, and Hamas and Hezbollah on Israel's border. How do you see the outcome of this clash among Muslims, and between the West and Islamic salafists?

KH: The Sunni-Shia schism is a 1,400 year old blood feud with no chance of reconciliation. There are so many factors to consider that make it impossible to predict. Saudi Arabia is fighting ISIS, whose state ideology created them. Iran's regional aspirations are emboldening Shias everywhere. Sadly, there will be much more bloodshed before we are any clearer on the future of the Middle East. The spread of Islamism is a dangerous development, and it must be contained. Israel must be strong in neutralizing any threats on its borders. Any sign of weakness by Israel will only embolden the vultures that now circle it. As for the West, **our only hope of containing the terror from the Middle East is a strong Israel, our furthest outpost of freedom**, and the only real ally in the region...

JP: What can Israel and Jewish organizations in the U.S. do to win "the battle of the minds" on campus?

KH: Show courage and pride. They have to be vocal and show they are on the side of truth. Just like in Europe, the meek retreat. Accommodating those who promote terror and anti-Semitism cannot go on. We must be active in promoting the truth. Those who spew hatred of Israel must be made accountable, and know there is a price to pay. It is time to set red lines, and make sure that those who specialize in hatred will no longer be tolerated. We will no longer be silent or intimidated. We must always make Americans realize why Israel is so important to them, and why their silence today will be to their detriment tomorrow...

Kazim Hafeez: A Miraculous Transformation

by Joseph Puder

A former anti-Israel activist tells why he turned from hate.

www.frontpagemag.com

♦ CALIFORNIA

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

♦ COLORADO

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

♦ FLORIDA

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

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

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

Roger@Walkwitz.com

www.walkwitz.com/Roger

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

♦ GEORGIA

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

♦ ILLINOIS

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

♦ MASSACHUSETTS

United Messianic Jewish Assemblies, promoting a Messianic Torah-centered life. 325 Melen Rd, Winchendon MA 01475. WWW.UMJA.NET Call 508-982-0830 kwmacneil@gmail.com

Petah Tikvah Magazine is an official publication of the UMJA.

♦ NEBRASKA

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

♦ NEW JERSEY

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

♦ NEW YORK

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

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

♦ PENNSYLVANIA

Beit Torah. 689 Hillview Rd, Allentown PA 18103. (Located in the Annex of Trinity Baptist) Call 484-425-3499. BeitTorah2015@gmail.com

Congregation of Yahshua Messiah. Cong.

Leader: Bob Young. Shabbat services, 11 am. Call 412-372-5173. pathwayoflight.org

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

♦ RHODE ISLAND

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

♦ TEXAS

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

♦ UTAH

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

♦ VERMONT

United Messianic Jewish Ministries, PO Box 122, Brandon VT 05733. umjewishministries.com

umjewishministries@yahoo.com

♦ WISCONSIN

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

Messianic Directory

"Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, but exhort one another, so much the more as you see the day approaching."

HEBREWS 10 : 25



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

Indonesia

Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia

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

Pengakuan KemenAg Kanwil DKI

KW.09.7/BAO1.1/149/2013 **Jakarta** Sat 5PM

Sun 8AM.

Bintaro Messianic Congregation

Bumi Bintaro Permai D7-8 **South Jakarta** 12320.

Contact: Benyamin Obadyah +62217364258

Sat 10AM and 5PM

Shoresh Messianic Fellowship Plaza

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

Kelapa Gading, **North Jakarta**

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

CENTRAL JAVA Sat 10AM

Purwokerto Messianic Congregation Jl Jend

Sudirman 883, Purwokerto, Central Java

Contact: Bambang Rianto +62-8886657801

EAST JAVA Sat 5 pm **Kehilat Mesianik**

Congregation JL Wonokromo 7/5, Mojosari, Kab

Mojokerto, East Java Contact: Judo Nugroho

+62-81913224624

SOUTH KALIMANTAN Sat 10 am **Banjarmasin**

Messianic Congregation Jl Pasar Baru 2,

Banjarmasin , South Kalimantan Contact: Edy

Purwanto +62-8125189517

NORTH SULAWESI Sat 10 am **Yerushalayim**

Messianic Congregation Manado , North

Sulawesi Contact: Jeffrey Rualemba +62-

89655471976 Sat 10 am Netivyah Ministry Jl

Garuda 37, Manado , North Sulawesi . Contact:

Oral Bollegraf. +62-853 98128567

PAPUA Sat 10 am **El Shaddai Messianic**

Congregation Jl Argapura Kanon, Jayapura,

Papua Conact: Seblum Karubaba +62-

81247562203 Sat 10AM

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation Jl Pasir

Dua, Jayapura, Papua. Contact: Benny Karubaba

+62-812 47082149

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

South Korea

Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat meeting at 2PM.

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

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

Japan

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10AM

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

Miyagi 982 Contact: Takashi Yokoyama

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

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia,

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

Shinmachi Kitaku, Tokyo, Japan 114-0012

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

New Zealand

TALMIDEI YESHUA MESSIANIC MINISTRY OF NEW ZEALAND

www.messianic.org.nz

HAWKES BAY KEHILAH. Nasi: Graeme Purdie
talmidimnz@gmail.com +64 277101157

AUCKLAND KEHILAH: Nasi: Ashok Kumar
talmidimak@gmail.com +64 21 029 08194

PO Box 8654 Havelock North, 4157 NZ

(Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand may not necessarily accept or agree with all the views expressed in this magazine).

Singapore

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

Thailand

Bangkok Messianic House

Shabbat 10:30am 33/5 Soi Nai-Lert, Wireless

Rd. Bangkok 10330 Thailand. Contact: Nobuyuki Ito +66-81-915-6154 nobunosuke77@gmail.com.

Philippine APMF Diaspora in Canada

Calgary L'Chaim Bible Fellowship

Shabbat Service 4:00 PM. 138 Bridlewood Ave.

SW Calgary, Alberta, Canada

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

loubinar@yahoo.com; Marvin Mayo +1(403)-402-

6763 marvin.mayo@hotmail.com

www.lechaimbiblefellowship.org

Philippines

APMF Officers Philippines

Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com

Joel Cruz: joel@apmfinc.com,

Ted Franco: ted_franco@yahoo.com

Amos Baucas: albaucas@hotmail.com

Member of APMF:

La Trinidad

La Trinidad Bible Congregation (LTBC)

Shabbat Service 10:00 AM Cruz, La Trinidad PO Box 133, LaTrinidad, Benguet 2601

Contact: Amos Baucas +639283322201,

lbaucas@yahoo.com

In fellowship with APMF:

Baguio City

Baguio City Messianic Community (BCMC)

Shabbat Service at 9:30AM

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

Contact: Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com

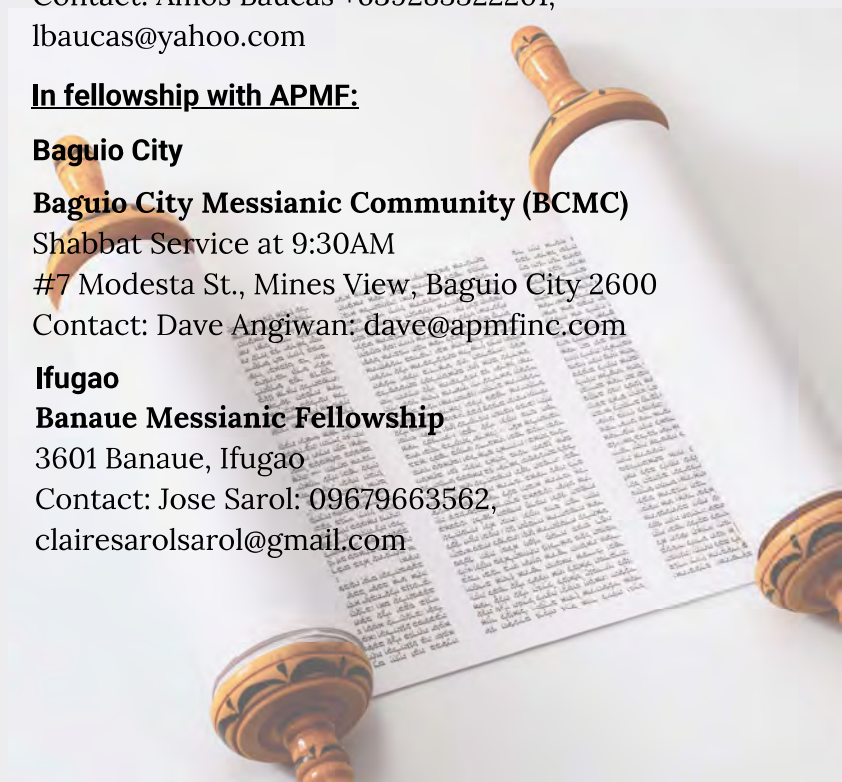
Ifugao

Banaue Messianic Fellowship

3601 Banaue, Ifugao

Contact: Jose Sarol: 09679663562,

clairesarolsarol@gmail.com



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

Cebu

Cebu Messianic Community

Shabbat Service 10:00AM, 1:00PM

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

Bukidnon

Talakag Messianic Fellowship

Talakag Bukidnon, Mindanao

Shabbat gathering 10 AM - 6 PM

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

Davao Oriental

Pujada Community

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

Oriental 8200: Saturday 3-6 PM.

Contact: Mark Pineda: +639183532549

Lupon Torah Community

Panuncialman St., Purok Hayahay

Brgy. Poblacion, Lupon, Davao Oriental

8:00am - 11:30am every Shabbat

Contacts: Petronio (Bong) Conte

bongskik04@gmail.com, 09077319723

Alen Kelly Conte, billionairealenkelly@gmail.com.

09171623763

Greater Manila Area

Rizal

Cainta Torah Community

Shabbat Service at 10:30 AM

Dayspring Academy Sunset Drive Brookside

Subdivision, **Cainta, Rizal** 1900

Contact: Willy and Lita Miranda +63 9393253000
+63 927 7048000 willyz_miranda@yahoo.com.

Eagles Wings Messianic Congregations

Friday 6:30PM and Saturday 9:30AM

#7 Saratoga St. Park Place Executive Village,

Cainta, Rizal Contact: Jenny Joven +63286555469

Christy Cruz +639951941502

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

Macamot, Binangonan, Rizal Contact: Tony Arceo

+639268296338.

Paranaque City

Emunah Tabgha Community

Executive Heights, Paranaque City

Contact Eva Agustin: +639178960995

Shabbat Service 10:30AM

Tagaytay City

Tagaytay Torah Community

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

Contact: Ning +639199840878,

Cavite

Emunah Torah Community

Shabbat service 10am

Block 3 lot 21 Java St. Cyber green subdivision,

General Trias, Cavite.

Contact: Christopher Madrid: 09328442958.

christophermadrid75@gmail.com

Quezon City

Mishpachah Ha'Mashiach Torah Community

Shabbat Service 2-6 PM

Bldg 11 BLPC, Road 3, Quezon City

Contact: Ian Asuncion or Cecilia Agustin

+639185736838.

Mandaluyong City

Metro Strata Learning Center

Shabbat Service 9:30AM

11th Floor 685 Nueve de Pebrero Ave.

Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

Contact: Tanggol Esquerra: +639153208083.

Laguna

Chesed V'Emeth Community

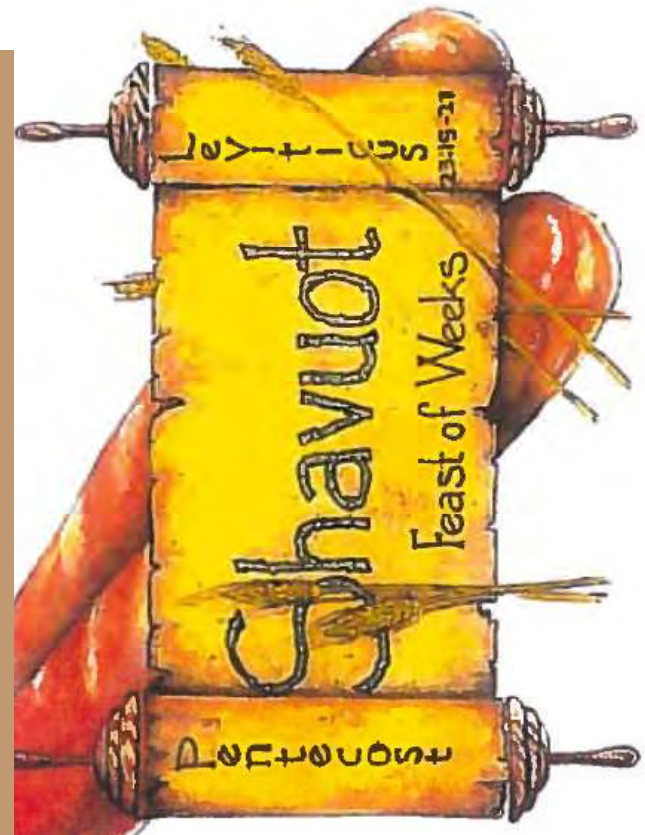
Shabbat Service 12:30 PM

Blk 11 Lot 36 Calendola Village San Pedro, Laguna

Contact: Monette Guiruela +639206583847



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