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

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

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

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

ARTICLES, special Congregational Event information, and letters.

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

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

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

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GREETINGS FROM ROGER

July 2018



How I would enjoy meeting you again in your place, your country, your Kehilah! You are not far away in my mind as I picture you and our teaching ministry together in past years. How blessed I have been! Obeying Yeshua and walking with Him through open doors from Korea down to New Zealand and the Philippines from top to bottom has been a wonderful opportunity and blessing, since 1958!!!!

So what now? With no remedy for Naomi's disabilities, I am very thankful that mentally she is just fine and so far I am able to cope with everything, Rejoicing in the Lord as He expects and is worthy of it.

I ran cross country and track through high school and college and then coached it at Bryan College along with my chemistry teaching. It was hard at first to give up this wonderful position in order to go to the Philippines but it was not long before this new ministry of teaching and translating the Bible became even more satisfying! I enjoyed running and learned some lessons like self discipline and setting the right pace in order to do my best. These are good spiritual lessons as well.

However, it is the relay races in track that I want to focus on. The individual events are great but in a relay, each runner receives the baton and runs his leg of the race and then passes on the baton to the next runner. You and I received our batons from someone who had run his leg of the race the best he could and now the baton is in our hands and we are "off and running!" How well are you doing??

And how well am I doing? I am not a quitter and I have not "retired from active duty" but I am passing my baton on to YOU!! *I have fought the good fight, I have (almost) finished (my leg of) the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7.*

My baton that I am passing on to YOU is going to be my second book. I have finished putting together about 70 of my teaching documents and articles and have sent them on to our APMF Book Publisher in Manila, Michael Basilio, who did a fantastic job of publishing my first book, *According to Roger - My Journey Into Bible Truth*. My second book will be, *According to Roger - Volume 2 - My Understanding of Bible Truth*. "*Things most surely to be believed!*" Luke 1:1.

These 70 are: 1) corrections of Bible passages that have been badly translated to boost a church agenda and false theology, together with the Greek evidence for the corrections, 2) explanations of Bible passages that are "hard to understand" because we were taught wrong in the first place and it is sometimes hard to unlearn, 3) teaching for functioning APMF Messianic Congregations from years of experience and observation and 4) APMF Positions on various issues and our APMF Statement of Belief which is very comprehensive. Learn it well!!! A lot is said in a small space.

Each is carefully thought out and written. IF you find any mistakes, please let me know!! I do not claim infallibility, of course, but I am confident that I can defend all that I have written. If there is an issue or Bible passage that is not covered in my Book, please email me and I will deal with it. It is a blessing to keep my mind active feeding on God's words and to wrestle with issues in these Last Days.

Another ministry opportunity has been introduced to APMF by our Creation Astronomer, **Spike Psarris**, member of Tim Hegg's kehilah who was the Bible teacher for our Bible Conference in 2017. He and other Creation scientists volunteer to teach high school students in developing countries about Creation and the Bible for Search for the Truth Ministries. After the teaching class each student is given a hard cover book of devotional readings on various scientific topics from a Bible viewpoint with a Bible verse on each page, one page per day for each day of the year, 365+ pages with an explanation of Salvation in the back. It is illustrated in color and is a very good book, a treasure for many students. It is about 1 inch thick, 6x9 inches.

APMF and the Asia Pacific Theological Seminary based in Baguio City will be spending one week each early in 2019 to sponsor these lectures to the dozens of high schools in the area. Expert Creation scientists give the lectures and we make the arrangements and handle the logistics. Each group will be supplied with 15,000 of these books to give out! There is no cost for us, just the work of doing it! Baguio will be like a pilot project to see how well Filipinos respond. The original project was in Fiji with a wonderful response and good government cooperation.

Since my early days as a Believer, Genesis 1 and from 2-11 have been foundational to my faith. Therefore, when beginning with any new person or class I prefer to start with Genesis 1:1. This is also why I am pleased with this opportunity to get Basic Bible Truth into the high school classrooms, not just with a one hour classroom lecture but with these one-year devotional books. Follow-up is always a question with public meetings so I am pleased that these books will do an excellent job. In the back there are a couple pages explaining salvation as no invitation will be given at the school. These provisions will give the Holy Spirit adequate opportunity to do His convicting work.

Have you ever researched "Give us this day our daily bread"? Below I offer you my research and hope you are blessed by this Truth as I am.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Time and time again we have to study our English Bibles with our Hebrew or Greek texts to be sure we have an accurate translation. Many times the question is asked, "Sir, what is the best English Bible to use?" Answer: Whatever version you like but remember, all of them have flaws, mistakes in translation, and it is up to you to find the mistakes and correct them! Some versions are much better than others but be sure not to use a paraphrase that pretends to be a translation! In some passages all of them fall short, like Matthew 16:13-19, a disaster that "legitimizes" Replacement Theology and the dominance of the Catholic Church.

For this study, we will correct **Matthew 6:11: Give us this day our daily bread**. None of the current translations give the full or even correct meaning. Notice the **KJV+**
 Matthew 6:11 GiveG1325 usG2254 this dayG4594
 ourG2257 **dailyG1967 (epiousios)** bread.G740. These are the Strong's Concordance numbers.

The word for "daily" is "haymera." (The "hay" is my way of writing the Greek eta with rough breathing, as English does not have an equivalent for eta, or I would say ayta to give it a better pronouncing.) **Epiousios** does NOT mean daily, even though all the translators make it that way (because they do not understand? or they need to sell their Bible??). This is gross dishonesty to me!

In *Thayer's Greek English Lexicon* he quotes Origen as saying "the word (epiousios) was not in use in ordinary speech, and accordingly seems to have been coined by the Evangelists themselves." **Epi** means upon and **ousios** can mean substance, property, resources. Therefore a correct meaning would be "upon his property = his

presence" and a correct translation would be "**Give us this day the bread of Your Presence.**" Since you know some Tabernacle, this is directly related to the "showbread = bread of your face or presence." Study John 6 for more correlation, "I am the Bread of Life."

Matthew 6:11 is a prayer for the Bread of Yeshua's Presence, His spiritual bread, which He promises to give and which might also keep you alive physically for "40 days and 40 nights." Many Believers have died of starvation who might have prayed this prayer in its inadequate meaning and felt that God had abandoned them. Please pray this prayer correctly and correct your Bible in the margin. His spiritual bread is what we all need **every day!** "No Bible, no breakfast!" Spiritual food is eaten first. *Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.* Yeshua said it, you know it, now DO it!

Recently I sent an email to all of our APMF leaders in the region: "Interpretation, Please!!" in the Subject and Matthew 6:11 in the text. Our APMF man in Singapore, **Lai Hee Song**, was the first to respond with the correct understanding. Congratulations, Song! For others, did you get my email and are you going to respond? Too late, as I already told you above but I am going to give you **more chances** in the future.

I take seriously my responsibility to Make Disciples and to **keep those disciples learning!** Everyone gets lazy and can "let the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke out the Word" and you become unfruitful, as Yeshua explained the parable.

Therefore, I will probably continue to send out emails asking for "Interpretation, Please!!" as the Subject and then quote a Bible verse in the text. Hopefully this will challenge you to do some research and come up with a good response. You might even come up with some new data or insights **so that I can learn something new myself!** I enjoy challenges and Bible study research in order to learn TRUTH that might have been hidden by false teaching in the past.

After teaching His disciples the Parables in Matthew 13, He says in 13:52: *And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."*

I consider everyone in APMF, especially those in teaching and with leadership responsibilities, as **scribes who are being trained for the kingdom of heaven!** Day by day and Shabbat by Shabbat you are storing away treasure gleaned from the Bible, truth that can come out as needed by the Spirit as He ministers to others through you. The more you give out, the more precious the Truth becomes to you and the more fixed it is in your mind and heart. "If you want to know something thoroughly, teach it to others!!"

Love you all... and miss you!! Your brother Roger.

The Tanakh (also spelled Tanakh) is the Older Testament, also called the **Jewish Bible**, although I would protest somewhat about that nomenclature. Romans 3:1-2 tells us that "unto (the Jews) were committed the oracles of God." This is additional confirmation that the Newer Testament was **also** written entirely by Jews. Even Dr. Luke was a Jew, or at least a proselyte to Judaism.

There are, however, levels of inspiration. The Tanakh (O.T.) in Judaism has a book order which is very different from Christian Bibles. The word **Tanakh** is an acronym for Torah, Neviim, and Ketuvim. The highest level of inspiration is **Torah**, the first five books of the Bible written by Moshe (Moses). This is because Adonai spoke to Moshe "face to face," as said in Exodus 33:11.

The next set of books in the Tanakh is called **Neviim** ("Prophets"). This is the next level of inspiration, because God did not speak to the prophets face to face, but only through dreams and visions.

The last level of inspiration in the Tanakh is called **Ketuvim** ("Writings"). The writers were inspired to write. However, Adonai did not speak to the writers face to face or by dreams and visions. Therefore, this is the last set of books in the Tanakh. The top line down below spells "Torah." The second line spells "Neviim." The bottom line spells "Ketuvim." The first letter of each (at the far right) spells **Tanakh** when read vertically from top to bottom:

תורה
נביאים
כתובים

Just as there levels of inspiration in the Tanakh, so there are also levels of inspiration in the Newer Testament. Malachi was the last of the writing prophets. In Malachi 4:4 (3:23 in Jewish Bibles), he writes, "Remember the Law (Torah) of Moshe my servant, even the statutes and ordinances, which I commanded him in Horeb (Sinai) for all Israel." Then Matthew begins his Besorah (Gospel) in the Newer Testament. In Yeshua's very first sermon after He began his ministry, He said:

"Think not that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets (Neviim). **I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill.** For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one **yod** or **tittle** shall pass from the Torah until all be fulfilled.¹ For truly

I say to you, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Torah until all be fulfilled. Whoever then annuls one of **least** of these commandments and so teaches others shall be called **least** in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever keeps and teaches them shall be called **great** in the Kingdom of Heaven."²

Yeshua strongly defended the writings of the Torah, and used Moses and the Prophets to explain the truths of his teachings. Many Christians will go instead to some of the words of Paul to "prove" that the Law (Torah) was somehow abolished, despite the clear words of Yeshua above. Shimon Kefa (Simon Peter) warned about such people:

Even as our beloved brother Sha'ul (Paul) according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable **distort**, as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of **Lawless**³ men, you fall from your own steadfastness.

(2 Peter 3:15b-17)

Regretfully, many Lawless (Torah-less) men have distorted Paul's writings. If Rav Sha'ul had actually taught against the Torah, he would have to be considered as a false prophet. Deut. 13:1-5 warns us as follows:

¹If there arises among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a **sign** or a **wonder**,² and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, whereof he spoke to you, saying, "Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them,"³ you shall not hearken to the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God is testing you, to

¹ The **yod** is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The tittles are the decorative marks on the letters the Hebrew Torah scroll.

² Matthew 5:17-19.

³ The Greek word is **athesmos**, which more correctly means **lawless**, but is often translated as **wicked** (KJV) or **unprincipled** (NAS).

know whether you love YHWH your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴You shall walk after YHWH your God, and fear Him, and **keep His commandments**, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him. ⁵And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, **shall be put to death**; because he has spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to seduce you out of the way which YHWH your God commanded you to walk in. So shall you put the evil away from your midst.

Biblically, any so-called prophet who preached against obeying God's commandments was to be put to death, even if he (or she) had signs and wonders that actually came to pass. Therefore, **if** Rav Sha'ul had actually taught against Torah, he should have been put to death. Not to worry. Paul did **not** preach or teach against keeping the mitzvot (commandments). Likewise, Yeshua would have been considered a false prophet and also an anti-Messiah if He had taught against the Torah.

In Acts 21:19-26, Rav Sha'ul was being falsely accused of teaching against the mitzvot. Therefore, he was asked to prove that he was indeed teaching and keeping Torah, which even involved a Temple sacrifice. In Acts 22:3, he said, "I **am** a Jew," not, "I used to be a Jew, but am now a Christian." In Acts 23:5, he said, "I **am** a Pharisee," present tense. Even after coming to faith in Yeshua, he remained a Pharisee. Pharisees were among the strictest keepers of Torah. He wasn't the only Pharisee who believed in Yeshua. There was Nicodemus as well as others who are referred to in Acts 15:5. There were good Pharisees and bad Pharisees. It is wrong to paint them all as bad.

In Acts 25:8, Paul said, "I have committed no offense against the Torah of the Jews or against the Temple or against Caesar." If anything, he was more Torah-observant than I am, although I do try to be obedient to the mitzvot. In Acts 28:17, Rav Sha'ul said, "Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people, or the **customs** of our fathers, yet I was delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans." Not only did he obey the written Torah, it appears that he also kept much of the Oral Law, forbidding such things as having milk and meat in the same meal.

However, let us assume (incorrectly, of course) that Paul taught **against** the Torah and the mitzvot. Most of what Paul taught was very pro-Torah. However, there are some

verses which superficially appear to be anti-Torah. Many Christians flock to verses that **seem** to contradict the Torah (such as in Romans 14) and use these isolated verses to "prove" that God no longer wants us to keep the so-called "Old Testament" laws.

However, Yeshua made it very clear in Matthew 5:17-19 that the Law was **not** abolished. If there was indeed a contradiction between what Yeshua said and what Paul said, I would go with Yeshua, who was both Messiah and the Son of God. I would consider the words of Yeshua to be a much **higher** level of inspiration than the words of Paul. If I were to find a contradiction between the words of Yeshua and the words of Rav Sha'ul, I would go with Yeshua every time!

In Yochanan (John) 5:18, Yeshua was accused of breaking the Shabbat for healing a man on the Sabbath, as well as "making Himself equal to God." However, Yeshua replied by saying, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son **can do nothing of Himself**, unless He sees the Father doing it, for whatever *the Father* does, the Son does also in like manner." Yeshua was in complete submission to the Father. This is again confirmed in John 14:10, when Yeshua said, "The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does these works." And since the Father put these words into Yeshua's mouth, I believe that the words of Yeshua are definitely a higher level of inspiration than the words of Paul.

In John 14:28, Yeshua said, "If you loved Me you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father, for **the Father is greater than I**." I would be reluctant to go against the words of Yeshua. He is indeed divine, God in the flesh. However, He never claimed co-equality with the Father. The co-equality doctrine comes from the Council of Nicea, inaugurated by Constantine in 325 CE,⁴ which gave the definition "co-equal, co-eternal, and co-substantial." I prefer the words of Yeshua, which are also the words of Scripture rather than this anti-Semitic council. They are "Father and Son," not "Twin Brothers." It is far beyond the ability of our puny minds to fully comprehend the Godhead. However, we must be biblical in our beliefs.

"For now, we see in a glass dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then shall I know even as I am known (1 Cor. 13:12." When we depart this life, we will have more understanding of these mysteries of God.

⁴ "Common Era," equivalent to A.D.

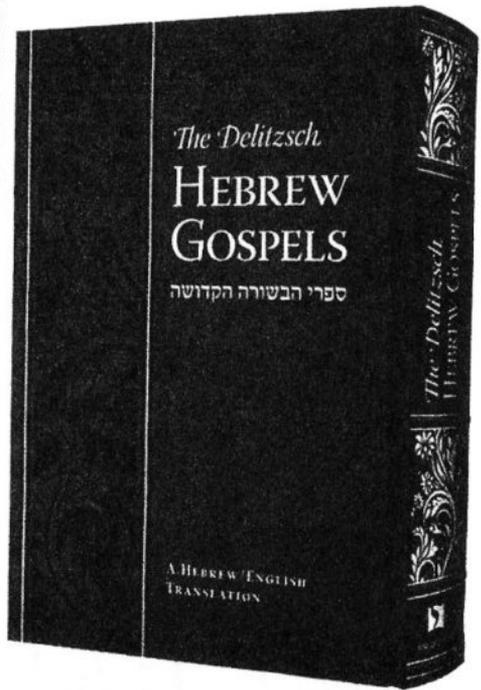
As an addendum to what I have just written, I would like to add some additional information from an article written by Gershon Nerel in an article entitled "Gospels Superior to Epistles."⁵ I discovered this article after I wrote my article (preceding this page). It was his book review of **The Delitzsch Hebrew Gospels**, translated into English by the publishing company, Vine of David. As with my article, Mr. Nerel demonstrates the higher level of inspiration of the words of Yeshua compared with the words of Paul (Shaul). Two short passages are quoted below:

"...The Pauline passages have become the epicenter of Christianity. Essentially, study of Scripture and the focus of interpretation should remain around the words of the Son God."

"...Prioritization of texts is inevitable when studying the Holy Scriptures. For example, certain books in the Old Testament, such as Esther and Chronicles, are less important than the Torah (Pentateuch) and the Prophets. It is misleading to place **all** texts on the same level of significance. Ultimately, however, it is the function of the Holy Spirit to advise how to properly study the Bible." ISFEISRAEL.COM

⁵ Published in **Israel Today**, March 2018, www.IsraelToday.co.il

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See cartoon on next page regarding the words of Yeshua and Rav Sha'ul

"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."
(Proverbs 28:9)



Cartoon by Daniel Botkin.

Daniel Botkin Presents

Reverend TWISTRUTH & HIS DISCIPLES



TONITE
7 PM
ONE NITE
ONLY!

REV. DR.
JESUS
CHRIST



TONITE
7 PM
ONE NITE
ONLY!

REV. DR.
PAUL OF
TARSUS

EXCUSE ME, I'M TAKING A SURVEY OF
CHURCH-GOING CHRISTIANS.
WOULD YOU ANSWER A COUPLE OF
QUESTIONS?

SURE!

FIRE
AWAY!



QUESTION ONE: IF JESUS AND THE
APOSTLE PAUL WERE HERE IN THE
FLESH, AND BOTH WERE PREACHING
ON THE SAME NIGHT AT TWO DIFFER-
ENT CHURCHES, WHICH CHURCH
WOULD YOU VISIT, THE ONE WHERE
JESUS WAS PREACHING, OR THE
ONE WHERE PAUL WAS PREACHING?

THAT'S A NO-BRAINER!
I'D WANNA HEAR
JESUS!

YEAH, OF
COURSE!
ME TOO!



QUESTION TWO: IN YOUR STUDY OF
THE BIBLE, DO YOU SPEND MORE
TIME READING JESUS' TEACHINGS IN
THE GOSPELS, OR PAUL'S EPISTLES?

I'D SAY
PAUL'S
WRITINGS.

YES, DEFINITELY,
PAUL'S EPISTLES!
THAT'S WHERE WE
FIND DOCTRINE
AND INSTRUCTION
FOR THE CHURCH!



Daniel has a bimonthly publication, **Gates of Eden**. For a sample issue,
send \$3 to PO Box 2257, E. Peoria IL 61611-0257. Cartoons on pages 12
and 18 are also from the prolific pen and pencil of Daniel Botkin!

Confessions About Sunday: Part 2

The following article is a reprint from the tract "Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions About Sunday," published by:

Bible Sabbath Association
802 NW 21ST Ave; Battle Ground WA 98604

This tract is available for \$1 each
at the above address.

Protestant Confessions About Sunday

Protestant theologians and preachers from a wide spectrum of denominations have been quite candid in admitting that there is **no** Biblical authority for observing Sunday as a sabbath.

Anglican/Episcopal

Isaac Williams, Plain Sermons on the Catechism, vol. 1, pp.334, 336.

"And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because the Bible, but because the church has enjoined it."

Canon Eyton, The Ten Commandments, pp. 52, 63, 65.

"There is no word, no hint, in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday.... into the rest of Sunday no divine law enters.... The observance of Ash Wednesday or Lent stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday."

Bishop Seymour, Why We Keep Sunday .

"We have made the change from the seventh day to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy Catholic Church."

Baptist

Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, a paper read before a New York ministers' conference, Nov. 13, 1893, reported in New York Examiner, Nov.16, 1893.

"There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh

to the first day of the week Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament absolutely not.

"To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years' intercourse with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question . . . never alluded to any transference of the day; also, that during forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated.

"Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history... But what a pity it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the **sun god**, adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism!"

William Owen Carver, The Lord's Day in Our Day, p. 49.

"There was never any formal or authoritative change from the Jewish seventh-day Sabbath to the Christian first-day observance."

Congregationalist

Dr. R. W. Dale, The Ten Commandments (New York: Eaton & Mains), p. 127-129.

" . . . it is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath - . . . The Sabbath was founded on a specific Divine command. We can plead no such command for the obligation to observe Sunday There is not a single sentence in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday."

Timothy Dwight, Theology: Explained and Defended (1823), Ser. 107, vol. 3, p. 258.

" . . . the Christian Sabbath [Sunday] is not in the Scriptures, and was not by the primitive Church called the Sabbath."

Disciples of Christ

Alexander Campbell, The Christian Baptist, Feb. 2, 1824, vol. 1. no. 7, p. 164.

"'But,' say some, 'it was changed from the seventh to the first day.' Where? when? and by whom? No man can tell. No; it never was changed, nor could it be, unless creation was to be gone through again: for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to the reason, can be changed! It is all old wives' fables to talk of the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that august personage

changed it who changes times and laws ex officio - I think his name is Doctor Antichrist.'

First Day Observance , pp. 17, 19.

"The first day of the week is commonly called the Sabbath. This is a mistake. The Sabbath of the Bible was the day just preceding the first day of the week. The first day of the week is never called the Sabbath anywhere in the entire Scriptures. It is also an error to talk about the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change."

Lutheran

The Sunday Problem, a study book of the United Lutheran Church (1923), p. 36.

"We have seen how gradually the impression of the Jewish sabbath faded from the mind of the Christian Church, and how completely the newer thought underlying the observance of the first day took possession of the church. We have seen that the Christians of the first three centuries never confused one with the other, but for a time celebrated both."

Augsburg Confession of Faith art. 28; written by Melancthon, approved by Martin Luther, 1530; as published in The Book of Concord of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Henry Jacobs, ed. (1 91 1), p. 63.

"They [Roman Catholics] refer to the Sabbath Day, a shaving been changed into the Lord's Day, contrary to the Decalogue, as it seems. Neither is there any example whereof they make more than concerning the changing of the Sabbath Day. Great, say they, is the power of the Church, since it has dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments!"

Dr. Augustus Neander, The History of the Christian Religion and Church Henry John Rose, tr. (1843), p. 186.

"The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a Divine command in this respect, far from them, and from the early apostolic Church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday."

John Theodore Mueller, Sabbath or Sunday , pp. 15, 16.

"But they err in teaching that Sunday has taken the place of the Old Testament Sabbath and therefore must be kept as the seventh day had to be kept by the children

of Israel These churches err in their teaching, for Scripture has in no way ordained the first day of the week in place of the Sabbath. There is simply no law in the New Testament to that effect."

Methodist

Harris Franklin Rall, Christian Advocate, July 2, 1942, p.26.

"Take the matter of Sunday. There are indications in the New Testament as to how the church came to keep the first day of the week as its day of worship, but there is no passage telling Christians to keep that day, or to transfer the Jewish Sabbath to that day."

John Wesley, The Works of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M., John Emory, ed. (New York: Eaton & Mains), Sermon 25, Vol. 1, p. 221.

"But, the moral law contained in the ten commandments, and enforced by the prophets, he [Christ] did not take away. It was not the design of his coming to revoke any part of this. This is a law which never can be broken Every part of this law must remain in force upon all mankind, and in all ages; as not depending either on time or place, or any other circumstances liable to change, but on the nature of God and the nature of man, and their unchangeable relation to each other."

Dwight L. Moody

D. L. Moody, Weighed and Wanting (Fleming H. Revell Co.: New York), pp. 47, 48.

"The Sabbath was binding in Eden, and it has been in force ever since. This fourth commandment begins with the word 'remember,' showing that the Sabbath already existed when God Wrote the law on the tables of stone at Sinai. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away with when they will admit that the other nine are still binding?"

Presbyterian

T. C. Blake, D.D., Theology Condensed, pp.474, 475.

"The Sabbath is a part of the Decalogue - the Ten Commandments. This alone forever settles the question as to the perpetuity of the institution Until, therefore, it can be shown that the whole moral law has been repealed, the Sabbath will stand The teaching of Christ confirms the perpetuity of the Sabbath."

Editor's Note: This article is part of a series that Daniel Botkin wrote about linguistics in the study of the Scriptures. If you are interested in obtaining the other articles, I would suggest that you contact him. **RAC**

Understanding & Interpreting the Holy Scriptures

There are many things in language - any language that are critical to obtaining a clear understanding of the words and the sentences that we read. We need to be aware of these linguistic phenomena if we want to correctly understand and interpret the Holy Scriptures.

HOMOPHONES

Homophones are words which have the same pronunciation (*homo* = "same"; *phone* = "sound"), but different spellings and different meanings. Examples of English homophones are *ail-ale*, *boar-bore*, *Cain-cane*, *made-maid*, *to-too-two*, etc.

Hebrew also has homophones: *im* means "if" when spelled with an *aleph* but "with" when spelled with an *ayin*; *kol* means "all" when spelled with a *kaf* but "voice" when spelled with a *kuf*; *or* means "light" when spelled with an *aleph* but "skin" when spelled with an *ayin*.

Greek also has homophones. The letter *omicron*, pronounced "o," is a form of the definite article "the"; the letter *omega*, also pronounced "o," is the interjection "O!" The word *ode* means "this one" when spelled with an *omicron* but "song" when spelled with an *omega*; *os* means "who, which, what" when spelled with an *omicron* but "as, like" when spelled with an *omega*.

Some of these examples might have a slight difference in their pronunciation, depending on the speaker (e.g., *ayin* makes a more guttural sound than *aleph*, especially among native Israelis or Hebrew speakers whose native language is Arabic), but for the most part, these words are homophones.

An awareness of homophones is more important in oral communication than it is in written communication, because when reading written communication, the reader can see the spelling of the words. But even when reading, an awareness of homophones is important, because sometimes the reader will just pronounce the word and not notice how it is spelled, and thereby come to a wrong understanding. Here is a real-life example:

Several years ago my two eldest daughters were studying Hebrew in a textbook and read-

ing a story about Rabbi Akiva. The book did not include a translation of the story, so they had to figure it out themselves. The first sentence of the story said: *Akiva hayah*

ro'eh ani, "Akiva was a poor shepherd." However, my daughters were confused, because they had learned a long time ago that *ro'eh* (when spelled with an *aleph* instead of an *ayin*) means "see" and that *ani* (when spelled with an *aleph* instead of an *ayin*) is the pronoun "I." They did not notice that the words *ro'eh* and *ani* were spelled with *ayins*, so they thought the sentence said "Akiva was sees me" (or, more accurately, "Akiva was

sees I," which is even more confusing). They wondered if may-be it was a past tense form, and meant "Akiva saw me" (or, more accurately, "Akiva saw I"). Until they noticed the spelling, they were confused.

So if you are reading the Bible text in Hebrew or Greek and it makes no sense, look at the spelling of the words and see if the source of your confusion is a homophone.

HOMONYMS & HOMOGRAPHS

Homonyms are words which have the same spelling and the same pronunciation (*homo* = "same"; *nym* = "name") but different meanings. Examples of English homonyms are *pen*, a writing utensil and *pen*, a place for pigs to live; *cleave*, to separate if cleaving wood and *cleave*, to stick together if husband and wife; *kiwi*, a fruit and *kiwi*, a New Zealand bird and *kiwi*, a New Zealander, etc.

If words have the same spelling but different pronunciations as well as different meanings, they are called homographs (*homo* = "same"; *graph* = "write"). Examples of English homographs are *bow*, something actors do on stage and *bow*, a weapon that shoots arrows; *lead*, something that leaders do and *lead*, a heavy metal; *wind*, the movement of air and *wind*, what you do to a non-electric clock.

Because the Hebrew alphabet consists of consonants, with no letters that are technically vowels, there are many homonyms and homographs in Hebrew. Vowel sounds are sometimes indicated by marks below the Hebrew letters, but Hebrew is most often written without these vowel marks. Without the vowel marks, a word might have many possible meanings, because some words share the same Hebrew root. For example, the root D-B-R is used in words that mean "word/speak," "plague," "bee," or "wilderness." The root K-D-

by Daniel Botkin

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SH is used in words that mean "holy, set apart" or "temple prostitute." The context will almost always reveal which meaning is intended. Occasionally the intended meaning is debatable. This brings us to the next linguistic phenomenon, ambiguity.

AMBIGUITY

Ambiguity refers to uncertainty of meaning, not only as a result of homonyms and homographs, but for any reason. An ambiguous sentence is a sentence that can have two or more possible meanings. If I say, "The boy saw the man with a telescope," it is unclear who had the telescope, the man or the boy. Either meaning is possible.

If I say, "Peter yelled at Paul when he hit his mother," it is unclear who hit whose mother. Was Peter or Paul doing the hitting? Did the hitter (whether Peter or Paul) hit his own mother, or the mother of the other man? Because the antecedents of the pronouns *he* and *his* are uncertain, and because we do not know if *when* in this sentence means "while" or "immediately after," we have ambiguity.

Advertisers and marketers deliberately use ambiguity in very crafty, sneaky ways. One time I had a container of parmesan cheese. On the label it said "100% Grated Cheese." This made me think that the only ingredient in the container was grated cheese. But I read the tiny print on the side and I saw that it also contained salt, enzymes, cellulose, and potassium sorbate. How could they proclaim that the product consisted of 100% Grated Cheese? Because all of the cheese in the container was 100% grated. There was no *ungrated* cheese in their product!

Ambiguity can also result when a word has one meaning in one part of the world and a different meaning in another part of the world. If I say, "He was mad about the flat," an American will understand it to mean "He was angry because he had a flat tire," but a British person will understand it to mean "He was thrilled about the apartment."

Does ambiguity exist in the Bible? It certainly does! Consider Yeshua's question to Simon Peter. "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?" (John 21:15). What did Yeshua mean by "these"? There are at least four possible ways to understand this:

1. Do you love Me more than these other disciples love Me?
2. Do you love Me more than you love these other disciples?
3. Do you love Me more than you love these fish that I just provided?
4. Do you love Me more than you love

these boats and nets that represent your fishing career?

If we had been there, perhaps we would have seen Yeshua pointing at something to clarify what He meant by "these." But with only the written text, we cannot be 100% certain which of these possible meanings was intended. Perhaps Yeshua deliberately left it ambiguous so that Peter (and we) could appropriately apply the question to all four possibilities.

Another example of ambiguity in the Bible is in the story of Moses staying at the inn on his way back to Egypt from Midian. "And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, **Surely a bloody husband art thou to me**" (Ex. 4:24f).

Was the LORD trying to kill Moses, or Moses' son? It's ambiguous. At first Moses seems to be the antecedent of the pronoun "him," but Zipporah's circumcising of their son suggests it was the son's life that was in danger, not Moses' life. Furthermore, the whole story seems ambiguous (at least to me) because we have so little context and so few details to explain exactly what was going on.

Ambiguity sometimes exists in the Bible. When the exact meaning of a passage is debatable, first see if the context will clear up the ambiguity. If it does not, and if there are two (or more) possible ways to understand the statement, ask if either (or any) of these understandings contradict Biblical facts which are plainly and clearly stated in other, non-ambiguous passages of Scripture. Be sure that your understanding harmonizes with the overall testimony of the Scriptures, and does not contradict other parts of the Bible. If you can find absolutely no way to explain the passage, learn to live with ambiguity.

UNTRANSLATABLE WORDS

All Hebrew and Greek words have meanings, but sometimes there is no single equivalent word in English to convey that meaning. One such word in Hebrew is *ha-im*. There is no single equivalent word in English, but *ha-im* does have a meaning. It cannot be translated into English with a single word, but it can be explained in English. Its meaning is: "This sentence which you are about to read is a question, not a statement."

The word *ha-im* serves the very same purpose as the inverted question mark at the beginnings of questions in Spanish. In spoken Hebrew *ha-im* is not so important, because the

intonation of the speaker's voice lets the hearer know it is a question. But in written Hebrew, *ha-im* can be helpful, especially when reading the Bible, because the Hebrew Bible has no punctuation marks, not even question marks. Thus *ha-im* clarifies that the sentence is a question, not a statement. Sometimes *ha-im* is shortened to *ha-*, which can be confusing, because the prefix *ha-* usually means "the." But context usually clarifies whether the *ha-* prefix means "the" or "you are about to read a question."

Another Hebrew word which has no single equivalent word in English is *et*, spelled with an *aleph* and a *tav*. Because *aleph* and *tav* are the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet, some Messianic people think that since Yeshua is "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last" (Rev. 22:13), then perhaps *et* is some sort of secret veiled reference to Yeshua. And when they discover that *et* appears hundreds and hundreds of times in the Bible and is usually left untranslated, they assume that God just randomly scattered *ets* all over the pages of the Bible to draw attention to Yeshua, the Aleph and the Tav, the first and the last.

"The rabbis left *et* untranslated because they didn't know what to do with it," the Messianic pseudo-scholar says. "The rabbis don't know what it means or why it's there. But we know. We have *gnosis*, the secret knowledge that *et* was sprinkled throughout the Scriptures to point to Yeshua!"

I don't like to rain on anyone's parade or burst anyone's bubble, but *et* really *does* have a meaning and a function in Hebrew. Its meaning is not "Yeshua" and its function is not to announce that Yeshua is the Aleph and the Tav, the first and the last (even though He *is* these things).

Just as *ha-im* is an untranslatable word that makes an announcement telling the reader the nature of what he is about to read, so *et* is an untranslatable word that makes an announcement. The meaning of *et* is this: "The very next word after this *et* is the direct object of this sentence."

The use of *et* to identify the direct object is sometimes very important, because word order can vary in Hebrew, as we will later see. The word *et* occasionally means "with," but is most often used to indicate the direct object.

The Greek New Testament also has some words which are not translated into English. For example:

In English we have only one word for the definite article "the." But in Greek the definite

article takes many different forms, depending on whether the word being identified by "the" is masculine, feminine, or neuter, whether it is singular or plural, and whether it is nominative, genitive, dative, or accusative - a total of 24 possibilities (although some forms of the definite article are used for more than one of these 24 possibilities).

The definite article "the" is used far more frequently in Greek than it is in English, and because of the way it is used, sometimes it is left untranslated because it would sound very awkward in English. Some examples:

In John 1:29 the KJV says "The next day John seeth Jesus." The Greek text has the definite article "the" before each name. But it would sound awkward in English to say "The next day the John seeth the Jesus." So "the" is left untranslated before "John" and "Jesus."

In English we usually refer to the Creator as "God" and not "the God." If we hear someone say "the God," we expect them to add some qualifying phrase like "the God of Israel" or "the God whom I serve" or some other phrase. We would not expect someone to say "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was the God, and God was the Word. This one was in (the) beginning with the God." But that is how John 1:1 reads in Greek: "the God" - except for the second appearance of "God," which is written without the definite article.

The Jehovah's Witnesses make a big issue out of the fact that it says "God was the Word" rather than "the God was the Word." To Jehovah's Witnesses, this means that Yeshua was not "the God" incarnated into flesh, but only "a god," with a small "g," a lesser god than The Big God, Jehovah Himself. This is the reason the Jehovah's Witnesses' *New World Translation* refers to Jesus as "a god" rather than "God" in John 1:1.

But the Jehovah's Witnesses are mistaken, because the basis of their theory is flawed. Why? Because if the absence of the definite article "the" before "God" indicates a lesser God than Jehovah Himself, then the following verses would likewise be speaking of a lesser god than Jehovah: John 1:6, 12, 13, 18, & 3:2. That would mean that John the Baptist was a man sent from a lesser god, that we become children of a lesser god, that we are born of a lesser god, that no one has seen a lesser god, and that Nicodemus said Yeshua was a teacher come from a lesser god than Jehovah, because in all these verses "the" is absent from the Greek text. Anytime the text is talking about the one true God, it means *the God*, whether the definite article is absent or present.

The existence of untranslatable words works the opposite way, too. By that, I mean that sometimes English words must be supplied in the translation even when those words do not appear in the Hebrew or Greek text. This is not "adding to" the Word of God; it is simply including English words which are implied in the text and which are necessary for the translation to make sense in English. A few examples:

There are no indefinite articles ("a" or "an") in Hebrew or Greek, yet the words *a* and *an* are used several hundreds of times in English translations. In Genesis 4:1 the Hebrew text says *kaniti* ["I have gotten"] *ish* ["man"], but we do not understand this in English as "I have gotten man," we understand it as "I have gotten *a* man" so this is how it is translated. In John 1:6 the Greek text says *egeneto* ["there was"] *anthropos* ["man"], but we do not understand this in English as "There was man," we understand it as "There was *a* man," so that is how it is translated.

Here's another example. The *be* verb in present tense ("am," "are," "is") is not normally used in Hebrew. The *be* verb can be conjugated into the past tense ("was," "were") or the future tense ("will be"), but the present tense ("am," "are," "is") is understood **without** being written. In Genesis 3:14 when God pronounces His judgment on the serpent, He

said *arur* ["cursed"] *atah* ["you"], but we do not understand this in English as "cursed you," we understand it as "cursed *are* you," so that is how it is translated.

Even though past tense forms of *be* exist in Hebrew, sometimes even those forms are omitted from the Hebrew text and must be supplied by the translators. After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened and "they knew that they were naked" (Gen. 3:7). The Hebrew text says *va-yed'u ki eirumim* ["they knew that naked"]. For this to make sense in English, translators have to add the words "they" and "were." Again, this is not "adding to" the Word of God; it is telling you how someone reading the text in its original language would understand it.

Unlike Hebrew, Greek has ways of expressing the *be* verb in present tense. When Yeshua says "I am..." in the New Testament ("I am the bread of life, I am the door, I am the good shepherd, I am the resurrection and the life, I am the Alpha and the Omega, etc.), He says *ego eimi*. However, sometimes even in Greek the verb is omitted. When John the Baptist says in John 1:23 "I am a voice," the Greek text says only *ego* ["I"] *phone* ["voice"], but we do not understand this in English as "I voice," we understand it as "I *am* a voice," so this is how it is translated.

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REVEREND
TWISTRUTH
& HIS DISCIPLES
—by Daniel Botkin—
THE
MESSIANIC
MENACE




THESE ARE THE JUDAIZERS PAUL WARNS US ABOUT. NEWTON! FIRST THEY ASK YOU IF YOU THINK CHRISTIANS SHOULD OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS-- IF YOU SAY "YES," THEY POINT OUT THAT THE SABBATH IS ONE OF THE TEN! AFTER THEY GET YOU HOOKED ON THE SABBATH, THEY START TALKING ABOUT HOLY DAYS, NEW MOONS, DIETARY LAWS, AND ALL THAT OTHER OLD TESTAMENT JEWISH STUFF!



As we move into the last half of Matthew 26, we are also moving to the events leading to the crucifixion of Yeshua.

³⁶Then Yeshua came with them to a place called **Gat Sh'manim**,¹ and said to his talmidim (disciples), "Sit here, while I go over to pray."³⁷ And he took with him Shimon Kefa and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even to death. Remain here, and watch with Me."³⁸ And He went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as You will."

(Mattityahu 26:36-39)

According to Luke 22:44, Yeshua sweated great drops of blood. Yeshua went willingly to the cross² to pay the penalty for your sins³ and mine. He did not go joyfully to the cross, although He did go willingly to the cross. It is only when under extreme duress that one will sweat drops of blood. By the way, it should be noted that Yeshua **prayed**. That should be a "no-brainer." However, there are some who feel that Yeshua was "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" all rolled up in one. Obviously, the Father and Son are two Beings. Yeshua prayed to the Father, not to himself. In Yochanan 14:28, Yeshua said, "the Father is greater than I." (See also John 5:19,30.)

After praying, he went back to find his talmidim sleeping after just one hour. He then gives an order which is very apropos for anyone: "Watch and pray, so that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Then Yeshua went back to pray again, saying, "My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." This is the tremendous love that Yeshua had for us. He was willing to be crucified for us. If it had been me, I would have said, "Let them die for their own sins." It's a good thing that I'm not the Messiah!

¹ Gethsemane, that is, an oil press for olives.

² "Cross" might be politically incorrect in some Messianic circles. However, "tree" seems inadequate in this context.

³ NT definition of sin: "Whoever commits sin transgresses also the Torah ('Law'). For sin is the transgression of the Torah."

The Betrayal and Arrest of Yeshua

Rav Richard 'Aharon' Chamberlin
Mattityahu 26

Yeshua returned a second and third time, only to find his talmidim sleeping. Then He told them, "Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is being betrayed into the hands of sinner. Arise, let us be going, and behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

While Yeshua was still speaking to his talmidim, Yehudah ("Judas") came up with a multitude carrying clubs and swords, along with the cohanim (priests) and elders of the people. Yehudah said, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one." Then he went to Yeshua, saying, "Hail Rabbi," and then he kissed Him. Yeshua was called

"Rabbi" by both friend and foe. This indicates a man learned in Torah and in Judaism, most generally also a Pharisee. Yeshua never became a "Christian." Yeshua also never came to start a new religion to replace Judaism. Rather, He came as the Messiah of the old religion - Judaism.

Yeshua said, "Friend, do what you have come for." They came and seized Yeshua. One of the Talmidim (Shimon Kefa?) drew out a sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the Cohen HaGadol ("High Priest"). Yeshua commanded Kefa to put the sword back, saying, "Those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword." Some people take this to mean that Yeshua was a pacifist. However, in Luke 22:36, Yeshua said, "Let him who has a purse take it along, likewise also a bag, and let him who has no sword sell his outer garment and buy one." Yeshua is not opposed to us defending ourselves or our families. He merely does not want us to live by the sword (or gun, etc.).

Yeshua also told his talmidim, "Do you not think that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?"⁴ According to my NAS Bible, a legion is about 6,000 men. Multiplied by 12, we have about 72,000. And these legions are not mere men; they are angels. Yeshua could very easily have prevented the terrible suffering that was to come upon Him. At this point, all of the talmidim deserted Yeshua, thus fulfilling Zechariah 13:7.

Yeshua Before the Cohen HaGadol

Yeshua was then brought before Caiaphas, who was the Cohen HaGadol (High Priest). Scribes and elders were also there, comprising the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the highest Jewish council in the First Century, composed

⁴ Matt. 26:53.

of 71 members, presided over by the Cohen HaGadol. It was composed of both Pharisees and Sadducees.

The priesthood was corrupt, and often resented by the people. However, in fairness to the priesthood, they were concerned also about the people. They knew the about the brutality of Rome. Thousands of Jews had been crucified. Any potential rebellion of the people could be dealt with very harshly. The exception would be if the rebellion happened to be successful. However, past rebellions had been put down by the Romans, as described in Acts 5:33-37. Roman military might was far stronger than any possible assembly of rebellious Jews. The Jewish "religious establishment" had good reason to be leery of any Messianic pretenders.

They held what can best be described as a kangaroo court to at least give the semblance of justice, although the predetermined outcome would be the conviction of Yeshua. Many false witnesses came forward, but gave conflicting testimonies. Finally two witnesses came forward, saying, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the Beit HaMikdash⁵ of God, and to rebuild it in three days'." There was some truth to what was said. In John 2:19, Yeshua said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up." However, we learn in verse 21 that He was referring to his own body, which of course was a prophecy He fulfilled at the resurrection.

However, when the accusation went forth, Yeshua did not open his mouth to defend himself, fulfilling Isaiah 53:7: "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open his mouth. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, He did not open his mouth."

Finally, in their impatience, Caiaphus asked Yeshua, "I adjure You by the living God, tell us whether You are the Messiah, the Son of God." At this point, Yeshua replied, "You have said it. Nevertheless, I tell you, Hereafter you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."⁶

At that point, the Cohen HaGadol tore his robes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy. What further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now you have heard his blasphemy." And indeed, if Yeshua was not who He said He was, it would indeed have been blasphemy. Then they spat on Him and struck him with their hands, again inadvertently fulfilling Bible

prophecy from Isaiah 50:6, which by the way also includes the Messiah having parts of his beard being plucked out, also very painful. According to Mark 14:65, they blindfolded Yeshua. They then demanded, "Prophecy to us, You Messiah. Who is the one who hit You?"

Shimon Kefa's Denials

I have to give Kefa credit; it took a lot of courage to follow Yeshua after He was arrested. He sat outside in the Sanhedrin courtyard, warming himself by a fire, according to John 18:25. A servant girl accused him of being with Yeshua. Kefa denied being with Yeshua. Then another servant girl accused Kefa, and he again denied it. Finally a third person accused Kefa, saying, "Surely you also are one of them, for your accent gives you away." It's that stubborn Galilean "hillbilly" accent that exposed Kefa. But he said, "I do not know the man." At that point, the cock crowed, and Kefa remembered what Yeshua had said, "Before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times."⁷ Kefa then went out and wept bitterly.

Looking to the Cross?

The above title is perhaps not "politically correct" in Messianic Judaism. We are often told to use terms like **tree** when referring to the wood that Yeshua died upon. There is good reason for this. Jews have suffered many centuries of persecution from so-called Christians, often accompanied with the **cross**. Rampaging mobs would sometimes attack the Jewish ghettos of Europe, often led by a priest carrying a huge cross.

When the Crusaders occupied Jerusalem in 1099 CE,⁸ they assembled the Jewish community inside the Beit Knesset HaGadol (the Great Synagogue). Then they set the synagogue ablaze. As the Jews were being consumed by the flames, a priest carrying a huge wooden cross led the "Christians" as they marched around the burning synagogue, singing, "Christ, we adore thee." We might subtitle this as, "How not to witness to Jews." The Jews trapped inside the synagogue had good reason to reject the Jesus of the Crusaders, because this was a different Jesus from the one who died for Israel. This was a Gentile counterfeit Jesus who hated Jews and abolished Torah. This was a counterfeit Yeshua that Rav Sha'ul warned us about in 2 Cor. 11:4. This was a Jesus that could never save anybody, not the Yeshua who came and died for the sins of Israel and all mankind (and the ladies too!).

⁵ "Temple."

⁶ Matt. 26:64

⁷ Matt. 26:34

⁸ "Common Era," equivalent to A.D.

When I use the term **cross**, I am not referring to the cross carried by rampaging mobs, nor am I referring to the beautiful gold crosses worn as jewelry, even by members of Satanic heavy metal bands. I am referring to that ugly piece of wood that Yeshua died upon, bearing on Himself the sins of the world, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.⁹ If I were to use the term **tree**, it would not speak adequately of the horrors that Yeshua endured. Most people have a positive attitude about trees.

The future crucifixion of Yeshua was prophesied in Psalm 22 (about 1000 BCE) and Isaiah 53 (about 712 BCE) in explicit detail. However, crucifixion was not "invented" until about 300 BCE by the Persians. Later on, the Egyptians and Greeks came to appreciate this barbaric method of execution, and also used it against "criminals." (I use quotation marks around "criminals" because the state and the executioner were often worse criminals than the ones being executed.)

Finally, the Romans took up crucifixion as a method of eliminating insurrections and criminals. They "perfected" crucifixion in order to maximize the pain and suffering to the point where it became the most horrendous method of execution ever devised. Since the victims died slow, agonizing deaths near a public road or location, it also served as a warning to all who would dare to rebel against Rome or engage in criminal activities. It was very effective. A "Pax Romana" (Roman peace) was established throughout the huge Roman Empire on three continents. Most subject peoples were too terrified to rise up against the might of Rome. When we hear about Greek or Roman civilization, we are doing injustice to the term "civilization."

We do not "Cherish the Old Rugged Cross," that so many Christians like to sing about. Instead, we cherish the work that was accomplished on the cross, and the fact that Yeshua was willing to go to the cross for you and me. If He were killed by a shotgun, would people be singing, "I cherish the old rusty shotgun"? Perhaps. But don't expect me to join in the chorus.

At the time Yeshua walked this planet, the Messianic expectation was for the Messiah ben David (Messiah, the son of David) to come and establish the Messianic Kingdom, and kick out the Romans, establishing a real "shalom" throughout the world under the just reign of King Messiah. The day is indeed coming when

Yeshua will return and set up the Messianic Kingdom. However, on his first coming, He came as Messiah ben Yosef (Messiah, the son of Joseph), the suffering servant Messiah who would die for the sins of mankind.

The suffering servant Messiah was very much a part of Jewish tradition. However, after suffering for centuries under despotic foreign rulers, the Jews weren't eager for a Messiah ben Yosef to come and set up some kind of a spiritual kingdom. They wanted freedom from persecution and oppression. Who can blame them? However, by doing so, they ignored the clear prophecies of the suffering servant Messiah of Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22.

I can't imagine the kinds of thoughts that went through Yeshua's mind during his last week on Planet Earth, commonly called the "Passion Week" by Christians. He knew that his life was about to end by a most humiliating and tortuous end.

Yeshua walked this planet as a real, flesh and blood human being. He was not looking forward to being crucified. His death was always before Him during his earthly ministry. Very early on, He said, "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, and the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days he will rise again."¹⁰ This is not a message that his talmidim wanted to hear. Shimon Kefa (Peter) rebuked Yeshua for saying this. Like any other patriotic Jew, he wanted Yeshua to set up the Messianic Kingdom. In return, Yeshua rebuked Shimon Kefa, saying, "Get thee behind me, Satan, for you do not savor the things of God, but the things that be of men." Yeshua didn't want to be tempted by the "easy way out." Yeshua came to do the Father's will, even if it happened to be dying on the cross.

"Palm Sunday"?

The adulation of the crowd on that first Palm Sunday (or was it Palm Thursday?) may have been only a distant memory to Yeshua as He climbed the hill called Golgotha, the Place of the Skull.¹¹ Where were his talmidim? Scattered like scared sheep. "That's all right," He thought. "There will soon come a time when they are more like lions." But for now, they cannot know that this but one act of many acts of redemption. All they see now is defeat. Soon they will be bathed in victory.

¶

¹⁰ Mark 8:31-32.

¹¹ Near the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. Features resembling a skull can be seen on this formation known as Golgotha.

⁹ Yochanan (John) 3:16.

We normally associate the *shofar* (ram's horn) with *Rosh HaShanah* ("Head of the Year," or New Year), commonly called the Feast of Trumpets.

However, the *shofar* was also blown on many other occasions, both in ancient Israel and in modern Judaism today. *Rosh HaShanah* is called *Yom T'ruah* ("Day of Blowing") in Leviticus 23:24.

The *shofar* is nearly always made from the horn of a ram, never a cow or an ox, which would be a reminder of the sin of Israel in the wilderness when the golden calf was worshipped.

The horns of other clean animals, such as the ibex or kudu, are used for the **shofar gadol** (large shofar). Occasionally, as in Numbers 10:2-9, silver trumpets were used. The word used for trumpet in this chapter is "khotzotz-rah". However, in the vast majority of incidences, the word used for trumpet is *shofar*, the ram's horn.

The *shofar* is associated with the revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:13-19), and is traditionally blown at *Shavuot* ("Weeks" or Pentecost), the day when the Torah was given at Mount Sinai, according to rabbinic reckoning.

The *shofar* is not an easy instrument to blow. On *Rosh HaShanah* the sound of the *shofar* begins with a long *tekiah*, followed by short, broken blasts called *shevarim* (3 short blasts) and *t'ruah* (9 very short staccato blasts), followed by a longer *tekiah*. This process is repeated several times. The last *tekiah* in the repetition is called the *tekiah gedolah*. The blasts of the *shofar* are meant to waken us from our slumber, and to repentance (*t'shuvah*, meaning to "turn around").

Rosh HaShanah is on the first day of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar,¹ which is usually in late September. Since each month begins with the New Moon, the date of *Rosh HaShanah* varies each year on the Gregorian calen-

dar used throughout most countries. The Rabbis tell us that man was created on *Rosh HaShanah*. Therefore, the New Year is celebrated on the first day of the seventh month as the anniversary of Creation.

In most synagogues, the *shofar* is blasted a total of at least 100 times, in remembrance of the 100 sobs of the mother of Sisera.² Sisera was a Canaanite general fighting against Israel. When he delayed in returning, his mother worried about

her son, as most mothers would. However, she comforted herself with the thoughts that perhaps he

was late because he and his men were dividing the spoils of war and raping the Israelite women. She wasn't a very nice lady! However, Sisera died a very Jewish death. He got stabbed in the **temple** by Yael! ☺ (Read Judges 4:17-22; 5:24-27.)

The *shofar* was also used in the conquest of Jericho. The Israelites marched around the city of Jericho every day for six days. Seven *cohanim* (priests) each carried a *shofar*. On the seventh day, they marched around Jericho seven times. At the conclusion of the marching, the priests blew on the *shofars*, at which time the walls of Jericho came tumbling down!

This was the first city that the Israelites conquered when they returned to the Holy Land. Jericho was Israel's key to the remaining conquests. Curiously, Jericho was also the first city that Israel gave to the Palestinian Authority after the Oslo Treaty was signed in 1993.

I really admire Joshua's faith. Adonai gave him a battle plan of simply marching around the city, and then blowing a bunch of ram's horns. I wonder if he argued with God? His men also demonstrated great faith. This was the first time that Joshua was

leading men into war. To the unspiritual, it might have looked like the choice of Joshua as

THE SHOFAR

Richard 'Aharon'
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² Judges 5:28-30; Tractate *Rosh HaShanah*, ch. 3.

¹ Numbers 29:1.

commander-in-chief was perhaps a poor choice. I can imagine the people of Jericho. On the first day, they might have trembled to see the Israelites march around their city. However, by the fifth day, there might have been vendors on the walls selling hot dogs and popcorn, or whatever the fast food was back then. But when the walls fell, pandemonium broke loose, and the Israelites had a mighty victory.

The Psalmist tells us, "Blow the shofar at the new moon, at the full moon, on the day of the feast. For it is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob."³ Moshe tells us to do the same thing in Numbers 10:10. The celebration of Feasts, Sabbaths, and New Moons will continue even into the Messianic Era, when Messiah Yeshua sets up his kingdom, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah.⁴ So get your shofar out! (If your Dispensational Theology dispensed with these things, perhaps it is time to dispense with Dispensational Theology.)

The shofar makes an awesome sound when played properly. Its primitive sound seems to pierce even the soul. However, it is kind of hard to think of it as a real musical instrument. Yet it was part of the worship services in days of old. The Psalmist wrote, "Praise Him with the blasts of the *shofar*. Praise Him with harp and lyre. Praise Him with timbrel and dance. Praise Him with lute and pipe. Praise Him with resounding cymbals... Let everything that has breath, praise YHWH."⁵

PROPHECY: "In the days to come, Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit." Isaiah 27:6.

We see the above verse being fulfilled in our day. Also, "It will come about also in that day that a great shofar will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship YHWH in the holy mountain at Jerusalem." (Isaiah 27:13.) Although there are many Jews who have returned to the Land, I suspect that it will take this great shofar call to bring the rest of the Jews back to the Land.

The shofar was also used in battle, sort of a battle cry to rally the troops. It was also blown

before the Ark of the Covenant, to herald its approach.⁶ The shofar also sounded the alarm. When the watchman on the walls saw an approaching enemy, he blew the shofar to sound the alarm.⁷ Joel 2:1 describes a similar rallying cry. Joel 2:15 mentions the use of the shofar to consecrate a fast, to proclaim a holy assembly, and to assemble the congregation at a time when folks didn't wear wrist watches. (Perhaps they carried little sun dials around on their wrists? ☺)

It is kind of hard to imagine God blowing a shofar. However, in a future great day of deliverance for Israel, "YHWH will blow the shofar, and will march in the storm winds of the south."⁸

N.T. REFERENCES TO THE SHOFAR:

"But immediately after the Tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light... and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great shofar, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other." (Matthew 24:29-31.)

As you can see, the Rapture occurs after the Tribulation. There are those who imagine Yeshua bringing the "Church" out of this planet prior to the Great Tribulation. They believe that the Jews are being called back to the Land so God can murder two-thirds of them. Meanwhile, Jesus is supposedly celebrating the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb" with the Church while His people are being massacred down below. To me, this is an obscene theology, with its roots in anti-Semitism. There are certainly going to be hard times for Israel. However, according to Revelation 12:14, Israel will be protected during this time of persecution.

Judaism believes in a future *Tekiah Gedolah* (great blast of the heavenly shofar) in which the dead shall be raised. The shofar is identified with the idea of *tekhiviat ha-metim* (the resurrection of the dead).⁹ Rav Shaul taught this same Jewish concept to the pre-



³ Psalm 81:3-4.

⁴ Isaiah 66:22-23.

⁵ Psalm 150:3-6.

⁶ 1 Chron. 15:24-28.

⁷ Ezekiel 33:2-6, Zeph. 1:14-16.

⁸ Zech. 9:11-14.

⁹ Encyclopedia of Jewish Concepts, p. 592.

dominantly Gentile congregation at Corinth: "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (Bible-talk for "die"), but we shall all be changed, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on immortality and this mortal must put on immortality (1 Corinthians 15:50-52)."

When will this blowing of the last shofar occur? So glad you asked! Revelation 8:2 tells us about the seven angels with seven shofars. Each angel blows on the shofar in

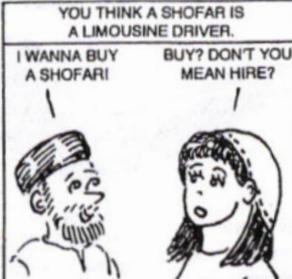
turn, with a plague resulting from each blast of the shofar. However, Revelation 10:7 tells us that the blast of the seventh shofar will result in the fulfillment of the "mystery of God." Revelation 11:15-18 tells us that the blast of the seventh shofar will bring about a reward to the saints. This is prior to the "wrath of God" (1 Thes. 1:10, Rev. 15:1, 16:1) which follows with succeeding plagues.

"The Shofar shall sound, and the dead shall be raised."

May the sound of the shofar remind us of our coming King!

Daniel Botkin Presents

**YOU MIGHT
BE A
MESSIANIC
GREENHORN IF...**



YOU THINK HAVDALAH IS AN ISRAELI DESSERT.

WE'RE GONNA HAVE HAVDALAH. YOU WANT TO JOIN US?

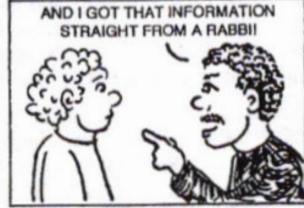
NO THANKS, I'M NOT HUNGRY.



FROM YOUR HOTEL IN JERUSALEM YOU HEAR SHOFARS BLOWING AT THE WESTERN WALL ON ROSH HASHANAH, AND YOU THINK IT'S AN AIR RAID SIREN.



YOU THINK THAT "OBSERVANT JEWS" ARE SECULAR JEWS WHO OBSERVE RELIGIOUS JEWS WHO KEEP THE TORAH.



Tisha B'Av (the 9th of Av) is one of the most somber days on the Jewish calendar. It usually occurs in late July or early August. It is the date on which the first Beit HaMikdash (Temple) was destroyed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BCE.¹ The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans under Titus on the very same date, Tisha B'Av, in 70 CE. In both cases, there was also enormous human suffering, with hundreds of thousands of Jews dying of starvation or in battle against their enemies. However, it is the destruction of the Temples that is commemorated, not the loss of lives. The primary reason for this is because Temple worship brought mankind into a closer relationship with the Almighty. With the destruction of the Temples, this intimacy was lost. It is mind boggling that the destruction of both Temples occurred on the same exact day, albeit centuries apart.

Curiously, many other terrible events occurred on Tisha B'Av throughout history. According to the Rabbis, the date on which the ten spies came back with a bad report about the Promised Land (Numbers 13:23-33) occurred on Tisha B'Av. This resulted in the Israelites in the wilderness for another 38 years.

The Ninth of Av is a Jewish holiday, not a holy day. Normal work and commerce can be done on this day. However, it is a day of fasting, in this case, like Yom Kippur, from sunset to sunset. However, unlike Yom Kippur,² if Tisha B'Av occurs on Shabbat, its observance is pushed off to Sunday, because Shabbat is supposed to be a day of feasting and joyful worship. Jeremiah's Book of Lamentations is generally read on this day, followed by a break fast after sunset. It is described in Zechariah 8:19 as the fast of the fifth month.³ However, according to this verse, these same fast days "will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts of the house of Judah." There will be a rebuilt Temple someday!

Several other terrible events also took place on Tisha B'Av:

◆ In 135 CE, the Bar Kochba revolt was crushed by the Romans when the city of Betar was destroyed. Over 100,000 Jews died.

¹ "Before Common Era," equivalent to B.C.

² "Day of Atonement."

³ In Exodus 12:2, the first month of the year was changed to Aviv (Nissan). In the Creation calendar, the month of Tishrei was the first month of the year.

Tisha B'Av: The Good, The Bad, & the Ugly

Rav Richard
'Aharon
Chaimberlin

◆ In 1095, the First Crusade was declared by Pope Urban II, resulting in many thousands of Jews being killed.

◆ In 1290, King Edward I issued an edict on Tisha B'Av expelling all Jews from England.

◆ In 1492, an edict expelling all Jews from Spain was carried out on Tisha B'Av.

◆ In 1994, the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires was bombed, killing 86 and wounding 300 others.

◆ In 2005, 7000 Jewish residents of Gaza were expelled by their own Israeli government as a peace gesture. Of course, this only resulted in thousands of rockets and mortars being fired by Gaza's Arab residents against nearby Israeli towns and villages, as well as wars being launched by Hamas against Israel.

However, it wasn't **all** bad. When the Babylonians destroyed the First Temple in 586 BCE, they dispersed the Jews throughout the Babylonian Empire. As a result, the Torah and the Word of God went forth to the pagan nations, informing them of the one true God. Some Jews did quite well in exile. Daniel became Prime Minister to Nebuchadnezzar, and Esther became queen of the Persian Empire!

The destruction of the Second Temple also resulted in the Jewish people being dispersed, this time throughout the Roman Empire. In Jerusalem alone, there were "many **myriads** among the Jews who have believed."⁴ The term **myriad** means "ten thousand." Therefore, there were tens of thousands of Messianic Jews⁵ in Jerusalem, and many more tens of thousands of Messianic Jews throughout the rest of Israel. When the Romans dispersed the Jewish people from Israel, they also dispersed many tens of thousands of Messianic Jews. These Jewish believers carried the **Besorah** (Good News of Yeshua) with them throughout the Roman Empire, bringing knowledge of atonement and eternal life to the pagans in Europe. What HaSatan meant for evil, God turned around for good. (See Romans 8:28.)

The Babylonian, Roman, and British Empires are gone. Today Israel is the most powerful nation in the Middle East. HaShem promises to bless those who bless Israel, and curse those who curse Israel, according to Genesis 12:3, 26:4, 27:29; Numbers 23:8, 24:9; Isaiah 41:11, 54:15-17, 60:12; Matthew 25:40-45.

⁴ Acts 21:20.

⁵ In the First Century, they were called the Way (HaDerech), or simply Jews (Acts 22:3-4).

On the final day of the annual Christians United For Israel (CUFI) Washington Summit in July, thousands of CUFI activists took to Capitol Hill to lobby their congressman to stand with Israel and to support the Taylor Force Act, which would end funding to the Palestinian Authority, which for years has been making monthly stipends to convicted and imprisoned terrorists and their families – a kind of social security payment for Palestinian murderers.

These Christian supporters of Israel made their voices heard, showing that Heartland America stands with Israel. The two groups in the U.S. that most ardently support Israel are Jews and evangelical / fundamentalist Christians. Jewish support is easy to explain, but why should so many Christians, most of them politically quite conservative, be so devoted to Israel?

There is a second puzzle: Despite their staunch support for Israel, evangelical and fundamentalist Christians are disliked by many American Jews. The evidence concerning evangelical attitudes is abundant. In 2006, a Pew survey found that evangelical Christians were more favorable toward Israel than the average American – and much more sympathetic than either mainline Protestants or secularists.

In another survey, evangelical Christians proved much likelier than Catholics, mainline or liberal Protestants, and secular types to back Israeli control of Jerusalem, to endorse Israeli settlements on the West Bank, and to take Israel's side in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Among every Christian group, those who are the most traditional are the most **supportive** of Israel.

Evangelical Christians have a high opinion not just of the Jewish state but of Jews as people. That Jewish voters are overwhelmingly liberal doesn't seem to bother evangelicals, despite their own conservative politics. Yet Jews definitely don't return the favor: in one Pew survey, 42 percent of Jewish respondents expressed hostility toward evangelicals and fundamentalists.

So what is it about Christians who support Israel so strongly that makes some Jews so uneasy? I suppose many Jews – especially liberal Jews – are nervous about evangelicals' conservative values, their uncompromising stance on the Middle East "peace process," and the theological roots of their support for Israel. Christians love Israel unconditionally, and express love for Jews unconditionally. Yes, you might say there is something almost non-Jewish about it. Jews usually do not talk about unconditional love. We are

more into debating, questioning, and challenging.

Even so, why do we find such muted expression of unconditional love among Jews? Is it because we confuse love with supporting official governmental policy? That is, if we disagree with Israel's policies, do we find it difficult to express unconditional love for Israel? How many Israel supporters who disagree with Israel's policies can honestly say their love for Israel is, in fact,

unconditional?

When one considers the worldwide movement in recent years to delegitimize Israel, one sees that the enemies of Israel are not looking for a debate. Their aim is not to engage or interact – it is to undermine and demonize. Their opposition is not open to reason or good will. In short, their hatred is unconditional.

That being the current geo-strategic reality challenging Israel, why should Jews be made uneasy by evangelical Christians' unconditional love toward Israel – even if they differ with evangelicals on social issues?

How better to fight unconditional hatred than with unconditional love? What better weapon against the forces working to delegitimize Israel than **tens of millions** of passionate and committed people who unequivocally express their love of Israel?

Of course, we Jews should never stop doing what we do best – the arguing, debating, challenging, and kvetching mentioned above. However, this must be conducted under an ironclad consensus that Israel remain the strong and secure national homeland of the Jewish people.

We can't love the process more than we love Israel itself. For Israel supporters, unconditional love is the emotion that ought to trump all others; the emotion that fuels and gives meaning to our actions.

I can challenge my child and rebuke him, but I can never forget to show him unconditional love. Many of our debates about Israel have become coarse and divisive. One reason is that in our zeal to express critical love, we have forgotten about pure love – the unconditional love so common among our Christian supporters throughout the United States.

We have much to learn from our Christian friends and allies and how they express their unconditional love for Israel. **It is this unconditional love that can bind us together** – Christians and Jews – in our undivided support for Israel and send a strong message of deterrence to Israel's enemies.

Jews Can Learn From Evangelicals' Unconditional Love For Israel

by Ron Jager
www.jewishpress.com

Subscriptions to this weekly Orthodox Jewish newspaper cost only \$55 per year.

Excellent!

In many Evangelic Christian churches, it is an article of faith that every word in the Bible (especially if it is a King James Version) is the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

The Jewish people have done a remarkable job in preserving the Tanakh (O.T.). The Masorites of old set up a complex system of preserving the Hebrew text of the Bible, in which every word and letter of the Bible is counted. Some letters are written larger than surrounding letters, and some are smaller. There are occasional variant spellings, even misspellings. The Hebrew text was transmitted and preserved incredibly accurately for thousands of years, even the spelling errors! The ancient Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in late 1940s. When these Hebrew texts of the Bible from over 2000 years old were compared with the modern Hebrew manuscripts, only very few minor variances could be found.

This doesn't mean that there aren't minor apparent contradictions in the Tanakh. For example, it isn't easy to reconcile the accounts of the death of Saul in 1 Samuel 31 with 1 Chronicles 10. However, there seems to be more apparent contradictions in the Newer Testament.

One of the problems is that there are many more variant texts of the Newer Testament than of the Tanakh, even though the Tanakh is hundreds of years older. Christians weren't nearly as careful in transmitting the texts of the NT as the Jews were in transmitting the Tanakh. Nevertheless, I am amazed and impressed that the Gentile scribes preserved the Jewishness of the NT, which remains an incredibly Jewish document. The original "autograph" texts of the First Century have long since disappeared due to the ravages of time. However, there were "discrepancies," even in the original Gospel accounts as penned by their authors.

Yeshua's **talmidim** (disciples) were expecting Messiah Yeshua to set up the Messianic Kingdom in their lifetimes, as we see in Acts 1:6, when they asked Him: "Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?" This was a very logical question. Israel was under the very oppressive boot of Roman occupation. They no doubt expected Yeshua to return in their own lifetimes to set up this Kingdom. Perhaps for this reason, they waited a couple of decades before writing down the

events of the life and times of Yeshua the Messiah. As they wrote their Gospels, they would have to gather information from others. Of the Gospel writers, only Matthew and Yochanan (John) were with Yeshua during his earthly ministry.

Luke and Mark had to rely on their memories of events which had become oral legends in composing their Gospels. According to the early Church Fathers, Matthew wrote his **B'sorah** (Gospel) in Hebrew.¹ In the 19th Century, liberal theologians came up with the idea that Mark's Gospel was the oldest.

However, the historical evidence for this theory is totally lacking. The Church "Fathers" all agree that Matthew's Gospel is the first Gospel to be committed to paper. All four Gospels were written in the First Century of the Common Era. Yochanan's Gospel was the last to be written down, possibly after the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) in 70 CE.²

It is beyond the scope of an article this size to delve into all the apparent contradictions in the Newer Testament. I would like to concentrate on the ones surrounding the most pivotal event since Creation: **The Resurrection of Messiah Yeshua.**

The first ones to go to the empty tomb were the ladies. The men were hiding out, no doubt with locked doors. They had good reason to fear. The occupying Roman army had crucified thousands of Jews in the past, and had just recently crucified Rabbi Yeshua, who they felt was the Messiah who would deliver Israel from the hands of the Romans. Their hopes were completely crushed. The men might have wanted to go to the tomb to ritually cleanse and anoint the body of Yeshua, but feared that men going out to the tomb would be arrested by the Romans. Women

¹ Papias, Irenaeus, and Origen all lived in the 2nd Century AD, writing between 150 CE and 210 CE, testified that Matthew wrote his Gospel in Hebrew. Papias wrote that "Matthew composed the words in the Hebrew dialect, and each translated as he was able." (Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, 3:39.) Epiphanius, writing in 370 CE, wrote, "They (the Nazarenes) have the Gospel according to Matthew quite complete, in Hebrew, for this Gospel is certainly still preserved among them as it was first written, in Hebrew letters." (*Ibid.*, 5:10.)

² "Common Era," equivalent to A.D.

The Resurrection of the Messiah!

Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin
Matthew 28

represented less of a threat to the Romans, and were less likely to be arrested.

Since none of the Gospel writers were with the ladies when they went to the tomb, they had to rely on the eyewitness testimonies of the ladies on what they had seen and heard. As the Gospel writers tried to assemble the facts, some minor apparent contradictions with each other arose in their written accounts.

• **First of all, How many women went to the tomb?**

We read in Matthew 28:1 that "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave." It sounds to me like **two** women, but Mark 16:1 tells us that there were **three** women. And in Yochanan (John) 20:1, we find only **one** woman, Mary (Miriam) Magdalene going to the tomb. It is perhaps possible that all of the Gospel writers were aware of three women going to the tomb, but simply didn't think it necessary to name them all.

• **When did the woman (or women) arrive at the tomb?**

Mark 16:2 says it was at the rising of the sun, whereas John 20:1 says it was on "the first day of the week... when it was still dark."

• **How many angels (or men) were at the tomb?**

Matthew 28:2-5 mentions **one** angel. Mark 16:5 says it was a **young man**. Luke 24:4 says it was **two men**. John 20:12 says there were **two angels**.³

• **Was the angel (or men) inside or outside the tomb?**

Matthew 28:2 tells us that the **angel** was **outside, sitting** on the stone. Mark 16:5 tells us that it was a young **man, sitting inside** the tomb. Luke 24:4-5 tells us that **two men** were **standing inside** the tomb. John 20:12 says that one **angel** was **sitting inside** the tomb at the head and a second **angel** was sitting at the feet of where the Messiah had been laid. Major contradictions!

• **To Whom did Yeshua first appear?**

Matthew tells us that He first appeared to the women (28:1), and then to the **eleven** (28:16-17) talmidim (disciples). Luke tells the story of Yeshua appearing to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (24:13-27), which is

unique to Luke's Gospel. **Then** Yeshua appeared to the **eleven** (24:33). John's Gospel tells us that Yeshua appeared to Mary only (20:14), and then to **ten** (20:24) disciples. Unique to John's Gospel, Thomas was absent, and unbelieving, saying he would not believe, "Unless I shall see in his hands the imprint of the nails and put my hand in his side (John 20:25)." Hence, the term "Doubting Thomas."

I find great encouragement in the account about Thomas. He had obviously been greatly discouraged about the events of the previous week. He probably wanted desperately to believe that Yeshua had been resurrected, but after having his hopes dashed to the ground so viciously, he dared not allow his hopes to rise again. However, the reappearance of the resurrected Yeshua changed all that. Thomas eventually made it all the way to India, where he founded a body of believers which was still in existence almost 1400 years later when the Portuguese began their colonial adventures in India.⁴ Thomas eventually died a martyr's death on what became known as Mount St. Thomas in Madras, India.

It might be possible to reconcile some of the various differences in the accounts with inventiveness. Each Gospel writer included events that he felt were significant, leaving out events he felt were not so important. However, it really isn't important to me if all the events can be reconciled.

• **Is my faith totally blown away by the apparent contradictions?**

No way! Instead, I would be suspicious if they all had the same exact story, verbatim. It would indicate that they all got together and contrived a story. In a court of law, if all the witnesses had the same exact testimony, it would demonstrate a conspiracy of deceit. Each of the disciples died a horrible martyr's death, except for Judas (who hung himself) and Yochanan.⁵ The disciples would never have done this to keep a mere myth alive. The essential truth of the Resurrection gave them the courage to die for their Messiah rather than deny Him. Each Gospel writer tells the same essential truth of the Resurrection. To which we say, "Halleluyah! Because He lives, we can live forever!"

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⁴ The Portuguese then began their quest to turn the Indian believers into Catholics.

⁵ The Romans tried to boil Yochanan alive in a vat of boiling oil. However, Yochanan was miraculously kept alive. The Romans then exiled him to the prison island of Patmos.

³ I don't want to make too big of a deal about whether they were men or angels. The Hebrew word for angels is *malachim*, which can be human messengers or angelic messengers. Angels normally looked like men in both Testaments.

KI TAVO (כי תבוא) is one of the more troubling Torah portions that is read, as we go through the Torah readings each year. Ki Tavo (Deuteronomy 26:1 - 29:8) is usually read in the month of September.

It starts out pretty good. We are reminded to give **bikkurim** (the first ripened fruits) to the sanctuary after entering the Promised Land, and that HaShem would bless us for our obedience. Dr. Luke (6:38) tells us something similar: "Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured out to you." This is counterintuitive. However, one of the keys to financial prosperity is **giving**. At minimum, we should be giving a tithe. Malachi 3:8-9 says that those who don't tithe are robbing God! Pretty serious stuff!

Some churches will demand that the whole 10% should go to them. I personally would be reluctant to give to a congregation that preaches against the mitzvot (commandments) given to us in Torah. Most churches don't even believe the Ten Commandments, written on tablets of stone by God's own finger.¹ Well, they believe in the Nine Commandments. They just aren't too thrilled with number 4 about Shabbat. I encourage everyone to give 10%. It need not all go to a single congregation. However, give where you are spiritually fed, and to ministries that are spiritually feeding others.

As we move on in this **parashah** (Torah portion), we see that God calls the Jewish people a **segulah** (סגולה). This word has the same **shoresh** (root word) as **segol** (סגול), which means **purple**, which is the color of royalty. Perhaps we **are** a royal people!

When Israel walks in obedience, there are blessings, as we see in Deuteronomy 28:1-14. However, there are also curses for disobedience, as we see in Deuteronomy 28:15-68. These 54 verses foretold the curses that would befall the Jewish people, and in fact did befall the Jewish people over the past 3000 years.

When the parashot are chanted in synagogues around the world each week by the cantor (or others invited to read), they are usually chanted out loudly and clearly. However, when coming to the verses in Deut. 28:15-68, it is traditional to read them in whispered words, without the dramatic chant.

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, in one of his teach-

ings on the parashot,² shared an experience that he had when he was a boy of 12 in 1952.

He decided to visit the synagogue of the Klausenberger Rebbe, a saintly Hassidic rebbe who resettled in Brooklyn after loosing his wife and eleven children to the Nazi murderers during the Holocaust.

However, on this particular Shabbat, the readings were from Ki Tavo, including these curses from Deuteronomy 28: "If you don't obey the Lord your G-d and all His commandments and statutes, then these curses shall come upon you... G-d will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with extreme burning and with the sword... G-d will turn your rain to dust, and it will come from the skies to destroy you... And your corpses shall be meat for all the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth. G-d will smite you with madness and blindness and a confusion of the heart. G-d will bring a nation from afar against you, from the end of the earth, swooping down like an eagle, a nation whose language you don't understand, a haughty arrogant nation which has no respect for the old nor mercy for the young..."

According to tradition, the Torah reader began chanting these warnings in a whisper. Unexpectedly, the rebbe shouted in Yiddish, **hecher** ("louder"). The reader stopped for a few moments. Could he have heard his rebbe correctly? He continued to read in a whisper. The rebbe then banged the lectern, and with a pained expression on his face, said, "Louder! **Read those verses out loud!** We have nothing to fear. We've already experienced the **curses**. Let the Master of the Universe hear them. Let Him know that the curses have already befallen us, and let Him know that it is time for Him to send the **blessings!**" The reader then began the cantillation out loud.

After the services, the rebbe said, "My beloved brothers and sisters, pack your belongings. We must make one more move - hopefully the last one. G-d promises the blessings which must follow the curses. They will come, but not from America. The blessings will come from Israel. **It is time for us to go home.**" This was a dramatic lesson in modern Zionism.

Kiryat Sanz-Klausenberg was later established by the rebbe in Netanya, Israel, as well as the Laniado Medical Center nearby.

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¹ **Sh'mot** (Exodus) 31:18.

² "Torah portions."

The existence of the creation is proof that there is a Creator. "For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God" (Hebrews 3:4).

If there is a house, it is obvious that someone built it. Only a fool would look at a house and say, "Nobody built that. There is no builder." How much more foolish it is to look at the universe with all its marvels and say, "Nobody made that. There is no Creator." This is the reason the Bible calls atheists fools. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1).

"The heavens reveal the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard" (Psalm 19:1-3).

The creation speaks in a voice which can be understood by anyone, regardless of the language they speak. The creation declares to all men that the Creator exists and that the Creator is glorious.

The creation declares the Creator's existence and the Creator's glory. However, the creation does *not* declare the Creator's will for men. The creation does not tell us how to be justified with God, nor does the creation tell us how God wants justified people to live. As Job's friend Bildad said, "How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in His sight. How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?" (Job 25:4ff).

We can scan the heavens for the answer to Bildad's question, but the heavens will remain silent. We can gaze at the glory of the full moon suspended in a star-lit sky above the mountains and we will see the *glory* of God, but we will not see the *will* of God. The heavens declare God's glory to us, but they do not tell us how God wants us to live. For that information, we must look to a different source: *The Holy Scriptures of God*.

The creation declares the existence of God and the glory of God, but we need the Holy Scriptures to tell us the will of God. Psalm 19 demonstrates this two-fold revelation of God. The first half of Psalm 19 speaks about the glory of God which is revealed in the dumb elements of the creation. Then suddenly the

psalmist changes the subject in the middle of the psalm, and starts talking about the law of the LORD and His testimonies and statutes and commandments. Why the sudden mid-psalm change? Because we are progressing from a revelation of God's *glory* to a revelation of God's *will*, and the revelation of His will is found in the pages of the Sacred Text that we call the Bible.

God reveals His glory in His creation, but He chose to communicate His will and His desires linguistically, through language. Language consists of words and phrases which represent various things in the world and things beyond the world. These words and phrases combine with one another to express ideas which the speaker (or writer) wishes to communicate to the hearer (or reader).

Because the Bible is God's linguistic revelation of His will, it is of the utmost importance that we approach it with a sincere desire to understand and interpret it in the way He intended it to be understood and interpreted. In other words, we need to understand and interpret God's linguistic revelation *as a linguistic revelation*. To properly do that, it helps to be aware of some linguistic principles and phenomena.

When I was in graduate school in 1985, I took courses in linguistics and language learning. This was at a secular state university, yet much of what I learned in these courses helped me in my study of the Scriptures. Why was it helpful? Because the Scriptures are God's linguistic revelation and because this linguistic revelation is written in languages which are foreign to nearly all Americans. Unless you were raised in a tri-lingual family and grew up fluently speaking ancient Greek, Aramaic, and Biblical Hebrew, the Bible is written in languages which are foreign to you. Therefore it can be helpful to know some things about foreign language learning and linguistics.

Some people might say, "But we have lots of good English translations. Why do we need to be aware of linguistic stuff?"

For two reasons. **First**, because language is far more complex than most people realize. When I took courses in linguistics and language learning in graduate school, I was amazed to learn how clueless I was about language. And I was not some uneducated red-neck moron. I had graduated from university,

Language & Linguistics

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

and I had studied a few foreign languages: two years of Spanish in high school; ten months of intensive full-time Hebrew classes in Israel; a semester of Biblical Greek at a Christian college; continued independent studies of Hebrew and Greek. But even with my experience and knowledge, I did not realize how complex language is. Through this exposure to the complexity of language, I came to realize that God's linguistic revelation, the Bible, includes all the linguistic complexities that exist in language. I realized that linguistic phenomena have to be taken into consideration when attempting to understand and interpret God's linguistic revelation to man.

A **second** reason linguistics is helpful for understanding and interpreting the Bible is because the Bible, as stated earlier, is written in foreign languages. Yes, we have English translations. And we should thank the Lord for good translators, especially for those early English translators like Wyclif and Tyndale who risked their lives (and in the case of Tyndale, lost his life) to translate the Bible into English for the English-speaking world. But even if the Bible had originally been written in English, some knowledge of linguistics would be necessary to correctly understand and interpret the text, because English is no less complex than other languages. In some ways it is more complex.

We look at a simple word like *get* and we think we know what it means. We might tell a foreign student who is trying to learn English that *get* means "to obtain, to acquire." That's generally true, but then we have all sorts of ways that the word *get* is combined with other words, resulting in very different meanings. Just a few examples:

- get out = go
- get in = come
- get going = start
- get through = finish
- get over = recover
- get back = return
- get it = understand
- get by = survive
- get off = remove oneself
- get a grip = control oneself
- get with it = cooperate
- get my goat = annoy me

Just as the English word *get* can have many different meanings which are determined by the context, so there are words in other languages that can have various meanings which are determined by the context. I taught English as a Second Language to foreign students for seven years. Through this experience I be-

came even more aware of how complex and complicated language learning and languages are, especially English.

Of course the Bible was not originally written in English, so it had to be translated for English-speaking people. As any serious translator knows, you always lose something in a translation, even if the translation is good and correct. A good translation will not give you a *wrong* understanding of the text, but it often will give you a *limited and incomplete* understanding. If you are not reading the text in its original language, you will often be deprived of subtle nuances of certain words, or of plays on words, or of alliteration, or of other alternative meanings possible in the text. A Jewish writer once remarked that reading a translation of the Hebrew Bible is like kissing a beautiful woman with a veil over her face. It's enjoyable, but not nearly as good as kissing her unveiled mouth.

"But Daniel, I have my Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. I can use that to look up the meanings of words in Hebrew and Greek." That's fine. I believe that Strong's is probably the most useful study tool that exists for English-speaking people. However, keep in mind that the Hebrew and Greek lexicons in Strong's give you only very brief, basic definitions of words, and they do not show you the words in all their possible forms. As stated earlier, language is far more complex than most people realize. And translation is even more complex. Consider the following quote from *Introduction to Language* by Victoria Fromkin:

"Translation is more than word-for-word replacement. Often there is no equivalent word in the target language, and the order of words may differ, as in translating from a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) language like English to a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) language like Japanese. There is also difficulty in translating idioms, metaphors, jargon, and so on. These problems are dealt with by human translators because they know the grammars of the two languages and draw on general knowledge of the subject matter and the world to arrive at the intended meaning" (p. 374f).

People who mistakenly assume that translation from one language to another is nothing more than word-for-word replacement come up with some rather bizarre (and often funny) translations. Such translations can often be seen in foreign countries on signs that are printed and posted to "help" English-speaking tourists. Fromkin lists a few examples in her book:

- ◆ "Utmost of chicken with smashed pot" (res-

taurant in Greece)

◆ "Nervous meatballs" (Restaurant in Bulgaria)

◆ "The nuns harbor all diseases and have no respect for religion" (Swiss nunnery hospital)

◆ "Certified midwife: entrance sideways (Jerusalem)

Here are several more examples, compiled by Nino L. Bella, an Associated Press writer:

◆ "Come inside and have a fit" (Brussels clothing store)

◆ "Special today - no ice cream" (Swiss mountain inn)

◆ "Dreaded veal cutlet" (Moroccan restaurant)

◆ "Specialist in women and other diseases" (Roman doctor)

◆ "As for the trout served at the hotel Monopol, you will be singing its praises to your grandchildren as you lie on your deathbed" (Polish hotel restaurant)

◆ "To make to advance the up or the down movement please depressing the button for the desirable floor. If is not advancement, please scream for assistance, and it surely will be forthcoming. Blessings on you" (Bangkok elevator)

I have the packaging from a set of "Children Chopsticks," which, according to the front of the package, are "Conducive to the Intelligent Development." On the back of the package are the instructions, which are called "Decomposition method." The Decomposition method is printed as follows:

"Use:

1. which one chopstick in the jaws of death, ring finger and little finger in the following withstood the middle on the middle of the two chopsticks, training below;
2. the thumb and middle finger side of the clamped second chopsticks, chopstick stability index finger caught in the middle two fingers;
3. use the bottom of the chopsticks to move the index finger and middle finger to pick up a movement above;
4. when the grip of food, the thumb firmly lock the two chopsticks, then success of the dish;
5. Training is effective in preventing the chopsticks tamper with, auxiliary clip fresh.

Made in China"

On the positive side, I did not see any spelling errors. On the negative side, I cannot understand their description of this Decomposition method. It reminds me of a packet of sauce for Chinese food that I once saw. One of the ingredients listed on the packet was "green stuff." If President Trump can't make America great again by bringing jobs back

here from China, maybe he can at least send some native English speakers to China to help the Chinese with their translating.

We can shake our heads and smile and enjoy a good laugh from seeing these poor attempts to translate things into English. But it makes me wonder: Do the angels and the Lord shake their heads and laugh at our pathetic attempts to explain spiritual truths?

AND THAT'S HOW HE EXPLAINS THE "GODHEAD"! NOW LISTEN TO WHAT THIS SO-CALLED TEACHER SAYS ABOUT END-TIME PROPHECY! AND I'LL PRONOUNCE THE HEBREW WORDS LIKE HE PRONOUNCES THEM...

OH, STOP! STOP! YOU GUYS ARE KILLING ME WITH THIS STUFF! I CAN'T STAND IT!



"We know in part, we prophesy in part," the Bible says (1 Cor. 13:9). God's ways and thoughts are much higher than ours. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8f).

With our partial knowledge, and our limited linguistic abilities, and our own thoughts and ways that interfere with our understanding of the Lord's thoughts and ways, I wonder how intelligible and accurate our "prophesying in part" sounds to the angels and to the Lord. I suspect it sounds much like some of those "English" signs in foreign countries sound to us. But the Lord loves us. Even if our prophesying in part miscommunicates what the Lord really wants to say, He knows our hearts. If our miscommunication does not do any serious harm, maybe it provides a good laugh for the angels.

יֵשׁוּעַ

YESHUA

I believe there is no greater proof of a God in Heaven than the existence of the modern state of Israel. Israel is God's time clock. In the Scriptures, God promised Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan. But He also warned that if they turned their back on God and His righteousness, they would be forced out of their land. And that is exactly what happened. However, the prophet Jeremiah promised they would return to their homeland after 70 years. And they did.

Again, other prophets warned of a second banishment because of Israel's continued unfaithfulness. But these prophets also foresaw that in the final days of this age, the Jewish people would come back to the *Land* of Israel and back to the *God* of Israel. This salvation would be both physical and spiritual.

To the doubter, I would ask, "What other nation has been expelled from its land for 2,000 years and scattered around the world, yet kept its identity?"

What nation completely ceased to speak its original language—except with a prayer book—and saw it become the official language of a resurrected country?

What other people lost 6,000,000 souls in a genocidal holocaust, and then three years later, faced Arab armies from five Muslim nations united in one purpose—to utterly destroy the newborn Jewish state? And then defeated them?

Many of those Holocaust survivors who straggled to the shores of the Holy Land had to fight the Arab armies even before they understood enough Hebrew to follow the instructions of their Jewish military commanders!

What's more, the total number of Jews in the land in 1948, the year of the Independence War, was a grand total of 700,000 Jewish men, women and children!

What other nation has ever had its past, present and future accurately recorded and foretold by a succession of prophets living hundreds of years apart, starting some 3,500 years ago?

If anyone is not yet convinced, let him answer this question: Who can prophesy about any nation on earth as to what its future will be in 100 years? In 1,000 years?

The Key To The Middle East

The Bible reveals an indispensable key to understanding Israel. The conflict in the Holy Land today is categorically a war between God

and His promises to His Jewish people versus the god of this world whose principle weapons are Islam, and the United Nations virtually controlled by Islam.

God's Greatest Sign to This Generation

The UN is assisted and abetted by many (not all) European nations whose liberal governments no longer fear God nor read their Bibles, and who have allowed the anti-Semitism, organic to their "ancient Christian roots," to once again infest their culture.

Although the Arab people have over 500 times more land than Israel, the spirit behind Islam wants the very land—the exact land—and its capital that God promised the Jewish people.

The Ultimate Weapon: A New People

To support their military and diplomatic offensive against Israel, the leaders of the newly created Palestinian people living in Judea and Samaria have literally rewritten history. Their history books vow that Jews never lived in the Holy Land, and in fact there is no Holy Land—just Palestine. (And a great percentage of the world's population, including virtually all Muslims, believes this.)

The land is, they say, the Palestinians' motherland where they originated 5,000 years ago. Their rewritten history is actually quite novel. Palestinians, they claim, were the original people of Jericho. They were also the original Philistines (although historians know that particular people group ceased to exist some 2,700 years ago). Furthermore, the Palestinians claim their ancestors were the Jebusites (early inhabitants of Jerusalem before King David conquered Jerusalem). And for emphasis they claim Yeshua was a Palestinian. Quite a hybrid group, to say the least.

The fact is the first time the name "Palestinians" as a people is found in official documents anywhere in the world was in 1948—the year Israel was born. The United Nations created a special agency for what they called "Palestinian Refugees." Before 1948, Arabs in Palestine saw themselves as citizens of the Ottoman Turkish empire, or Syrian (where their immediate rulers lived), or even British. But in 1964, the Egyptian-born Father of Modern Terrorism, Yasser Arafat, created a Palestinian People in order, as he ceaselessly stated, to destroy the state of Israel.

When Israel Was A Wasteland

Now here are the real facts. The Land of Israel was under Turkish occupation from 1517 to

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1917—exactly 400 years. Jews lived in Judea, Samaria and Galilee, but were subject to Sharia law, and existed as dhimmi—second-class citizens—as non-Muslims. The Ottoman Empire, ruling from Istanbul (not Jerusalem), cared little about the land renamed "Palestine" by the ancient Roman emperor Hadrian and was mainly concerned about siphoning off what tiny resources were left.

The one thing the Turks were most interested in was taxes. What could they find to tax in this wasteland? Well, there were a few trees. So the locals cut down their trees to avoid paying taxes. According to Rev. Samuel Manning traveling through the Holy Land as a tourist in 1874, "...the Land is left void and desolate...without inhabitants."

Records show that in the mid-nineteenth century, Jerusalem was the largest "city" in the Holy Land with 18,000 residents—8,000 to 9,000 Jews, 5,000 Muslims and the rest, Christians of various denominations, according to the British Report on the Trade and Commerce of Jerusalem in the Year 1864.¹

The fact is, after the people of Israel were expelled from their homeland by the Romans in the second century, no other race or tribal peoples ever created a new identifiable people group in the Holy Land. Egyptians, Syrians, Iraqis and Persians all were aware of their ancient history. But in God's Promised Land, for 2,000 years, it was Bedouin and Arab clans who roamed in and out of the open borders while various conquerors ruled for periods of

British Official Records Say It All

In 1859, The British consul complained there were too few inhabitants of any sort in Palestine. "Palestine," he reported, was almost "empty of inhabitants" and urgently needs a "body of population irrespective of religious considerations." (*Time Immemorial, By Joan Peters, 1948, pp. 198-199*)

Indeed, in 1878, a Commission of Enquiry sent from Britain "found the lands in disorder, exposed to raids by marauding Bedouin from across the Jordan [River], abandoned by the cultivators [farmers]." (*Ibid.*)

America's famed Mark Twain who traveled to the Holy Land in the 1860's simply repeated what other tourists had recorded: "...the hallowed spot where the shepherds watched their flocks by night and where the angels sang, 'peace on earth, good will towards men' is untenanted by any living creature...and the 'desert places' around about them...sleep in the hush of a solitude that is inhabited only by birds of prey and skulking foxes." (*Innocents Abroad, Chap. 56. Google this incredible diary online. It's free!*)

The Jezreel Valley, the Hula swamps in Galilee were so infested with malaria, that the areas were uninhabitable. Muslims from different countries wandered in and out again, or died of disease and want in the Holy Land.

The British Commission reported, "The Mahometan population is dying out, I can scarcely say slowly..." (*From Time Immemorial, pg. 199*) The Commission concluded that

"there is, then, evidence for assuming that it is doubtful that any of the present-day cultivators [Arab peasants] can prove their occupation [residence] before 1870." In other words, Arabs living in the Holy Land were newcomers.

(*Ibid.*)

However, especially in the four holy cities of Jerusalem,



time from their different foreign homes.

And God's Land remained barren, deserted and wasted, just as He has said it would. Jeremiah prophesied, [The Land of Israel] will be made a wasteland, parched and desolate before me; the whole land will be laid waste because there is no one who cares. (*12:11*)

Safed, Hebron and Tiberias, Jews from mainly other Arab nations were slipping in. British Consul James Finn reported that by 1850, Jews "greatly exceed the Moslems in number." (*Ibid.*)

The Time Clock Begins To Tick Again

By the 1880's God's time clock began to speed up in Judea and Samaria. The trickle of Jews became a stream. As the Jews began to clear

¹ qatarconferences.org

the malarial swamps, cultivate the land and create an economic base, the Muslim Ottoman authorities became alarmed. Wherever Jews were prospering, the Turks threw monkey wrenches—and then began to prevent Jewish immigration.

Nevertheless, the new reality became that everywhere the Jews were allowed to remain, the economy improved. Everywhere the economy improved, more Arabs from the surrounding nations and areas moved in with no obstacles placed by the Ottomans. Only the Jews were constantly hindered from coming home. Yet they kept coming.

When the British conquered and occupied Palestine and expelled the Ottoman authorities in 1917, they found that Jews definitely outnumbered Arabs. According to The Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem, Jewish population in Jerusalem in 1922 numbered 33,900 while Arabs numbered 28,600. (*The Trouble with Textbooks, by Tobin & Ybarra, 2008, page 112*)

The British Barred Jewish Immigration

But as the percentage of Arabs flooding Palestine constantly increased, so did their violence toward the Jews. Now it was the British, trying to appease the Muslims, who continued to allow Arabs from anywhere to migrate into Palestine, while imposing laws to keep Jews out. And until 1948, when Britain pulled out of the

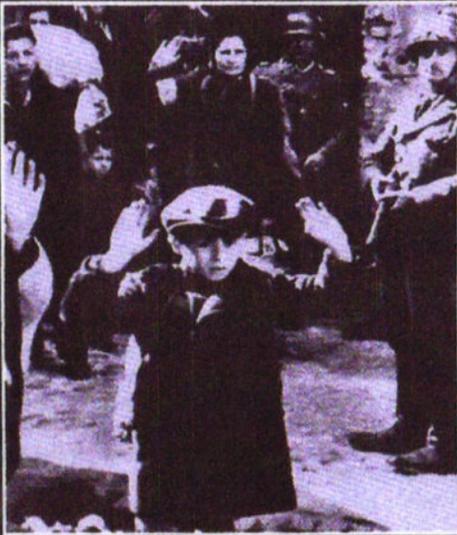
Middle East and Israel became an independent state, the British had denied most Jews the right to come home to their land. Even when the Nazis were killing millions of Jews, "Christian" Britain would not allow Jewish men, women and children in the killing fields of Europe to escape to their ancient homeland.

If Great Britain had not barred the Jewish people from the Land God had promised them, there would be several million or more Jewish citizens in Israel today. The British bear a great deal of responsibility for the Arab-Jewish conflict that resulted from their policies and continues until today.

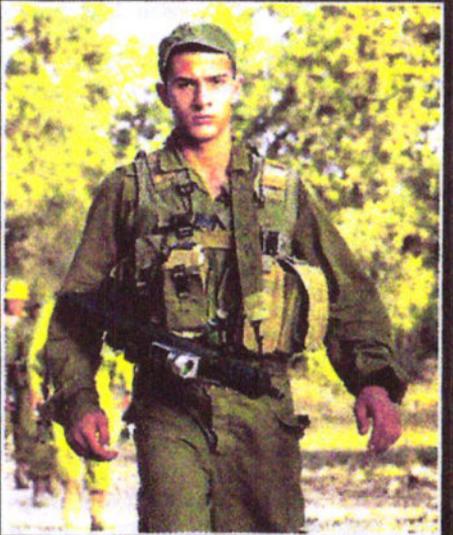
The Baby Has Arrived!

But God keeps His Word. The incredible miracle of a tiny nation of less than a million people was "birthed in a day." It is a sign that no Bible reader should ever miss. It is a sign that God will also keep His Word when He promised to give His people a New Heart and a New Spirit!

The miracle of a reborn Israel took place on the Hebrew date of the 5th of Iyar, 5708, which fell on May 14, 1948. This year, our 70th year of Independence, fell on April 19, 2018. Yes! Seventy years ago this miracle took place for the entire world to see—and for all followers of the God of Israel through His Son Yeshua the Messiah to rejoice in the faithfulness of the One True God!



Unarmed Jewish Boy



Armed Jewish Boy

NEVER AGAIN MEANS NEVER AGAIN

Once Outlawed, Uganda's Tiny Jewish Group Opens Synagogue

<https://worldisraelnews.com>

This is the fascinating story of the Abayudaya, a congregation of Ugandan Jews, and their battle for survival and recognition.

Seth Yonadav swaggered along a dirt path in rural Uganda, pointing toward the new synagogue where young men wearing yarmulkes lingered. Up on a hill the synagogue stood like a crown jewel, surrounded by schools and a guest house, all

owned and operated by a small community of Jewish believers in this remote hamlet founded by a single convert a century ago.

The Stern Synagogue, built largely with money donated by Americans, is a source of pride for hundreds of Ugandan Jews known locally as the Abayudaya, who have tenaciously maintained their belief despite the prejudice they have suffered over the years in this Christian-dominated country.

The community continues to pursue formal recognition from Israel, which would give it a further sense of inclusion. The Jewish Agency has recognized the Abayudaya since 2009, spokesman Avi Mayer said.

"People come here for conversion, many of them," said Yonadav, a 40-year-old teacher who serves as cantor at the synagogue. "I know 50 people right now who are ready to convert." Yonadav recalled the day in 2013 when, crowded inside the old synagogue, the Abayudaya started to dream of a new sanctuary, complete with a Jewish ritual bath known as a mikvah.

The group's leader, Gershom Sizomu, a US-trained rabbi who in February won a seat in Uganda's parliament, started fundraising among friends abroad. The new synagogue is named for Sue and Ralph Stern, a Jewish couple in California who gave a sizeable chunk of

the \$300,000 spent on its construction, Sizomu said.

The Abayudaya's Battle for Recognition

Sizomu, who believes he is the first Jew to win a parliamentary seat in Uganda, said he saw his victory as a sign that the Abayudaya are



finally being accepted by an often-distrustful tribal community. In the 1970s, Ugandan dictator Idi Amin outlawed the group, which saw its numbers dwindle to a few hundred. In the 1980s, there were violent attempts to strip the Abayudaya of the land on which the new synagogue stands.

Today the community of about 2,000 enjoys a more positive reputation. It runs a health center, two schools, a bakery project for women, a co-operative saving society and a guest house, as well as a tree-planting program.

With his electoral victory, Sizomu said, "the Abayudaya felt very accepted. This was a sign that they are accepted by our Christian and Muslim neighbors."

The Abayudaya community was founded by a Ugandan military officer, Semel Kakungulu, a convert from Christianity in the early 20th century who had many followers. When he died in 1928, he left a large piece of his land to be used by the Abayudaya in perpetuity. Sizomu, as the current spiritual leader, has legal control over the group's assets.

Editor's Note: We are thrilled to see these people recognize the richness that Judaism has to offer. We will be more thrilled when they finally recognize Yeshua, their Jewish Messiah!

APMF SHAVUOT PILGRIMAGE 2019



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*travel &
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Shalom Chaverim ~

Thanks for another top-notch edition of **Petah Tikvah**. Thank you for enlightening and inspiring your readers. And thanks for your very kind words about this writer published therein. It's reassuring to know that we are appreciated, although we don't do what we do for praise and recognition.

We offer the tallit katan (which is worn like a tee-shirt) to inmates for a \$4 money order. Most prisons require a signed chaplain's approval letter, so we do not ship without the signed approval form. Free world folks can receive one for \$20. The tzitzit (ritual fringes) are on each of the four corners. (**Editor's Note:** This is ridiculously cheap. Sid is certainly not doing this for financial gain.)

Trudy joins me in expressing our thanks and appreciation for your very kind expression of support for our ministry. We all know that bringing faith and God to prison inmates is not a very popular or highly supported cause. But somehow, whenever funds get low, someone comes through to sustain us. It is a special pleasure to be linked with you and work with you for the betterment of all concerned.

The inmate readers of **Petah Tikvah** continue to bless us with kind words and requests for Judaic supplies. We try our best to accommodate them and enhance their spiritual journey. Some of your free-world readers have also been very good to us. May we all continue to be blessed with the gift of life so we can do HaShem's mitzvot for a long time to come!

Sid Kleiner, Beth Tikvah Prisoner Outreach
10188 Winterview Dr, Naples FL 34109-1520

Editor's Note: Sid has been selflessly been serving Jewish inmates for **many** years, as his finances permit. Although he is not Messianic, a large percentage of the inmates he helps happen to be Messianic. Keep him in prayer. Perhaps also send some shekels his way. All moneys received go a long way to help. **RAC**

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication in teaching and informing all of us about the deep truths in the Word of God. And for the articles regarding Islam and taking a stand against the lies about Israel. Enclosed is \$____

Pat Henderson, FLORIDA

To Petah Tikvah ~

Enclosed is money for two more calendars and two more of the current **Petah Tikvah** to send to friends. They are full of good reading that needs to be shared. The article from Koinonia Institute, "Why We Need Fathers," is one that should be read by many families.

It should be a real "wake up call" for so many. I would order more of every issue, but my husband and I are in our 80s, and we lack the funds. I can't tell you how much your booklets and calendars have blessed me. Suzanne Stuchberry
TEXAS



L'Chaim - To Life!

We don't often promote ministry items from other ministries. However, the Christian Broadcasting Network has put together an amazing DVD documentary, **To Life: How Israeli Volunteers are Changing the World**, as a celebration of Israel's 70th anniversary.

This DVD takes you to many of the various places in which Israel sends volunteers, doctors, and humanitarian aid throughout the world, wherever needed, such as the earthquakes Nepal and Haiti, as well as to crises in Uganda, Greece, Kurdistan, and the Palestinian territories. Israeli goodness, technology, and medicine are blessing the world. And despite the general lack of gratitude from the world, Israel continues to do it.

This excellent video costs only \$10 each, no extra cost for shipping and handling. Go to www.CBN.com or call 800-700-7000 or write CBN, 977 Centerville Turnpike, Virginia Beach VA 23463. Thank God for the Christian and Jewish Zionists who produced this video!

John Penny's epitaph in the Wimborne, England, cemetery:

Reader, if cash thou art
in want of any,
Dig 6 feet deep
and thou wilt find a penny.

Also:

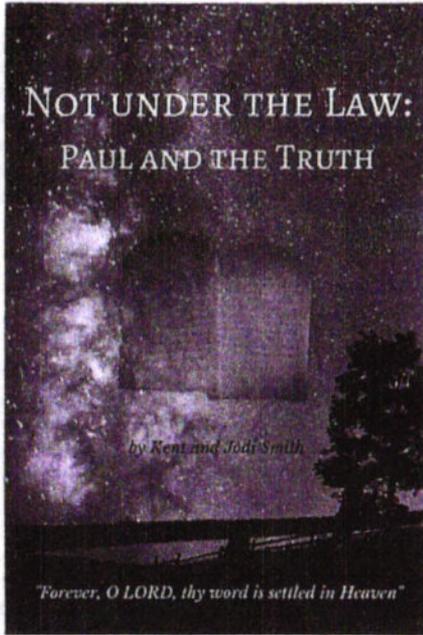
On a tomb in Hartscombe, England:
On the 22nd of June,
Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune.

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

Thanks so much for the lovely calendar. We refer to your calendars for all of the relevant information: new moons, feasts, weekly readings, etc., and keep it prominently displayed.

Kent & Jodi Smith, MINNESOTA

Editor's Note: Kent and Jodi wrote the following book which we recommend:



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

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

Normally \$8 plus \$4 shipping, mention Petah Tikvah and get two books for the price of one. Bulk orders in lots of 10 are \$60 plus \$4 shipping. **Prison inmates may request a free copy.** Please include instructions so that we can comply with the prison's rules.

www.RockFoundationRanch.com

Kent & Jodi Smith, 30504 CSAH 25,
Grove City, MN 56243.

(Recommended to our readers! RAC)

GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

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

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

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

Source for the above: www.gatesofeden.org

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

Well, it is back in the world again, but our Lord is faithful, and the provisions He has set forth for me are great. So many do not see the blessings of the Prison Wilderness. Now that I am out, it is so **BUSY (Being Under Satan's Yoke)**. Everything and everybody seems to be placed to hinder you from worship, study, and extended prayer, which is always interrupted. It is no wonder that so many never have a true relationship with their Creator.

I am attending a group that calls itself Messianic. They only meet once a month on Shabbat. I don't think they even know what a parashah (Torah-Haftarah portion) is. They don't seem to be concerned about the reading and study of it. Also, the Lord's appointed times are His appointed times, not for us to change to fit our schedule. They changed Pesach to a more convenient date.

I sure am missing my issues of **Petah Tikvah** and the calendar that I had to leave behind in prison. Zoe Byrd, SOUTH CAROLINA

Millions of Brazilians Hail Israel During March for Jesus

Marcus M. Gilban, *jta.org*, June 5, 2018

SAO PAULO (Jewish Telegraph Agency) — About 2 million people cheered for Israel during an annual Christian march in Brazil. Sao Paulo is home to half of Brazil's 120,000-strong Jewish community. Evangelical Christians waved Israeli flags and prayed for the Jewish state during the March for Jesus held on May 31st in Sao Paulo.

For the first time in nearly 20 years, Jewish officials were invited to attend the event, including Israel's consul Dori Goren and the president of the local B'nai B'rith branch, Zeila Sliozbergas.

"Attending the march is our way to express our gratitude for the Evangelical people and the Brazilian people," said Goren, addressing the gathering from the stage. "The people of Israel bless Brazil and the evangelical people of Brazil."

The consul received applause for saying that he expected to see the Brazilian embassy transferred from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem soon. He recalled the role of Brazilian diplomat Osvaldo Aranha, who presided over the United Nations vote in 1947 in favor of the resolution that partitioned the British Mandate of Palestine into two states, Jewish and Arab.

"There is a very important alliance between Brazilian Christians and the State of Israel," Goren told the Gospel Prime news website. "It was a blessing to be able to see the affection of Brazilians for their country and that it was a great celebration of friendship between the two peoples."

Pilgrims from Argentina, Mexico, the United States and some African countries joined the event, a 2.5-mile parade surrounded by sound trucks playing gospel music. Established in 1993, Sao Paulo's March for Jesus is among the biggest religious events in Brazil, the country with the world's largest Catholic population and second-largest Christian population after the United States.

Most Wildlife Has Been Killed Off

Since the dawn of civilization, mankind has wiped out an astonishing 83% of all wild mammals on Earth, and half of all plants -- while filling the planet with domesticated animals bred for eating.

That's the conclusion of a major, first-of-its-kind attempt to measure the overall footprint of all earthly life, reports **The Guardian** (U.K.). Using data from hundreds of previous studies, researchers estimated that the planet's living creatures contain a total of about 650 billion metric tons of carbon. The 7.6 billion people in the world account for only 0.01 percent of this biomass, about the same percentage as termites.

Plants make up 62% of the biomass, and bacteria 13%. Even viruses, worms, and fungi cumulatively outweigh people. But despite our physical insignificance, humans have a broad footprint. Deforestation, farming, hunting, and other human activities have taken an outside toll on all other kingdoms of life. Domesticated livestock, such as pigs and cattle, now account for 60% of the biomass of all mammals on Earth. Wild animals make up only 4%. Seventy percent of birds on the planet are farmed poultry.

The study should serve as a reminder of the impact human consumption has on Earth, says lead researcher Ron Milon, from Israel's Weizman Institute of Science. "Our dietary choices have a vast effect on the habitats of animals, plants, and other organisms."

(Source: *The Week*, p.24, 6-8-18)

Editor's Comment: We certainly should not worship the Earth or nature as some pagans do. However, our Heavenly Father appointed mankind to be wise stewards of Creation, not to destroy it.

In Revelation 11:18, God promises to "destroy those who destroy the Earth." At the time this was written almost 2000 years ago, it would have been unthinkable that mankind could destroy the earth. However, today, mankind is indeed capable of destroying the earth. God gave us a wonderful world, an amazing Creation. Let's try to keep it that way! **RAC**

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

9th of Av (observed): July 22

Rosh HaShanah: Sept 10

Yom Kippur: Sept 19

First day of Sukkot: Sept 24

The 9th of Av is actually on July 21, but being a fasting day, it is not observed until July 22. (Except for Yom Kippur, we never fast on Shabbat.) It is **not** a holy day requiring abstinence from work or shopping. It commemorates the destruction of both the First Temple in 586 BCE and the Second Temple in 70 CE, which both occurred on 9th of Av (Tisha B'Av).

The other days listed above are all Holy Days of holy convocation requiring abstinence from work and shopping. Like Shabbat, they begin at sunset the day before and end at sunset 24 hours later. For instance, Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) begins at sunset on Sept 18 and ends at sunset on Sept 19.

Rosh HaShanah (Head of the Year) is called Yom Tru'ah (Day of Sounding [the shofar]) in the Hebrew Bible. It is the anniversary of the creation of Adam, but in Leviticus 23, it is the first day of the 7th month.

Dear Rick ~

As always, another great issue of **Petah Tikvah**. I particularly liked the articles on Shavuot, which were very clear and useful.

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

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

I hope all is well and that you enjoyed the Holy Days. We enjoyed a 2-week visit from a German friend, Ursula. She was lots of fun and a great help. She with 3 women and 8 men were helping to fix what is needed for Holocaust survivors in their homes for 14 days. Renate Kaufmann, **ISRAEL**

Editor's Note: Renate is a long-time friend, having attended **Petah Tikvah** here in Rochester before making aliyah a few years ago. She is a child Holocaust survivor from Germany. Her father died in a Nazi concentration camp. Renate survived by going to live in a house of prostitution, where she was treated very badly and was beaten regularly by the "ladies" of the house, but they did keep her alive. After the war, she eventually made her way to the USA, living in Colorado and Alaska before coming to New York State.

Shalom Rick ~

There are people who are saying that only those from the tribe of Judah are Jews. Others say that Jews can also be from other tribes of Israel. Can you clarify this?

Ruth Abrams, **SURINAME**

OUR REPLY: We get the term "Jew" from Judah (Yehudah). In Hebrew, Jews are called Yehudim. However, very early on, the term "Jew" was used for anyone from any of the tribes. In Romans 11:1, Rav Sha'ul (Paul) calls himself "an Israelite, of the tribe of Benjamin." In Acts 22:3, he calls himself a Jew, even though he was not from the tribe of Judah.

After the death of Solomon, the Promised Land was divided into two separate kingdoms: the northern Kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah, in about 975 BCE.¹ However, 2000 years ago, the terms "Jew" and "Israelite" were used interchangeably. When the Jewish people revived their ancient land in 1948, they called it Israel, as it is still called. Any descendant of any of the twelve tribes is considered Jewish.

¹ "Before Common Era," equivalent to B.C.

Shalom in the name of King Messiah ~

The Oct-Dec 2017 issue of **Petah Tikvah** proves that portions of the N.T. were originally written in other languages besides Greek.

What name is used for the son of Miriam? Was it Jesus or Yeshua or Yahshua?

Kefa (Peter) preached that "there is no other name under heaven that has been given to men, by which they must be saved (Acts 4:11)." What name is he referring to?

Sampson Etchondoh,
NIGERIA

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

OUR REPLY: The testimony of the early "Church Fathers" proves beyond a doubt that Matthew wrote his Besorah (Gospel) in Hebrew. Eusebius, quoting Papias, Bishop of Hieropolis (mid-Second Century CE), wrote: "Matthew put down the words of the Lord in the Hebrew language, and others have translated them, each as best he could."² Other church fathers including Irenaeus and Origen confirm that Matthew's Gospel was in Hebrew. I believe that other books of the New Testament were also written in Hebrew. However, epistles to Greek-speaking people were likely originally written in Greek, and in Aramaic to Aramaic-speaking people. Rav Sha'ul (Paul) very likely wrote his epistle to the Romans in Latin. After all, Paul was a Roman citizen (Acts 16:37), and very likely spoke Latin, which was the language of Rome. It would make no sense to write to Romans in Greek! The original "autograph" NT writings have long since been lost to the ravages of time.

Regarding the pronunciation of the Names: We are saved by the blood of the Lamb of God, not by how we pronounce the Names. Our Savior never heard the term "Jesus" 2000 years ago. However, I believe that people who use the term "Jesus" can be just as "saved" as those who use Hebrew names. There are many different Sacred Name groups out there with their own unique pronunciations, who apparently feel that they have the only correct Names, and those who use other pronunciations are anathema. This is very wrong. Also, nobody can be 100% sure of the correct pronunciations. The original Hebrew documents were written without vowels. Centuries later, vowels were added, which are only educated guesses at the correct pronunciations.

² Eusebius, **Ecclesiastical History** III 39, 16.

Shalom Bro ~

I minister in Germany every March with our sister organization - Intercessors for Israel Deutschland. For the first time, we were in the former east Germany. There are approximately 350,000 Jews³ living in Germany today, and several times more Muslims. Police are overwhelmed. Crime is rising. Rape is rampant. And Chancellor Angela Merkel says that Islam belongs in Germany. Pure deception.

The believers that I was ministering to are very aware of their nation's anti-Israel path, and are not in agreement with it. We encouraged them to intercede for their government as per 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Be blessed as much as you can be when you are in the Galut (exile)! Next year in Jerusalem?

Chuck & Karen Cohen, PO Box 28368

Jerusalem 9128301, **ISRAEL**

Editor's Note: Our readers can contact Chuck Cohen by emailing him at wfi@ifi.il. Be sure to request **Watchmen from Jerusalem** via email. It is extremely informative. A small sample of what is found in this newsletter is the following:

Christian Zionists: "Israel's founding fathers, who etched a commitment to encouraging Jewish immigration into Israel's declaration of independence, might be surprised" that 70 years later, Israel relies "on Christians to fulfill that promise." Christian Zionists today fund about 33% of all Israeli immigrants, a fruit of the "ever tightening relationship between Israel and its evangelical allies...."

Rabbi Y. Eckstein, president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, said, "After 2000 years of oppression and persecution," today Christians are helping the Jews. And Bibi Netanyahu told a Christian media summit in Jerusalem that Israel has "no better friends in the world than the Christian communities."

³ Most of Germany's Jewish population was decimated in the Nazi Holocaust, from Kristallnacht in 1938 to the end of World War II in 1945. In recent decades, Germany has been encouraging Jews to move to Israel. Most of the Jews living in Germany today came from the Former Soviet Union. Many Israelis have also made Germany their new home. Who in 1945 would have thought that someday Germany would again have a sizable Jewish population? However, there has also been a massive Islamic immigration to Germany. The Muslim population in Germany far outnumbers the Jewish population. Most of the Muslims are hostile to Jews.

"Thus says the Lord YHWH, Behold, I will lift up my hand to the Gentiles, and set up My standard to the peoples, and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders."

(Isaiah 49:22)

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for sending me the back issues of **Petah Tikvah**. They are truly a blessing from God. Almost since I have been saved, God has placed a special burden on my heart for the Jewish people. I have spend many hours in prayer for them to know their Messiah and many hours in study to learn your ways and history. I was crushed at the appalling ways the Jewish people have been treated by both Christians and non-Christians.

I realize that in order to truly know Yeshua, we as Christians must know His ways, His life, and His religion, or we will come short of knowing Him fully. It is impossible to know Him completely, unless we are willing to be obedient to His Law and decrees, His Word.

Our faith and religion became tainted with things that God our Father does not like, in fact hates, because some chose to go man's way and not God's way. Yeshua was our example, and we should follow Him! He lived by the Law, kept the Sabbath, and certainly did not worship eggs or trees. He had a pure and holy faith.

Pray for the Christians, that God would open their eyes to His purity and holiness, that they would get rid of man's rules and traditions, and truly learn what it means to worship Him in Spirit and Truth. I don't mean that all Christians should become Jewish, but they should return to the true way of God. Jews have a special place in God's world. He chose the Jews to be set apart in ways that make God known to the world.

I have never read such love and awe of God as in the Jewish literature that I have read. It carries a sense and feeling that could only be known by God's chosen people.

We Gentile Christians are also His. God is no respecter of persons. Romans 11 tells us that we have been grafted in to the Jewish olive tree. The Jews are the roots, the nourishment, and beginning of our salvation. Since Yeshua was a Jew, I feel very humble and in awe of your people. I continually pray for the Jewish people.

Friday Dickson, **NIGERIA**

Christian Visitors to Bethlehem are Told, 'Jesus was a Palestinian'

Ryan Jones

www.IsraelToday.co.il June 2018

PO Box 7555, Jerusalem 91074, ISRAEL
\$50 per year, 11 full-color, full-sized issues

Welcome to the State of Palestine. The only state whose land is still under occupation by another country, the State of Israel," declared Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki in his keynote address on the opening night of Christ at the Checkpoint 2018.

No mention of Tibet, or that before Israel, his "country" was occupied by Jordan, and before that by the Ottoman Turks, and before that... oh, wait, there never has been a State of Palestine to occupy. But we are already getting way off track. A couple of small remarks at the start of al-Maliki's address should have raised major red flags for any Christian who believes in the validity and infallibility of the Bible.

"Christ at the Checkpoint...[Christ] unable to cross simply because he was a Palestinian... Palestine, the birthplace of Jesus..."

In this revisionist approach to Scripture, which was repeatedly applauded by those Christians hosting (Bethlehem Bible College) and attending Christ at the Checkpoint, all those many New Testament passages confirming that this land is the homeland of the Jewish people are ignored, or completely tossed out. Modern Israel is labeled a "colonialist" project, so it's not possible to recognize the Jews' forefathers as having inhabited this land long before any Arabs were present, just as it is not possible to openly acknowledge that Jesus himself was a Jew, born in the Jewish town of Bethlehem.

In my Bible, the second chapter of Matthew begins thus (emphasis mine): *"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews?'"*

Perhaps al-Maliki was citing a wildly different translation of the New Testament, one provided to him by Bethlehem Bible College, but I just can't seem to find the terms "Palestine" or "Palestinian" even once in the story of Jesus. At the same time, these passages sure do reference the Jews an awful lot, considering that the Palestinian Authority that al-Maliki was there to represent rejects any historical Jewish connection to Bethlehem and the rest of the Holy Land.

If you are willing to toss out such foundational content, then all of the New Testament and its teachings must be placed under a question mark.

Welcome to post-biblical Christianity.

Now, I understand that al-Maliki is himself a Mus-

lim, and as such we cannot expect him to accept the biblical narrative as it's written. We can, however, expect that of Bethlehem Bible College. But, instead of trying to set the biblical record straight, the hosts of Christ at the Checkpoint not only applauded al-Maliki's adaptation of Scripture, they buffeted it with their own "scholarly" Christian doctrines.

The rest of al-Maliki's address was the typical polemic against Israel as the source of all Arab woes, with the typical omission of Arab hostility toward and terrorism against the Jews... Suffice it to say that the very brand of dehumanization al-Maliki accused Israel of wielding against the Palestinians was on full display in his own verbal assault on Israel's Jewish majority.

Editor's Note: These so-called Christians at the annual "Christ at the Checkpoint" in Bethlehem should look around at the Islamic countries surrounding Israel. Islamic apartheid is destroying Christianity in most Arab nations. Many thousands of Christians have been murdered, and many thousands of others have been chased out of the countries where their ancestors had lived for many centuries. North Africa was almost entirely Christian before the Islamic invasion in the Eighth Century. Curiously, Israel is the only country in the Middle East in which the Christian population is growing, and where the religious rights of Christians are respected.

The Priest and the Rabbi

Once upon a time, a Catholic priest and a rabbi got into a friendly discussion. Suddenly, the priest said to the rabbi, "I really feel sorry for you." The rabbi responded, "Why?"

The priest said, "Well, the most you will ever be is a rabbi." The rabbi responded, "That's okay. The most you will ever be is a priest."

The priest said, "Not quite. If I do a really good job as a priest, I can become a bishop!" The rabbi replies, "So what... What's the big deal about being a bishop?"

The priest was somewhat bewildered that this very intelligent rabbi would ask such a dumb question. "Being a bishop is a big deal! I would have my own diocese, possibly in charge of many priests and churches."

"So what," said the rabbi. The priest then continued, "And if I do a really good job as a priest, I could become an archbishop, over several dioceses. And then I might even be chosen to be a cardinal!" The rabbi responds, "So what!"

The exasperated priest replied, "As a cardinal, I could even become the next pope, with authority over a billion Catholics!" The rabbi says, "So what!" The priest then said, "What do you want me to be? God?" The rabbi said, "Well, one of our boys was."

At 70, Israel's Economy Exceeds Expectations: In 1948, conventional wisdom considered the newly re-established Jewish state insolvent economically and indefensible militarily, a basket case. In the 30 years from 1987 to 2017, Israel's population doubled; its per capita GDP went from \$8,000 to \$41,000; its exports, from \$10 billion to \$102 billion; independent energy resources, from 4% to 65%; life expectancy, from 75 to 82 years. Since the year 2000, Israel's economy has grown 65%, the second best among OECD countries. (Jewish News) ***"Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."* Ps. 35:27**

Palestinians Should 'Come to the Negotiations Table or Shut Up,' Saudi Crown Prince States

by [World Israel News](#)

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman said the Palestinian leadership needs to accept the peace plans proposed by the U.S. or stop complaining and that the Arab world has lost interest in the so-called Palestinian issue.

In a closed-door meeting with heads of Jewish organizations in New York in March, Bin Salman harshly criticized Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinians' diplomatic conduct over the past 40 years, according to a report by American news site *Axios*. The report cited an Israeli foreign ministry cable sent by a diplomat from the Israeli consulate in New York as well three other sources – Israeli and American – who were briefed about the meeting.

According to the report, the Saudi Crown Prince told the Jewish leaders that "in the last several decades, the Palestinian leadership has missed one opportunity after the other and rejected all peace proposals. It is about time that the Palestinians take the proposals and agree to come to the negotiations table or shut up and stop complaining."

He also noted that the Palestinian issue was not a top priority for the Saudi government or Saudi public opinion, saying that Saudi Arabia "has much more urgent and important issues to deal with," such as confronting Iran's belligerent expansion in the Middle East.

While leveling harsh criticism against the Palestinians, Ben Salman conceded that in order for Saudi Arabia and other Arab states to normalize relations with Israel, at least some progress on the Israeli-Palestinian diplomatic process would have to be made. He did not demand a final status agreement.

High-ranking Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have often spoken in general terms regarding the budding backdoor diplomatic relations between Israel and Sunni Arab states, mainly Saudi Arabia.

Mossad Smuggled Half a Ton of Nuclear Documents Out of Iran – In One Night:

How did they do it? Israel's Mossad intelligence service broke into the anonymous Tehran building that housed Iran's secret nuclear files and smuggled half a ton of documents and compact discs back to Israel the same night. The NY Times in an article posted on its website Mon. night 30 April 2018, quoted a senior Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity as saying that the Mossad discovered the warehouse in Feb. 2016 and kept the building under surveillance since then. Mossad operatives broke into the building in Jan. 2018 took the original documents, and returned to Israel the same night. In his nationally televised broadcast, first in English, on Monday night, Israel's PM Netanyahu described the hiding place of the documents. "This is where they kept the atomic archives.

Right here. Few Iranians knew where it was, very few, and also a few Israelis," Netanyahu said. "Now, from the outside, this was an innocent-looking compound. It looks like a dilapidated warehouse. But from the inside, it contained Iran's secret atomic archives locked in massive files," he said. On stage with Netanyahu were shelves of binders and a moveable wall of CDs. "And here's what we got. Fifty-five thousand pages. Another 55,000 files on 183 CDs. Everything you're about to see, is an exact copy of the original Iranian material," he said, adding: "You may want to know where are the originals? Well, I can say they're now in a very safe place." Israel claims proof Iran "lied" about past nuclear program.

The unnamed official said that Trump was told of the operation to retrieve the documents by Mossad Director Yossi Cohen, when he visited Washington in Jan. 2018. The material was not unveiled until now because the documents had to be analyzed, and translated from Persian, the official said. Netanyahu said during his presentation that the information had been shared with the United States and that "the United States can vouch for its authenticity." President Trump is set to decide by the middle of this month whether it will remain in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the deal is known. In a meeting with reporters shortly after Netanyahu's presentation, Trump said that the disclosure "showed that I was 100% right" in criticizing the Iran nuclear deal. "That is just not an acceptable situation," he also said. (J.Post) Source:

Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265
Jerusalem 9107301

Dearest Richard & Miriam ~

Toda raba for your selfless dedication in your Door of Hope magazine for all of us, including so many prisoners! May HaShem open the windows of heaven and pour out to you b'rachot gedolot (great blessings)!

I continue to be greatly inspired by **Petah Tikvah**, as well as greatly edified, encouraged, and comforted. Please do renew me for another year!
Sarah Shirel Grebe, **ISRAEL**

Shalom ~

Please use the enclosed check for our subscription, and the extra to bless others who are less fortunate. Terry & Robbie Mason

www.BridgesForPeace.com PO Box 1093
Jerusalem 91010, ISRAEL

Editor's Note: Bridges for Peace (above) does many wonderful works of charity in Israel, aiding new immigrants, the poor and needy, as well as Holocaust survivors. They also publish excellent newsletters, and have a great email news service that can come to your computer each week with news concerning Israel. intl.office@bridgesforpeace.com

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

Once again, it is time to renew my subscription and subscriptions for my friends. I am also ordering 35 of your Jewish calendars for our Shabbat group called Messiah's Way.

I will be going back to the Biblical Tamar Park in Israel this fall. This will be my first trip without being part of a tour group. The park will pick me up from the airport. I plan to pick olives and whatever else they need me to do.

They had a flash flood in the Arava at the end of April. The wadi could not handle the volume of water. Sadly, ten Israeli teenagers lost their lives in it. The flood did a lot of damage also to Tamar Park, between the water and the mud that flowed through the park. The community is working to put the park back together again. I look forward to helping them wherever possible. I also plan on spending time in prayer on Prayer Mountain.

I continue to be blessed by your insightful teachings and articles in Petah Tikvah. I pray for you both, as well as your ministry and family daily for our Lord's continued blessings.

Esther Klinebriel, **OHIO**

Editor's Note: Esther accompanied us on our tour to Israel in 2014. She has been on our mailing list for many years, but this was the

first time we got to see her in person. She was a wonderful traveling companion!

She will be staying at Tamar Park. This is in Ir Ovot. Some of our readers from the 1990s might be familiar with Ir Ovot. This is where Rabbi Simcha Pearlmutter lived. Rabbi Simcha of blessed memory

used to have a regular column in **Petah Tikvah** magazine in the 1990s, until he left this life on 26 December 1999.

Rabbi Simcha Pearlmutter had an encounter with Yeshua in about 1960. He called himself an "Orthodox Jew who believes in Yeshua." He started up what is probably the first genuine Messianic Jewish congregation in the USA in the early 1960s. There were Hebrew-Christian churches at that time, but no Messianic Jewish congregations until Simcha established his congregation, which was a Torah-observant kehilah in Miami, Florida.

In about 1965, he, his family, and members of his congregation made aliyah, eventually moving to Ir Ovot, establishing a Messianic Jewish kibbutz with its own synagogue. Signs on the kibbutz proudly proclaimed Yeshua as the Messiah. He hoped for the return of Yeshua in his lifetime. When we traveled to Israel in 1994, 1996, and 1998, we made it a point to stay in one of the trailers on his property. He dressed and looked like a Chassid (Ultra-Orthodox Jew). We always enjoyed our stays at his kibbutz. His son Ari was murdered by a suicide bomber in April 1994. Ari was a paratrooper in the Israeli army. He survived combat in Lebanon, but died at a bus stop in Hadera, Israel. I don't believe Rabbi Simcha ever fully recovered from the loss of his son.

Rabbi Simcha Pearlmutter was largely rejected by the rest of the Messianic Jewish communities around the world, and he also rejected them. However, we became very close to him. We mourned his death, which came very quickly from pancreatic cancer. However, today he is with his blessed Messiah Yeshua. It was a great joy to get to know him and his family. I loved him as a brother. You can see his teachings on www.youtube.com

Paraguay President Inaugurates Israel Embassy in Jerusalem

Herb Keinson (*Jerusalem Post*)

Paraguay President Horacio Cartes opened his country's embassy in Jerusalem on Monday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the event "a great day for Israel, a great day for Paraguay." Netanyahu recalled that Paraguay helped Jews escape Nazi Germany both before and during the Holocaust. Paraguay also supported the establishment of Israel during the partition vote in the UN in 1947.

SOME HUMOR:

**THEY'RE NOT MAKING YARD
STICKS ANY LONGER.**

**PRACTICE SAFE EATING:
ALWAYS USE CONDIMENTS.**

**THIS IS MY STEP LADDER.
I NEVER KNEW MY REAL LADDER.**

**IF ATTACKED BY A MOB OF CLOWNS,
GO FOR THE JUGGLER.**

The Media's Misplaced Sympathy For Hamas Lynch Mob:

As evidence mounts that Hamas intended to murder Israeli children, women and men after breaching the border fence to Israel, Hamas apologists must ask themselves why they are on the wrong side of morality. The recent border attacks and attempted invasion of Israel by Hamas was anything but a peaceful protest. It was a lynch mob targeting Israeli day care centers, schools, and homes. The goal of the lynchers, according to Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas political leader, was to "take down the border" and "tear their hearts from their bodies." According to an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, "Hamas posted maps for their operatives showing the quickest routes from the border to Israeli homes, schools and day care centers near the border."

Yet many in the media insist on portraying this invasion as a peaceful demonstration. One of Hamas' co-founders, Mahmoud Al-Zahar, recently told the truth in an interview with Al Jazeera: "When we talk about 'peaceful,' we are deceiving the public." Only Hamas can stop the bloodshed. But it won't as long as the media gives it public relations victories every time Israel kills in self-defense. Thankfully, the Israeli military, who are the good guys in this encounter, were and are there to protect innocent civilians from being lynched. The time has come, indeed, it is long past, for the world to recognize and condemn this Hamas tactic, which the media

incentivizes by its gruesome focus on the body count. (Fox)

Continue to pray against wide-spread media distortion of the facts when Israel is forced to protect its borders, its communities and citizens against murderous Palestinian and other enemy attacks. Intercede against anti-Israel bias in global media outlets.

IDF Spokesman: World "Fell For Hamas Lies" In Gaza:

Hamas provided free transportation throughout Gaza to the recent border demonstrations for civilians, including women and children. Hamas hired them as extras, paying \$14 a person or \$100 a family for attendance - and \$500 if they managed to get injured. Hamas forced all of their commanders and operatives to go to the border dressed as civilians, each serving as a director of an area. Hamas gave anyone with a video camera front-row access to the show and free Wi-Fi. Hamas called it a "peaceful protest," and much of the world simply fell for it. But the basic tenets required for a protest do not exist in Gaza.

Under Hamas control, there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of assembly, no freedom of religion, no freedom of the press. There can be no such thing as a peaceful protest in Gaza. On Facebook, Hamas posted maps for their operatives showing the quickest routes from the border with Israel to Israelis' homes, schools, and day-care centers to murder and maim Israeli men, women and children. Does that sound like a peaceful protest to you? Some of Israel's greatest friends might have preferred that Israel had looked better in the media this past week, but the IDF always chooses truth. The soldiers of the IDF won this week by keeping Israeli families safe and by stopping Hamas from accomplishing its stated goals. (*Wall St. Journal*)

Source: Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265
Jerusalem 9107301

It is the Soldier

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.



It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves under the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Dear Richard & Miriam ~

Thank you so much for making the voice of our Shepherd available to us lost sheep. I have been practicing Messianic Judaism since 2013. I had my first Passover seder while at Century C.I. That congregation of inmates is so on fire for the Word and for Truth. We became 35 strong, and had the support of Brit Am in Pensacola.

Sadly, I have been moved to a new place. I feel like a lonely Paul writing from prison. I believe that God has made me for the mission field, and He has thrown me into a war zone. But where there is much sin, there is much grace. Please keep the Messianic communities located in prisons worldwide in prayer. We all know about persecutions... from guards, other inmates, from "Christians," and from family who just don't understand the truths we have discovered.

I immensely enjoy your mag, and am asking to be on your mailing list, although I don't have stamps or money to donate at this time. Currently, we only have 4 brothers in our little group. But God is gonna unleash a tidal wave! Thank you for hearing with ears, seeing with eyes, and spreading Truth to the world.

Eddie Hairston, Wewahitchka FL

Dear Richard ~

All of us in the Messianic group really appreciate this publication that you send to us. It gives us info of the outside world, including Israel, and guides us in our path through Yeshua. We look forward to many more of your magazines. Thanks to you, your wife, and your assembly for all you do for those of us in prisons.

Kevin Todd, Otisville NY

Dear Richard & Miriam ~

Please use my \$___ donation where it is most needed. I would also like to inquire as to how much of my donation actually goes toward helping the less fortunate. This is very important to me in determining future donations.

Harley Room, Huntsville TX

OUR REPLY: We do appreciate the above inquiry. Most inmates are unable to even pay the actual cost of a subscription. However, some prisoners, like Harley, are retired military, and actually have incomes from which to send donations. We are honored when they choose to donate to **Petah Tikvah**. They could choose to skip over us and give to other ministries, but choose to send their shekels our way.

In answer to Harley's question, a huge chunk of what we receive, perhaps half, goes into such things as subscriptions and calendars to inmates

as well as to readers in Third World countries. There are also many Americans outside of prison who have come upon hard times. We only ask that they send us a couple of dollars each year for a subscription. We also tithe on contributions received at **Petah Tikvah** for other ministries and charities, predominantly Jewish and Messianic Jewish. We are wise and careful stewards of all funds received.

On another note, please keep Harley and others like him in prayer. He has been badly treated by the prison system.

Shalom Rav Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you both for all that you do for us in prison and for yet another informative issue of **Petah Tikvah**, which I have devoured as always. In 2010, you helped me in my quest to get Messianic Judaism recognized as an authorized religion by the North Carolina Dept of Corrections and the implementation of kosher diets with your letters and phone calls to the NCDCC. You also supported us in our Federal Civil Case which we won on 3-19-15 that caused the NCDCC to allow Inmate Faith Helpers in the MJ faith, and reduced the required quorum for services from 10 to only 6 inmates.

As Abba has moved me from camp to camp, He has shown me a great need for Inmate Faith Helpers who are grounded in Torah and His ways to step forward to teach and lead His children, and to make disciples. Those who do step forward to teach or lead must understand that even though we may follow what we are taught, if that teaching is wrong, we are still culpable. We cannot rely on the defense of, "Well, that's what the Pastor (or Reverend Twistruth) taught" to stand up in the court of YHWH.

Eldridge Hodges, Polkton NC

Editor's Note: When we first started sending **Petah Tikvah** to inmates over thirty years ago, Messianic Judaism was not a recognized faith group in any state prisons at that time. The first Department of Corrections that we worked with was the Texas DOC. Eventually, we were successful, and over a quarter century ago, our efforts and the efforts of others resulted in the Texas DOC recognizing Messianic Judaism as a legitimate faith group. Since that time, Messianic Judaism has gained recognition as a faith group in DOC's throughout this country. North Carolina was the hardest nut to crack. The head chaplain of the NCDCC was very hostile to Messianic Judaism. However, eventually we prevailed in the courts, primarily through the efforts of individual inmates such as Eldridge Hodges, with support and encouragement from **Petah Tikvah**. **RAC**

QUESTION BOX:

Some of the men in our prison kehilah are confused, and believe that Paul said it is okay to eat pigs, etc. How would you respond? **B.P.**

OUR REPLY: Dispensational Theology tends to "dispense with" the Torah. Regarding unclean meats, even in the Millennium, we read in Isaiah 66:17: "Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one in the center, who eat swine's flesh, detestable things, and mice, shall come to an end together," declares the LORD.

Paul calls himself a Pharisee in Acts 23:6. The Pharisees were very careful to observe the mitzvot (commandments), as he confirmed in acts 25:8. However, even if Paul did speak against Torah (which never happened!), I would go with the words of Yeshua the Messiah, who said, "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall in any way pass away from the Torah (Mat. 5:18)."

Deuteronomy 13:1-10 tells us that any prophet or teacher who preaches against the Torah is a **false** prophet or teacher. The penalty for such false teachings was death by stoning. If Paul had indeed spoken against Torah, he would have deserved the death penalty. There are statements by Paul that are taken out of context to prove that the "Law" was done away with. However, when we take **all** of Paul's writings into context, we find that he strongly upheld Torah.

Greetings ~

Thank you for the Door of Hope that I get from you quarterly. I also want to ask you about the Jewish wedding ketubah or marriage contract. Do the Rabbis tell us that the Torah is the marriage contract (ketubah) between God and the Jewish people? I ask this because Isaiah 54:5, Hosea 2:19-20, and other verses in Scripture confirm that the LORD is the Husband of Israel. Chris Cervantes, Soledad CA

OUR REPLY: Yes indeed! Traditional Judaism often compares the ketubah to a marriage contract, recognizing that the Jewish people are married to Israel. The ketubah is often a beautifully scribed document proudly displayed on the walls of many Jewish homes. It is normally written in Aramaic, not Hebrew. It is in actuality also a prenuptial agreement, whereby the groom agrees to take proper care of the bride, and to ensure that she is given proper treatment in the event that the marriage ends in divorce.

Dear Rav Rick ~

In the April-June issue of **PT**, Ms. Terry Barrett was seeking places that offer tzitzit. Here are some addresses:

Rav Sid Kleiner BTPO

101 Winterview Dr
Naples FL 34109

He offers a tallit katan, which is to be worn under a shirt or blouse.

Sabbath Keepers

PO Box 972
Malakoff TX 75148

Both supply the tallit or tallit katan to inmates very inexpensively. Please write to each of them for costs.

I consider those involved in **Petah Tikvah** to be my family. As I've moved

through the prison system, I've gained more family. I was introduced to Messianic fellowship with the brothers in Bowling Green. Since then, Abba has healed and softened my heart for others. I am enclosing a donation for other inmates to receive **P.T.** Shawn Weurtley, Milton FL

Dear Rabbi Chaimberlin ~

I am a friend of Rav Michael Everage in Greenville Correctional. I learned diligently from him when I was there, the truth of the Jewish faith in Yeshua HaMashiach. Rav Everage is a great teacher, and made sure that I learned all I needed to know about Messianic Judaism. His teachings really increased my faith in Elohim, and opened my eyes to the biblical truth in the Torah, YHVH's Festivals, and paganism (i.e., Easter and Christmas). Rav Everage worked closely with me daily, due to my release date coming up quickly. I really enjoyed learning from him. Now that I am out, please send **Petah Tikvah** to my new address: Eric Smalley, Suffolk VA

Editor's Note: Rav Michael Everage was ordained by the United Messianic Jewish Assembly (UMJA.net). We have been proudly working with Michael for several years. He is a retired military officer of 23 years, and has been imprisoned for a crime for which I believe he is innocent. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate degree in ministry. He has been teaching and discipling Messianic inmates at Greenville Correctional in Jarratt VA for several years, where he has built up a fairly substantial kehilah (assembly). His latest project has been to produce a beautifully bound, 200-page, Messianic Jewish Siddur, which we recommend to our readers. The cost is six postage stamps for inmates. Send to: United Messianic Jewish Ministries, PO Box 122, Brandon VT 05733.

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

The deep divisions within Europe present unique possibilities for Washington and Jerusalem.

Counter-intuitively, liberal Western Europe is soft on Iran and Hamas and hostile toward democratic Israel, while the former Soviet bloc countries have become Israel's biggest supporters.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's trip to Paris and Berlin once again exposes the ideological fault line that increasingly divides Europe on both European issues and policies concerning the Middle East. The move of the US embassy to Israel's capital Jerusalem, the Gaza border tensions and the Iran nuclear deal have essentially divided the European continent into two camps.

France, Germany, Britain and the European Union (EU) leadership all opposed President Trump's decision to relocate the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Paris, Berlin, London, and Brussels are also staunch defenders of the Iran nuclear deal and harsh critics of Israel defending itself against Hamas' aggression on the Gaza border. Most Western European countries belong to this European ideological camp.

The other Europe consists of countries that are more sympathetic towards the US and Israel. This group includes Austria and former Eastern European states like Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Romania. Unlike France and Germany, these countries did not oppose the move of the American embassy to Jerusalem and several of them are in various stages of potentially following suit by moving their own embassies to Israel's capital.

These countries defied the EU boycott of the US embassy opening in Jerusalem by sending their diplomats to the event. This led to the Abbas regime recalling its representatives from the several of the mentioned countries. Countries such as the Czech Republic and Hungary have expressed far more understanding for Israel's need to defend its sovereign borders against Hamas's aggression.

The sharp division between the established democracies of Western Europe and the new democracies of Eastern Europe is also evident concerning the Iran deal. Unlike Paris, London, and Berlin that support the Iran deal, to a large degree based on commercial interests, Eastern Europe is far more interested in maintaining its crucial commercial relations with the US.

The two different European camps also disagree on the future of the European continent. While much of Western Europe's political elite supports a post-national and post-Christian ethos, most of eastern and central Europe still

embrace their national identities and Christian heritage. The ongoing Muslim migrant crisis in Europe has only exacerbated these sharp ideological divisions within Europe.

In an ironic twist of history, established Western European democracies support a dangerously flawed deal with a despotic Iranian regime and side with the terrorist organizations Hamas and the PLO against the Middle East's only democracy on issues such as Jerusalem and the Gaza border violence.

In contrast, Eastern European countries that not too long ago were ruled by brutal totalitarian regimes are the ones championing the democratic Israel.

What explains this ideological divergence?

Perhaps the Poles, the Czechs, the Hungarians, the Romanians and Slovaks, many of whom actively fought to extricate themselves from Soviet rule, are far more likely to value their newly-won freedoms than their Western European neighbors. They are also far more aware of how precarious a free society is and how easy it is to fall into despotism. As populations with first-hand knowledge of the dynamics of the despotic mindset, East Europeans are far more skeptical when dealing with the likes of Iran or Hamas.

People who live in the Western democracies, in contrast, tend to take freedom for granted. Few have directly experienced totalitarianism, and they are less cognizant of their good fortune. They are also oblivious to the fact that most people in the world do not share their Western values and are, in fact, truly hostile toward these values.

It is unlikely that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will succeed in convincing Paris and Berlin to abandon their support of the Iran deal. However, the deep divisions within Europe present unique possibilities for Washington and Jerusalem to strengthen existing ties and establishing new relationships with European allies.

Editor's Comment: Curiously, Israel now has good relationships with countries that were historically highly anti-Semitic, such as Poland and Hungary.

"I say then: Has God rejected His people? May it never be! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has **not** cast away His people, whom He foreknew."

Romans 11:1-2.

Israel is Splitting Europe

By Daniel Krygier
WorldIsraelNews.com
28 May 2018

APMF SHAVUOT PILGRIMAGE 2019

June 05-14, 2019

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION: TOTAL 9 Overnights

Our offer is based on the following hotel accommodations or similar:

JUNE 05 - 06 1 Overnight @ *Aracan Pyramid Hotel in Cairo Egypt or similar*

JUNE 06 - 07 1 Overnight @ St. Catherine Village in Egypt or *similar*

JUNE 07 - 11 4 Overnight @ Prima Park Hotel in Jerusalem or similar

JUNE 11 - 12 1 Overnight @ Leonardo Hotel in Tiberias or *similar*

JUNE 12 - 13 1 Overnight @ Edom Hotel in Petra Jordan or *similar*

JUNE 13 - 14 1 Overnight @ Ream Hotel in Amman or *similar*

ITINERARY DAY 1: ARRIVAL –PYRAMID OF GIZA- GREAT SPHINX- ISLAMIC MUSEUM

- Arrive at Cairo International Airport in Egypt, welcome and assistance by the representative.
- Travel back to ancient Egypt with a full day touring which date back to 1000 years ago. Our first stop will be at the Pyramids of Giza. A visit to Pyramids is on every world traveler's must-see list. Cheops Pyramid, the largest of the three with an original height of 496 feet, was built in the 3rd dynasty about 2690 B.C. and is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient.
- In front of the Pyramids of Chephren, we will find the colossal statue of the Great Sphinx, which has stood guard over the pyramids for more than 4,500 years. The Sphinx carved from a single piece of stone; it is a lion with a Pharaoh's head thought to be a portrait of the Pharaoh Chephren. Here we will be provided an opportunity to ride a camel by the Pyramids area.
- Continue to Islamic Museum, a well-presented museum in Egypt, one of the rarest around the world that present to the visitor a collections of Islamic art from early Islamic era in Egypt until modern era starting from 7th until 19th century.
- We will come to the recently restored Synagogue of Ben Ezra, which marks the place where Moses was saved by the water girl of Pharaoh. This is the oldest Jewish synagogue in Egypt built in 882 AC.
- After tour, you will be transfered to your hotel for check in.
- Meetings at the hotels' lobby to be transferred to enjoy dinner on Nile Maxim cruise & sailing on the Nile for 2 hours.
- Back to your hotel & overnight
- Dinner and Overnight: Cairo

ITINERARY DAY 2: MARA (SPRING OF MOSES)- WADI EL RAHA ST CATHERINE VILLAGE

- Meeting at hotel lobby then you will start driving to Sinai where you will check in Wadi El Raha St. Catherine Village. On the way you will visit Mara (The springs of Moses) The springs of Moses found 20 km South of the Ahmed Hamdi Tunnel in South Sinai, are a collection of fresh water springs said to be where Moses during the Israelite Exodus was directed by Yahweh to throw a tree branch, possibly a barberry into the bitter springs to make them sweet enough to drink.
- Dinner at hotel & overnight.

ITINERARY DAY 3: MOUSA MOUNTAIN- ST CATHERINE MONASTERY- TABA BORDER CROSSING

- At 02:00AM Meeting at the hotel's lobby to start your day by climbing Mousa Mountain with our Bedouin local guide . Mousa Mountain which actually the name of a

collection of peaks, sometimes referred to as the Holy Mountains. The Mountain was called Mount Sinai, or "the mount of God" possibly before the time of Moses, according to Josephus. On its southern end is Mount Mousa, sometimes referred to as Gebel Mousa or the Mountain of Moses (all of which basically means the same thing). This peak is traditionally considered to be biblical place where Prophet Moses communicated with God and received the Ten Commandments.

- It also has considerable religious significance to Islam as the place where Prophet Mohammed's horse (Boraq) ascended to Heaven . Mount Mousa is about 7,495 feet (2,285 meters) high so climbing Mount Mousa takes an average of about (3 hours) to ascend on foot following the Path of Moses a stairway of nearly 4,000 steps in order to arrive at the peak for the wonderful view of the sunrise. At a number of locations along the route, there are vendors & many cafeterias where you can buy water, food and other items.
- After enjoying the sun rise, you will start to descend Mount Mousa down & return back to your hotel.
- Breakfast & check out.
- Visit St. Catherine monastery. Located at the foot of Mount Moses, St. Catherine's Monastery, was constructed by order of the Emperor Justinian between 527 and 565. It is built around what is thought to be Moses' Burning Bush, which has a chapel built atop it. It is a spectacular natural setting for priceless works of art, including Arab mosaics, Greek and Russian icons, Western oil paintings, paintings on wax, fine sacerdotal ornaments, marbles, enamels, chalices, reliquaries, including one donated by Czar Alexander II in the 19th century, and another by Empress Catherine of Russia in the 17th century. But of perhaps even greater significance is that it is one of the largest and most important collection of illuminated manuscripts in the world (The Vatican has the largest). The collection consists of some 4,500 volumes in Greek, Coptic, Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Slavic, Syriac, Georgian and other languages.
- After tour you will start driving to Taba border for departure
- Shortstop to float in the Dead Sea.
- Shabbat dinner in Jerusalem
- Dinner and Overnight: Jerusalem

ITINERARY DAY 4: SHABBAT SERVICE/ SHAVUOT CELEBRATION

- Shabbat Service at Netivyah- Messianic Congregation in Jerusalem
- After the Shabbat service, time to rest and prepare for Shavuot Celebration.
- SHAVUOT CELEBRATION- at one of the meeting room in the hotel. Speaker: Messianic Jew (Subject to availability)
- Dinner and overnight: Jerusalem

ITINERARY DAY 5: WESTERN WALL – RABBI’S TUNNEL – SOUTHERN WALL STEPS – VIA DOLOROSA

- Start the day by visiting the holiest place in Judaism today, the Western Wall - "Kotel". Visit the Rabbi's tunnel (Western Wall tunnel) a portion of the temple wall built in King Solomon's day, close to where the Holy of Holies was on the other side. Next, visit the Southern Wall Steps, a wall at the southern end of the Temple Mount and the former southern side of the Second Temple (called Herod's Temple) in Jerusalem. Proceed to Via Dolorosa, is a street within the Old City of Jerusalem, believed to be the path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion.
- Dinner and Overnight : Jerusalem

ITINERARY DAY 6: HERZL MUSEUM - GARDEN TOMB- CITY OF DAVID (POOL OF SILOAM – HEZEKIAH’S TUNNEL)

- Start the day by visiting the new Herzl Museum, which includes an audio-visual encounter with the visionary of the Jewish State. The presentation provides a thought provoking 60-minute look into the Jewish world according to Herzl's insights, urging to the birth of the State of Israel.
- Next, we proceed to the Garden Tomb, an ancient Jewish sepulcher which matches the New Testament description of the tomb in which Jesus was buried
- We will visit the City of David and see the newest and exciting excavations of Jerusalem during the time of the first Temple period. Visit the Pool of Siloam where Jesus ordered a blind man to go to wash mud out of his eyes.
- Here we will also walk through Hezekiah’s Tunnel, which still flows with water.
- Dinner and overnight: Jerusalem

ITINERARY DAY 7: MOUNT BEATITUDES- CAPERNAUM- GALILEE EXPERIENCE - BOAT RIDE AT THE SEA OF GALILEE

- After breakfast, drive to the Mount of Beatitudes, north of the Sea of Galilee. Atop this Mount lies a beautiful church with an octagonal dome that represents the 8 “Beatitudes” in the sermon preached by Jesus Christ to his disciples 2,000 years ago.
- Visit Capernaum where a 2nd century synagogue was discovered which threw light on the life of the community of that era. According to the Christian tradition, Jesus served here as a local rabbi and performed miracles.
- Stop at the Galilee Experience to watch the history of Kinneret/Sea of Galilee. Here the group will have some time to shop.
- Enjoy a Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
- Dinner and Overnight: Tiberias

ITINERARY DAY 8: SHEIK HUSSEIN BORDER – JERASH –MADABA – MT. NEBO JERASH- MADABA- MT. NEBO

- After breakfast, we will depart the hotel, crossover to Jordan via Sheik Hussein border.
- Visit the ancient city of Jerash boasts an unbroken chain of human occupation dating back more than 6.500 years. The city’s Golden Age came under Roman rule and the site is now generally acknowledged to be one of the best preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Jerash comprises of paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theatres, city walls pierced by towers and gates.
- The trip south of Amman along the 5,000 years old King’s Highway is one of the most memorable Journeys in the Holy Land. Along the way is Madaba whose main attraction is a wonderfully vivid, six-century Byzantine mosaic map showing Jerusalem and other holy sites.
- Ten minutes to the west of Madaba is Mount Nebo, the memorial of Moses, and the presumed site of the prophet's death and burial place.
- Dinner and overnight : Petra

ITINERARY DAY 9: PETRA VISIT - AMMAN PANORAMA TOUR

- After breakfast, we’ll drive through the wonderful mountainous landscape of Jordan and arrive at the world famous Petra ruins where we’ll walk through the narrow canyon and see its great monuments such as the treasury, Roman Theater, and Royal Tombs.
- Afterwards, we will have the quick Amman Panorama Tour.

- Transfer to Amman for dinner and overnight
- Dinner and overnight: Amman

ITINERARY DAY 10: AMMAN – DEPARTURE

- After breakfast depart for the Amman International Airport for our international flight with everlasting memories of Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

INCLUSIONS

- 2 way airfare (Ethiopian Airline)
- Meeting & assistance on arrival at Cairo International Airport and departure at Amman International Airport by our representative.
- Porterage at hotels.
- 9 overnights at the abovementioned hotels or similar & 9 days sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- English speaking tour guide in Israel, Jordan and Egypt
- Luxury air-conditioned vehicle as mentioned above.
- Meal arrangements: Full Board, including full buffet breakfast and dinners at hotels daily and lunches en route.
- Shabbat Meals and Shavuot Celebration
- Pilgrimage Certificate in Israel.
- Entrance fees: all sites and churches in Jerusalem and Galilee as well as in Egypt and Jordan as per your program below.
- One small (01) bottle of mineral water daily in Israel
- Pilgrimage Kit.

EXCLUSIONS

- Visa to Egypt: \$25.00 for visa stamp + \$7.00 per person for extra services (subject to change by authority)
- Departure Tax from Israel – Jordan via Sheik Hussein border US\$32 per person
- FREE VISA to Jordan and Israel\
- Tips to guide (recommended tips US\$5 per person) and driver (US\$3 per person)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

- **PAYMENT:** It is our company policy to receive full payment two months prior to group arrival.
- Deposit: \$100/pax upon confirmation.
- Passport must be valid 6 months prior to the scheduled departure.
- All tickets are issued as a group ticket. Therefore, it is nonrefundable/non-rebookable/non-endorsable/ nonreroutable.
- Guest who does not pass the immigration in Manila or Tel Aviv International Airport, any and all tour fees will be nonrefundable.
- Guest is not allowed to deviate from the group.
- Itinerary and rates are subject to change with or without prior notice. Rates are guaranteed. However, the tour operator reserves the right to update the rates periodically in case of major currency fluctuations, change of government tax policy or imposed new feed.
- In case of Acts of God, force majeure, flight changes and other events that cannot be controlled by the agency, EMMANUEL WORLD TRAVELERS, INC., the company, its owner and employees will NOT be held liable in any manner.

Dear Rabbi ~

After getting a copy of your magazine, I couldn't wait to tell you how it was an answer to prayer. You see, I was raised as a Chassid, but soon after becoming Bar Mitzvah, I veered away from my Ultra-Orthodox Jewish upbringing. Thank you for heeding the call to publish **Petah Tikvah**.
William Evans, Sioux Falls SD

Shalom Rick & Miriam~

In 1986, I was coerced by my court-appointed attorney to plead guilty to one count of a felony of which I was innocent, using the threat that three additional charges could be leveled against me. 32 years later, I am still trying to get vindication from the bogus plea bargain.

Also, at our prison unit, we are not allowed to have more than 5 books, including Bibles. The NC DOC regulations allow us to have 2 cubic feet of personal property. I have only a few religious and educational books. The NC DOC policies keep us ignorant, with inmates returning to prison. Jackie Moorehead, Lumberton NC

Editor's Comment: What Jackie told me about happens all too often. Attorneys (esp. court-appointed attorneys) do not always properly represent the accused. They threaten additional false charges, whereby the accused chooses a plea deal to a lesser charge for which he may be entirely innocent. Meanwhile, prosecutors sometimes withhold evidence which might exonerate the client. Justice is often lacking. Most of those in prison are in fact guilty of the charges against them. However, many men are now being found innocent after spending many years in prison.

Dear Rav Rick & Miriam ~

I thoroughly enjoy **Petah Tikvah** and hope to share them with my mother someday. You have a lot of truth to tell. It's so unfortunate that people are being led astray with the lies of **Replacement Theology** over and over again.

Adam Mutchler, Defuniak Springs FL

Editor's Comments: Adam is referring to the heresy of **Replacement Theology**. This theology teaches that God is finished with the Jewish people, who have been replaced by the Christian Church. I might have understood people being so badly misled before 1948. Jews throughout the world were suffering terribly, often at the hands of people who called themselves Christians. The Biblical promise of the Jewish people being re-

stored to their ancient homeland seemed to an impossibility to fulfill. Therefore, many Christians took these promises

to the Jewish people to be mere allegory, not to be taken literally. Although I totally disagree with such views, I could somewhat understand these views before 1948. However, beginning in 1948, we began to see Bible prophecy being fulfilled before our eyes. Israel became a nation that year. And since that time, God has been blessing His people abundantly.

Some protest that the Jews have come back to

the Land in unbelief. This is exactly according to prophecy. "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land. **Then** I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from your idols (Ezekiel 36:24-25)."

As believers in God, we should love what God loves, and hate what God hates. Deut. 7:6-7 tells us that God loves the Jewish people. Jeremiah 31:1-4 tells us that God loves Israel with an everlasting love. Malachi 1:1-2, Psalm 47:4, and many other places in Scripture declare God's unchanging love for Israel and the Jewish people.

God also promises to bless those who bless His people, and to curse those who curse His people in Gen.12:3; 26:4; 27:29; Num. 23:8; 24:9; Ezek. 28:26; Is. 41:11; 42:6; Mat. 25:40-46; and many other places in Scripture. Replacement Theology often (though not always) leads to anti-Semitism. God promises curses on those who curse His people. I don't see how someone can be blessed and cursed at the same time. I happen

to believe that rabid anti-Semites like Germany's Martin Luther are not saved. **RAC**

Dear Rav Rick & Sister Miriam ~

I thank you both greatly for the work of our Lord that you do for all of us within the wire. I always enjoy all your teachings in **Petah Tikvah**. But I know that your ministry depends of the gifts sent in by others who are able to do so.

I want to thank **ALL** of your readers around the world who give to your ministry, for I know that they give out of their hearts. So to ALL in the free world, from the ones behind the walls and wire, I say, "Thank you for giving and helping to keep the Word of God alive!"

Wayne Harlson, Lake City FL

Jewish Basics CDs and Booklets are now available for free downloads on our website: www.petahtikvah.com Admittedly, this might not be helpful to many inmates, as very few inmates have internet access. However, a friend or family member might be able to get Jewish Basics downloaded onto a thumb drive, and hopefully get it to inmates in a form that they can receive. Regrettably, most inmates are not allowed to receive CDs.



JEWISH BASICS

Music CDs and
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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 for 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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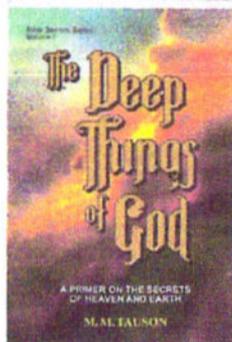
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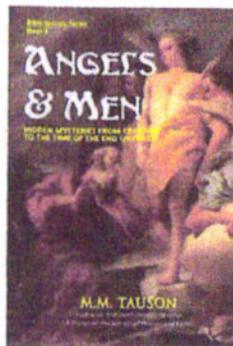
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Dr. & Mrs. Chaimberlin ~

After much prayer, I believe God has led me to you and your ministry. I grew up in a Christian home (Baptist), and for 24 years I was a Baptist pastor. However, I found myself in sin. I cried out to God to rescue me - honest hours of prayer to help me overcome my sin. God's answer was prison. Over the past 4 years, God has worked in my life in a way I never imagined.

The Lord had to break me in order to rebuild me. By placing me in prison, everything that distracted me disappeared. I now spend 5-7 hours each day in prayer and Bible study.

God began to place on my heart that I was treating Him and his Word as a sort of "Take what you want" buffet. I had given notice to nine of the ten commandments, but ignored the Sabbath day by substituting Sunday, etc.

I could feel the Lord pressing me like a lump of clay, whispering, "Leave that out. It's Baptist, not Bible," or "Why are you ignoring My commands?" When reading the Book of Esther, the thought came, "Why would you celebrate Christmas (not mentioned in the Bible) and ignore Purim, which is clearly in the Bible.

Another thought came to me: I have all this time. Why not learn the Bible language? About two years ago, I began to study Hebrew.

About 9 months ago, again through lots of prayer and scripture, I really felt the Lord saying, "You're not a Baptist now, so what are you?" I thought, well, I'm a follower of Jesus, who loves God with all my heart; I desire to follow the Law, including Sabbath worship, and to follow Scripture rather than man-made doctrine.

About this time, I ordered Dr. David Stern's **Jewish New Testament Commentary and Messianic Jewish Manifesto**. I began to feel such a connection, such peace. I believe the Lord led me to Messianic Judaism. I have read conflicting articles on whether or not a Gentile can convert to Messianic Judaism.¹ I am certain of one thing: I am closer to the Lord than ever before in my life. God has my full attention. I know that I am forgiven, and I know that God is calling me to a different, more Biblically focused worship.

There is not very much in the way of Jewish services where I am. But God is at work, and last week, I was given a dorm change. The new dorm has two Messianic Jews! They are the only Messianic Jews in this prison, and I didn't know about them until one of them noticed by JPS Ta-

¹ **Editor's Note:** Many Gentiles have basically converted to Messianic Judaism. Their religious faith group is Messianic Judaism. They celebrate the Sabbath and Holy Days of Leviticus 23. They observe the dietary laws of Leviticus 11. They identify with Israel and the Jewish people. They no longer identify as Christians.

nakh (OT). Then one of them gave me an old copy of **Petah Tikvah**. Praise Adonai! I no longer feel that the label "Christian" applies to me anymore. Beyond the label, I feel my heart changing, being called to add my lot to the Jewish people. I also love Yeshua, my Savior, the Messiah.
Jeff Eddie, Brent AL

Shalom Petah Tikvah ~

I am enclosing stamps to renew my subscription. I really enjoy your ministry. I am from a Jewish family that does its best to hide who we are. I am proud to be one of God's chosen people. He isn't ashamed of us, so I am not ashamed of Him. I don't care how much people might hate me for being Jewish. They hated Yeshua also. Meanwhile, my Uncle Chaim claims that Messianic Jews are no longer Jews, but are now Christians and an abomination for supposedly turning our backs on our Jewish heritage. Keep them in prayer.

John Johnson, Lisbon OH

Dear Elder Chaimberlin ~

Regarding the AR-15, it is only called an Assault Rifle because of how it looks, not because of its function. The AR-15 is a semi-automatic, although it can be made to fire fully automatic with a few simple adjustments. It is true, as you said, that our Founding Fathers only had muskets, but muskets can also kill. A person with a powder loaded musket is like a walking bomb with shrapnel. Michael Bidwell, Abilene TX

Editor's Note: I must disagree with Michael. The Assault Rifle 15 (AR-15) is called an Assault Rifle, because that is what it is, and that is how it is marketed. The musket is **not** the ideal weapon for killing lots of people. It is far too slow. The weapons of choice in most of the mass killings today are Assault Rifles, which can mow down many people in a short period of time. I don't see anybody going into schools with a musket to kill lots of people. That would far too time-consuming. The killer would be stopped after one shot. Assault Rifles today carry more fire power than the M-16 that I used in the US Army. These are military weapons, not sporting rifles. We support the right to bear arms, but not the AR-15.

Dear Rav Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for the six years of **Petah Tikvah**. Your magazine is always to timely and helpful, and helps me to keep up with current events, esp. with Israel. I absolutely love that you selflessly give these to those who are incarcerated. I am enclosing stamps for your commentaries. And your calendar is gorgeous! You guys are awesome! I pray for you always. Your publications are used and used and used. The men read everything you send, and are happy to do that.

Tim Coblentz, Livingston TX

Rav Chaimberlin & Rebbetzin Miriam ~

Since transferring to this prison, I find that I am the only inmate declared as a Messianic Jew, or any other kind of Jew for that matter. I am learning the importance of having the Word inside of us. I don't have any brothers or conventional material items in my spiritual tool box. It's like being caught in the wilderness.

So as I meditate on G-d and share the Word with others, I am being taught to lean on what G-d has given me in my spirit. At times, we feel that it may not be enough, but with the backing of our Father, it will always be enough. I am excited for the work He has for me, and the ministry he is preparing me for. I am thankful to Rav Everage for being my spiritual **ro'eh** (shepherd) at that appointed time in my life. I thank you, Rav Chaimberlin, for your continual obedience and for putting out the **Petah Tikvah**.

Jamar Ya'akov Summers, Pocahontas VA

Editor's Note: In many cases, the **only** Messianic fellowship that people in prison have is the **Petah Tikvah** magazine. I'm sure this is also true for many outside of prison as well. It is awfully hard to honor the holy convocations of Shabbat and the Holy Days of Leviticus 23 without having others to convocate with. Many others outside of prison may have the same lack of fellowship. For such people, we recommend fellowshiping with Bible-believing Christians and Jews. Perhaps such fellowshiping may result in others coming to faith in Yeshua the Messiah **and** a respect for the **mitzvot** (commandments).

Dear P. T. ~

I am enclosing stamps for a calendar. Your articles are truly eye-openers, and a great help. I have learned so much from your books. I also continue to go back and re-read the commentaries that I have gotten from you. It has all been a great teaching tool for all of us at Tabor Correctional. Thomas Giles, Tabor City NC

Rav Chaimberlin ~

A short message to all the brothers and sisters behind the fences and walls, thinking that there is no hope. With G-d, all things are possible.

I've lived the last 22 years in here with a life sentence **plus** 185 years! I gave up hope until 2009 when I gave my life over to Yeshua. In October 2017, I went to court. Praise G-d, I go home at the end of 2019!

Regardless of how much time you are serving, hold onto hope, and always keep the faith. He will never leave you or forsake you.

Rabbi Chaimberlin, I was reading **Petah Tikvah** for years even as an Orthodox Jew before coming to faith in Yeshua in 2009. I have always been blessed with the words of wisdom as well as a good laugh. Martin Gray, Milton FL

Shalom friend ~

On April 30, this gang that doesn't like me wanted to do harm to me. One of the officers seems to be part of the gang. An inmate stole most the stuff I had accumulated in the past 4 years. Then he did number 1 and 2 in the toilet and shoved my tallit, kippa, star of David, and siddur into the toilet and defecated on my Messianic Study Bible. Jewish brothers had given me these items when they left prison, impossible to replace. My wife passed away last year.

To top it off, the officer opened my cell door. The smell of crap was so bad. I showed him all my religious stuff in the toilet. The officer said, "What do you want me to do about it?" I told him about the cellmate that promised to do harm to me. I was then cuffed, with the handcuffs behind my back, and my cellmate started beating me. I was bleeding and angry, but Yeshua put it on my heart to say, "I forgive you brother." He then hit me one more time in the temple.

David Barber, Punta Gorda FL

Editor's Note: Please keep David and the other Messianic and Jewish inmates in prayer for their safety as well as for their religious possessions.

Petah Tikvah Magazine ~

I acquired a old copy of **Petah Tikvah** from 2012. I am writing first to confirm that you are still publishing before sending any stamps.

This was one of the best thought out and arranged publications that I have read. The stories are diverse, and are informative and enlightening. The coverage of political, spiritual, and just plain things of interest drew me in, along with the humor. I see the hand of YHWH at work in ministering to His people.

Ray Schneider, Farmington MO

Yakir Rav Chaimberlin ~

Enclosed is a *yahrzeit*² gift for the *bashert*³ I never met, Kathy Gaylor. We spent years of lovely correspondence, learning and sharing our faith in Mashiach and our hearts, she on the West Coast and me in Florida.

Toda for your great magazine. And toda raba (thank you very much) to you and the *mispocha*⁴ who read **PT**. You have the caring heart of a real shepherd. Your love for the inmates shines brightly through your articles and editorial comments. And so many of the *mishpocha* are generous, ensuring that their donations to **PT** help prisoners to receive your magazine.

James Doyle, Bowling Green FL

² Anniversary of the death of a loved one.

³ The destined match for a man and woman.

⁴ Family.

Dr. King Gave Jews 'Pride in Being Jewish' Recalls Daughter of Civil Rights Leader's Rabbinical Ally

Ben Cohen, algemeiner.com, April 2018

As Americans prepared for the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, the daughter of his closest Jewish colleague paid tribute to the legendary U.S. civil rights leader's embrace of the Jewish Bible as his main source of inspiration.

"When we are celebrating Passover, it's all the more important to remember that it was Martin Luther King who made Moses and the Exodus from Egypt the central motif of the civil rights movement," Prof. Susannah Heschel told *The Algemeiner* on Tuesday.



Prof. Heschel, who teaches Jewish studies at Dartmouth College, is the daughter of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel — the Polish-born American rabbi who, in March 1965, famously marched against the segregationist "Jim Crow" laws alongside King in Selma, Alabama.

Had King not been assassinated on April 4, 1968, he and his family would have been guests at the Heschel family's Passover Seder eight days later, Prof. Heschel recalled.

But ten days before his death, King did address the Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism — and was introduced by Rabbi Heschel. "I call upon every Jew to hearken to his voice, to share his vision, to follow his way," Rabbi Heschel said of King. In his speech to the assembly, King, for his part, hailed Rabbi Heschel as a "truly great prophet."

In several of his writings and speeches, King depicted the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt as both a model and an inspiration for the civil rights movement in the US. "The Bible tells the thrilling story of how Moses stood in Pharaoh's court many centuries ago and cried, **Let my people go!**" voices@unitycoalitionforisrael.org

Iraq's Christians: Eighty Percent Have "Disappeared"

Giulio Meotti
GATESTONE INSTITUTE, April 1, 2018
voices@unitycoalitionforisrael.org

- Tragically, Christians living in lands formerly under the control of the "Caliphate" have been betrayed by many in the West. Governments ignored their tragic fate. Bishops were often too aloof to denounce their persecution. The media acted as if they considered these Christians to be agents of colonialism who deserved to be purged from the Middle East. And the so-called "human rights" organizations abandoned them.
- The West was not willing to give sanctuary to these Christians when ISIS murdered 1,131 of them and destroyed or damaged 125 of their churches.
- We must now help Christians rebuild in the lands where their people were martyred.

Persecution of Christians is worse today "than at any time in history," a recent report by the organization Aid to the Church in Need revealed. Iraq happens to be "ground zero" for the elimination of Christians from the pages of history.

Iraqi Christian clergymen recently wore a black sign as a symbol of national mourning for the last victims of the anti-Christian violence: a young worker and a whole family of three. "This means that there is no place for Christians," said Father Biyos Qasha of the Church of Maryos in Baghdad. "We are seen as a lamb to be killed at any time".

A few days earlier, Shiite militiamen discovered a mass grave with the bodies of 40 Christians near Mosul, the former stronghold of the Islamic State and the capital of Iraqi Christianity. The bodies, including those of women and children, seemed to belong to Christians kidnapped and killed by ISIS. Many had crosses with them in the mass grave. **Not a single article** in the Western mainstream media wrote about this ethnic cleansing.

French Chief Rabbi Haim Korsia made an urgent plea to Europe and the West to defend non-Muslims in the Middle East, whom he likened to Holocaust victims. "As our parents wore the yellow star, Christians are made to wear the scarlet letter of *nun*," Korsia said. The Hebrew letter "*nun*" is the same sound as the beginning of *Nazareen*, an Arabic term signifying people from Nazareth, or Christians, and used by the Islamic State to mark the Christian houses in Mosul.

Now a new report by the Iraqi Human Rights Society also just revealed that Iraqi minorities, such as Christians, Yazidis and Shabaks, are now victims of a "slow genocide", which is shattering those ancient communities to the point of their disappearance. The numbers are significant....

Also known as "supersessionism," the doctrine of Replacement Theology essentially teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan; that "the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian church, not in Israel"; and that adherents to that teaching "believe the Jews are no longer God's chosen people, and God does not have specific future plans for the nation of Israel." (Definition from [GotQuestions.org](#))

With the recent dedication of the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, proponents of replacement theology have made their opinions known. In one example in an interview with *Baptist Press*, Jamal Bishara – an Arab Israeli Southern Baptist and pastor of First Arabic Baptist Church in Phoenix – said the church, not ethnic or national Israel, is the people of God under the new covenant, and political support of national Israel should not be confused with faithfulness to scripture.

Laurie Cardoza-Moore, president of Proclaiming Justice to the Nations, offers the following advice to those hearing such teaching:

"Any pastor who teaches this type of theology, if you are a member of that congregation – you should flee," she emphasizes. "Paul, in [the Book of] Romans, said that God's calling to Israel was irrevocable – and that we're 'grafted in' because of our faith in Jesus Christ. That makes us part of the commonwealth of Israel."

One of the objectives of Cardoza-Moore's organization is to counter what it sees as a "renewed crisis" of anti-Semitism in America and around the world – often labeled as the "BDS movement" (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction). Jan Markell, founder and director of Olive Tree Ministries, considers the doctrine of Replacement Theology as a 21st century example of anti-Semitism...

"When I start to see the Southern Baptist Convention and some others who should know better starting to insert Replacement Theology into their doctrine or statement of belief, [I point out] there's nothing in the Bible that remotely suggests that the church has replaced Israel." She laments that such teaching gains popularity while "evangelical support for Israel is tanking as the church rallies to support the so-called Palestinians."

An Enthusiasm Gap

Two Christian leaders are concerned that a large segment of evangelicals aren't as enthu-

siastic as other be-lievers when it comes to the importance of the Jewish state. A poll taken in December 2017 by LifeWay Research found that among Millennials (ages 18-34), only 58 percent have an overall positive perception of Israel. That compares to a 77 percent pro-Israel perception among older evangelicals (over age 65).

"I think there has been a lessening of enthusiasm in support for Israel among Millennials," says Dr. Richard Land, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary. "Polls show [that] among Millennial evangelicals – even [among] the ones who don't believe in Replacement Theology – Israel is a much more minor thing to them than it is to the 'Busters' and the 'Baby Boomers.'"

Christian apologist Dr. Alex McFarland sees some political ramifications. "We need to pray that Millennials and younger are not deceived and misled by a secular educational system that is militantly leftist, a media that is so to the left, and the voices in the Democratic Party.

"The last thing we need is for Millennials and up-and-coming voters to be given the Democrat Kool-Aid," he concludes. Land says supporters of Israel need to do a better job of getting their message to Millennials.

Guatemala Moves Embassy to Jerusalem:

Guatemala has opened its new embassy in Jerusalem, becoming the second country to do so after the United States. Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales dedicated the embassy on Wed. 16 May 2018, just two days after a high-powered American delegation also marked the transfer of its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. PM Benjamin Netanyahu says it's fitting since Guatemala also followed the USA to be the second country to recognize Israel 70 years ago. "You were always among the first," he said. "We remember our friends and Guatemala is our friend, then and now." President Trump announced his decision on Jerusalem in Dec. 2017 triggering a joyous reaction from Netanyahu's government. Shortly after taking office in 2015, Guatemala's President Morales, a devout evangelical Christian, visited a synagogue in Guatemala City, where he announced his intention to visit Israel. He made the historic trip in November 2016. Guatemala will be joined by Paraguay and Honduras in committing to the move.. (Fox)

Warning: The Church Has Not Replaced God's Chosen People

By Chad Groening

From NE News Now
The Israel Group ·
PO Box 4332 · Valley
Village, CA 91617

By: AP

While most of his fellow Jews were being killed or brutalized in Nazi death camps and ghettos, Baruch Shub and his friends were hiding in the forests of the former Soviet Union, trying to undermine the Nazis by derailing trains, burning bridges, sabotaging communication lines and killing the occasional collaborator.

"You couldn't really fight the German army, given our means, but we did our best to disrupt them," recalled the 94-year-old Shub at his retirement home in central Israel. "Whether or not it made a difference, I don't know. But it gave me a great sense of joy that at least I was doing something to get even with them."

As Israel marks its annual Holocaust memorial day, those aging survivors who actively resisted and helped shape the country's fighting spirit are quickly disappearing. Shub is among perhaps only a handful of remaining Soviet partisan fighters. Only two remain from the greatest symbol of resistance of all — the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising.

Emulating Biblical Warriors

The annual remembrance of the Holocaust's 6 million Jewish victims falls on the same date on the Hebrew calendar as the Warsaw uprising — the ultimately doomed revolt that played such an important role in defining the country's psyche. Even the day's official name — "Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day" — alludes to the image of the Jewish warrior upon which the state was founded.

Shub said the conditions for resistance were limited given the all-encompassing scope of the Nazi genocide, but those who could fight back did so. With their actions, he said they continued a tradition dating back to biblical times. "Jews always fought for their survival and national honor," he said. "I want history to remember that Jews did not walk like cattle to their slaughter."

Shub's mother and three siblings were murdered by Nazis and their local collaborators in his native Lithuania. After a failed uprising in the Vilna ghetto, he escaped to the forests to join the underground network led by famed resistance fighter Abba Kovner. Four battalions of Jewish fighters raided villages for food and supplies and hacked away at communication and electricity lines used by German forces, he said.

The Greatest Act of Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust

There are even fewer who remain from the single greatest act of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, which wiped out a third of world Jewry. Though guaranteed to fail, the Warsaw ghetto uprising symbolized a refusal to succumb to atrocities, and inspired other uprisings and underground resistance by Jews and non-Jews alike.

Three-quarters of a century later, only 89-year-old Aliza Vitis-Shomron is left in Israel to tell the story. The only other known surviving fighter, Simcha Rotem, is in ill health.

Vitis-Shomron said the hardest moment was fleeing just before the Nazis vanquished her comrades. They had few weapons and it seemed

pointless to keep around a teenage girl who could escape and tell the world what had happened. "They said I was too young to die," said Vitis-Shomron, who has three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. "I still feel guilty that I got out and they stayed."

Along with her mother and younger sister, she found a cellar to hide in outside the ghetto. She vividly remembers poking a hole in the curtain and watching the red skies above the burning ghetto where her friends were waging war.

The resistance movement began to grow after July 22, 1942, when 265,000 men, women and children were rounded up and later killed at the Treblinka death camp. As word of the Nazi genocide spread, a small group of rebels began spreading calls for resistance, carrying out isolated attacks and sabotage.

The Nazis entered the ghetto on April 19, 1943, the eve of the Passover holiday. Three days later, they set the ghetto ablaze, but the Jewish fighters kept up their struggle for nearly a month, fortifying themselves in bunkers and managing to kill 16 Nazis and wound nearly 100. Vitis-Shomron said that Mordechai Anielewicz and other fair-looking leaders of the revolt had ample opportunities to escape.

"They are the real heroes, the ones who stayed knowing they would die," she said. "They had daring and a will to avenge the Nazis and prove that the Jewish people did not surrender. There were those who fought back."

As Numbers Dwindle, Jews Who Fought Nazis Recall Struggle



Jewish Resistance Fighters in Poland

Saudi Arabia Supports USA Decision to Pull Out From Nuclear Agreement:

Saudi Arabia announced Tues. 8 May 2018 that it supports USA President Donald Trump's decision to pull out from the Iran nuclear agreement, according to Al Arabiya television news channel. "Iran has used its financial revenues from the nuclear agreement to increase its aggression," according to the announcement. (Ynet)

Netanyahu Applauds Trump's 'Brave Decision' to Pull Out of Iran Deal:

Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu praised USA President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal on 8 May 2018. "President Trump's decision is a courageous decision and a right decision," said Netanyahu. "The people of Israel greatly appreciate this decision. If the agreement had been maintained, it would have allowed Iran enough material to develop a full arsenal of bombs," Netanyahu added. Trump announced that the USA was withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear agreement and reinstating sanctions on Iran during a White House press conference. He cited the deal's sunset clause, inadequate inspection provisions, and failure to deal with Iran's ballistic missile program and support for terrorism in his decision. The president also cited PM Netanyahu's presentation of Iran's nuclear archive last week as proof that Iran cannot be trusted to abide by its commitments under the JCPOA or to abandon its desire to develop nuclear weapons.

Israel's President, Reuven Rivlin added that "The decision made by the president of the United States constitutes a significant step in ensuring the security of the State of Israel, the security of the region and the security of the entire free world. Along with the nuclear threat, we do not forget for a moment the arms race that Iran is leading on our borders and we follow the developments closely and responsibly, in order to protect the security of our citizens. The threat of Iranian consolidation is not placed at the door of the State of Israel alone, and therefore international pressure is necessary to combat this danger." (Arutz-7/J.Post)

Source: Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265
Jerusalem 9107301

Hamas Has Taken Gaza Back to the Stone Age:

As Hamas continues to exploit protests to foment violence against Israel, finding a way to help the people of Gaza in any meaningful way becomes more and more challenging. Israeli has deep concerns about "the idea of swarming across the barrier, a mass of tens of thousands of people too numerous for Israeli soldiers to arrest or even to shoot." They cite an Israeli colonel's explanation that the protesters are "trying to infiltrate into Israel, damage our

infrastructure and kill Israelis," and that Hamas leader Ismail Radwan urged protestors not to fear death, but instead to welcome martyrdom. Many blame Israel, Egypt and/or the Palestinian Authority for the situation in Gaza. Let's get real about this – Hamas, and its enablers, such as Iran, are squarely to blame for the desperate situation in Gaza. Hamas has consistently put its own destructive priorities above those of Gaza's weary and increasingly desperate population.

The Israelis have indicated that they want to do more to help the people of Gaza, if they could be assured that additional items they allow into Gaza will not be repurposed into weapons or used to build tunnels to attack Israel. Israel might choose to ease restrictions on travel, if it can be assured that those who are crossing into and through Israel will not commit acts of terrorism or smuggling weapons or cash to be used for terrorism. Egypt could also do more to help the people of Gaza, but Egypt shares the same legitimate security concerns as Israel. Additionally, deep and pervasive donor fatigue has set in. No one wants to spend money building and rebuilding, only to find what they built is damaged or destroyed in yet another conflict. Hamas has managed to bring the people of Gaza nearly back to the Stone Age. What an embarrassment, what a desolation, what a failure. (J.Post)

Responsibility for Gaza Deaths Squarely With Hamas, White House

Says: The deaths of 59 Gazan protesters along Israel's border on May 14th are "tragic," but ultimately the responsibility of Hamas – not Israeli defense forces, the Trump administration said. Riots in the coastal strip flared on Monday in response to the opening of a new USA embassy in Jerusalem. Israelis say the ancient city is their undivided capital, and will remain so; but Palestinians insist on having a capital of their own in its eastern districts. The White House has blamed Hamas, a terrorist organization that governs the Strip, for stoking violent protests against Israel that have goaded Israeli security forces. "We believe that Hamas as an organization is engaged in cynical action that is leading to these deaths," Raj Shah, a deputy press secretary at the White House, told reporters. "The responsibility for these tragic deaths rests squarely with Hamas."

Danny Danon, Israeli Ambassador to the UN, has called on the Security Council to condemn Hamas. He said, "Not only does Hamas incite tens of thousands of Palestinians to breach the border and hurt Israeli civilians, but Hamas also deliberately endangers Palestinian civilians. The murder of Israeli civilians or deaths of the people of Gaza – each one of them is a desirable outcome for Hamas." (J.Post/Ynet)

The First Amendment: The Most Important Amendment to the US Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or **prohibiting the free exercise thereof**; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." — The First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Many nations had state churches at the time our Constitution was written. For instance: Lutheranism was the officially recognized state church for countries such as Sweden. The Lutheran church was subsidized and supported by the tax-payers. Other religions were permitted, but they received no support or encouragement from the government. Similar situations existed in other nations, such as Roman Catholicism in many countries. Often those who did not belong to the state church religion were severely persecuted.

Various British colonies on the East Coast of North America also had state churches. The official church for Virginia was Anglicanism, while Roman Catholicism was the state religion of Maryland, and Quakers had a hold on Pennsylvania, etc.

However, according to the US Constitution, there would be no **federal** policy of establishing a nationally sanctioned church. It should be noted that this amendment did not extend to the individual states, which each could still have officially recognized denominations. However, it is fortunate indeed that after the US Constitution was ratified, the individual states chose to **not** have state authorized religions.

Regretfully, the US Constitution is now being interpreted as being anti-religion, whereby there is no place for religion inside of our classrooms, courtrooms, etc. The US Supreme Court has engravings of Moses and the Ten Commandments on its walls. However, when various state courtrooms decide to have a mural with Moses or the Tablets of the Law on their premises, cases have been taken all the way to the Supreme Court. Such murals or displays of religion are being forcibly removed, and the judges who permitted them are forcibly removed from office.

When I was a kid, the Ten Commandments were on the walls of the various classrooms.

None of us vulnerable children were ever traumatized by the display of these Commandments. Each school day began with a non-denominational prayer, plus the Pledge of Allegiance, including the phrase, "**one nation under God.**" We children handled it quite well. Of course, we did have disciplinary problems. Some kids chewed gum in class, made spitballs, and boys passed notes to girls.

There are now competing religions — primarily the religions of atheism and secular humanism. The rights of the atheists and secular humanists now trump the rights of those with Biblical faith. Of course, the disciplinary problems have gotten worse. Schools have metal detectors at the entrance and sometimes armed monitors are in the hallways. Today the children worry about people with assault rifles wiping out dozens of young lives.



Moses at the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court decided in 2015 that homosexual couples now have the right to get married. It may be just a matter of time before men have the right to more than one wife, and to be fair, women will have the right to more than one husband. Where does it end? Homosexual marriage is considered a sin by those who hold fast to the Bible.

However, now people of faith are now being forced to accommodate homosexual weddings. Florists are being fined and forced out of business for refusing to create

floral arrangements for homosexual weddings. Bakers are also being fined and/or forced out of business for refusing to make wedding cakes for homosexual weddings. Medical professionals are sometimes having their careers ended for refusing to participate in abortions. Teachers can never mention God or Biblical faith in the classroom. Teachers teach the theory of evolution as scientific fact, but are not allowed to teach the huge body of scientific evidence against evolution. Teachers are free to endorse homosexuality in the classroom, but are not allowed to speak against it. Where does it end? Secular humanism is now the religion of the classroom. I'm not a great fan of President Donald Trump. However, I am very enthusiastic over Trump's plans to get good judges on our federal courts so that people of faith will have their religious rights — as guaranteed in the First Amendment — once again being protected from liberal, activist judges who are legislating from the bench. And I am also happy that we now have a president that is a friend of Israel. **RAC**

Nikki Haley Slams UN Human Rights Council Because of More Condemnations Against Israel:

The UN Human Rights Council passed five anti-Israel resolutions in Geneva on Friday 23 March, 2018. USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley expressed America's outrage at the UNHRC's treatment of Israel and warned that the USA would reconsider its membership in the body. "When the Human Rights Council treats Israel worse than North Korea, Iran, and Syria, it is the Council itself that is foolish and unworthy of its name. Our patience is not unlimited. Today's actions make clear that the organization lacks the credibility needed to be a true advocate for human rights." One resolution called on Israel to give the Golan Heights to civil war-torn Syria. Another called on member states not to sell any military armaments to Israel. Others called for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1948 lines and to cease building homes for Jews in Judea & Samaria. (JNS)



Holocaust Survivor's Body Found Burnt, Stabbed In Paris Apartment:

The National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, or BNVA, wrote in a statement 25 March, 2018 that the murder of the 85-year-old woman, identified in the French media as Mirelle Kanol, "is reminiscent of the crime committed against Sarah Halimi," a 66-year-old Jewish teacher and physician whom prosecutors say was murdered by her Muslim neighbor in April 2017, partly in connection with her Jewish identity. According to the BNVA, the octogenarian's body was set on fire last Friday night 23 March, 2018. Her charred body also had at least 11 stab wounds. Prosecutors investigating the slaying of the Holocaust survivor in Paris said the two suspects in custody targeted her because she was Jewish. One of the suspects was a regular visitor of Kanol's whom she treated "like a son" and who had visited her that day, Kanol's son told media sources. Kanol's granddaughter, Noa Goldfarb, wrote on Facebook that her grandmother had been murdered by a Muslim neighbor. France's half-a-million-plus Jewish community has voiced increasing concern over a rise in violent anti-Semitic acts. (JTA)

Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265
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Why Left-Wing Jews Should Support Israel, by Lee Bender www.zoa.org

Professor Alan Dershowitz is undoubtedly correct when he argues: If you are in favor of women's rights, gay rights, minority rights, civil rights, a robust free press, independent judiciary, high quality education and health care, then there is only one place in the Middle East that shares these "progressive values," and that is Israel. Certainly you won't find such values in the Palestinian Authority-governed areas, or in any of the 21 Arab and 56 Muslim-dominated countries.

The latest Gallup Poll released March 13, 2018 (and recent Pew Poll also) has some generally good news: US sympathies for Israel are at 64%, matching a long-term high, with 74% of Americans viewing Israel favorably vs. 21% for the Palestinian Authority. Other findings: 83% of Republicans, 72% of independents and 64% of Democrats view Israel favorably....

We need to convince progressives that Israel's values are theirs: That Israel's case is based on its *bona fides*: a world leader in innovation, technology and discovery that shares with the world amazing technologies in agriculture, water, medicine, computers, security; is a first-world responder to humanitarian crises around the world; provides free medical care to thousands of Arab war refugees and civilians from Syria and around the region.

Jews (population 14 million world-wide, 6.8 million in Israel) and their tiny state of Israel is the true "David" vs. the Goliath of the Arab and Muslim worlds (21 Arab countries, 400 million in population, with land mass 625 times that of Israel). That illiberal Arab and Palestinian regimes and groups openly call for genocide of the Jewish People and destruction of their state; pay terrorists to murder Jews; indoctrinate and incite hate in their charters, mosques, schools, camps and media against peace.

Lee Bender is the co-author of the book, *Pressing Israel: Media Bias Exposed From A-Z* (Pavilion Press 2012), co-developer of the website and app, www.factsonisrael.com and co-president of the Zionist Organization of America-Philadelphia.

Israel at 70: Flourishing Against All Odds - Dore Gold

(Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs)

- The rebirth of Israel is nothing short of a miracle. It involved dedication and commitment of a national movement that began with the establishment of Zionism, which is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people. That movement brought the energies of a people back together and allowed for the Declaration of Independence by David Ben-Gurion in 1948.

- At its birth, Israel was attacked by multiple Arab armies around it. Territorially, Israel is a country with little or no strategic depth. It takes only four minutes for a jet fighter to cross from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, giving Israel very little early warning time. Ten thousand square miles. You could drop Israel into the Great Lakes, and you wouldn't even hear the splash. Our Arab neighbors have 650 times the amount of territory. That gives them a distinct strategic advantage.

- That's the miracle that Israelis will think about when they consider what the meaning is of the country being 70 years old. There was this extraordinary commitment to innovation. Every time our adversaries threw at us another strategic challenge, we had an answer.

- Recently, we've been facing this threat of rocket fire from Lebanon and Gaza. So Israel develops the first really working rocket defense system. To replace the rockets, our adversaries develop tunnels to allow terrorists to come in their hundreds into Israeli territory and kill innocent civilians. So Israel makes the first anti-tunnel system in the world.

- Israel also developed a formula for integrating diverse immigrants into our society - people from backgrounds like the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Germany, the United States, India, Great Britain - and despite many flavors of Israeli society we became one. That determination, that commitment to making the Zionist experiment work, gave us enormous strength for facing every challenge that was hurled against us.

- People like to ask, is Israel closer to being a Sparta, a military powerhouse, or an Athens, a country with art, poetry, and excellent universities? Frankly, Israel has to be both. You can't have an Athens in a dangerous Middle East unless you have some qualities of being a Sparta, which is able to defend itself. Since the days of its founding in 1948, Israel developed a doctrine that it must defend itself by itself.

Ambassador Dore Gold, President of the Jerusalem Center, served in 2015-16 as Director-General of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously he served as Israel's Ambassador to the UN.

American Jewish Officer Recounts Nazi Horrors - Amir Alon

In May 1945, Dr. Alvin Weinstein, a Jewish doctor in the American army, wrote to his wife of the scenes he witnessed at a recently liberated Nazi concentration camp. Following his death last year, Weinstein's letters and pictures were donated in February by his family to the archives of the Massuah Institute for Holocaust Studies in Tel Yitzhak.

"Believe it or not, I was the commander of a concentration camp near the Alps." Weinstein described the physical condition of the prisoners he met, including some who survived death marches. "I saw 243 starved, tortured and disease-stricken bodies that were once human beings. 170 of them were Polish Jews who were the only survivors of the 1,600 who had left the Buchenwald concentration camp. They walked 440 km. barefoot for 28 days. They were given five potatoes a day and no water. Anyone who fell or received food from civilians was shot dead by SS soldiers." (*Ynet News*)

Israel's Population Tops 8.8 Million On Eve Of 70th Independence Day:

Israel's population stands at 8.84 million in April 2018 on the eve of the Jewish state's 70th Independence Day, the Central Bureau for Statistics announced. Jews make up approximately three quarters of the total population with 6.589 million residents, while the Arab minority has reached roughly 1.849 million, or 20.9%. The remainder of the population registry includes 404,000 people. Israel's population has increased by 1.9% — 163,000 people — in the past year, the CBS says: 177,000 babies were born; roughly 41,000 people died. (Times of Israel)

Seneca Nation Celebrates Israel's Independence Day:

The Seneca Nation, a federally recognized Seneca tribe based in western New York State, officially recognized 19 April 2018, as the '70th Anniversary of Israel's Independence.' The proclamation states that "the Seneca Nation and the State of Israel share in common a passion for freedom and a willingness to fight for and defend our sovereignty and our shared right to be a free and independent people." The proclamation further states: "The Seneca nation has admiration and respect for the warrior spirit of the Israeli people. The warrior spirit of the Israeli people has enabled the State of Israel to protect and defend its sovereignty and its very existence against all that have tried to destroy it. Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Todd Gates, President of the Seneca Nation of Indians, do hereby declare April 19, 2018 as Israeli Independence Day on the territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians." (Arutz-7)

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE HOLDS FIRST-EVER MEETINGS WITH JEWISH LEADERS:

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman met with a number of Jewish leaders on 28 March, 2018 in New York, Bloomberg reported. The visit was the first time the crown prince has met with any Jewish leaders. "The meeting emphasized the common bond among all people, particularly people of faith, which stresses the importance of tolerance, coexistence, and working together for a better

future for all of humanity," stated the Saudi Embassy. Mohammed Bin Salman has been in the United States for a 3-week tour to meet with senior USA officials, including President Trump and Jared



Kushner. In an interview last month with CBS, the Saudi royal vowed to build an atomic arsenal of his own should Iran get nuclear capabilities. "Saudi Arabia does not want to acquire any nuclear bombs, but without a doubt if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible," the Crown Prince said. Since his sudden appointment as Crown Prince, Prince Mohammed has consolidated power, announcing crackdowns on both terrorism and corruption. During an international business summit in Nov. 2017 he announced that the ultra-conservative kingdom would adopt a moderate and open interpretation of Islam. (Arutz-7/Blumbersg)

Future Saudi King Appears to Unofficially Recognize Israel

April 3, 2018 www.IsraelToday.co.il

Israel and Saudi Arabia still have no official diplomatic relations, but the future monarch of the oil-rich kingdom appeared to unofficially recognize the Jewish state in remarks to American media this week. We say "unofficial" because it's still not a matter of official policy. At the same time, the Crown Prince expressing personal views in his official capacity is, well, "official."

In an interview with the US magazine *The Atlantic*, Prince Mohammed bin Salman was asked if he believes the Jewish people have a right to a state of their own on their ancestral homeland.

Now, it's already something for liberal mainstream media outlets to refer to this land as the "ancestral homeland" of the Jewish people, which both *The Atlantic* and *Reuters* did. This demonstrates that the Palestinian narrative, which denies any Jewish connection to this land, is losing

ground.

But Prince Mohammed's response was even more telling. "I believe the Palestinians and the Israelis have the right to have their own land. But we have to have a peace agreement to assure the stability for everyone and to have normal relations," he said.

Prince Mohammed still wants a Palestinian Arab state in the so-called "West Bank" and Gaza, but has no problem with the State of Israel existing on the rest of the land as the nation-state of the Jewish people.

It is a major breakthrough for a top Arab leader to be saying such things publicly. But Prince Mohammed went further, telling *The Atlantic* that he looks forward to the conclusion of an Israel-Palestinian peace deal so that the Jewish state and

its Arab neighbors can finally start working together openly.

"There are a lot of interests we share with Israel and if there is peace, there would be a lot of interest between Israel and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries," the future Saudi ruler added.

Christians Flee PA Oppression: Dr. Ephraim Herrera, an expert on Islamic studies, explained how Muslim oppression is causing Christians to leave the city of Bethlehem, where they were once the majority. "Before the Palestinian Authority took control of these territories, about 85% of the population of Bethlehem were Christian citizens, and now they are less than 10% because the Palestinians prevent them from applying their faith and performing their customs and their prayers," said Dr. Herrera. "Therefore, they fled from here." He pointed to nearby Beit Jala, which has a predominantly Christian population. "You see Beit Jala. I used to go there and to buy from Christians oil and eggs and we lived in peace with them. And now we cannot go there because they will kill me just for the fact I am a Jew. No Jew can live there. And the Christians are oppressed there." He said the Palestinian Authority (PA) accuses Israel of committing the very crimes the PA itself commits. "Saeb Erekat, who belongs to the Fatah committee, said that we oppress the Christians in Israel. We are the only country in which the Christians live in peace and they can have their faith and practice it in all the Middle East." (Arutz-7) Urgent is the need for ongoing intercession for the plight of persecuted Christians in PA and Hamas controlled areas, plus across Islamist countries. Please pray for their protection and fair treatment.

What Jewish actor was the FIRST bad boy method actor, and, at the time, had the largest funeral of any celebrity since Valentino?

Jacob Julius Garfinkle aka John Garfield who grew up in poverty on the Lower East Side, and later said "If I hadn't been an actor I might have become Public Enemy #1.

On Broadway and in the Movies Garfield was an early proponent of the "Method" which was later adopted by Montgomery Clift, Marlon Brando & James Dean.

With a bad heart and the stress of possibly losing his career due to being named to the Black List, John Garfield died of a massive heart attack at the age of 39. Over 10,000 people crowded outside the cemetery at his funeral.

What movie of 1942 cast 4 Jews, an Irishman & a German as California Mexicans?

"Tortilla Flat", from the book by John Steinbeck, a movie about a bunch of poor Monterrey, CA. Mexicans who just sit around and kvetch (complain) all day. The cast consisted of 4 Jews: Hedy Lamarr a Viennese Jew with a strong German accent, John Garfield & Sheldon Leonard both Jews with strong New York accents, and Akim Tamiroff a Russian Jew with a strong Russian Accent. In addition, they cast the very Irish Spencer Tracy and the German American Frank Morgan!!! Not a decent Mexican accent in the bunch.

What Film played a NYC neighborhood theatre in the early 1950's whose marquee read: "Starring Bernard Schwartz and Rosetta Jacobs"?

"The Prince Who Was a Thief" starred Tony Curtis and Piper Laurie. Both were local Jews, born on the lower Eastside of NYC, and well known in that neighborhood by their real names.

What 19 year old Jewish girl hung out with Hitler & Mussolini, married a semi-Nazi munitions dealer, made a semi-porn film that got world-wide release, then ran off to Paris & London where she met Louis B. Mayer, eventually becoming one of MGM's biggest stars? Eva Maria Kiesler aka Hedy Lamarr born November 9, 1914 in Austria. She was called The Most Beautiful Woman in the World, and helped invent a process called Frequency Hopping which was used in military code breaking machines, and later in cell phones. (She was also the model for Walt Disney's animated "Snow White" movie.)

What famous Jewish stand-up comic saw his first movie, as a little kid sitting in the lap of singer Billie Holiday at the Lowes Commodore, N.Y.C.

Billy Crystal

Famous Jews in Entertainment

What Jewish man was the first & greatest swashbuckling movie hero known as the First King of Hollywood?

Thomas Ullman aka Douglas Fairbanks Sr.

What two Jewish stars of the Yiddish stage became movie super stars playing Italian Gangsters?

Emanuel Goldenberg aka Edward G. Robinson with Little Caesar in 1931 and Muni Weisenfreund aka Paul Muni with Scarface in 1932.

Who was the first Jewish professional baseball player?

Emanuel Lipman Pike, in 1866, he accepted \$20 a week to play.

What Jewish superstar, as a kid in the 1930's, would pee off the roof of his tenement building onto parading American Nazis?

Bernie Schwartz, aka Tony Curtis.

What Jewish leading lady missed out on playing Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With the Wind" over her affair with Charlie Chaplin?

Marion Pauline Levy aka Paulette Goddard. Producer David O. Selznick was afraid Paulette's fooling around with Charlie would hurt the box office of the movie so decided against casting her.

What Jewish TV star, a comedian, hung one of his young writers out of an 18th floor window until he agreed that a joke was funny?

Sid Caesar hung writer Melvin Kaminsky (Mel Brooks) out the window until the other writers restrained Sid!

What Jewish silent film star was the movies' first Femme Fatale?

Known as The Vamp, it was Theodosia Burr Goodman aka Theda Bara. At the height of her fame she ranked in popularity behind only Mary Pickford and Charlie Chaplin.

What Jewish movie star he-man wore dresses as a kid?

Issur Danielovitch aka Kirk Douglas. He was the only boy among 4 or 5 older sisters. They couldn't afford toys, so they treated him as their own private dress-up doll. Then as a teen he muscled up and became macho to prove his manhood...*(I am Spartacus!!!)*

What Jewish comedian was TV's first superstar and was so popular that NBC gave him a 30-year contract?

"Mr. Television" was Mendel Berlinger aka Milton Berle.

(Submitted by Rabbi Sid Kleiner)

Jordan, Israel, may finally begin project to save Dead Sea from drying up. Israel and Jordan have long pursued a common goal to stop the Dead Sea from shrinking while slaking their shared thirst for drinking water with a pipeline from the Red Sea some 200 kilometers away...

The degradation of the Dead Sea, on the border of Israel, Jordan and Judea and Samaria, began in the 1960s when water began to be heavily diverted from the Jordan River. "Before 1967, the water was just a 10-minute walk from my house," said Musa Salim al-Athem, a farmer who grows tomatoes on the banks on the Jordan side. Now it takes an hour," he said, standing amid the resulting lunar landscape of spectacular salt sculptures, gaping sink-holes and craters. Only the (Red) sea can fill up the sea."

"Since 1950, the amount flowing in the Jordan has dropped from 1.2 billion cubic meters per year (42 billion cubic feet) to less than 200 million," said Frederic Maurel, an engineering expert at the French development agency AFD.

Heavy production of potash, used for making fertilizer, has also accelerated evaporation that has seen the sea's surface area shrink by a third since 1960. Experts say water levels are falling one meter (over three feet) a year, and warn it could dry out completely within 30 years.

One hundred years ago, Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, had envisaged filling the Dead Sea via a canal dug to the Mediterranean. The sea's natural beauty and mineral-rich black mud have also provided a source of tourism revenue.

"The Dead Sea has historical, biblical, natural, touristic, medical and industrial values that make it an invaluable cultural, environmental and economic treasure," said Avner Adin, a specialist in water science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. After years of studies, the \$1.1 billion Red Sea "Peace Conduit" deal was signed by Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian Authority in 2013.

The project, located entirely on Jordanian territory, includes a desalination plant near Aqaba. After producing drinking water, the remaining highly saline liquid will be sent by pipeline to fill the Dead Sea, powering two hydroelectric plants along the way.

A subsequent 2015 deal would see Israel get 35 billion cubic meters of potable water from the desalination plant for its parched southern regions. The mostly desert Jordan, for its part, would get up to 50 billion cubic meters of freshwater from the Sea of Galilee. Israel also agreed to sell 32 billion cubic meters to the Palestinian Authority.

Dead Sea's Revival With Red Sea Canal is Close to Reality

www.israelnationalnews.com

Jordan announced in November 2016 that it had chosen 5 international consortiums to build the first phase of the canal. But talks on how to finance the deal, which calls for \$400 million of public funding, and geopolitical flare-ups have kept the project from moving forward.

Some \$120 million has already been pledged by donors including the US and Japan, while France's AFD agency has secured the backing of the EU and some member states for \$140 million in preferential loans to Jordan. For Adin at the Hebrew University, "It seems to be that the situation is improving. The main obstacle in my mind could be financial."

Billy Graham And Israel

by Tuly Weisz www.ipost.com

More than half a century ago, as a friend and counselor to president Dwight Eisenhower, Billy Graham went on his first visit to Israel.

Graham's description of his 1960 trip is significant: "When I first took a preaching tour of Israel, I stayed with Mrs. Golda Meir, who was then foreign secretary, and promised her that I was not there to proselytize. Rather, I was there to thank the Jewish people for proselytizing me." Graham was one of the first Christian leaders to publicly acknowledge the debt of gratitude owed toward Judaism and to move Evangelicals away from evangelizing Jews. It was his close relationship with president Richard Nixon, however, that was most pivotal with regard to Graham's polarizing legacy within the Jewish community.

In 1973, when a coalition of Arab armies launched a surprise attack on Yom Kippur, Israel found itself in a state of shock and in desperate need of weapons. Graham picked up the phone and convinced his friend Nixon to assist his other friend prime minister Golda Meir. Graham's call helped persuade the United States to provide an emergency airlift of essential arms that rescued the Jewish state from the overwhelming Arab onslaught.

Over the course of Billy Graham's long life, he topped lists of admired men and became America's most influential religious leader. Despite growing up in a deeply anti-Semitic environment, Graham used his tremendous influence as pastor to presidents and preacher to millions to assist Israel and the Jewish people. Graham shifted Evangelical Christianity to become more philo-Semitic and influenced US policy toward greater support for Israel and we are seeing the positive results of his efforts today.

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Guatemala Not 'Moving,' But 'Returning' to Jerusalem, says Foreign Minister Jovel

by **Batya Jerenberg** WorldIsraelNews.com

Three weeks after President Donald Trump declared that the United States recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital and that the US would start the process of moving its embassy there from Tel Aviv, Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales announced his own embassy's move in a Facebook post on December 24th.

On December 26, his foreign minister, Sandra Jovel, held a press conference in Guatemala City to deny that any pressure was brought to bear on Guatemala to do so. "There wasn't any pressure. There wasn't any overture from the United States to make this happen," she said. "This was a decision by the government, the state and the foreign policy of Guatemala."

Jovel was adamant that there was *no quid pro quo* involved in the decision. "We are friends and historical allies with Israel ... We have asked nothing of Israel or the United States."

She also made a point of stating that Guatemala was not "moving" to Jerusalem, but rather "returning." The Central American state was one of only 16 countries to establish its embassy in Jerusalem after being one of the first countries to recognize Israel after the state was declared.

It left in 1980, in a period of more strained relations, when the Knesset passed the Basic Law on Jerusalem, which stated that the city would remain the "complete and united capital of Israel." At the time in 1980, in a move reminiscent of December's General Assembly vote rejecting Trump's declaration on Jerusalem, the UN Security Council condemned that Basic Law as being a violation of international law and passed Resolution 478, calling upon member states to remove their diplomatic missions from the city, which Guatemala then did.

In December's vote, Guatemala was one of only seven nations to join the US and Israel in rejecting the UN's condemnation. Historically, the country has had close relations with Israel, especially in the field of security. Morales has now brought the two countries even closer. Israel was the **first** Western country he visited after gaining office, when he signed bilateral agreements in agriculture, science and development.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warmly thanked Morales for his declaration of recognition, saying that this was "just the start" and "there will be others." Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said that her ministry was in touch with 10 other countries that were thinking of following in the footsteps of the US, although she would not name them while discussions were ongoing.

Onkelos: A Famous Convert to Judaism (Source: Wikipedia)

Onkelos is mentioned several times in the Talmud. According to the traditional Jewish sources, he was a prominent Roman nobleman, a nephew of the Roman emperor Titus. The Midrash Tanhuma says he was a nephew of Hadrian, and not Titus. The story goes that his uncle, the Roman Emperor, advised Onkelos to go out and find something that wasn't worth much today but would be invaluable in the future. Onkelos found Judaism...

After his conversion, the Talmud records a story of how the Roman emperor tried to have Onkelos arrested (*Avodah Zarah* 11a). Onkelos cited verses from the Tanakh to the first Roman legion, who then converted. The second legion was also converted, after he juxtaposed God's personal guidance of Israel in the Book of Numbers to the Roman social hierarchy. A similar tactic was used for the third legion, where Onkelos compared his mezuzah to a symbol of God guarding the home of every Jew, in contrast to a Roman king who has his servants guard him. The third legion also converted and no more were sent.

According to tradition, Onkelos authored the Targum Onkelos as an exposition of the "official" interpretation of the *pshat* (or basic meaning) of the Torah as received by Eliezer ben Hurcanus and Joshua ben Hananiah. This helped canonize the status of both Onkelos and his Targum in the Jewish tradition. (Targum Onkelos is the Aramaic translation of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, completed by Onkelos. **RAC**)

Dry Bones



Rabbi Asher (a friend and colleague in Scotland) had an amazing opportunity at the local Friends of Israel meeting, to hear three Arab Israelis speak about their experiences. These three young people are so at odds with the usual presentation of the Arab experience in Israel that I thought it was worth asking him to write about what they had to say.

The young lady is Lorena Khteeb. She is 21, a graduate of Haifa University, in Tourism. She is Druze.¹ She completed her National Service and now tours with Reservists on Duty, as part of their Israeli Minorities program. She said that the rights enjoyed by Druze in Israel are superior to those of Druze in any other part of the middle east.

Then we have Mohammad Kabiya, a Bedouin from the Galil area. His great grandfather was the first Bedouin sheikh to sign an agreement with the Palmach before the state, to fight against the Arabs. When he was in school the teachers in the Christian state school in Nazereth tried to tell him that he was not an Israeli, but a Palestinian. He was confused by this and had to decide who he was and which side he was on. All his brothers were in the Israel Defense Force. His whole family has a history as IDF soldiers, and he chose Israel. When asked what he wanted to be when he graduated, he would reply "I want to be a soldier and serve my country."

When someone spoke out against "the current government" moving Bedouin from their camps into towns, he shot it down by replying that "We are in the 21st century. All the younger generation see that traditions are good, but it is time to leave the tents and live in houses!" When he spoke of the Fatah and Hamas, it was with such vehemence and hostility that he sounded like Naftali Bennet and I told him so.

We also have Jonathan Elkhoury. He is a Lebanese refugee. His father fought for the South Lebanese Army, and when Israel withdrew, his father came with them, but his mother thought that the Lebanese and Israel would sign an agreement and they would be safe. He said that when Hezbollah came the day after the withdrawal, they destroyed everything that Israel had built: hospitals, schools, even sewage systems, but did not replace anything. They began to "disappear" men and persecute the population. So one day his mother told the family to pack a suitcase and to take something important with them. She said that they were going to Beirut to visit family, but instead they went to the airport. Their relatives were there to see them off and were weeping, so he wondered at age 9 why if it was just a holiday, as his mother now said;

¹ Technically, the Druze are a non-Arab minority. Their religion is also separate from Islam.

Israeli Arab Zionists

submitted by
Dr. Ruth Fleischer

to visit her brother in the USA... That is how he came to Israel. His parents moved to Hafia, to be in the Arab Christian community, only to find that they were labeled traitors for fighting on the side of Israel! So he attended a Jewish state school, where the teachers took turns to spend extra time with him, teaching him Hebrew and in 3 months he was fluent.

He took Israeli citizenship and joined the IDF. He is now one of the leaders of Reservists on Duty, which was set up to counter the leis of Breaking the Silence. Their Disraeli minorities program tours Europe and the USA challenging the anti-Israel movements.

Crypto-Jews Return To Roots After 500

Years: Crypto-Judaism is secret adherence to Judaism while publicly professing to be of another faith; practitioners are referred to as "crypto-Jews." Today, individuals and communities in Spain and Portugal, and the places where Jews fled from there, have been discovering evidence of their Jewish ancestry and started openly practicing the faith that their ancestors were barred from keeping for centuries. Jews who converted in Spain in the 15th century were officially known as *Cristianos Nuevos* (New Christians), but were commonly called *conversos*. Spain and Portugal passed legislation restricting their rights in the mother countries and colonies; only Christians were allowed to go to the New World. The "Belmonte Jews" of Portugal dating from the 12th century maintained strong secret traditions for centuries. An entire community survived in secrecy by maintaining a tradition of endogamous marriage and hiding all external signs of their faith. They and their practices were rediscovered only in the 20th century. Some say they are retracing their Jewish roots from the days of the Spanish Inquisition; others have adopted a new way of life, to Judaism. "Dozens of families that once belonged to a church, became Jews, unusual in one of the most Catholic of nations." (I24)

Israel is 11th Happiest Country in the

World: Israel is the 11th happiest country in the world, according to a report published days ago by the United Nations. The report ranks happiness based on six categories: levels of income, freedom, trust, healthy life expectancy, social support, and generosity. The ten countries which placed higher than Israel are, in order, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden, and Australia. The United States ranked 18th in the report. The United Arab Emirates was the second happiest nation in the Middle East behind Israel, placing 20th in the world listings. (Arutz-7)

Vision for Israel, POB 7265, Jerusalem 9107301

Messianic Directory

◆ CALIFORNIA

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

◆ COLORADO

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

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

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

◆ GEORGIA

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

◆ ILLINOIS

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

◆ NEBRASKA

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

◆ NEW JERSEY

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

◆ NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

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

◆ PENNSYLVANIA

Congregation of Yahshua Messiah. Cong. Leader: Bob Young. Shabbat services, 11 am. Call 412-372-5173. pathwayoflight.org

◆ RHODE ISLAND

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

◆ TEXAS

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

◆ UTAH

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

◆ WASHINGTON STATE

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

◆ WISCONSIN

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

"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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INTERNATIONAL**BRAZIL**

A.G. Jewish Congregation and Petah Tikvah Yeshiva. Messianic Rabbis J. Berlandi and David Cassady. Mauricio Amancio, 297, Camoxinga, Santana do Ipanema, Alagoas, 57500-000. Jew-Cassady0@gmail.com

ETHIOPIA

Obtain beautiful Judaica, hand-crafted by Bete-Israelis (black Jews) in Ethiopia. Contact: Daniel Belay, PO Box 4941, Addis Ababa.

daniel_belay95@yahoo.com

HOLLAND (Netherlands)

Beth Yeshua. Rabbi Lion Erwteman. Veluwelaan 20, Amsterdam. Call 31-20-890-6950.

INDIA

Living Elohim Ministry. Mandavalli, Krishna District, A.P. 521345. PastorKMoshe@gmail.com

INDONESIA

Moriah Messianic Ministries. Jakarta Coltwo_id@wihardjo.com

PHILIPPINES

Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship. PO Box 212, 2600 Baguio City. Write to this address for the Asian edition of *Petah Tikvah Magazine*.

Baguio City Messianic Congregation. PO Box 212, 2600 Baguio City. Shabbat services. bonicarl@gmail.com

Bayit HaShem. PO Box 3272, 1200 Makati City. Visit blog at bayit hashem.com. Max 'Nonong' Tuason. (Author of great books! **RAC**)

La Trinidad Bible Congregation. PO Box 133, 2601 LaTrinidad, Benguet. Shabbat services. Ph. 63-74-445-5144

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

Check out our website. We appreciate the work of our webmaster, Josiah Lebowitz. We have separate sections for articles in Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, English, Indonesian, and Estonian. English articles are divided up according to topic (History, Bible, Holy Days, News Items, Israel)

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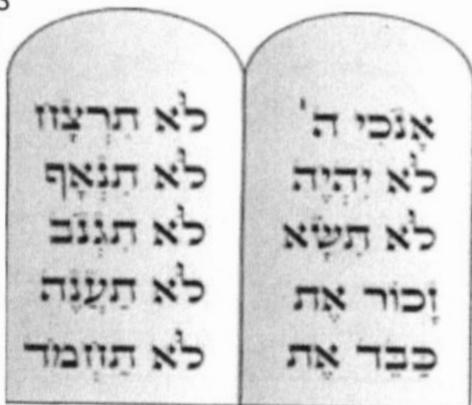
Our cover art was once again done for us by **Bryan Picken #447508**, St. Louis C.F., 320 Hubbard St, St. Louis MI 48880. He is an inmate of remarkable gifting, devoted to HaShem. Bryan's artwork has been a great addition to **Petah Tikvah**. Toda raba!

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

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Sat 5 pm. Sun 08 am.

Bintaro Messianic Congregation

Bumi Bintaro Permai D7-8

South Jakarta 12320.

Contact: Benyamin Obadyah

+62-21-7364258

Sat 10 am and 5 pm.

Shoresh Messianic Fellowship

Plaza Pasifik Bld A1/ 1,

4th Fl, Jl Raya Boulevard Barat

Kelapa Gading, North Jakarta

Contact: Benyamin Obadyah

+62-812-9912-430

CENTRAL JAVA

Sat 10 am

Purwokerto Messianic Congregation

Jl Jend Sudirman 883,

Purwokerto, Central Java

Contact: Bambang Rianto +62-8886657801

EAST JAVA

Sat 5 pm *Kehilat Mesianik Congregation*

JL Wonokromo 7/5, Mojosari,

Kab Mojokerto, East Java

Contact: Judo Nugroho +62-81913224624

SOUTH KALIMANTAN

Sat 10 am

Banjarmasin Messianic Congregation

Jl Pasar Baru 2, Banjarmasin,

South Kalimantan

Contact: Edy Purwanto +62-8125189517

NORTH SULAWESI

Sat 3 pm *Mesias Messianic Congregation*

Ring Road Tikela Jaga I, Kec Tambulu,

Minahasa, North Sulawesi.

Contact: John Kandores. 085240364116

Sat 10 am

Yerushalayim Messianic Congregation

Manado, North Sulawesi

Contact: Jeffrey Rualemba +62-89655471976

Sat 10 am *Netivyah Ministry*

Jl Garuda 37, Manado, North Sulawesi.

Contact: Oral Bollegraf. +62-853 98128567

PAPUA

Sat 10 am

El Shaddai Messianic Congregation

Jl Argapura Kanon, Jayapura, Papua

Contact: Sebelum Karubaba +62-81247562203

Sat 10 am

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation

Jl Pasir Dua, Jayapura, Papua.

Contact: Benny Karubaba +62-812 47082149

KOREA

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

R#301, 150-2 Nonhyungdong

Gangnamgu, Seoul Korea 135-82

Contact: Yehoshua Jo

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

JAPAN

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10:00 AM

4-14-11 Midorigaoka, Taihaku-ku

Sendai-shi, Miyagi 982

Contact: Takashi Yokoyama

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

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat Service from 13:00

R# 301,3-9-12 Shinmachi Kitaku

Tokyo, Japan 114-0012

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

www.shalom-messianic.org

NEW ZEALAND

Talmidei Yeshua New Zealand

Messianic Network of New Zealand

P.O. Box 512 Hastings 4122 NZ

Contact: talmidimnz@gmail.com

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

Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Kehilah

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

PO Box 44 118 Pt Chevalier

Auckland 1246 New Zealand

Contact: talmidimak@gmail.com

SINGAPORE

Blk 620 Bukit Batok Central #29-522

Singapore 650620

Contact: Song Lai Hee

+65-90027471 laihee@gmail.com

THAILAND

Bangkok Messianic House

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

DIASPORA APMF:

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

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Mario Meneses: mmmlawoffices@yahoo.com

MEMBER OF APMF:

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

IN FELLOWSHIP WITH APMF:

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

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

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

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

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

Talakag Messianic Fellowship
Talakag, Bukidnon

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

GREATER MANILA AREA:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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