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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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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

April 2018



Rejoice in the LORD always, and again I say **REJOICE!**

You will recognize this of course as one of your memory verses, Philippians 4:4. Where was Paul when he wrote this? **In prison!** Then in 4:11 he says, *for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be **content**.* So to apply this to myself, I am "imprisoned" at home in Florida to honor my vows to "take care of my wife in sickness and in health so long as we both shall live," and I need to be content about it. Paul wrote this along with 3 other epistles and witnessing to those around him, making **good use of his time** while in prison.

Paul's life and ministry have been good examples for me and I hope for you, also. Today, we have the use of Internet by which we can keep in touch, and the blessing of writing this "Greetings" to you to be sent to **Rachel** to edit, format and put in the April-June APMF Edition of *Petah Tikvah* magazine. This current issue, back issues and APMF information can be found at www.APMFInc.com. There is also a link to my website, www.Walkwitz.com/Roger at which you will find MANY documents and Newsletters to learn from.

So I also **Rejoice today for Rachel** who is very efficient and capable to handle *Petah Tikvah* magazine and seems content in doing so for many years now. Toda Raba, Rachel!!

Another good use of my time now is compiling all of my documents into **Volume 2 of According to Roger, My Understanding of Bible Truth. Luke 1:1. Things most surely to be believed.**"

It will take a few months to do this as I can only use spare moments between taking care of Naomi in wheelchair day and night, preparing meals, doing dishes, laundry, cleaning, shopping, all the things Naomi used to do, and while in the Philippines, the superb help of **Elisa** for nearly 25 years who was also gifted to teach children. She finished only Grade 6 and 1 year of Basic Bible School while we were on home service but college grads learned how to teach children from her!! Do not hesitate to jump in to do the work of the Lord as you see ministries that need to be done!! Gifting will follow if you are doing what Yeshua has asked you to do!!!

A reminder again, ministry in the Congregation of the LORD, the *Kehilah*, the *Ekklesia* does not **depend** on academic achievement as in the secular world which is one reason we do not have an **elite class of clergy**. Learn all you can, of course, **to show yourself approved by God** as one who is not lazy but diligent, making good use of your time and abilities! We all have Bibles now which were not available in Bible times but only the scrolls at the Synagogues, so **no excuse!** Also, do not risk being ashamed at the Return of Yeshua!!!!!!

Before I started editing and compiling all my teaching documents for my Volume 2 book, I asked the publisher of my first book if he is ready and willing to do it again. If not, then it is too much work for me as I have no publisher here in the USA. However, **Michael Basilio's** reply was actually enthusiastic to do it! Here is what he said: " I am excited that you are working on your book, and I will be privileged to, help

you make it happen again!" Wow! When OMF Publishers in Manila refused to publish my first book, Michael heard about it and said, "Give me the CD. I will do it." The result was amazing, a superb book, superior to anything I have seen published by OMF...or many others! So Toda Raba, Michael!! I am working on it... be patient. Hope to have it ready for sale by Hanukkah time and of course, at our next Annual Conference #17.

I assume by now most of you have seen the Power Point presentation about our new Torah Teaching Tracts project. It was shown at the recent Conference and copies of our first Tract were on sale at the Book Table. For many years I have bought and given out hundreds of "Chick Tracts" which are Christian messages in a pocket size comic strip style. But being Messianic now for more than 25 years, I wanted a similar pocket size tract that would teach on issues important to us but ignored or taught wrongly by others. After witnessing verbally to someone it can be helpful to leave a Teaching Tract with them on the subject to further add to your words. Do not underestimate the power of the printed page! Cell phones and laptops will never replace it.

To accomplish these Teaching Tracts we have within APMF another talented person whose artistic ability was known but not utilized until I asked Ian Asuncion if he would like to produce some comic style pocket tracts with significant Messianic messages. He jumped at the chance and actually had wanted to do something artistically for a long time so together we are beginning that Project that we hope will be a big help. APMF people are beginning to be more active to do the Great Commission... outreach evangelism on solid Bible Truth foundation so these Teaching Tracts can come in handy and helpful.

Our first Torah Tract is: *Is the Law Opposed to Grace?* Torah Tract #2 is: *Is Messiah the End of the Law?* Both are illustrated very nicely and printed very well and clearly explain these two issues that the church has taught wrongly for centuries! Truth will Triumph! The selling price is basically our printing cost. Contact me if you would like to print your own. Otherwise, you can buy from Ian, Ted Franco or Boni Doques at BCMC, our main APMF Bookstore in Baguio. Future tracts will also deal with Israel, prophecy and current events.

Now here is an OFFER that "you cannot resist." If you are active in teaching and passing on Bible information personally, there might be issues or Bible passages that you would like to see dealt with in future Torah Teaching Tracts that would help you in your witnessing ministry and you think would also be of interest to other active "evangelists," send me an email with some description about it. If we agree with you and we had not already planned on it before and we decide to produce this Tract, I will give you 40 copies of the first printing!! 40 is a very biblical number as you know.

On May 14, 1948, President Truman gave official recognition to the rebirth of ISRAEL, the first nation to do so, right after PM David ben Gurion proclaimed on the radio the Independence of the new State of Israel. Now on May 14, 2018, 70 years later, President Trump with a large entourage from his Administration, will cut the ribbon to open the new US Embassy in Jerusalem! Two historic FIRSTS!!

These persons who are pro-Israel are now on Trump's Team: VP Mike Pence, Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State, Nikki Haley as US Ambassador to the UN, John Bolton as National Security Advisor, David Friedman as the US Ambassador to Israel, Sarah Sanders as Press Secretary as well as Trump himself and others. Some previous persons in these categories were actually pro-Arab; they are out now!

Pompeo has a huge job to clean out the US State Department that has been filled with anti-Israel staff and officers continuously for nearly the last 100 years! President Roosevelt (FDR) was also anti-Israel which is why he refused to accept Jewish refugees during WW2; terrible!!!

Obama was also anti-Israel while promoting Islam as much as he could, even in our government, another task that Trump has, to clean out the sleeper-cell Muslims who are dangerous since they have no intention to become Americans and live by US Law but will promote Sharia, infiltrating our institutions of education and government.

The USA and the world are being subjected to terrible onslaughts by Satan in his last-ditch attempts to destroy Israel, the USA and anyone who would give allegiance to Yeshua. Trump especially has been hit by the media, Democrats and jealous Republicans who are entrenched in their lucrative positions of power. It is hard to believe how rampant Evil has become, pushing LGBT and same sex marriage which is totally ridiculous and violating God's laws. You and I know it...

God put Donald J. Trump into the US presidency and He will keep him there as long as it serves His purposes, which might be to give the USA one last chance to turn back to Him and to back Israel against the enemies around them. In turn, God will bless the USA even against this onslaught of EVIL!! To remind ourselves and to tell others: God promised to Abraham, **Gen 12:3** *I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse*; God promised thru Isaac to Jacob, **Gen 27:29** *Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!* God promised to all Israel, Num 24:9 *Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you.*

There is no questioning what God has said! There is also no doubt of God's choice of Israel as His Chosen People for His purposes on earth and there is no doubt that God has been blessing Israel in its wars. To remind ourselves and to tell to others: God promises to use Israel militarily against their and His enemies: **Isaiah 41:15-16** *Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains (empires) and crush them, and you shall make the hills (countries) like chaff; you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.* **Jeremiah 51:20ff** *You are my hammer and weapon of war: with you I break nations in pieces; with you I destroy kingdoms.....* **Micah 4:13** *Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion, for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs bronze; you shall beat in pieces many peoples; and shall devote their gain to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.* (We know who to cheer for!!!)

This does not mean that Israel will have an easy time against their enemies but we know from incidents that happened in the 6-Day War and other wars how God miraculously blessed Israel and caused fear and confusion in the Arabs. We expect many more miracles!! Even today in diplomatic and foreign affairs in Israel, many nations are showing a "friendly face" toward Israel and some appreciate the help Israel has given them in agriculture and disaster relief.

Yes, we know about the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls in Revelation! We know The Tribulation began with the stoning of Stephen in Acts. We know there is NO pre-Trib Rapture! We are living in a most exciting time in history, the birth pains of the Messiah as the world convulses under the evil doings of Satan and while Yeshua gets ready for His glorious Return, when all Believers, Jew and non-Jew, follow Him from the sky down to Jerusalem!!

As Watchmen on the wall, we must pass on this information to our neighbors!!! They will be caught as by a thief in the night...if they have rejected Yeshua, so be it. Time is running out...

ONE of the occasional questions we receive is, "How old is Messianic Judaism?" The common assumption is that Messianic Judaism is a relatively modern religion, about a half-century-old. There is the mistaken assumption that Messianic Judaism is the result of merging Judaism with Christianity. They are surprised when I tell them that Messianic Judaism is older than Christianity!

In early centuries, Christianity was quite pure, with very little difference between it and Messianic Judaism. The first ones to be known as Christians were the Gentile believers in Antioch.¹ As the number of Gentiles increased, they eventually began forming their own congregations. There is a process called syncretism is the merger of two opposing or differing philosophies, religions, parties, or principles. I assure you: Messianic Judaism is not a syncretic religion in which Judaism and Christianity suddenly joined to create a new religion. Christianity did not even exist when Messianic Judaism first appeared on the world stage! However, Christianity eventually became a syncretic religion, merging the Biblical faith with various non-biblical faiths in order to make Christianity more appealing to the pagan and non-Christian masses. Christians also desired to make more of a separation between Judaism and Christianity in later centuries.

Shavuot ("Pentecost" or "Weeks") is one of the Holy Days of Leviticus 23, celebrated in the month of Sivan on the modern Jewish calendar. Unlike all other Holy Days such as Yom Kippur ("Day of Atonement"), there is no exact date given for its celebration. Instead, we are instructed to begin a count of 50 days beginning the day after the Shabbat that occurs during Pesach ("Passover"). The count ends 50 days later,² after the seventh Shabbat.³ The day after Shabbat is **Yom Rishon** ("Sunday"), which biblically begins at sunset on "Saturday" and ends at sunset 24 hours later. Rabbinically, the count begins after the first day of

Passover, and ends 50 days later, which can be on any day of the week. We choose to celebrate it according to the biblical reckoning, on **Yom Rishon**, "Sunday." This is also the day on which the ancient Sadducees observed it, as do also the Karaites of today.

The **Eseret HaD'varim** ("Ten Commandments," but literally "Ten Sayings") were given to Moshe on Mount Sinai in the third month.⁴ The month of Sivan is the third month of the sacred calendar of Leviticus 23. Therefore, the Rabbis believe that the Eseret HaD'varim were given on Shavuot, and I concur. Therefore, Shavuot is usually celebrated as the "birthday of Judaism," because Torah is foundational to Judaism.

Almost 1500 years later, the outpouring of the Ruakh HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) occurred on Shavuot. You can read all about it in Acts chapter 2. Christians call this day Pentecost, based on the Greek word for 50, as it is 50 days after the Shabbat that occurs during Passover. Because of this outpouring of the Spirit in Acts 2, Pentecost (Shavuot) is often celebrated as the birthday of Christianity.

One little problem: Christianity did not even exist at that time. These were all Jews and proselytes to Judaism who had come to the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) to worship God in one of the Shalosh Regalim (Three Pilgrimage Festivals), as commanded in Scripture.⁵ They did not suddenly become Christians. They continued being loyal sons of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They continued observing Shabbat, the Holy Days of Leviticus 23, and the dietary laws. In Jerusalem alone, we learn that there were **myriads** (tens of thousands) of Jews who believed in Yeshua, and were "all zealous for Torah (the 'Law')."⁶ As such, this wasn't the birthday of Christianity – certainly not Christianity as it is known today. It is more correctly a movement within Judaism, which we today call Messianic Judaism. (In the First Century, it was known as HaDerekh – "the Way.")

Shavuot is also a harvest festival, also called Yom HaBikkurim ("Day of First Fruits"), for the wheat harvest. There is another Yom HaBikkurim during Passover for the barley har-

SHAVUOT

The Birthday of Messianic Judaism

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

¹ Acts 11:20-21, 11:26.

² There is the tradition of "counting the omer." However, Scripture commands us to "count the days" in Lev. 23:16. No one that I know has 50 omers of barley that they count! So counting the omer would be strictly symbolic.

³ Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:11,15.

⁴ *Sh'mot* (Exodus) 19:1.

⁵ *D'varim* (Deuteronomy) 16:16. The other two pilgrimage feasts were Pesach and Sukkot.

⁶ Acts 21:20

vest. Yeshua was resurrected at the beginning of Yom HaBikkurim during Passover, the First Fruits of the Resurrection.

During Shavuot, the Ruach HaKodesh was poured out, during the Yom HaBikkurim (First Fruits) of the wheat harvest. Three thousand brand-new Messianic Jews were immersed that day.⁷ By the way, it is obvious that the events of Acts chapter two occurred at the Temple.

Nobody else in Jerusalem had a house that would hold many thousands of people except YHWH! And nobody else had enough mikveh baths for the tevilah (ritual immersion in water – “baptism”), except for God.

On Shavuot, two loaves of leavened bread were waved before God in the Temple. As in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, the leavening (or “chametz”) is symbolic of sin.⁸ According to the Rabbis, the two loaves of leavened bread represent both Jew and Gentile – contaminated by sin – being presented to God.

The work of atonement was accomplished for us by Yeshua, as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”⁹ This is pure grace, whereby Yeshua became our Passover Lamb. The Passover lambs in Egypt purchased freedom for the Israelite slaves. However, freedom without laws to guard that freedom would soon descend into chaos. Therefore, 50 days later, the Torah (“Law”) was given to us on Mount Sinai to protect that freedom. For this reason, Judaism teaches that Passover without Shavuot is incomplete. Therefore, another term for Shavuot is **Atzeret Shel Pesach** (“the Completion of Passover”).

However, after Yeshua finished this work of atonement on our behalf, He sent the Spirit of God to enable us to overcome sin. “Moreover, I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will take away the heart of stone from your flesh, and give you a heart of flesh, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep my ordinances and do them.”¹⁰

It is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to live the New Covenant life-

style described in Jeremiah 31:31-33: “I will make a New Covenant with the house of **Israel** and the house of **Judah**... This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days... I will put My Law (Torah – or “teaching”) in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.”

The first time, He wrote them on stone.

The second time, He sent the Holy Spirit

to write them on our hearts.

According to Acts 5:32, “**God has given the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.**” Please also

note: **The New Covenant was made only with the houses of Israel and Judah.** It was not made with any Gentiles. However, Romans 11:17-24 tells us that Yeshua grafts Gentiles into the Jewish Olive Tree. Any Gentile who refuses to be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree has **no covenant relationship** with God.

Because Shavuot is a harvest festival, **it is traditional to read the book of Ruth during this holiday.** Rav Michael Washer wrote, “When a Gentile accepts the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua, that person is grafted in against nature into the Jewish people, and becomes a partaker of the rich root of Judaism. However, this requires the same kind of forsaking the past and following that Ruth exhibited.”

It is also traditional to read Exodus 19-20, Numbers 28:26-31, and Ezekiel 1, 3:12. And of course we like to add Acts 2 to the readings.

“You shall receive power...”

Since Shavuot is a Biblical Jewish Holy Day (and a pilgrimage festival – Dt. 16:16), it should not be surprising that myriads (tens of thousands) of Jews were gathered together to worship in Jerusalem on this day. In ancient Israel, it was among the three most important festivals, the other two being Pesach (Passover) and Sukkot (Tabernacles). These were the only festivals in which the men were commanded to travel to the Beit HaMikdash (“Temple”) in Jerusalem, if they were at all able. In modern Judaism, the holidays of Yom T’ruwah (Rosh HaShanah) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) are the most important holidays, in which the synagogues are filled to capacity, whereas Shavuot and Sukkot are not as widely observed or celebrated today.

Many years ago, “Pentecost Sunday” was widely observed in Christian churches. Surprisingly, most modern Pentecostal and Charismatic churches tend to ignore this day. It would be neat to see Christians observing at least one biblical holiday. I can tell you with

⁷ Acts 2:41.

⁸ More accurately, the chametz represents pride, because it “puffs up” the bread. However, pride was the first sin of HaSatan – the Adversary. From pride came all the other sins.

⁹ Yochanan (John) 1:29.

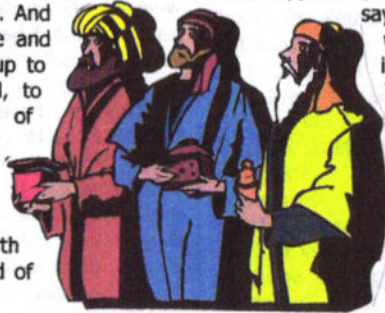
¹⁰ Ezekiel 36:26-27.

certainly that during the Millennium, Christians will be commanded to observe Sukkot,¹¹ and presumably the other Biblical holidays as well.

Because of the importance of Shavuot, and especially the importance of this particular Shavuot almost 2000 years ago, Yeshua commanded His talmidim (disciples) to remain in Jerusalem,¹² saying, "You shall be immersed with the Ruakh HaKodesh not many days from now."

Prior to Yeshua's ascension to Heaven, His talmidim asked Him, "Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"¹³ Yeshua did not criticize them in any way regarding the question. He is indeed coming back, and at that time will establish His Messianic Kingdom. Anti-Semites often accuse Jews of conspiring to rule the world. The conspiracy theory is preposterous, of course. However, the Jewish Messiah will indeed come back, and when He does, the statement that is written in Isaiah 2:2-3 will come to pass:

Now it shall come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of YHWH shall be established... And all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of YHWH, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths." For the Law shall go forth from Zion, and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.



Yeshua's disciples were also good, patriotic Jews. It is only logical that they should ask Yeshua, "Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" Israel had been under the heavy hand of Rome for several decades. They now understood that Yeshua had paid the penalty for their transgressions against God's commandments at Golgotha, but it was now finally the time to kick the Romans out and establish the Messianic Kingdom, or so they hoped. Imagine their disappointment if they had been told that they would have to wait over 1900 years before Israel would become an independent nation again, and even longer before the Messianic Kingdom would be established. It would have

been too much to take. (We are still waiting! Yeshua, come quickly!) Yeshua answered their question by saying, "It is not for you to know the times and seasons, which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power after the Ruakh HaKodesh has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, even to the uttermost parts of the earth."¹⁴ It is fine and dandy to speak in tongues, prophesy, and exhibit various other manifestations of the Holy Spirit. However, that is **not** the primary purpose of the Holy Spirit coming upon an individual. The **primary** purpose of the Holy Spirit coming upon people is to make them witnesses for Yeshua, beginning first at **Jerusalem**. As Rav Sha'ul wrote in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the Good News, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, **to the Jew first**, and also to the Greek."

After Yeshua spoke these things, Yeshua ascended toward heaven, "and a cloud received Him out of their sight." Two men in white apparel (angels?) suddenly appeared, saying, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Yeshua, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven."¹⁵ When Yeshua returns, it will be a visible return. In Revelation 1:7, we read, "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him..." There is no "secret" coming of Yeshua, as is taught by some cultists.

Second Chapter of Acts:

And when the day of Shavuot had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the House where they were sitting.³ And there appeared to them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.⁴ And they were all filled with the Ruakh HaKodesh, and they began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.¹⁶

These are the introductory verses to Acts

¹¹ Zechariah 14:16-20.

¹² Acts 1:4.

¹³ Acts 1:6.

¹⁴ Acts 1:8.

¹⁵ Acts 1:11.

¹⁶ Acts 2:1-4.

chapter 2. In verse 1, we see that these events happened "when the day of Shavuot had fully come." Each of the Holy Days of Leviticus 23 has a historical significance, a current spiritual reality, as well as a prophetic significance. Passover remembers the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. Prophetically, it points to the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua. Yeshua commanded His talmidim to not leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, saying, "For Yochanan immersed with water, but you shall be immersed in the Ruakh HaKodesh not many days from now."¹⁷ Finally, in Acts chapter 2, we see the fulfillment of this promise, but it would not be until "the day of Shavuot had fully come." God chose to pour out His Spirit on the disciples on Shavuot, one of the **moedim** ("appointed times") of Leviticus 23. There were 120 disciples who were in an "upper room" of a House.

There is a place in Jerusalem which Christian tourists go to, which is called "the Upper Room." I have been there, and I can safely assure you, it isn't so! This so-called "Upper Room" was built in the early 1200's, about 800 years ago. The "upper room" referred to in this chapter was in the House of Adonai, that is, the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) in Jerusalem. This is the House referred to in 2 Chron. 5:14, 1 Kings 9:1, and many other places in Scripture. When the Temple was established, this was the destination that Jewish men were to travel to for the **Shalosh Regalim** ("Three Pilgrimage Festivals") of Deuteronomy 16:16.

When the talmidim "began to speak in other tongues," they were doing something that they had never done before. The "tongues" were actual human languages, spoken by the Jews of the various nations, as we see in Acts 2:8.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem **Jews**, devout men, **out of every nation** under heaven.⁶ Now when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because that **every man heard them speak in his own language.**⁷ And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?⁸ And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?"⁹ Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in

the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, **Jews and proselytes,**¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."¹² And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, "What does this mean?"¹³ Others mocking said, "These men are full of new wine."¹⁸

We find that this multitude of men had come in from many different nations. This is what you would expect, because Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival. Those who had come were both Jews and proselytes (**gerim**, converts to Judaism). They heard the disciples speaking in the languages¹⁹ of the various nations that they had come from. This puzzled them, because they recognized that the ones speaking these various languages were Galileans, and were not highly educated, sort of the "hillbillies" of Israel. They heard them speaking "in our tongues the wonderful works of God." I doubt that the disciples of Yeshua even fully understood themselves what was happening, or even had any understanding of what was being said. This was a truly supernatural event. I have heard some say that the miracle wasn't "speaking in tongues," but in the "hearing." In other words, the Galilean disciples may have spoken in Aramaic or Hebrew, but the Holy Spirit caused the people to hear them in their own languages. However, others mocked the talmidim, saying, "These men are full of new wine," in other words, that they were drunk.²⁰ (New wine also contains alcohol, but at a much lower percentage.)

At this point, Shimon Kefa (Peter) got up and spoke to the myriads who had assembled in the Temple for Shavuot. He gave an amazing sermon, quoting from memory verses from Joel, the Psalms, and Kings, no Bible in hand. The only "books" available at that time were the large, bulky scrolls, usually found only in the **beit kneset** (synagogue). The men were "pierced to the heart," saying, "What shall we do?" Shimon Kefa said, "Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Yeshua the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Ruakh HaKodesh." In verse 41, we discover that thousands received the word that had been spoken, among whom were 3,000 that were immersed.

¹⁸ Acts 2:5-13.

¹⁹ Actual languages, not gobbledygook.

²⁰ Yes, new wine is also an alcoholic beverage. Hosea 4:11 says, "Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away the understanding."

¹⁷ Acts 1:4-5

In Judaism, the actual immersion is known as **tevilah**. The "baptismal tank" is called a **mikveh**. Nobody in Jerusalem had a house big enough or with enough "baths" to immerse 3,000 people in one day, except for YHWH!

It's interesting to note that when Moses was coming down Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments, he encountered the Israelites deeply immersed in the worship of the Golden Calf. Exodus 32:28 tells us that 3,000 men died in judgment that day.

Jews today still get "baptized." However, Jews would not use the word "baptize." There is the ritual immersion for those who had been ritually unclean, such as after the menstrual period or after contact with a dead body. Also, converts to Judaism are also immersed. Actually, the candidate immerses himself or herself – three times! During the third "dunking," the candidate for conversion goes down as a Gentile, but comes up as a Jew. The "baptizer" just supervises, to ensure that the candidate immerses himself completely including every strand of hair. This is how the immersion would have been done in Acts 2:41. I believe that this is how John the Immerser would have "baptized" Yeshua. (By the way, John's real name was Yochanan, and he was a Jew, not a Baptist!) In some of the "Jesus" movies, "John" sprinkles some water on Jesus. However, in a wonderful claymation video called "Miracle Maker," Yochanan merely supervises Yeshua as Yeshua immerses Himself.²¹ Very moving!

In Romans 6, Rav Sha'ul ("Paul") writes about immersion, and tells us that with immersion, we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua. We are considered "dead to sin, but alive to God in Messiah Yeshua."²² Symbolically, we go under as a sinner and are resurrected as a Believer. It is generally a public ceremony, as a witness to others. It is an outward ceremony demonstrating what has already taken place internally. Water baptism doesn't "save" anyone. However, I do believe that there is an enablement that occurs in the life of an individual as (s)he obeys God in this area.

⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.⁴³And fear came upon every soul: and many **wonders and signs** were done by the apostles.⁴⁴And all that believed were to-

gether, and had all things common;⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord **in the Temple**, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their food with gladness and singleness of heart,⁴⁷praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the **kehilah** (congregation) daily such as should be saved.²³

"Breaking bread" together is Jewish socializing. They did not have "the Lord's supper" or "communion" everyday! There were also many "wonders and signs" taking place. I like to think that such signs and wonders will be restored to the kehilah in our own days! They continued as good Jews worshipping in the Temple. They had all things in common, as with the modern day kibbutz (Israeli collective commune, usually a farm). Communes have also appeared in other countries, past and present. This is pure communism, but it was voluntary communism, whereby the people voluntarily had all things in common. This is hugely different from the awful communist dictatorships and tyrannies of the Twentieth Century. However, even the voluntary communism of Acts 2 did not seem to survive long. You don't read about it anymore after Acts 7.

The prophet Haggai wrote during the time when the Second Temple was being rebuilt, after the return of the Jews from Babylon. The old men who remembered the First Temple built by Solomon wept when they saw the foundation of the second house (Temple),²⁴ because it was so much smaller than the First Temple. Haggai (2:9) said, "The latter glory of this House shall be greater than the former glory..." The former glory under Solomon was amazing! YHWH filled the House with a cloud, and the glory was so strong that the cohenim (priests) could not stand to minister. When did any similar glory appear in the Second Temple? I would submit that it was the glory that occurred in Acts 2.

CUSTOMS: Dairy meals are traditionally eaten, as well as honey cake, to remind us of Israel "flowing with milk and honey" (Joshua 5:6). There is also a tradition to study Torah all night. The synagogue is often decorated with fruits and flowers. n

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²¹ Available on DVD, © 1999, British Screen and Icon Entertainment International.

²² Romans 6:11.

²³ Acts 2:42-47.

²⁴ Ezra 3:12-13.

If you had a choice of living to the age of 88 in perfect health, or living to the age of 90 with two years of sickness spread out somewhat evenly over those 90 years, which would you prefer?

I think I'd choose 88 years of perfect health rather than 90 years that included two years of sickness. Why? Because if you are too sick to work for one day, then your lifespan is, in a sense, reduced by one day. An accumulation of 730 days (two years) of sickness in effect reduces your lifespan by two years. So I think I'd prefer 88 years of perfect health without the additional two years of sickness.

Even though our bodies are temporal and mortal and subject to sickness, aging, and death, physical health and healing of the body is important, because our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. We are instructed in Romans 12:1 to present our bodies as a living sacrifice in service to God. Even though God can use sick people to do things, a healthy body can do more things than a sick body can. Furthermore, and more importantly, the Scriptures tell us that in general, God wants His beloved children to be healthy. Therefore we should have a positive attitude and high expectations in regards to health and healing. We should be optimistic, not pessimistic.

The pessimist says, "God does not always heal. Paul left Trophimus sick in Miletum. Paul said Epaphroditus was sick nigh unto death. Paul had a 'thorn in the flesh' that God refused to remove. Elisha the prophet was 'fallen sick of the sickness whereof he died.' So it's clear from the Bible that God does not always heal people."

That's all true, of course. But should we focus on a few specific examples of sick people in the Bible who *were not* healed, or on the multitudes of people who *were* healed? The Dake Reference Bible lists 30 cases of supernatural healing in the Old Testament, and 38 cases in the New Testament, and some of those cases included "multitudes" and "all the people."

It's true that God can use sick people and it's true that He sometimes uses sickness to chastise and purify His children. However, our focus should be on the multitudes who *were* healed, rather than on the few individuals mentioned in the Bible who *were not* healed.

I do not have the supernatural charismatic gift of healing, and I am not an expert on the

subject of faith-based healing. However, I do know that those people mentioned in the Bible who were not healed were the exception to the norm. The norm that we see in the Gospels and Acts is healing.

It's true that Yeshua did not heal every single sick individual that He saw. However, He never once in the Gospels refused to heal anyone who asked Him for healing - except for the Syrophenecian woman, and even she eventually got her daughter healed, through her persistent pleading and her acknowledgment of her status as a non-Israelite Gentile dog.

We should have high expectations and a positive, optimistic outlook in regards to health and healing. It's one thing to have low expectations and little confidence in people. That's understandable. But it's another thing to have low expectations and little confidence in the Lord - especially when the testimony of Scripture presents health and healing as the norm for God's beloved children, and sickness among God's children as abnormal.

Yes, there are exceptions to the general norm, but God's will for His children in general is that they be healthy. When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, "there was not one feeble person among their tribes" (Ps. 105:37).

God told the children of Israel, "I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Ex. 15:26). However, this promise is conditional. The first part of the verse says: "If thou diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes..."

There is a difference between healing (getting rid of a sickness you have) and maintaining your health (keeping the wholeness you receive from the Lord). Yeshua healed many people, and some of them were no doubt living less than perfect lives. To the paralytic who was healed at the Pool of Bethesda, Yeshua said, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14).

This suggests that some sicknesses (though certainly not all) come to people as a result of their sins. Although it could be argued here that by "a worse thing" Yeshua meant judgment in the afterlife, which is worse than sick-

A Time to Heal

by Daniel Botkin

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

ness in this life. But regardless of what Yeshua meant here, some people in the Bible were smitten with sickness because of their sins.

Even before Yeshua came to earth, God gave Israel promises of health and healing. "And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee" (Ex. 23:25).

"And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of these evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee" (Deut. 7:15).

Just as some passages show a connection between sin and sickness, other passages show a connection between forgiveness and healing. David wrote: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Ps. 103:2f). How many of your sins does He forgive? *All* of them! How many of your diseases does He heal? *All* of them!

We might not yet see the fulfillment of this promise, but we need to remember what David said: "forget not **all** His benefits," including the benefit of having all our diseases healed.

James likewise shows a connection between forgiveness and healing when he writes instructions for sick people: "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the congregation; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:14-16).

When we read "pray for one another, that ye may be healed," we usually think of it in these terms:

Jack is sick. Jill prays for Jack, and Jack is healed. Maybe that's all it means. But maybe it also has a secondary meaning like this:

Jack and Jill pray for one another and for all their other friends on a regular basis, even when no one is sick. When Jack gets sick, he is more likely to be healed, because he regularly prays for his friends.

I cannot prove with absolute certainty that praying for your friends helps bring about healing. But I can't shake this verse: "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends" (Job 42:10). So I'm going to continue to pray for my friends, even

when they are not sick.

Another passage that shows healing is connected to repentance, confession of faults, and forgiveness is Matthew 8:16f: "When the evening was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with His word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness.**" This shows that Yeshua's role as Isaiah's Suffering Servant is the basis for the healing of physical infirmities as well as infirmities of the soul and spirit. The phrase "with His stripes we are healed" can apply to bodily healing as well as to spiritual and emotional and mental healing.

Whenever the subject of healing through prayer is discussed, the question is often asked: Is it wrong to seek healing through conventional medical doctors who poke and prod and cut you and put drugs in your body?

Some Christians are opposed to any conventional medical treatment. They claim that the English word *pharmacy* is connected to the Greek word *pharmakeia*, which means "witchcraft" (Gal. 5:20) or "sorcery" (Rev. 9:21 & 18:23). They also point out what happened to King Asa when he consulted physicians: "And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign" (2 Chron. 16:12f).

I have known Christians who thought that going to a doctor or taking any medical drugs, even a non-prescription drug such as an aspirin, is an act of unbelief and an insult to the Lord.

In the 1970s there was a charismatic Christian teacher named Hobart Freeman who taught this "no-doctors-no-drugs-not-ever" approach. A friend of mine (now dead) was a devout Freemanite. My friend refused to acknowledge the existence of any sickness in his body, and confessed by faith that the Lord had already healed him. He refused to go to a dentist to get some cavities in his teeth filled, and his teeth rotted. He refused to wear his glasses, claiming that the Lord had healed his eyes. But when he had to get his driver's license renewed, he failed the eye exam. They would not renew his license because they, in their "carnal unbelief," did not realize that his eyes were healed. So my friend had to rely on others to drive him places.

A lot of Hobart Freeman's disciples, and children of his disciples, died from minor infections which could have easily been healed by antibiotics. Freeman himself died of such an infection, as he was awaiting a court date to be prosecuted for contributing to the unnecessary deaths of many of his followers.

But what about *pharmakeia*? And what about King Asa? Yes, our English word *pharmacy* is related to the Greek word *pharmakeia*. However, that does not mean that modern-day pharmacists are witches and sorcerers. That idea is utter nonsense. If you look in the 1828 Noah Webster Dictionary, you will learn that the Greek word *pharmakeia* can actually mean two different things. It can mean either witchcraft or preparing and using medicines for the treatment of disease.

In the context of witchcraft, the Bible condemns *pharmakeia*. But in the context of preparing and using substances to treat disease, *pharmakeia* is not condemned in the Bible. On the contrary, this form of *pharmakeia* is prescribed two times in the Bible, once in the Old Testament and once in the New Testament. The Prophet Isaiah told the people to lay a lump of figs on King Hezekiah's boil so that he would recover (Isa. 38:21). The Apostle Paul told Timothy to drink a little wine for his stomach's sake and for his frequent infirmities (1 Tim. 5:23). If this form of *pharmakeia* were sinful, you would not see Prophets and Apostles prescribing it in the Bible. People who think that using modern-day pharmaceuticals is equivalent to using witchcraft are afflicted with linguistic superstition. If a word (such as *pharmakeia*) has two entirely different meanings, one negative and one positive, it is illogical and irresponsible to ascribe only and always the negative definition to the word, even when the word is used in a positive context.

People who are afflicted with linguistic superstition become paranoid about possible pagan connections to just about any English word. Some people refuse to use the word *holy* because they hear that there is a Hindu god named Holi. So instead of saying "holy," they say "set apart." Just don't let them know that there was an Egyptian god named Set, or they will have to come up with yet another new term to use. And don't let them know that our English word *cereal* comes from Ceres, the pagan goddess of grain, or they will think they have to stop eating their Froot Loops and Coco Puffs for breakfast.

But what about King Asa dying because he sought the physicians for healing? Well, that's

not exactly and entirely what it says. It says that "in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians."

Asa's error was not his going to the physicians. His error was not seeking the LORD at all: "in his disease he sought not to the LORD."

Asa's weakness was a complete lack of trust in the LORD, and a total reliance on the help of men. This weakness was manifested even before his disease, when he had no reliance on the LORD, and completely relied on the king of Syria:

"And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, 'Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand'" (2 Chron. 16:7).

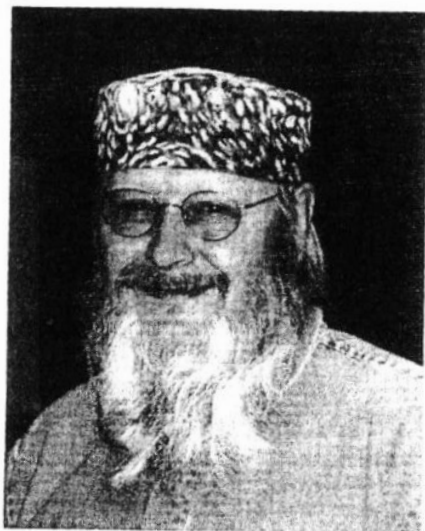
The story of Asa does not teach that it is sinful to seek help from physicians, or that you will die if you go to a doctor. The lesson from this story is twofold: **First**, seek the Lord for healing before going to a physician. Before phoning the doctor, give the Lord an opportunity to heal you supernaturally through prayer, without human intervention.

Secondly, if after a reasonable period of time it becomes obvious that the Lord is not healing you and you need to go to a doctor, continue to rely on the Lord for your healing. Even if you are being healed through a doctor's treatment, know and understand that it is ultimately God, not man, who is bringing about your healing. Even doctors (humble ones, at least) will admit that they are simply making use of means which causes the body to heal itself.

The first year that my wife and I lived in Israel, she developed a horrible cough. It came upon her every night and only at night. We did not know any doctors in the town, and we did not have much money. We prayed for her healing but saw no change. After some time, I suggested we set a deadline and respectfully give the Lord an "ultimatum" of sorts. We told the Lord we would wait three more days. If He was going to heal her, we wanted it to happen within 3 days. If it did not happen by then, we would go to a doctor. After 3 days the cough was gone. Hallelujah!

I would like to say that this method works every time, but it doesn't. There have been other times when we prayed for supernatural healing, but it did not come, and we went to the drug store and got some medicine to take care of the problem.

"But Daniel, if you have the option of going to the drug store or the doctor as a back-up



Daniel Botkin

plan, isn't that showing a lack of trust in the Lord?"

You can look at it that way if you want to. However, I do not believe that having a back-up plan is always due to a lack of trust in the Lord. Whenever I go on a trip, I pray that I will not get a flat tire, but I still keep a spare tire in my trunk, just in case, because sometimes things happen: "time and chance happeneth to them all" (Eccl. 9:11). So if you want to criticize me for having the option of conventional medical help as a back-up plan, I suggest you first get rid of your spare tire and all your insurance policies and empty your savings account and quit locking the doors of your house and car.



The important question is not whether or not we are using means (such as a lump of figs, or a little wine, or an antibiotic, or essential oils, or whatever) to help facilitate healing or to prevent sickness. The important question is: Who are we ultimately trusting, God or men?

All our precautions to prevent disease (hand washing, vitamins, supplements, diet, exercise, etc.) are no guarantee that we will not get sick. Therefore our trust must not be in these means. And all of the treatments and medicines we take to heal disease (whether pharmaceutical or non-pharmaceutical) are no guarantee that we will be healed. Therefore our trust must not be in these means but in the Lord.

"The prayer of faith shall save the sick." Our faith must be in the Lord and in His promises of healing in the Scriptures. Faith is not an emotion that you can work up. Faith is not a magic formula that you repeat like a mantra, insisting that you are healed when you are really as sick as a dog. Faith is a resting of the soul. It is trusting in the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures. It is a quiet confidence and assurance that God's will for His people is normally health, not sickness. Health is the Biblical norm for God's children, and we should aim for the Biblical norm in all things, including health and healing.

Dry Bones



As we move into Matthew 26, events are lining up inexorably to the crucifixion of Yeshua. He was fully aware of what was happening. Yeshua told His *talmidim* (disciples), "You know that after two days is the feast of **Pesach** (Passover), and the Son of Man is to be betrayed for crucifixion."¹

The chief *cohanim* (priests) and elders of the people were plotting to kill Yeshua, but not during Passover, for fear of causing a riot among the people.

In verse 6, we read that Yeshua came to the house of Shimon the "leper." In Hebrew, this disease was called **tsara'at**, which wasn't really leprosy. It's a disease that caused the hair and skin to turn white, and was apparently contagious. It wasn't leprosy, as we see it today. According to Torah, lepers (more accurately, those with *tsara'at*) were supposed to be quarantined (Lev. 13:5,46). If Shimon truly had leprosy (or *tsara'at*), it would have been contrary to Torah for Yeshua to come into his home, unless of course Yeshua healed him. If that happened, there is no mention of the healing.

The other possibility is that it is a description of Shimon's former condition. For instance, there is Rahab the Harlot in Joshua 6, who aided the Israeli spies. In Hebrews 11:31, she is mentioned as a woman of faith, because of her actions in protecting the Israelite spies, although I am sure she took on a different occupation later on. Perhaps Shimon was healed years earlier from *tsara'at*, but was still known as "Shimon, the man with *tsara'at*" as a way of identifying him.

There is another possibility. In the Aramaic language, the word for leprosy (or *tsara'at*) is **garba**, and the word for **jar maker** is **garaba** which also means **jar merchant**. The words **garba** and **garaba** could be easily confused by a scribe. Perhaps the Aramaic NT was more accurate in this case.

Whatever the case, it was in the home of this Shimon that a woman poured a jar of expensive ointment on the head of Yeshua. In Mark 14:5, we read that this ointment was worth 300 denarii. One denari was a day's wage for a day laborer. Therefore, 300 denarii was a large sum of money. Yeshua's *talmidim* were angry at the waste, since this ointment could have been sold to help the poor. Shortly after this, Judas Iscariot (Yehuda from K'riot) ran off to betray Yeshua. Judas was therefore

probably the one who was most angry. However, Yeshua recognized that his body was being prepared for his coming execution. He said, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for me. For you have the poor always with you; but me you do have not always. For when she poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Truly I say to you, Wherever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, what this woman has done shall be spoken in memory of her."²

The Betrayal

At that point, Judas Iscariot (Yehuda from K'riot) ran off to betray Yeshua to the *cohanim* (priests) in Jerusalem. They offered him 30 pieces of silver, which I would assume were 30 shekels, which would be worth about 120 denarii. We learn later on that he betrayed Yeshua with a kiss. Pretty good wages for a kiss.

In verse 17, we discover that this is the "first day of Unleavened Bread (*matzah*)."

Christians tend to divide Passover into three different holidays. The Scriptures tell us that Passover and Unleavened Bread are the same holiday, in Luke 22:1 and Mark 14:1, as well as Ezekiel 45:21. Christians see the first day as Passover, and the rest of that week as Unleavened Bread. And they often make the feast of first fruits that occurs on "Sunday" during that week as also being another separate holiday.

Every Jewish calendar lists each of those days as being Passover (first day of Passover, second day of Passover, etc.). However, in Mat. 26:17, we discover that the betrayal occurred on "the first day of Unleavened Bread," actually before that final Passover seder that Yeshua observed with his *talmidim* (disciples). What gives? My wife (Miriam) used to work for an Orthodox Jewish family. Although Orthodox Jewish Halachah allowed them to keep **chametz**³ in the house until the morning before Passover began at sunset, they removed all *chametz* from the house about 2 days earlier. Many other Jews do similar things to ensure that all *chametz* is out of the house before Passover. However, it also shows how wrong those Christians are who feel that Unleavened Bread comes after Passover, when here we see Unleavened Bread being observed before Passover.

² Mat. 26:10-13.

³ Anything containing yeast. Many Jews also rid the home of baking soda and baking powder as well during Passover.

¹ Mat. 26:2.

The Final Week

Rav Richard
'Aharon'

Chaimberlin

Mattityahu 26

A Passover seder requires lots of planning and preparation. However, in Mat. 26:17, Yeshua's talmidim ask, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?"⁴ They must have been shocked about the apparent lack of planning that their Master had shown!

In answer to their question, Yeshua said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Master says, **My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with my talmidim.**'" In Luke 22:10-11, more details are offered, as Yeshua tells them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him into the house that he enters. And you shall say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, **Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My talmidim?**'"

Each writer of each Besorah (Gospel) wrote down what he remembered or the oral traditions that had been handed down. There are occasional variances, and additional details offered in one Gospel that are not told in other Gospels. However, the detail about the man carrying a pitcher of water is **very** significant. This was a somewhat unusual event, in that it was a **man** carrying a pitcher of water. Carrying water was women's work, as seen in Genesis 24:11; Exodus 2:16; and Yochanan (John) 4:7. This identified the man to follow.

Even today, in primitive societies, it is the **women** who bring back the water to the household, often carrying large jars of water on their heads. You have probably seen this happening on various documentaries or news stories in which societies in Asia and Africa are filmed. Therefore, when Yeshua told his talmidim to look for a man carrying water, this was something very unusual and very specific. They followed the man into the house, and discovered a room ready for them to prepare for their Passover seder.

The Last Passover

²¹Now when the evening came, He sat down with the twelve. ²¹And as they ate,

He said, "Truly I say to you, that one of you shall betray me." ²²And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" ²³And He answered and said, "He that dips *his* hand with Me in the dish, the same shall betray Me." ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him. But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born." ²⁵Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi,⁵ is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it yourself."⁶

Yeshua was fully aware of the betrayal, and He told his talmidim that one of them would be betraying Him. Each one said, "Is it I?" To fully understand Yeshua's response, it is good to understand the Passover seder. There comes a point in the seder in which **maror** is dipped into **charoset**. The maror is a bitter herb, normally horseradish. The charoset is a mixture of chopped up fruit (often apple) and nuts, mixed with wine or juice and honey. The maror represents the bitterness of slavery.

The charoset resembles the mortar used for the making of bricks. At one point in the Passover seder, a slice of maror is dipped into the charoset. Then the maror with charoset is eaten. Unless you really like horseradish, this tastes really awful. Yeshua said, "He that dips *his* hand with Me in the dish, the same shall betray Me." I believe this is the point in the seder in which Yeshua and his talmidim were dipping the maror into the charoset. Symbolically, this is when the **root of bitterness** entered Judas.

²⁶And as they were eating, Yeshua took matzah, and after a blessing, He broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷And He took the cup, and made a b'rakha (blessing), and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink all of it, ²⁸For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹But I say to you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

This is commonly what is called "the Lord's supper" or "communion." Some congregations

⁴ It should be noted that when Scripture talks about "eating the Passover," it is a reference to eating the Passover lamb, as in Exodus 12:43-48. Likewise, "sacrificing the Passover" refers to sacrificing the Passover lamb, as in Deut. 16:5-6. With the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash (Temple), there is no longer a sacrifice of the Passover lamb. Therefore, most Jews today do not have lamb with their Passover meal. Other meats such as turkey or beef are eaten. Many Jews also have vegetarian seders.

⁵ Please note: We know that Yeshua was a Torah-observant Jew. He was also called Rabbi, both by his talmidim as well as his enemies among the Scribes and Pharisees, as we see in Yochanan (John) 1:38,49; 3:2,26; 6:25.

⁶ Matt. 26:20-25.

do it weekly, and some do it monthly. We normally only do it during the week of Passover, especially at the time we are doing the Passover seder. We might do it again on the Shabbat that occurs during Passover, as well as on the seventh day of Passover, which is also a holy day.

It should be noted that Yeshua was following Rabbinic traditions at this seder. Torah mentions the matzah and the bitter herb.

However, items such as charoset and even wine are **not** mentioned as part of the Passover observance in the Scriptures. Check it out for yourself in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23. I have heard of Messianic believers say that they observe Biblical Judaism, not Rabbinic Judaism. However, Yeshua was observing Rabbinic traditions, as we see here at this Passover seder. If we were to skip the Rabbinic traditions at Passover, we would be missing much of the richness of this holiday, as well as many of the Messianic symbols that are part of a Passover seder.

Yeshua took the matzah, which in itself is a Messianic symbol. My Jewish Publication Society Bible (c) 1958 for Isaiah 53:5 reads, "But he was wounded because of our transgressions; He was crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him. And with his stripes we are healed." Matzah is unleavened bread. Leavening is symbolic of **pride**, because it "puffs up." This was HaSatan's sin in Ezekiel 28:1-8. From pride came all the other sins. Also, as you look at the matzah, you can see the pierce marks, dark spots which look like bruises, and stripes, which all remind us of the stripes, bruises, and piercings that Yeshua received in his body. Yeshua took this matzah, and said a b'rakhah (blessing): "Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, homotzi lechem min ha'aretz - Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, king of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth." Then He said, "Take, eat; this is (represents) my body."

Wine is not mentioned in the Tanakh (O.T.) for use in the Passover seder. There is no Scriptural admonition to use wine for the seder. This is a Rabbinic tradition that was used by Yeshua in his last seder on Planet Earth. He took the cup of wine, in all likelihood the third cup, called the Cup of Redemption, and said a

b'rakha: "Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei p'ri hagafen - Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, king of the universe, who creates the fruit of the wine." Then He said, "Drink all of it."²⁸For this is my blood of the **new covenant**, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins."

This does not mean that the wine was literally changed into the blood of Yeshua. King David's men risked their lives to fetch water



for David when he was thirsty. In 2 Samuel 23:17, King David refused to drink the water, saying, "Shall I drink the **blood** of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Obviously, the water that was offered to David was not blood. Likewise, the cup of wine that Yeshua offered to his talmidim was **not** blood. It merely represented the blood that would soon be shed on the

tree at Golgotha. If it had literally been blood, his talmidim would have transgressed the several scripture which forbids consumption of blood, as in Lev. 17:10-13 and Acts 15:20. Jews go to much trouble to insure that blood is removed from meat before consumption.⁷

In Judaism, wine represents joy, but also the blood of the Passover lamb during Passover. Yeshua added the additional meaning, saying that this represents the blood of the new covenant. This does not mean that there was a new covenant **replacing** the previous covenants. There was the Adamic covenant, the Noachic covenant, the Abrahamic covenant, the Mosaic covenant, and the Davidic covenant. None of these covenants replaced any earlier covenants.

The New Covenant

Most Christians would be hard-pressed to define what the New Covenant is. Many would say that it is the New Testament, which is how it is how it is described in Matt. 26:28 in the King James Version. However, the New Testament had not even been written yet. The only Bible that Yeshua and his talmidim had

⁷ One of the outrageous accusations against Jews has been the Blood Libel, whereby Jews were accused of taking blood from a Christian child to make Passover matzah. After such libels took place, mobs of so-called Christians would attack Jewish communities, killing many innocent Jews in the process.

was the Tanakh, that is, the "Old" Testament. This was also the only Bible that the followers of Yeshua had during the First Century.

For a biblical definition of the New Covenant, we go to Jeremiah 31:31-33, in which Jeremiah begins by prophesying a New Covenant, and then defining it in verse 33: "But this is the covenant which I shall make with the house of Israel after those days," declares YHWH. "I will put my Torah within them, and on their heart I will write it, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Some might reject this as being simply "Old" Testament. However, the same words are repeated in Hebrews 8:8-10 and 10:16. The New Covenant is not words written in a book; the New Covenant is the Torah (God's Instructions, or Law) written on our hearts. The "old" covenant was the Torah written on tablets of stone. There were blessings for obedience, and curses for disobedience. The New Covenant is the Torah written on our hearts. We don't obey God's instructions (Torah) to **get** redeemed. We obey God's instructions because we **are** redeemed.

This was literally fulfilled with Yeshua's talmidim, who continued to live Torah-observant lives. I don't see the prophesied New Covenant in many of the lives of those who proclaim to be Believers today. Many are actually hostile to Torah, considering it to be **bondage**. Many of these same Believers belong to denominations or churches which have abandoned Torah, but have long lists of man-made laws for the people to observe. Some of these laws might be good. But which is more important: Man-made laws, or God's instructions? "The Torah (Instruction or Law) of YHWH is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of YHWH is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of YHWH are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of YHWH is pure, enlightening the eyes." (Psalm 119:7-8)

However, in order to have the Torah written on our hearts, we must get Torah written in our brains. Read the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation. The Tanakh (O.T.) is about 78% of the Bible. Therefore, I recommend spending most our Bible-reading in the Tanakh. You really can't properly understand the Newer Testament without having the foundation of the "older" Testament.

Wine and New Wine

In verse 29, after saying the blessing for the wine, Yeshua said, "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until the days when I drink it **new** with you in my Father's kingdom." Many Christians believe

that **new wine** is grape juice. Many also believe that "old" wine is sinful. If you were to ask them if they drink wine, they might happily respond, "I only drink the new wine."

However, even **new wine** had alcoholic content. In Hosea 4:11, we read, "Harlotry, wine, and **new wine** take away understanding." In Hebrew, there is a separate word for mere **juice**, called **meetz**, which is **not** wine. When we were living in Germany during my army service, the Germans had what was called "May Wine." This was partially fermented grape juice, perhaps like the wine coolers of today, with about half of the alcohol content of fully fermented wine, at about 6 percent alcohol. This could be called "new wine."

Today with refrigeration, we can serve grape juice all year round, even at Passover. However, 2000 years ago, there was no refrigeration. In the springtime when Pesach occurs, grape juice would become either vinegar or wine. I am sure they drank wine, and not vinegar! Yeshua seemed to prefer the old wine with the full alcohol content. After telling the parable about the wineskins in Luke 5:36-39, Yeshua concludes with, "And no one after drinking old wine wishes for new, for he says, 'The old (wine) is good'." Yeshua and his talmidim drank real wine. That would disqualify them for membership in many churches today! Drinking a glass of wine in moderation is not a sin. The sin comes with excess wine and drunkenness.

In Mat. 26:30, we read that Yeshua and his talmidim sang a hymn. This is a tradition that continues to this day, in which one or more of the Hallel Psalms⁸ are sung. These Psalms were sung at the Pilgrimage Festivals of Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. In keeping with Rabbinic tradition, the disciples sang.

Then Yeshua said, to them, "All of you shall stumble because of Me this night: for it is written, 'I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you into Galilee."

Shimon Kefa answered, "Though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." Brave words! Regretfully, he ended up denying Yeshua three times before the resurrection, as Yeshua prophesied in verse 34. All of Yeshua's other talmidim also assured Yeshua that they would even be willing to die with Him, rather than deny Him.

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⁸ Psalms 113 to 118.

From the very beginning of G-d's program for the Jewish people, He selected Abraham to become the father of the Jewish nation through Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons. G-d always had a specific plan for the Jewish people whom He called "the apple of My eye" in Zechariah 2:8. G-d's love for Israel and the Jewish people quickly became a

people.

why the World Hates the Jews

major thorn in the flesh of G-d's enemy who hates all that G-d loves and vice-versa. Satan is still at work to destroy the Jews completely, and he constantly subcontracts his agenda of irrational hatred to different people groups, organizations and/or individuals.

Like all kinds of hatred, anti-Semitism didn't happen in a vacuum. We are where we are today because of a progression in historical events against the Jewish people that has mushroomed into a world-wide jihad against them and the State of Israel. The roots of this hatred can be traced in the Jewish writings (Tanach) to Israel's interaction with the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16, Deuteronomy 25:17-19). Exodus and even the events in the Book of Esther also document this (Exodus 1:15-22; Esther 3:8-9; 5:13-14; 9:25). For as far as we look back, the Jews have always been and continue to be the "scapegoats of humanity."

Moving forward to the time of the early Church Fathers, some of them desired to study the Tenach seriously. They quickly realized that they could benefit from studying with rabbis who spoke and read Hebrew, so they received invaluable knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures from their contemporary Jewish sages. Occasionally, along with that knowledge came some exegetical influence from their Jewish counterparts. What had started as a literal approach to G-d's Word by the followers of Messiah and the Apostolic Fathers was slowly morphing into a more allegorical and even mystical approach, thus opening the door for the first wave of opposition, that we could label theological anti-Judaism.

From Ignatius to Justin Martyr to Origen to Chrysostom to Augustine, just to name a few, the Church Fathers had a distorted understanding of biblical Judaism. The "monstrosity" of the children of Israel was their main concern. They needed to separate the "evil" from the "righteous," and the "sinful" from the "holy," so they started to ostracize the Jewish

Christianity would soon claim all the virtuous actions in the Hebrew Scriptures for a kind of pre-existent church. Replacement Theology was emerging as a new doctrine. All these views influenced the legal enactments made against the Jews early on.

The unfortunate but logical progression of the hatred, once it is incorporated into government as an institution, is to isolate and persecute a marginal group. This is what happened when the long history of theological anti-Judaism of the church got

incorporated into the Roman Empire under Constantine. Being Jewish in a Christian world went from bad to worse. The world was entering into the "Dark Ages," and they would turn out to be quite a bit darker for the Jewish people. Anti-Judaism in theory became anti-Semitism in practice during the Middle Ages. From humiliation to ostracizing to murder, the Medieval Jew was forced on a 1,000 year walk of shame.

A common church practice was forced baptisms and conversions of Jewish people, and yet, even "converted" Jews were seldom accepted by Christians. Then came the Crusades to push the Muslim infidels out of the Holy Land. Few events in the history of the Jewish people were more catastrophic than the Crusades started in 1096. It was not long before the Crusaders realized that they could start by fighting some other "infidels" within their own backyards, and as they marched through Europe on their way to Jerusalem, a motto was born: "Kill a Jew, save your soul!"

The twelfth century introduced a new charge against the Jews, fabricated from beginning to end for the sole purpose of stigmatizing Jewish people further into a demonized state. It is still being used today by anti-Semitic groups and people across the globe. Known as the "Blood Libel" or "Blood Accusation," it claimed that, Jews would murder a Christian, preferably a child, during Holy Week for the ritual purpose of collecting their blood for the preparation of Passover matzo. More than 150 false charges of blood libel were recorded throughout history (the first one in 1141), resulting in the deaths of many Jewish people.

As if this wasn't enough, a new measure was introduced that would change the status

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and the safety of Jews for the next 700 years. Jewish people of Europe were now required to wear a yellow circle patch on their garments to facilitate their identification. The badge, or rouelle, became known as "the badge of shame." Needless to say, Nazi Germany would pick up on the idea and take it to a new level that culminated in the marking and death of 6,000,000 Jews. (See picture)



During the Middle Ages, the unwanted Jew was expelled from most European countries. In 1492, after years of devastation, torture and killings during the Inquisition, the Jewish community of Spain was expelled by Queen Isabella. The Jewish people survived the Middle Ages and entered the Modern Age facing a new set of challenges, and the worst was yet to come.

The Renaissance, the Gutenberg press and the Reformation changed the world forever. Martin Luther helped Christians break the shackles of Roman Catholicism and have a direct relationship with the G-d of the universe. He first was friendly to the Jews and in 1523, in his pamphlet titled **Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew**, he wrote some very positive remarks about the Jewish people. Then, in 1543, when the Jewish community didn't meet his expectations, he published the book **Of the Jews and Their Lies**, where his description of the Jewish people is so venomous that Hitler was quoted saying that he was just finishing up what Luther started.

It is around that time that the concept of the Ghetto was introduced in Venice, Italy (1516). The main period characterized by apex ghetto life for the Jewish people took place during the 1940s in Eastern Europe in cities like Lodz, Brakow, Vilna, Minsk, and Warsaw, among many others.

A larger geographical area similar to a ghetto was introduced in Eastern Europe that led to the Pogroms (government sponsored riots against the Jews). That area known as the Pale of Settlement (1791-1913) included about 20% of Eastern Europe, for a total of about 1,000,000 square miles. As the end of the nineteenth century was approaching, Jews were about to experience another major shift in anti-Semitism. Racial anti-Semitism was about to become the main focal point.

The "Age of Enlightenment" had arrived and the Jewish people really thought that tol-

erance and acceptance would characterize this new era that they had entered. Could this work all over Europe and especially in anti-Semitic France? The life of one French Jewish officer, Alfred Dreyfus (1859-1935), would unfortunately prove otherwise. The Dreyfus Affair was followed by Austrian reporter Theodor Herzl. The events prompted him to write the historic pamphlet **Der Judenstaat** or "The Jewish State," published in Vienna in 1896, in which he stated that he was convinced that the only viable solution was a mass exodus of the Jews of Europe back to Israel, the Land of their ancestors. Theodor Herzl paved the way for what Zionism is today.

The world was in turmoil, and this led to World War I. The Jews continued to be blamed for the ills of the world. Aware of their unending status as unwanted citizens, they started to seek the enforcing of the 1917 Balfour Declaration, in the hope of the official establishment of a Jewish home to immigrate to, in what was then British Palestine.

Germany's defeat and humiliation at the close of WWI, brought about by the Versailles Treaty (1919), led to an economic collapse followed by the inflation of 1923. A strong sense of German nationalism, coupled with Germany's economic chaos, provided the venue for Hitler's rise to power. It would take a few years and some prison time, but he eventually took control and started the horror machine of the Holocaust as his method for "The Final Solution to the Jewish Question."

Jewish history is often categorized as pre-Holocaust and post-Holocaust. Classic anti-Semitism was born of theological anti-Judaism and evolved to its apex in the Holocaust. Much of world Jewry thought that the rest of the world had learned from the mistakes of the Holocaust. The Jewish motto: **Never Again** was strongly believed in the two decades after World War II, but it would prove otherwise. Things were far from over as the "New Anti-Semitism" was about to enter the world scene.

Write a Letter to the Editor!

Petah Tikvah, 165 Doncaster Rd
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WE learn about all of the biblically required holidays in Leviticus 23, beginning with Shabbat - the Sabbath, which is the first of the holy convocations. We are commanded to celebrate each of these days as "a perpetual statute... throughout your generations... in all your dwelling places."¹

These days are called **moedim**. The first mention of the **moedim** is in Genesis 1:14, where it is usually translated as **seasons**. "Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years.'" This is **not** the correct translation, as the **moedim** are the "appointed times." In other words, God has made appointments to meet with you at these times. Most of us will attempt to keep an appointment with the doctor or the mechanic. How much more should we keep our appointments with HaShem!

The new moons determine when each month begins on the biblical calendar, which in turn helps us to know when each of the annual holidays of Leviticus begins. The sun determines each day. Biblically, each day begins at sunset, and ends at sunset 24 hours later. "And there was evening and there was morning, a second day."² This is true for all of the days of the week. The seventh day of each week is **Shabbat** (the Sabbath), which begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset 24 hours later. "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."³ This isn't just the "Jewish" Sabbath. At that time, there weren't any Jews! Abraham doesn't enter the picture until about 2,000 years later, in Genesis 11:27.

Likewise, in Leviticus 23, these religious festivals are not called "the Feasts of Israel." Instead, they are called "the Feasts of the LORD (YHWH)" in your King James Bible, in Leviticus 23:4.

You could call Shavuot the "Rodney Dangerfield" holiday. Rodney Dangerfield is the comedian famous for his many one-liners, after which he said, "I don't get no respect." That's because this is one holiday that even most Jews today tend to ignore. **Shavuot** is called "**Pentecost**" in Christian Bibles, and

Shavuot

**Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin**

occasionally is called the Feast of Weeks. In Deuteronomy 16:16, we learn that it is one of the three pilgrimage festivals ("Shalosh Regalim"). This meant that men who were able were expected to make the pilgrimage to the Beit HaMikdash ("Temple") in Jerusalem for this holiday, as well as for **Pesach** (Passover) and **Sukkot** (Tabernacles). Therefore, in Biblical times, Shavuot was one of the three most important of all of the Holy Days. Today, many Jews tend to ignore it. Most Christians also tend to ignore it. You might expect that Christians would celebrate it because the events of Acts chapter 2 occurred on this day. However, it is even ignored by most Pentecostal Christians.

YOU MIGHT BE A MESSIANIC GREENHORN IF...

YOU PHONE A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH TO FIND OUT THE CORRECT DATE FOR PENTECOST.

WHATTA YA MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW? ISN'T THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH?



Daniel Botkin, www.gatesofeden.org

Shavuot is also called **Yom HaBikurim** (Feast of First Fruits) for the wheat harvest.⁴ In Judaism it is often called **Z'man Matan Torah-tenu** (Season of the Giving of the Law [Torah]). The Law was given in the third month (Sivan) after the Israelite exodus from Egypt,⁵ and Shavuot is in the month of Sivan. The Rabbis believe (and we concur) that the Torah was given on Shavuot. Therefore, it is often considered the "Birthday of Judaism."

In Acts chapter 2, we see the **Ruakh Ha-Kodesh** (the Holy Spirit) being poured out upon Yeshua's **talmidim** (disciples). Therefore, many consider this to be the "Birthday of Christianity." However, this event occurred in a completely Jewish setting on a Jewish holiday in the Jewish Temple. All of those in atten-

¹ Vayikra (Leviticus) 23:15,21,31,41.

² B'reisheet (Genesis) 1:8.

³ *Ibid.* 2:3.

⁴ There is another Feast of First Fruits on Yom Rishon ("Sunday") during the week of Passover for the barley harvest.

⁵ Sh'mot (Exodus) 19:1.

dance were **Jews** and **proselytes to Judaism**.⁶ And nobody converted to Christianity! Yeshua was (and is) the Jewish Messiah. His disciples remained Jews. And all of the Jews who accepted Him as their Messiah remained as Jews. The first ones to be called Christians were the Gentile believers in Antioch, in Acts 11:26. You have to read over half of the Newer Testament before you ever see the word **Christian**. It's a **good** word, not a bad word. But it wasn't used for the Jewish believers in Yeshua. It isn't necessary for Jews to convert to another religion to accept their own Jewish Messiah! Therefore the events of Acts 2 should be considered the "Birthday of Messianic Judaism," not the birthday of Christianity. Christianity is a religion that gradually evolved out of the Messianic Judaism of the First Century. As time went on, Christianity became increasingly separate from the Hebraic foundations of the faith, and in later centuries even became anti-Semitic.

Another term I like for this holiday is **Atzeret Shel Pesach**, meaning "Completion of Passover." Passover brought freedom from slavery to the Israelites. However, freedom without laws to protect that freedom would quickly descend to anarchy. Therefore, seven weeks after Passover, HaShem gave the Torah to His people, most famously the **Aseret HaD'varim** ("Ten Commandments"). Passover was considered incomplete until the Law was given at Mount Sinai on Shavuot.

Most of us are able to read the Tanakh (O.T.) in its Jewish context. However, we also need to read the Newer Testament in its Jewish context, as per the last instructions that Yeshua gave before his ascension into Heaven:

⁴⁴And He said to them, *'These are the words which I spoke to you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses (Torah), and in the Prophets (Neviim), and in the Psalms, concerning Me.'*

⁴⁵Then He opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures ("Old Testament"), ⁴⁶And said to them, *'Thus it is written, that the Messiah should suffer, and rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations...'*

⁴⁸And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but you are to stay in the city of Jerusalem, until you are clothed with power from on high.'

⁵⁰And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up his hands, and blessed them. ⁵¹And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God. Amen." (Luke 24:44-52)

Yeshua used the Tanakh (O.T.) to authenticate that He was the Messiah. He also told them to remain in Jerusalem, which they did, as they continued to worship in the Temple. He also gave them an unusual instruction, *"that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."* No doubt, they may have assumed that they were simply to share the **Besorah** (Good News) of Messiah only to **Jews** among the nations, which is what they initially did. It took a supernatural vision (Acts 10) in order to get Shimon Kefa (Simon Peter) to witness to Gentiles. Cornelius and his household were the first Gentiles to accept Yeshua without first converting to Judaism.

Then in Acts 1:8, Yeshua said, *"You shall receive power when the Ruakh HaKodesh has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of the earth."* These were Yeshua's last words before ascending to Heaven. After the Resurrection, He walked in Israel for forty days, teaching his **talmidim** from the Scriptures, and preparing them for the upcoming Shavuot celebration at the Temple.

That, by the way, is the main purpose of the infilling of the Holy Spirit: to have the power to be **witnesses** of Yeshua the Messiah. Gifts of tongues, prophesying, etc., are all very nice. But that isn't the main purpose of the infilling of the Spirit. Also, many "spirit-filled" Christians are also anti-Torah. According to Ezekiel 36:26-28, it is the Holy Spirit that enables us to keep God's statutes and ordinances. If someone is anti-Torah, it is likely that they might be "spirit-filled," but it isn't the **Holy Spirit**.

By the way, being "Spirit-filled" is not an invention of the Newer Testament. The prophets were all "Spirit-filled." Even King David was Spirit-filled. After his sin with Bathsheba, he prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me (Ps. 51:11)."

⁷ In all likelihood, this was the Aaronic Benediction of Numbers 6:22-26.

⁶ Acts 2:10.

WHEN I was a kid way back in the 1950s, fathers were a part of most families. Yes, there were children born out of wedlock, but that was the exception, not the rule. Divorce was also rather rare. And fathers were respected, and sometimes feared. When a child misbehaved, he did **not** want to hear his mother say, "Just wait until your father comes home!" Even in the television shows, fathers were respected for their wisdom and dedication to their families, with programs such as "Father Knows Best," "Leave it to Beaver," and the "Donna Reed Show."

Not everything that the Feminist Movement of the 1970s and 1980s did was bad. They did much to improve the position and influence of women, and to remove many of the injustices that women often had to endure. However, among the negative influences was to minimize the benefits of having a man in the house. Feminists would say such things as, "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle." Fathers were deemed totally unnecessary to raising children.

If you look at the media of today, we see men often portrayed as complete buffoons. All the wisdom seems to be with the women. TV comedies love to poke fun at the men, particularly the fathers and husbands (or "significant others"), as seen in such programs as "Married With Children," "Raymond," and "The Simpsons." Regretfully, men now are often "living down" to the characterizations that they see and hear in the media. Many are indeed complete buffoons, often picturing themselves as completely worthless, so why even try?

The following article is from Chuck Missler's Koinonia Institute. The author (who, by the way is female) happens to believe that men are indeed important to the family, and backs up her beliefs with solid facts and statistics. We still need good fathers, and we need good step-dads and grandfathers as well. We also need good role models for our children today.

— RAC

FATHER'S DAY approaches, with its gaudy ties, new golf balls and little jars of orange fish bait. Yet while Father's Day doesn't make nearly the ripples that Mother's Day does, it honors some extremely important people. A father's presence — or lack thereof — can make all the difference in the lives of his children. Fathers need to know how vital their role

is, and we all need to celebrate those devoted fathers among us.

We Need Our Fathers

by Amy Joy Hess

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As millions of America's children sleep in homes without dads, we grow to see the very significant place that fatherhood has in the lives of our children. Children from fatherless homes are 20 times more likely to end up serving prison times than those who grow up with both parents. Daughters whose fathers are missing are far more likely to have difficulty developing healthy relationships with men as they grow up, and are more likely to become pregnant as teenagers. Nearly 24 million children live away from their biological fathers, and a large number of these see their fathers only on weekends, holidays ... or never.

Boys have been found to engage in higher levels of aggressive behavior and to show less empathy when there is no supportive father in the home, while girls without dad engage in higher risk sexual behaviors early on.

Richard Koestner, a psychologist at McGill University, compared the empathy of 75 men and women who had been children when they were involved in a 1950s Yale study. Affection from their parents was not a significant factor in showing empathy for other people, but how much time their fathers spent with them was significant. Koestner said, "[W]e were astounded at how strong the father's influence was."

In 2008, psychologist Bruce J. Ellis compared hundreds of older and younger sisters from the same families, particularly noting the length of time the girls had spent with their fathers in the home before their parents split up. He published his results in *Developmental Psychology* saying, "Girls who grew up with a high-quality father — who spent more time as a high-investing father — showed the lowest level of risky sexual behavior. Their younger sisters, who had less time with him, tended to show the highest level of risky sexual behavior." Younger sisters did not demonstrate a higher level of other risky behavior — not wearing bicycle helmets, for instance. The higher risk was associated primarily with early sexual activity in homes where dad left early in the girls' lives.

According to the non-profit Center for Children's Justice, children from fatherless homes are:

- 5 times more likely to commit suicide
- 32 times more likely to run away

- 14 times more likely to commit rape
- 20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders
- 20 times more likely to end up in prison

In light of the father's absence in our communities, we would like to take some time to praise the role of fathers in the lives of families, and to encourage all you dads out there. You are very important people!

There is more information today than ever before on the differences between men and women, and the biological reasons for the basic strengths that each have for creating complementary relationships and complementary parenting styles. It is highly difficult for any single parent to play both Mom and Dad — simply because we were designed to be partners and to fill each other's weaknesses with our strengths. It's easy to see how greatly children need their mothers, but fathers are also extremely important to children. Below are some of the areas in which a father is very difficult to replace.

ROLE MODELS

This applies to both boys and girls. From their father, boys gain their understanding of how to be a man. By watching their fathers, sons learn about male responsibility and the proper ways to assert themselves. They learn how men should treat women. Fathers provide an authority and sense of discipline, particularly for teen boys, that women have an extremely hard time duplicating. Boys need a man they can respect and after whom they can model their own lives.

For daughters, fathers provide the model of the man they should seek as adults. A father's love and care helps young girls develop a sense of their own self-worth and expectations of how other men should treat them. Daughters gain an ability to trust from trustworthy fathers, and learn to find value in healthy femininity from the man who truly values them for who they are and not just how they look.

PARENTING STYLES

Rather than being in conflict, fathers and mothers balance each other's parenting styles — helping each other raise well-rounded children. Each is important, and without one or the other, it is easy for children to miss out on important social development.

Fathers tend to emphasize rough and turn-

ble play more than mothers do. Fathers' play is likely to be both physically stimulating and mentally exciting. This form of play helps children learn about physical self-control and what is appropriate playful behavior, and what is dangerous. Through this type of play, Fathers help children learn to control their wild emotions and have fun in the midst of competition.

Fathers tend to encourage competition, challenge, initiative, risk-taking, and independence.

In conversations, fathers tend to be more direct and specific — teaching children not to 'beat around the bush'. They stress fairness and justice while mothers tend to focus more on sympathy and care. Fathers focus more on

independence while mothers tend to stress community and relationships.

Together, mothers and fathers show children the values and strengths of both of the genders. The social revolution of the last fifty years has greatly degraded men. Fathers help girls to appreciate and value men, and show boys their value as men.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Children with involved fathers have been found to have enhanced academic achievement, problem solving ability, and quantitative and verbal skills. According to several studies, Father involvement in their sons' lives has been shown to have a huge effect on boys' mathematical and verbal skills. Father presence is reflected in their daughters' improved mathematical skills and reading ability.

An astonishing finding is that the development of empathy and compassion in children's characters is correlated with their father's involvement in their early childhood. Young people who have been raised by warm and affectionate fathers are far more likely to have happy marriages and healthy relationships as adults.

Most importantly, fathers provide a concept of the Heavenly Father for their children. Harsh, abusive, or unpredictable fathers make it more difficult for children to understand God's love or to trust Him. On the other hand, trustworthy, loving, steady fathers model for their children the character of God.

Thanks, dads, for being there for your children. You mean more than you may know.

FATHER



"Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles and the judgments He pronounced, O descendants of Abraham, O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth" (Psalm 105:5-7).

Jewish tradition based on the Scriptures encourages us to remember Yahweh's deeds in history. This is because He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. In "remembering" what He has done in the past, we revisit and rejoin ourselves, in a real sense, to God's interaction with our people through the ages. Presently remembering the past helps equip and embolden us to walk in His ways in future. We know Him better and love Him more.

Jewish communities have been remembering Israel's historic Six Day War of June 5-10, 1967. The war ended, against all odds, with Israel's stunning victory in six days over the combined armies of her surrounding enemy states. Israeli losses were heavy. And, over time, most of the territory gained has been returned in exchange for promises or hopes for peace. But back in 1967, most Jews—as well as Western Christians—viewed the war's turnout as nothing less than miraculous.

As you may know, Jewish holidays are based on the Hebrew, rather than international Gregorian calendar. But the Six Day War is not remembered as a Jewish holiday. Instead, Jerusalem Day (Yom Yerushalayim) officially commemorates the climax of the war, the Holy City's prophetic return to Jewish leadership. The holiday is based on the Hebrew calendar and often occurs in May.

But the international community is feverishly pushing to create a Palestinian state from biblical land, including Jerusalem, that fell to Israel in the Six Day War. For that reason, certain aspects about the war are worth remembering at this time.

As you do, be encouraged! If you're a Gentile, God's covenant faithfulness to you personally as a follower of Messiah reflects His covenant faithfulness to the Jews. And if you want what's best for the Palestinians, align with biblical justice in support of them.

In 1967, Israeli troops were outnumbered by their enemies... In addition, she was highly

under-equipped against the combined forces of Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Jordan. The world expected Israel to lose the war—which would, in effect, mean the annihilation of the Jewish state. But God intervened.

ISRAEL: Six Days, Six Miracles

Here's a short list of six documented military events regarded by many as miraculous (there were plenty more):

1. In a defensive pre-emptive strike on June 5, the Israeli air force flew over and destroyed one Egyptian military air fleet after another for three straight hours. Apparently, no

Egyptian air base tried to inform the others of the attacks. Meanwhile, an advance warning by Jordan of the air assault failed because Egypt had changed their warning codes the day before. This victory proved key to the outcome of the war.

Israeli troops at Western Wall in 1967

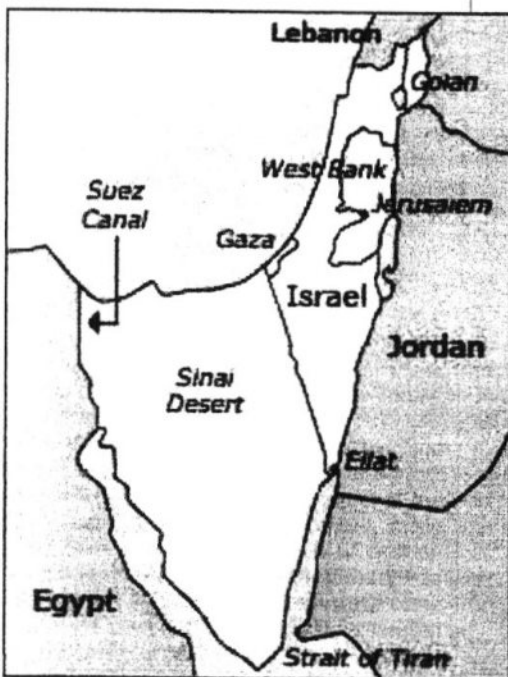


2. The battle of Shechem in the West Bank (illegally annexed by Jordan since 1948) was expected to be one of the hardest and bloodiest. But when Israeli forces approached the town from an unexpected direction—east instead of west—heavily armed Arabs in Shechem mistook them as Iraqi reinforcements arriving from the east. As a result, the Israelis

**Sandra Teplinsky
Light of Zion**

were warmly welcomed and the city easily fell into their hands. This helped Israel regain much of the rest of the West Bank from Jordan with minimal resistance.

3. Israel was particularly outnumbered and under-equipped in the Golan Heights against Syrian troops. But in a watershed battle, as the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) advanced, many of the Syrians quickly pulled out of position and fled in chaos. Most of their weaponry was dropped and left behind. Afterwards, some said they'd seen frightening visions, there on the battlefield, of Abraham. The patriarch was reportedly warning them not to harm the Jews.



Israel with territory conquered in 1967

6. International pressure forced Israel to accept a ceasefire proposed by King Hussein of Jordan. But at the last moment, Hussein nixed essential terms of the ceasefire he himself had initiated. This gave Israel the extra time needed to annihilate their enemies' military infrastructure—and restore Jewish leadership over the Old City of Jerusalem.

Radio communications on June 7, 1967 between Israeli troops approaching the Old City and their commanders at the "David Operations Room" have been made public. Hear how excerpts from these communiqué reflect the heartbeat of a God faithful to His ancient covenant people:

"... Shortly we're going to go into the Old City of Jerusalem that all generations have dreamed about. ... Ahead we go, through the Lion's Gate! ... I'm with the first unit to break through into the Old City. ... The Temple Mount is in our hands! I repeat, the Temple Mount is in our hands! ... All forces, stop firing. This is the David Operations Room. All forces, stop firing! ... I'm walking right now down the steps towards the Western Wall. I'm not a religious man, I never have been, but this is the Western Wall and I'm touching the stones of the Western Wall. ... [The soldiers spontaneously pray together:] 'Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam, she-hechianu ve-kiemanu ve-hegianu la-zman ha-zeh'" (Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the Universe, Who has sustained us, kept us and brought us to this day).

The military chaplain blows the shofar. The seventh day after the war began, Israel rested. Let us remember that when the hour appears darkest, the future desperately daunting, and odds seemed

stacked against us, Yehowah's glory is at hand.

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Editor's Note: Prior to the Six-Day War, Israel's enemies were publicly planning a war of genocide against Israel. Israel sought support from the USA and other nations to prevent this war, but received no help whatsoever. President Nasser of Egypt was promising a quick and decisive war of annihilation against Israel. Most of the world expected Israel's demise. Instead, the Arabs lost decisively. **RAC**

4. Within a couple of days of Israel's air strike on its military planes, Egypt began blowing up or abandoning its other military bases, seemingly inexplicably. As a result, Israel easily took both the Sinai and Gaza, the latter of which Egypt had illegally annexed in 1948.

5. An IDF truck stockpiled with explosive ammunition, desperately needed to rearm Jewish troops, was directly hit by a live grenade. This should have caused the truck to instantly explode and destroy surrounding facilities and troops. But the grenade landed quietly on top of the truck, where it sat until dismantled and removed. This sort of incident reportedly occurred throughout the war.

Confessions About Sunday: Part 1

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.

The vast majority of Christian churches today teach the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, as a time for rest and worship. Yet it is generally known and freely admitted that the early Christians observed the seventh day as the Sabbath. How did this change come about?

History reveals that it was decades after the death of the apostles that a politico-religious system repudiated the Sabbath of Scripture and substituted the observance of the first day of the week. The following quotations, all from Roman Catholic sources, freely acknowledge that there is no Biblical authority for the observance of Sunday, that it was the Roman Church that changed the Sabbath to the first day of the week.

In the next issue, there will be quotations from Protestants. Undoubtedly all of these noted clergymen, scholars, and writers kept Sunday, but they all frankly admit that there is no Biblical authority for a first-day sabbath.

Roman Catholic Confessions About Sunday

James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore (1877-1921), in a signed letter.

"Is Saturday the seventh day according to the Bible and the Ten Commandments? I answer yes. Is Sunday the first day of the week and did the Church change the seventh day - Saturday - for Sunday, the first day? I answer **yes**. Did Christ change the day? I answer **no**!

"Faithfully yours, J. Card. Gibbons"

The Catholic Mirror, official publication of James Cardinal Gibbons, Sept. 23, 1893.

"The Catholic Church, . . . by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday."

Catholic Virginian Oct. 3, 1947, p. 9, art. "To Tell You the Truth."

"For example, nowhere in the Bible do we find that Christ or the Apostles ordered that the Sabbath be changed from Saturday to

Sunday. We have the commandment of God given to Moses to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is the 7th day of the week, Saturday. Today most Christians keep Sunday because it has been revealed to us by the [Roman Catholic] church outside the Bible."

Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., The Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine (1957), p. 50.

"Question: Which is the Sabbath day?

"Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

"Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

"Answer. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the **Catholic Church** transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

Martin J. Scott, Things Catholics Are Asked About (1927), p. 136.

"Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday Now the Church ... instituted, by God's authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday."

Peter R. Kraemer, Catholic Church Extension Society (1975), Chicago, Illinois.

"Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

"That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man."

Roman Catholic Confessions

James Cardinal Gibbons, The Faith of our Fathers, 88th ed., pp. 89.

"But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify."

Stephen Keenan, A Doctrinal Catechism 3rd ed., p. 174.

"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the (Catholic) Church has power to institute festivals of precept?

"Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her - she could

not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is **no** Scriptural authority."

John Laux, A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies (1936), vol. 1, P. 51.

"Some theologians have held that God likewise directly determined the Sunday as the day of worship in the New Law, that He Himself has explicitly substituted the Sunday for the Sabbath. But this theory is now entirely abandoned. It is now commonly held that God simply gave His Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days as holy days."

Daniel Ferres, ed., Manual of Christian Doctrine (1916), p.67.

"Question: How do you prove that the (Catholic) Church has the power to command feasts and holy days?

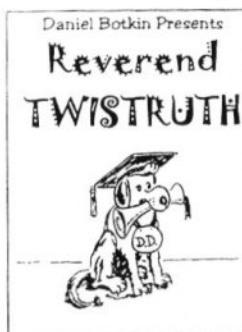
"Answer: 1) By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of, and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and "2) We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority

of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws.

"It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is **nothing** in their Bible."

T. Enright, C.S.S.R., in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas, Feb. 18, 1884.

"I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' The Catholic Church says: 'No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.' And lo! **The entire civilized world bows down in a reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church.**"



Do you want to understand the conflict in the Middle East?

Let me simplify it for you; look at a map of the United States. Maybe you're thinking: "Farah, why should I look at a map of the U.S. to understand the Middle East?"

Bear with me. With misinformation, disinformation, and faulty premises prevalent in Mideast assumptions, this fresh analogy will really put things in perspective.

Imagine the state of New Jersey is Israel and the United States is the entire Middle East.¹ Israel and New Jersey are about the same size. The U.S. and the Middle East are also in the same ballpark.

New Jersey has a nice coastline on the Atlantic Ocean, just as Israel has a beautiful one on the Mediterranean. New Jersey represents about 0.2 percent² of the land mass of the U.S., with the other 49 states controlling 99.8 percent. The same is true for Israel and the Middle East.



New Jersey and Israel have about the same population – 8.5 million. The other states have about 320 million. (The Middle East population is higher at close to 400 million. This figure doesn't include non-Arab Iran, which I'll address in a moment.)

Now imagine there is a "grievance" between the 49 other states and little New Jersey. The grievance is that New Jersey has too much land. The other states want to slice New Jersey in half and create a new state with foreign refugees, while also chopping the capital of Trenton in half, making it the dual capital of New Jersey and the new state of foreign refugees.

If you can imagine such a scenario, you've now got an understanding of what is commonly referred to as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

¹ Including the Arab nations of North Africa.

² That's just two-tenths of 1 percent.

But it's actually much worse than that—and even more absurd.

Understanding Israel's Enemies

For this to be a serious analogy, we have to picture the 49 American states with the "grievance" in a near constant state of war with each other. Pennsylvania is consumed in civil war. Hundreds of thousands are dead. There are close to one million refugees who have fled the conflict. It's a breeding ground for terrorists. The battle is spilling over into Delaware and part of New York.

Meanwhile, there are other wars taking place between Texas and Oklahoma. And faraway California is developing nuclear weapons and threatening to destroy New Jersey. California is also sponsoring terrorism all over the rest of North America.

Sometimes, missiles from Delaware are fired into population centers in New Jersey. New York sometimes sends terrorists through the Lincoln Tunnel to attack civilians in Union County in New Jersey.

While the 49 states are in conflict with each other, there is one thing on which they agree. New Jersey has to go. Over the past 70 years, the 49 states have waged wars of annihilation against New Jersey four times. All four times, New Jersey has miraculously prevailed. In moments of candor, the leaders of the other 49 states will admit their ultimate goal is to destroy New Jersey and that cutting it up is just an interim step to their real objective.

If you can picture such a scenario, you are very close to understanding the realities of the Middle East conflict. It's really that simple. Anyone who believes that the Arab nations' grievance with Israel is primarily about land is living in a world of make-believe. The Arabs and Iran have 99.8 percent of the landmass of the Middle East even with the current Israeli borders. Israel really does have 0.2 percent, just like New Jersey. And the Muslim nations of the Middle East all agree on just one thing: Israel controls too much land.

Who in their right mind would believe it? Would you accept the conventional wisdom that dividing New Jersey in half from north to south and handing over the western half to the other 49 would actually result in peace? Would you accept the premise that this "compromise" would make the remaining sliver of New Jersey more secure? Would you think appeasing the aggression of the 49 in this way would really

provide a permanent solution to the conflict?

It's an old cliché, but there's a lot of truth in it: The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results. That's what the U.S. and the rest of the global elite have been doing in pursuit of an elusive peace in the Middle East for at least the past 30 years.

The problem, of course, is **not** that Israel doesn't desperately seek a meaningful and lasting peace with its neighbors in the region. It's hard to imagine any nation in history that has tried harder to achieve peace. But the Middle East remains in a seething cauldron of hatred, violence, and war—and Israel has nothing to do with any of it.

First, remember there is a blood feud within the Islamic Middle East. Islam is generally divided into two camps: Sunni and Shia Islam. These two camps hate each other and have been involved in horrific wars for 1,200 years. Each camp considers the other "infidels" and "apostates." Saudi Arabia is the stronghold of the Sunnis and Iran the base of Shia Islam.

Syria, a client state of Shiite Muslim Iran, is wracked by a civil war, with Sunni terrorists supported by ISIS as its biggest challenge. The war has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and created a refugee crisis affecting nearly one million people—many of them Believers. There is no end in sight to the violence. Israel shares a border with Syria. Israel's only real involvement in the conflict is protecting its territory and offering humanitarian relief to the victims of this carnage.

That war has spilled over to Lebanon, where Shiite Iran-sponsored Hezbollah controls the southern border with Israel. If Hezbollah wasn't preoccupied with its battle with ISIS and propping up the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad, it would probably be firing missiles into Israel as it has many times in the past.

Jordan, a stone's throw across the river

from Israel, is also on guard against ISIS and other terrorist threats. It is a Sunni-dominated state at relative peace with Israel. But the stability of the moderate regime of King Abdullah is always threatened by more extreme Sunni terrorism as well as expansionist Shia Islam.

How about Egypt? During Barack Obama's administration, the president of Egypt was overthrown and replaced briefly by an extremist Muslim Brotherhood leader who sought to abrogate the nation's peace treaty with Israel. But the military stepped in and installed a moderate general in power.

Because the forces of extremist Sunni Islam are powerful inside the country, another coup could turn Egypt into a dangerous, well-armed enemy of Israel at any time.

Another major player in the region is Iran, which is working hard toward developing nuclear weapons, exerting influence over Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, and is just as relentless in its existential threats to destroy Israel as her Arab neighbors have been.

If all of those challenges aren't enough, we must also factor in Turkey, which had long been under the control of moderate, secular leadership. The country is now moving rapidly toward dictatorship under a leader who dreams of restoring a Sunni Islamic Caliphate and a new Ottoman-style empire in which it controls the entire Middle East, including, of course, Israel.

That's a bird's-eye view of the larger Middle East, without even mentioning the current war between Saudi Arabia and Iran quietly taking place in Yemen, far from Israel. Yet, the world has deluded itself into believing the only chance for peace in the Arab-Israeli stalemate is the roadmap laid out long ago for a two-state solution that involves carving up the peaceful, democratic state of Israel.

Duncan Ainsworth



"And they were on the road going up to Jerusalem; and Yeshua went before them, and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And He took the twelve aside, and began to tell them what things should happen to Him, 33

saying, 'Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man shall be delivered to the chief priests, and to the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles. 34 And they (the Gentiles) shall mock Him, and shall scourge Him, and shall spit upon Him, and shall kill Him: and on the third day He shall rise again.'

35 "And Ya'akov (James or Jacob) and Yochanan (John), the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, 'Master, we want You to do for us whatsoever we shall ask of you.' 36 And He said to them, 'What would want Me to do for you?' 37 They said to Him, 'Grant to us that we may sit, one on your right hand, and the other on your left hand, in your glory.'

38 "But Yeshua said to them, 'You know not what you ask. Can you drink of the cup that I drink of? And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' 39 And they said to Him, 'We can.' And Yeshua said to them, 'You shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized with you shall be baptized. 40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.' 41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with Ya'akov and Yochanan.

42 "But Yeshua called them to himself, and said to them, 'You know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your servant. 44 And whosoever will be the great among you shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'"

Mark 10:32-45

IT isn't unusual for men to attempt to jockey themselves into positions of power, influence, and prestige. And this is exactly what we see here in this passage from the 10th chapter of Mark. Yeshua had just given them a glimpse into the events that would shortly

servant Leadership

**Richard 'Aharon'
Chaimberlin, Litt.D.**

take place, including a reference to the upcoming scourging and crucifixion by the Gentiles. Apparently, this went right over their heads. The primary thing on their minds was how to exalt their positions in the upcoming Messianic

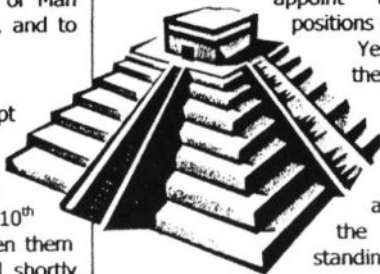
Kingdom, which they were expecting Yeshua to set up. Like

most Jews of that era, they were expecting a Messiah who would immediately set up the Messianic Kingdom. Many Jews believed in two Messiahs. One would be the "suffering servant" Messiah described in passages such as Isaiah 53. This Messiah was called "Mashiach ben Yosef" (Messiah son of Joseph). There would also be a "Mashiach ben David" (Messiah son of David), who would set up the Millennial reign of King Messiah. However, by the time of Yeshua, most Jews were looking only for King Messiah. And who can blame them? Israel was downtrodden by the Roman army. Thousands of Jews had been crucified and murdered by the harsh Roman occupation. They weren't in any mood for the coming of a suffering servant Messiah to pay the penalty for their sins. They wanted a kingly Messiah to kick out the Romans!

We as Messianic believers recognize that Yeshua is both "Messiah son of Joseph" and "Messiah son of David," as can be seen in the genealogies in Matthew and Luke. Yeshua came the first time to pay the penalty for our transgressions of Torah, and is returning a second time to be King Messiah.

These two sons of Zebedee were seeking the honor of being the two most important disciples of King Messiah, second in power only to Yeshua. The other ten disciples were quite angry at these two brothers who attempted to promote themselves above the rest of the talmidim. Yeshua informed them that they would also drink of the same cup of suffering, but also that it was not the place of Yeshua to appoint these men to positions of power.

Yeshua also gave them a new paradigm of leadership. The traditional paradigm is like a pyramid, with the top leadership standing on top of all



those below him. The lower one is on the pyramid, the less power and prestige one has. There is lower management, middle management, and upper management, with the CEO (or president) at the top lording it over everyone else, giving the orders, and reaping the rewards of having everyone at the bottom of the pyramid serving him (or her!).

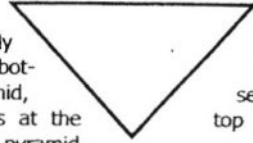
Yeshua said, "You know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your servant. 44 And whosoever will be the great among you shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."¹ This is the way it is among the Gentiles, but this isn't how it should be for the followers of the Jewish Messiah! The one who is greatest should be the servant of all! And Yeshua set the example in how He served all mankind! According to passages such as John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16-17, and Hebrews 1:2, Yeshua is co-Creator of the universe! Yet we see Him serving mankind, even washing the feet of His Talmidim, and finally giving His life as a ransom for all of us.

Curiously, today we see many "ministers" who have not come to minister or serve, but have come to be served. Ministry is people. Those who forget this should seriously consider another occupation. We see this also in another example that Yeshua gave. Yeshua's disciples came to Him, asking, "Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"² "And Yeshua called a little child to Himself, and set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, 'Truly I say to you, except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whosoever shall receive one such little child in My name receives Me (Mat. 18:1-5).'" Yeshua is looking for **humble** men and women to serve Him. He isn't looking for big *machers* (big shots); He is looking for humble servants. We come to Him as humble children of the Most High.

Instead of the standard pyramid, we need the paradigm of an inverted pyramid, something like this (top right):



The one who is truly great is at the bottom of the pyramid, serving all the others at the top of the upside down pyramid.



one who is truly great is at the bottom of the pyramid, serving all the others at the top of the upside down pyramid.

However, this upside down pyramid can also be used as representing God reaching down to us. We can add another pyramid representing us reaching up to God, as follows: It should be noted that the ancient dalet or 7 (representing the "D" sound) looked like a triangle. The modern dalet comes to us from the Aramaic alphabet, which was adopted as the Hebrew alphabet during the Babylonian Captivity.

If you take two dalets (two triangles in the ancient Hebrew alphabet, unlike the modern 7) and put them together, you have what is called the Magen David (Shield of David), which has the first and last letters of King David's name. It is the opinion of some historians that this is the origin of the so-called Star of David. The pagan nations would put various fearsome critters on their battle shields. The Jews were reluctant to put "graven symbols" of animals on their shields. Therefore, they put the double dalet, representing the name of their warrior King David, who was widely feared by the nations round about. When you put these two triangles together, you get something looking like this:



This ancient symbol can be found on the properties near the ancient Second Century synagogue in K'far Nachum (Village of Nachum, known to most as Capernaum). Many feel it goes all the way back to King David. I agree!

In Matthew 23:8-12, we read, "But do not be called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Messiah; and all you are brethren. 9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. 10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Messiah. 11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Yeshua isn't opposed to titles, unless the title exalts "clergy" over "laity." (The title that most people use for me is "Rick," which is fine. I answer to other titles as well. ☺) n

¹ Mark 10:42-45.

You probably heard that Jerusalem is the third holiest city in Islam. That is untrue. Perhaps you've read in Wikipedia or heard on CNN that the Al-Aqsa Mosque is the third holiest place of worship in Islam. Another provable lie.

Maybe you heard about the UNESCO vote in 2016 that denied any Israeli connection to the Temple Mount, referring to it only by the Islamic name, "Haram al-Sharif."

These are myths, aberrant legends, anti-Semitic fictions from hell. The No. 1 holy site in all Islam is Mecca, the Qaba, which draws millions of pilgrims annually – perhaps more than any other religious shrine in the world. While 5 million visit Vatican City every year, 18 million Muslims visit Saudi Arabia, and almost all go to Mecca, which doesn't allow non-Muslims to enter. The annual 5-day Hajj alone attracted 2 million in 2017. Pilgrimages are a big deal in Islam; the No. 2 Islamic holy site is probably Medina, where Muhammad is buried.

After Mecca and Medina, there is dispute, even among Muslims, as to which would be Islam's third holiest city. Why? Because while Mecca and Medina are considered holy to all Muslims, not all of them are Sunni. Sunni Islam adherents represent 80% or 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide. The other 20% are Shia, or 300 million. Shia Muslims revere shrines in 2 cities in Iraq – Najaf and Karbala.

How many make pilgrimage from Najaf to Karbala annually during the Shia Arba'een Pilgrimage? Some accounts put it at 30 million from 40 countries, often braving attacks from Sunni terrorists and usually traveling barefoot. The Arba'een Pilgrimage is longer one than the 5-day Mecca Hajj, and according to many sources, much larger in numbers of participants.

Consider Al-Aqsa, the Dome of the Rock, and Jerusalem. How many Muslims make pilgrimage to Jerusalem? Israel hosts 2 million tourists from all over the world every year; but only a fraction are Muslims. Israeli tourists are diverse ethnically, but almost all Jewish and Christian. And yes... Muslims are welcome. In 2014, there were Indonesian 26,700 tourists; 23,000 from Turkey; 17,700 from Jordan; 9,000 from Malaysia; and 3,300 from Morocco. Those were the most.

Perhaps Muslims stopped coming to Jerusalem, their "third holiest city," after Israel reunified it in 1967? Quite the opposite. There was scarcely any interest in Jerusalem when Jordan controlled Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock. Even King Hussein never visited Jerusalem during the time he controlled part of the city for two decades.

Before the first Zionist Aliyah, here's what the Dome of the Rock circa 1875 looked like – abandoned, in total disrepair, unvisited. In fact, it got

its famous gold-plated roof in the 1950s under Jordan's control, and it was redone in 1993 under Israeli authority.

Look for Jerusalem in the Quran. Stop looking. It's not there, though a passage in the Quran did inspire the building of Al-Aqsa.

The Muslim "claim" to Jerusalem is based on what is written in the Quran in Sura 17:1: "Glory be unto Allah who did take his servant for a journey at night from the Sacred Mosque to the Furthest Mosque." How did the "Furthest Mosque" become the one visited by Muhammad in a dream in which he rode a flying camel or horse?

In Muhammad's lifetime, Jerusalem was occupied by the Byzantine Empire. Muhammad died in 632 AD. Jerusalem was not captured by Muslims until 638 AD; there was **no** mosque, **no** Dome of the Rock anywhere in Jerusalem. Only churches. One of those churches is believed to have been built atop the Temple Mount. It may have been converted into the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Both the dome and the mosque have Byzantine architectural influences.

Rivals of Muhammad's successors captured Jerusalem from the Christians, then built the Dome of the Rock on the site where conquerors believed the Second Temple had stood, which was destroyed by Rome in 70 AD. The dome was completed in 691 AD and the Al-Aqsa Mosque 20 years later, 80 years after the death of Muhammad. The "ascension" of Muhammad from the rock under the dome was conjured up... possibly by Khalif Omar, who sought to construct a new holy site to rival Mecca.

The idea of establishing this shrine and the Al-Aqsa mosque atop the old Temple Mount as permanent Islamic holy places did not catch on, as can be seen by comparing them to Mecca, Medina, Najaf and Karbala. NOT during the Islamic Ottoman Empire which controlled Jerusalem until World War I, and NOT until 1929 did the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque stir Islamic interest. Adolf Hitler's Muslim friend, Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the grand mufti of Jerusalem, reminded his radical followers of Muhammad's "Night Journey." He stoked the myth to initiate riots in 1929.

Another dreamer... after the 1967 Six-Day War when Israel reunified Jerusalem.... Yasser Arafat used the shrines to stir Islam's claim to the city, which he called "Al-Quds." Arafat launched the lie that no Jewish Temple ever rested atop the Temple Mount, though that is precisely why both the dome and the mosque were built there on what Omar believed to be the Temple's very foundation. Arafat's propaganda coup has fooled many – most Muslims believe the Al-Quds myth, and they riot for it, murder for it...

Jerusalem is not Islam's 3rd Holiest Site

by Joseph Farah

16th Annual APMF Conference

Communities







Leaders



21 and Below



21-40



41-59



60 and Above



Marriageable

Shalom Rabbi Rick ~

As I read each issue of **Petah Tikvah**, I see that there are many Messianic believers in prison who lack fellowship and teaching. You have said that you don't have time to respond to each one (and understandably so). Perhaps there are those who would contact you expressing their desire to be pen pals with inmates. I was a pen pal with believers in prison, and each of us benefited from it.

I love history, particularly Biblical history and American history. I really enjoyed the article "Hanukkah and George Washington." Thank you for reprinting it.
Jerry Parrillo, Penfield NY

"I am Adonai... I will appoint you... to open blind eyes, to bring prisoners from the dungeon, and them that sit in darkness from prison."
Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 42:6-7

Shalom Rick ~

Thank you so much for your ministry. My husband is in prison, and he became Torah-observant while in prison. I also became Torah-observant. He raved about your publication, and I want to share it with my mishpocha.
Melinda Palmer, FLORIDA

Dear Rabbi Chaimberlin ~

Shalom! I served almost 3 years in Greenville Correctional. While there, I was moved into a pod with Mike Everage. Mike has been teaching me the basics of Messianic Judaism. I have learned a lot, and have enjoyed learning from him. I really appreciated his persistence. I was released in February.

When Mike invited me to the Chanukah services, my first reaction was, "I'm not Jewish." But he said that was okay, because Messianic Judaism is a faith, not necessarily a race. Ever since then, I wanted to learn more. In the beginning, some things did not make sense to me (coming from a Pentecostal background). But I started to ask questions and investigate so I could get a better understanding. Mike opened my eyes to truth, and my faith in YHVH has increased because of this truth.

I have enjoyed learning from the Scriptures, but what I have enjoyed the most is learning how to read, write, and speak Hebrew. Of course, I am still learning. Mike was very patient with me. Not many people would have taken the time and energy to sit with me and help me grow in Messiah Yeshua. I plan to find a synagogue.
Eric Smalley
VIRGINIA



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 this: www.gatesofeden.org

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

Shalom Richard ~

We have received **Petah Tikvah** for so long. We owe you a blessing! You do great work, and I quote your articles often.

Sharon Sanders, **For Zion's Sake**

PO Box 1813. Jerusalem 9101701 **ISRAEL**

WWW.CFDJERUSALEM.ORG

Editor's Note: Sharon is the editor and main writer with the **For Zion's Sake** magazine, which we recommend for our readers. Sharon is also president of Christians For Israel, a charity that helps the poor and needy in Israel.

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

May you be richly blessed for bringing the light and the truth of God's Word, as well as the events in the world. Keep shining for another year! Paulette Davenport, **SCOTLAND**

Shalom Sir ~

Toda raba. I am so grateful for the magazine you have sent me all these years. Every day, I remember you, your family, and your ministry in my prayers.

Iwuyah Umeh, **NIGERIA**

Dear Rick & Miriam

Yesterday, we were in Debrecen city in Hungary at Pasti Orthodox Synagogue for Tu B'shvat, and we from Oradea sang. There are four synagogues in Oradea, but only one is active. I am always happy to visit the Jewish community, even though they don't recognize Yeshua as Mashiach. But they know that I believe in Yeshua. I even told it to the director of the JCC.

They accept us and even made us 'members' of the community. The Erev Shabbat service begins at 5 pm. I'm looking forward to being there. I love this synagogue, the Jewish people, and Yeshua HaMashiach as well! I will never leave Yeshua. The new **Petah Tikvah** took over a month to arrive. Thank you!

Nancy Pop Kohen, **ROMANIA**

Shalom Rick ~

I enjoy your latest **Petah Tikvah**. I have almost read the whole magazine. I translated the poem "It's Jewish," into German. That was a challenge. Renate Kaufmann, **ISRAEL**

Upcoming Holidays

April 6: Seventh day of Pesach (Passover)
 April 12: Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance)
 April 19: Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence)
 May 13: Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day)
 May 20: Shavuot ("Weeks" or Pentecost)

The first and seventh days of Passover, as well as Shavuot, are Holy Days, days of holy convocation (Lev. 23). The other days mentioned above are holidays, not holy days. Normal work, employment, and shopping can be done of the other days (such as Yom Ha'atzma'ut).

Jewish Humor

Going Deaf: Ginsburg was convinced that his wife was getting deaf. She refused to go to an audiologist, so he asked the doctor what could be done.

"Start at the door of the room. Tell her something in a normal tone of voice. If she doesn't respond, move a little closer, still using a normal tone of voice. That should tell you just how deaf she is.

Ginsburg got home and saw his wife was doing the dishes. He said, "I love you my darling." No response.

He moved a few steps into the room and repeated, "I love you my darling." Still no response.

He moved closer, until he could touch almost touch her and repeated, "I love you, my darling."

With this, his wife turned around and said, "For the **third** time, I love you too."

Evening Prayers: The boy was asked by his father to say the evening prayers. He realized he didn't have his head covered. So the boy asked his little brother to rest a hand on his head until prayers were over.¹

The little brother grew impatient after a few minutes and removed his hand. The father said, "This is important ... put your hand back on his head!" To which the little boy exclaimed, "Am I my brother's kippah?"

OOPS... A Bloopster!

We had a mistake on the cover of the Jan-March 2018 issue. In the lower, right hand side, we wrote:

Vol. 36, No. 4

It should have read: Vol. 36, No. 1

¹ Traditionally, Jews pray with the head covered. Any head covering is acceptable: A kippa, baseball cap, napkin, even a hand.



Nancy Pop Kohen

Vacation Rental Home in Israel

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

This home is within a
5-minute stroll of:

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

**For more information,
please contact:**

Paul and Sherilyn Holman
graft9@embarqmail.com



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



What Happens When Faith and Fun Collide?

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

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

Write a Letter to the Editor!
Petah Tikvah, 165 Doncaster Rd
Rochester NY 14623



Shalom ~

The Messianic community here at Sterling uses lots of your magazines for our weekly teachings. I have been hooked on P.T. ever since I read the first issue I ever got. I am enclosing stamps to renew my subscription. I also thank you for the beautiful calendars that you provide to inmates. I pray for your ministry always.

Theo Kimmes, Sterling CO

Dear Bro. Richard in Messiah ~

I am so blessed to receive **Petah Tikvah** magazine. I know it is costly, and takes much effort to publish and send out. However, I have no money, and our prison does not allow us to send stamps. It would be impossible for me to receive P.T. without your generosity. Please find it in your heart to continue sending me this inspired magazine that has taught me so much, as well as the inspiring articles and promises about the land of Israel. Thank you for your dedication and that you and your family commit to this ministry. May Yahweh bless you and keep you. May He always provide for this ministry and for your family.

Ricardo Pena, Richmond TX

Editor's Note: We have continued Ricardo's subscription. We understand his lack of ability to send even a few stamps. We also wish to thank our readers that enable us to send subscriptions to prisoners. Several hundred inmates read each issue. We believe in miracles. However, **the greatest miracle is changed lives.** We have witnessed the changed lives of prisoners, and are happy to be a part of this transformation. Those who donate to this ministry are also changing lives of our wonderful brothers and sisters behind bars. These men and women behind bars have also inspired me and the readers of Petah Tikvah.

To the brothers at Petah Tikvah ~

I am part of the small remnant of Messianic believers at this facility. Recently, one of the brothers allowed me to read one of your magazines. I enjoyed it very much. It is very hard to find good materials with sound doctrine. I am enclosing postage to receive a subscription and for your commentary on Revelation.

Armando Compean, Moore Haven FL

Shalom ~

Where do the demons that plague mankind come from? Tirzah Bailey, Birmingham AL

OUR REPLY: Genesis 6:1-2 tells us, "Now it came about, when men began to multiply upon the face of that day, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters

of men were beautiful, and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose."

The "sons of God" are angels, as in Job 2:1 and 38:7. In this case, they are "fallen angels," as mentioned in Rev. 12:7-9. The result of this relationship between the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" were the Nephilim (lit., "fallen ones" - called "giants" in KJV) mentioned in Genesis 6:4, which also says, "Those were the mighty men, who were of old, the men of renown." These beings were perhaps the origin of the various Greek and Roman mythologies. However, these beings died in the Great Flood. I believe that the disembodied spirits of these beings are the demons of today, always seeking bodies to inhabit. The fallen angels are not the demons, as they are being "kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day."¹

"I was in prison, and you visited Me."
Matthew 25:36

More of these "spooky" things happened after the Great Flood, as we read more about "giants" after the flood. However, I believe Goliath and his brothers were the last of the giants. Rev. 9:1-2 indicates that these angels will be released from their captivity in the End Times. **RAC**

Restored Failures

A guest band was leading the praise and worship. Their passion for the Lord was moving. We could see - and feel - their enthusiasm. Then the musicians revealed that they were all ex-prisoners. Suddenly their songs took on special meaning, and I saw why their words of praise meant so much to them. Their worship was a testimony of lives broken and restored.

The world may embrace success. But stories of past failure offer people hopes also. They assure us that God loves us no matter how many times we have failed. What we call the **Hall of Faith** in Hebrews chapter 11 could well be entitled **God's Hall of Reclaimed Failures**. "There is scarcely an individual in that chapter without a serious blemish in his or her life. But God is in the business of restoring failures... That is a great principle of God's grace."

I love the comfort of Psalm 145, which speaks of God's "wonderful works" (145:5-6) and glorious redemption (v. 11), and glorious kingdom (v. 13) - then immediately tells us that He lifts up those who have fallen (v. 14). All His attributes are expressed when He picks us up. He is indeed in the business of restoration. Have you failed before? We **all** have. Have you been restored? All who have been redeemed are stories of God's grace. (Our thanks to Ann Marie Rosenfeld)

¹ Jude 1:6. See also 2 Peter 2:4.

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

I wish you all the blest. May you all receive God's complete shalom. Thank you for **Petah Tikvah**.

It keeps me grounded and centered in our Messiah, and my various problems don't seem so bad anymore. I ask for your prayers as I go for parole. Unless God acts to help me, I think the TDCJ will try to keep me in here forever. The longer I am in here, the more bitter I may become.

Harley Roam, Huntsville TX

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

Shalom! I asked a friend for something to read, and he gave me your magazine. I am new to Messianic Judaism, and enjoyed what I read. It taught me many things, and I see that you help prisoners with subscriptions and calendars. I want to be one of those blessed ones. I came to this faith less than a year ago. I have chosen to walk with the people of Israel. The Hebrew people were and are the chosen family of the Most High. Why would I not walk in the path He showed them? I am trying to build a firm foundation for myself.

R. Wayne Miller, Milton FL

Greetings ~

I am a Christian, or so I've been told. I only know that I received Jesus as my personal Savior, and something happened to me on the inside. I've repented and been immersed in water, and am seeking to know God better. I am studying the whole Bible: **both** Testaments.

However, there are some practices and doctrines within what is called the Church that I find very puzzling in light of Scripture. Maybe it is the "**wheat and tares**" growing together, as Yeshua taught, and the enemy (HaSatan) has brought in doctrines and practices into the midst of the Church that ought not to be. I'm just seeking God's way. Really!

I don't want any denominational or creed fighting. I just want to grow in the knowledge of God, living out the teachings of Jesus Christ, and helping others do the same as humbly as I can with all the energy given to me by the Spirit of God - spreading the message of hope to the hopeless, and giving glory to whom it belongs. I am ordering your Hebrews commentary in hopes of gaining a Jewish perspective that will shed light in some gray areas. After all, "salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22).

Tyrone Brayboy, Brunswick NC

"Take me off the mail list"

Shalom Rav Richard ~

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you so

much for allowing me to be a subscriber to **Petah Tikvah**. It was such a blessing. It puts a smile on my face, informs me about current events, and encourages me to see Messianics so dedicated to learn more about Adonai and serve Him.

I am excited to inform you that I am being released soon from prison, so I no longer want to be a subscriber - until I have a permanent address. Until then, I will continue to remember

you, your wife, and those who contribute to **PT** when I go to the Father in prayer.

Martin Gama, Brownwood TX

Editor's Comment: We very much appreciate this notification, so that we do not send **Petah Tikvah** to an obsolete address. The post office charges us \$2.21 for each P.T. that gets returned to us when the addressee has moved. Plus the intended recipient doesn't get his **Petah Tikvah**!

Dear Rav Rick ~

Enclosed are stamps for shipping to keep me on the mail list. You are always in my prayers. We love **Petah Tikvah** as always. Such wonderful content. Our kahal is called Beit Yeshua. We have 8-10 volunteers from Beth Messiah in Sarasota, including Rabbi Judah Hungerman who comes once a month. He has adopted our kahal as one of his own. We are truly blessed.

Stephen Covell, Arcadia FL

Editor's Note: I know that these men are deeply grateful to Rabbi Hungerman. Many times, Messianic fellowships behind prison walls write to Messianic Jewish congregations and do not even get a reply. They deserve a reply, even if only to say, "Sorry, we can't help you." Rabbi Hungerman is to be commended. BTW, we traveled with Rabbi Hungerman on a tour to Israel several years ago. It was a wonderful tour!

Dear Bro. Rick ~

I am so thankful for **Petah Tikvah**. It keeps me informed of what is going on in the world, and especially in Israel. It is the biggest little magazine that I've ever come across. It's not the size that counts, but the content. I'm thankful to God for you and **PT**, and pray that God keeps you and your loved ones in His care.

R.C. Smith, Palestine TX

The Muslim King Who Saved Jews During World War II

Source: Accidental Talmudist

King Mohammed V of Morocco saved his country's 250,000 Jews from persecution and death at the hands of France's pro-Nazi Vichy regime during the Holocaust. King Mohammed was determined to preserve Morocco's ancient Jewish community, and he extended his unwavering protection for three long years of Nazi occupation.

Born in 1909, Mohammed ascended to the throne as Sultan in 1927, when he was only 18 years old. Morocco was a French protectorate, so when Germany invaded France in 1940 and installed a collaborationist regime, the North African nation also fell under Nazi rule.

The Nazi regime immediately tried to pass laws in Morocco to ban Jews from various professions, expel them from the best schools, and create a ghetto. The young king (32 years old) blocked all anti-Jewish legislation. He refused to identify the nation's Jews. "There are no Jews in Morocco," he said, "only subjects."

He stood firm against ghettoizing and deporting Moroccan Jews despite constant pressure from the Vichy authorities. In a proud show of defiance, the king invited all the rabbis of Morocco to attend the royal throne celebration in 1941.

In 1948, King Mohammed became troubled by anti-Jewish incitement in the Arab world against the new state of Israel. He issued a stern warning to his subjects not to hurt Jews, reminding them that Jews had always been protected in Morocco.

Mohammed V died in 1961, at age 51. For his strong stance against Nazi persecution, he was honored posthumously by the Institute for World Jewish Studies with the Reverend King /Rabbi Heschel Award. The December 2015 awards ceremony in New York was attended by Princess Lalla Hassna, granddaughter of King Mohammed V. She brought a message from her brother, the current monarch King Mohammed VI:

"We are living at a time and in a world in which the collective imagination of our societies is too often impaired, not to say poisoned, by regression and archaism. By capitalizing on the depth and resilience of the legacy left by my revered grandfather His Majesty Mohammed V, we can, together, set out to recover the lost expanses of reason and mutual respect which have vanished from many parts of the world."



Israeli Arabs Have Highest Life Expectancy in Muslim World - 4 Jan 2018 -

Israeli Arabs have the highest life expectancy among 21 Islamic or Arab countries, even higher than that of wealthy Gulf States, such as Qatar and Bahrain, according to a study released this week. The study also showed that infant mortality among Israeli Arabs was lower than most of the same Islamic and Arab countries surveyed.

The study conducted by the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel noted, "thus, the relative status of Arab Israelis in terms of life expectancy at birth is good when compared with that of all other Arab or Muslim populations, and is equal to that of the general United States population."

The life expectancy for Arab Israelis, the report noted, however, "is lower than that of Israel's Jewish population, and falls below the average for the 23 developed countries of the OECD, excluding the United States and Israel."

One of the factors that contributes to the disparity between the life expectancy of Israeli Arabs and Jews are the higher infant mortality rate. The report also suggests that "a relatively high incidence of road accidents and chronic, smoking-related lower respiratory disease among Arab Israelis" may contribute to the lower life expectancy of Israeli-Arabs compared to Israeli Jews.

Source: The Israel Project & Bridges for Peace

Poll: Most Israeli Jews Think Trump is Helping Israel

Jan 4, 2018 | Israel Today Staff

There has been wild speculation that US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel will damage the peace process and ultimately hurt the Jewish state. It's a scare-mongering tactic that has long been used to coerce Israel into abandoning its historical claims and red lines.

But Israelis are no longer buying it. The monthly Peace Index survey released this week revealed that a firm majority of Israeli Jews believe Trump truly understands Israel's concerns and is helping the Jewish state, despite hysterical reactions to the contrary.

According to the poll, 65% of Israeli Jews believe Trump's Jerusalem declaration was in Israel's best interests. Roughly the same percentage of Israeli Arabs said the opposite. A strong 59% majority of Israeli Jews said that in general, Trump understands Israel's interests and is acting to their benefit.

www.IsraelToday.co.il

Rav Chaimberlin ~

I am writing to find out if Rav Everage can forward some teaching material to me. I still haven't received all my property from Greenville. I ran into a couple of guys interested in learning about Messianic Judaism. I fellowship with them and have shared by copies of **Petah Tikvah**. They are Protestants, but have expressed emptiness. Let Rav Everage and Bro. John know that I miss them dearly. However, the chaplain here is working with me the best he can. I am excited at the opportunity to share the gospel of Yeshua. Jamar Summers, Pocahontas VA

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

believer." I believe in the Torah, because Yeshua said, "If you believe Moses, you would believe in Me," and "He (Moses) wrote about Me." I want to know more about Yeshua, so I also look for Him in Moses' writings (Torah!)

Juan Garcia, Avenal CA

Dear Rav Rick ~

Thank you for praying for my schizophrenia. Prison would be bad enough without it. I have been the victim of violence about eight times now, sometimes with prison guards. One nearly put my eye out. I have seen false signs and wonders. Scary, unbelievable horrors. Dark things. It's pretty rough. I want to say "toda raba" to you and your wife for blessing me in prayer. Yah has a plan for me. Anonymous, MA

Editor's Comment: Prison is rough enough for anyone. But with schizophrenia or health issues, it can be a nightmare. Please keep these men and women in prayer for health and healing.

Shalom ~

Thank you for sending me **Petah Tikvah**. I am so happy to have found this magazine, and also glad to see that its ideology is like mine! It's great that you are presenting these teachings to all of us who are seeking the gospel of our Lord Yahshua and the Apostles.

Mark Chavira, Chowchilla CA

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for your love for HaShem and for all your teachings in **Petah Tikvah**. I know it will continue to be a blessing to me.

I wrote several letters to Shalom Bible College to inquire about their correspondence courses, but got **no** reply.

I've been trying to get a Torah in English. Yes, I know it's in the Tanakh - "Old Testament." It would be even better to have the Torah in both English **and** Hebrew.

Somebody recommended that I read the teachings of Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum. But it seems to me that he believes the Torah has been voided or "annulled." Do you recommend his teachings? I don't want to be confused. He also wrote that the dietary laws are "no longer applicable as a rule of living for the

OUR REPLY: When Juan referred to a Torah, he made it very clear that he was not looking for an actual Torah scroll, but only the first five books of the Bible. We would recommend perhaps obtaining a

Chumash, which generally contains all of the Torah portions, usually in Hebrew and English, as well as commentaries for each parashah (Torah portion). The Haftarah portions are also often included. I would recommend **The Interlinear Chumash** published by Mesorah Publications, 4401 Second Ave, Brooklyn NY 11232. It is expensive, but top quality. They also have less expensive versions of the Chumash. Many assume that English translations done by Jews are more accurate than Christian translations. However, this is really not always true, even though it seems logical. Many times the Christian translation is more accurate. Also, the Jewish commentaries in the Chumash are often quite good, but are sometimes fanciful.

Regarding Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum: Nobody can doubt his Jewish ancestry. His parents were Jewish Holocaust survivors. He was born in a Displaced Persons camp in Europe. He is also highly educated, with various higher theological education degrees. He is very intelligent. And he is a nice guy. However, theologically, he is **not** a Messianic Jew. Theologically, he is a Dispensational Protestant. He has very little regard for Shabbat, the dietary laws, or the Holy Days of Leviticus 23. I do not recommend his books to our readers. **RAC**

Rick, Miriam, and all ~

Thank you for all that you do. May HaShem bless you abundantly! And, **Baruch HaShem**,² I thank HaShem that we now have a president in office who recognizes Jerusalem as being the capital of Israel, and who recognizes the need to support Israel! Mark Weyand, Corcoran CA

Shalom Richard & Miriam ~

Thank you for all that you do. I pray for y'all daily. The Muslims here think that I am crazy, because I pray more than they do. I also pray for them, because they are not my enemy here. It's the Christians! They call me a legalist, "one of the people who killed Jesus," etc. However, persecution makes me stronger.

James Lynn, Helena GA

² "Blessed be the Name (of God)."

Yakir Rav Chaimberlin ~

I am sending you a yartzeit³ gift for Carol Ann Mitchell. Please pray for her loved ones. They still love her and miss her.

The Messianic assembly here also needs prayer. Our present leader may soon be exonerated, because the real murderer confessed to the crime. I am very thankful for **P.T.** and **Gates of Eden**. Both are sources for solid Biblical teachings. James Doyle, Bowling Green FL

Mr. Chaimberlin ~

Your magazine has been most welcome by the Messianic community here. We have begun a Messianic Resource Library (which includes your magazines). Thank you for your support, and the resources you have provided.

We are attempting to create a Messianic database for all inmates to use. The Sovereign Watchdogs helps link inmates, parolees, and their families to information, resources, etc. Our president Frank Anglin can be reached at 270-769-8735 or by writing to 1600 Harris School Rd, Rineyville KY 40162. People can also email him at watchdogs88@yahoo.com

The Sovereign Watchdogs goal is to unite those who proclaim Yeshua as Lord. We have also networked with Daniel Belay Mekonnen in Ethiopia, who I contacted as a result of reading about his work in **Petah Tikvah**. Daniel's ministry needs help selling Judaica for his community's welfare projects. W.S. Anglin, Le Grange KY

Dear Mr & Mrs Chaimberlin ~

I'm requesting to be put on the mail list again. It seems that every time I get on your mail list, I get a transfer, and my **Petah Tikvah** is not forwarded to me. So here I go again! I love your booklet. It is packed with wonderful teachings and news. Enclosed are stamps for postage for my subscription.

I got approval for all T.D.C.J. prisoners to be allowed to have tzitzit (ritual fringes) on our personal clothing, but have not found a source for the tzitzit. Can you help me find a source?

Ms. Terry Barnett, Gatesville TX

Editor's Note: Calling all readers of PT! Are you able to help with this situation? This young lady and many other inmates over the years have been requesting a source for tzitzit. Please write to me at **Petah Tikvah** if you know of a reliable and inexpensive source. Perhaps it is one of you! It would be a great mitzvah (good deed)!

Rick ~

In response to your Jan-March 2018 **P.T....** We wish to get your Hebrews, Acts, and Revela-

³ The anniversary of the death of a loved one, usually on the date on the Jewish calendar.

tion Commentaries translated into Spanish. Would you be able to use them? (**Yes**, we can use them! **RAC.**) We also wish to get a Hag-gadah translated into Spanish. Here are some ministries offering Messianic materials "en espanol" that inmates (and others) can write to:

◆ Passion for Truth, Jim Staley, 1402 1st Capital Dr, St. Charles MO 63303. DVDs, including "Verdad o Tradicion."

◆ Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel PA 19507. Numerous Spanish articles on topics like unclean meats, Constantine, etc. (Sacred Name)

◆ Philadelphia Trumpet, PO Box 3700, Edmond OK 73084-9943. All sorts of Sabbatarian-related materials "en espanol." (Church of God)

◆ The Bible Says, PO Box 99, Lenoir City TN 37771. 35 lesson Bible Course, and Spanish versions of everything. (Seventh Day Adventist)

Joey Dauben, Ft Stockton TX

Dear Rav Rick ~

I have a quick testimony. It was announced that we would be required to work on Saturday. We already work 50 hours per week. The supervisor asked me to work, and I said, "No, because it's the Sabbath." He said, "I worship on Sunday."

But that night I received a \$100 money order that I wasn't expecting. We get paid 36 cents per hour for 6 hours work, which I turned down. I believe HaShem rewarded me for not working on Shabbat. Doug Hawkins, Spruce Pine NC

Mr & Mrs Chaimberlin ~

Thank y'all for the latest issue of **Petah Tikvah**, which is making its rounds through our Messianic congregation. As soon as I finish with it, there is a line of brothers who wait to read it, as we all find your publication to be very informative. Richard Cedar, Seagoville TX

Shalom Ravi Chaimberlin ~

I am truly grateful for **Petah Tikvah** and your commentaries. It is like coming home to a warm fireplace, as I read your articles and see some of the familiar names of those I knew at previous Florida prisons.

When you next speak to Ravi Sid Kleiner, be sure to thank him for all he does for us Messianic Believers. He is a blessing.

Shawn Ray Wuestley, Milton FL

Editor's Note: Rav Sid Kleiner, as mentioned above, has been a great blessing. He is not a Messianic rabbi. He does not believe in Yeshua (yet!). However, in his prison ministry, he does not discriminate against Messianic inmates, providing various items as his finances allow. Rav Sid Kleiner, 10188 Winterview Dr, Naples FL 34109-1520. He's a good man and a good friend to me, as well as to many prisoners across the USA. He could also use some donations.

Dear Rav Richard & Miriam ~

Five years ago, my wife (Melinda) joined a Torah-observant mishpacha following Messianic teachings. I was the unbelieving husband. She prayed for me and chipped away at my hardness. Six months ago, I attended the Messianic group here at prison to make her happy, but at that meeting, I got 'hooked.' Two months later a volunteer Messianic rabbi immersed ("baptized") several of us. AWESOME!

Recently Sid Kleiner sent me a sample **Petah Tikvah**, and I will say it again... AWESOME! I encouraged my wife to go to your website and check it out for herself. I am enclosing stamps for postage. Donald Palmer, Cross City FL

Editor's Note: There is indeed a Messianic Revival happening... in the prisons! HaShem is still doing miracles!

Dear Rav Rick ~

Toda raba for all your help and dedication to us inmates! **Petah Tikvah** has been a blessing to the Messianic community here at Sanchez. We have been able to have Messianic services here since May 2016. Brothers come and go. We have no outside volunteer. We kinda like it that way, because we don't want somebody coming in pushing wrong doctrines on us. We are offender led. However, we have no music for worship.

I contacted Sid Kleiner from Beth Tikvah Jewish Prisoner Outreach. I received a tallit katan from him. Also, we asked the chaplain to email him, and he did. In response Sid Kleiner sent us a box of books and some calendars. I thank the Father, you, and Sid for all you do that helps us out. Adrian Ramos, El Paso TX

Dear Rick ~

Thank you for your audacious approach to addressing both "sensitive" and "controversial" subject matters when you unmask false church traditions by rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Your research is often stimulating and thought-provoking, giving clarity to those hard-to-ask questions. Cornelius Melton, Lake City FL

Rick ~

We have an Texas Messianic prison volunteer actively building and facilitating a ministry for Messianic believers who are leaving prison and re-entering society:

Melissa Rawlins, Chayah Ministries
963 El Camino Rd, Waxahachie TX 75167
817-629-3888 melissarawlins@gmail.com

We are praying for land and resources for housing, basic needs, etc. Also jobs/employment. The *Waxahachie Daily Light* did an article on Melissa Rawlins with photos and the efforts for the homeless/re-entry ministry. Her network includes a councilman, lawyer, and director of planning.

Shalom Richard & Miriam ~

I was raised in a very Christian home. We never mentioned any other belief system. I guess it was because we thought our beliefs were the only correct ones. Then I made some bad choices that resulted in me being incarcerated. I got involved in the music ministry for the Christian group. However, I felt something was missing. Circumstances arose that allowed a brother (Michael) to invite me to the Messianic services. I was reluctant to go, because anything Jewish was taboo. After that first meeting, I was more comfortable than when I went to Christian services.

I found what it was that I was missing: The Mosaic Law and the Love of Yeshua go hand in hand. Michael had his reasons for inviting me to the Messianic services. I was to become the music ministry. He was upfront with that. But after I joined, I found that I enjoyed the closeness and fellowship we had each Shabbat. Thank you for all that you do to bring us joy and peace through **Petah Tikvah**. Dwayne Devine, Orlando FL

Dear Rav Rick ~

I give praise to the Almighty for giving you the gifts that you have and the courage to put your gifts and talents to work for the Kingdom. I want to thank all of our brothers and sisters outside of prison who help to make **Petah Tikvah** what it is today. Sometimes the only real source of Messianic fellowship or encouragement that some brothers and sisters in prison receive is **Petah Tikvah**, which has become a set-apart kadosh superglue for many of us who have chosen this path, as an **echad** body of many different brethren who have been blessed for doing so. Since I began correspondence with you back in 2003, I have seen good a good growth in information for and from the Body throughout the world. Vernon Smith, Coalinga CA

Dear Mr. Chaimberlin ~

You have made a big impact on my life. You have shown me what it means to be a true follower of Yahshua. You walk the walk and talk the talk, like a true believer should.

Anthony Swanson, Arcadia FL

Dear Rav Rick ~

I just finished Dan Juster's book **Jewish Roots**. What a great read! It was donated from: Prison Book Project, PO Box 1146 Sharpes FL 32959

This is a swell resource, focusing primarily on religious books. I also got a nice devotional from them. James Nelson, Ayer MA

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM



In Jerusalem there is a "Martin Luther King Street" with a sign stating that he was an "American Leader and Fighter for Universal Human Rights". Dr. King and his wife Coretta Scott King are both memorialized with forests of trees planted in Israel in their memory. Mrs. King and Reverend Martin Luther King Sr. were among the founding members in 1975 of BASIC - Black Americans to Support Israel Committee, which was led by the legendary Bayard Rustin.

On the occasion of the annual national Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday the American Zionist Movement, consisting of 25 national Zionist organizations, representing millions of Americans, is proud to highlight here some of the notable remarks and writings of Dr. King:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Israel, Zionism, and the Jewish People

"Peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity. I see Israel as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy. Peace for Israel means security and that security must be a reality."

"When people criticize Zionists they mean Jews, you are talking anti-Semitism."

"The whole world must see that Israel must exist, and has the right to exist, and is one of the great outposts of democracy in the world."

"Israel's right to exist as a state of [with] security is incontestable."

"I solemnly pledge to do my utmost to uphold the fair name of the Jews -- because bigotry in any form is an affront to us all."

"I cannot stand idly by, even though I live in the United States and even though I happen to be an American Negro, and not be concerned about what happens to my brothers and sisters who happen to be Jews in Soviet Russia. For what happens to them happens to me and to you and we must be concerned."

Source: AmericanZionistMovement.org

An Orthodox Response to Yeshua

The following comments and responses are from www.chabad.org, which is the website for the "Ultra-Orthodox" Lubavitch sect of Judaism. Down below are communications on their website from someone named Sandy and responses from Tzvi Freeman, a senior editor at Chabad.org, also heads the [Ask The Rabbi](http://AskTheRabbi.com) team. He is the author who of *Bringing Heaven Down to Earth*.

Comment from "Sandy":

My dad and my mom are Jews but they converted to Christianity so I am not a Jew.

Sandy

Rabbi Tzvi Freeman's response to Sandy:

Sandy, you are a Jew. Your parents are Jews. 100%. Don't let any-one tell you otherwise. Once

a Jew, always a Jew.
Tzvi Freeman



Sandy's response to Tzvi Freeman:

I accepted Jesus in my heart. My Dad stopped talking to me.¹ I don't agree with this statement "once a Jew

always a Jew"! People's free will is important too.

Sandy

Rabbi's response to Sandy:

The man you accepted in your heart was also a Jew—to the very end. He ate matzah on Passover, fasted on Yom Kippur, wore tzitzit on his garments and wrapped tefillin. He kept kosher as well.

Rabbi Tzvi Freeman

http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/3854897/jewish/Who-Is-a-Jew.htm

Editor's Note: Chabad is a worldwide movement, with Chabad centers in several dozen different countries. Chabad definitely does **not** believe in Yeshua as Messiah. However, Chabad does many wonderful works of charity, feeding the poor, and bringing wayward Jews back to Torah and to their Jewish heritage. Also, Chabad is also highly Zionist, always taking a strong stand for Israel. (Some of the other so-called Ultra-Orthodox Jews sects such as Satmar are highly hostile to the existence of Israel.)

Consider a Financial Gift For God's Beloved People, Israel:

Vision for Israel continues to impart comfort and provision for many of the nation's poor, including terrorist victims and their families, the elderly and Holocaust survivors. Please give at www.visionforisrael.com

¹ Apparently, the parents converted to nominal Christianity, not the "born-again" variety.

Daniel Botkin presents

WHAT IF ...?

What if Jesus had been trained for the ministry at one of our seminaries?

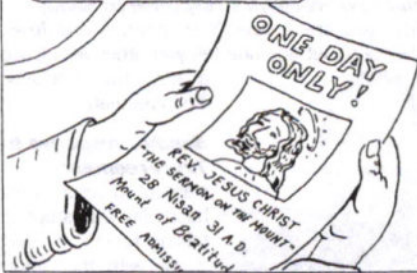
AND SEEING THE MULTITUDES, HE WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN: AND WHEN HE WAS SET, HIS DISCIPLES CAME UNTO HIM FOR THEIR INSTRUCTIONS...

LOOKS LIKE A BIG AUDIENCE TODAY!

YEAH! WE HAD THE SCRIBES PEN A FEW THOUSAND FLIERS TO ADVERTISE TODAY'S EVENT! WE'RE BILLING IT AS "THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT"!



THAT'S A CATCHY TITLE! YOU FELLAS HAVE REALLY BEEN DOING YOUR WORK!



OKAY, HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO! ANDREW, YOU LEAD THE CROWD IN A FEW ROUSING, UP-TEMPO CHORUSES TO GET THEM WARMED UP!



AFTER THAT, MARCELLUS HERE WILL GIVE HIS TESTIMONY! HE'S A WELL-KNOWN GLADIATOR FROM ROME!

PLEASED TO MEET YA!

PRaise THE LORD!

THE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL LIKE THAT!



OKAY, IT'S TIME TO START! I'LL WAIT HERE TIL PETER INTRODUCES ME! RIGHT AFTER MARCELLUS, PETER!



THIS IS THE DAY!
THIS IS THE DAY!

THAT THE LORD HATH MADE!
THAT THE LORD HATH MADE!



HINEH MAH TOV U-MAH NAYIM!
SHEVET ACHIM GAM YACHAD!



The character portrayed in this comic is NOT the true Jesus of the Bible. The purpose of this cartoon is to show how un-Christlike some of our religious traditions seem if we imagine Jesus (Yeshua) and the Apostles practicing these traditions.

WEREN'T THOSE CHORUSES GREAT? I KNOW YOU'RE ALL EAGER TO HEAR JESUS, BUT FIRST WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL TESTIMONY-- MARCELLUS OF ROME!



SINCE I MET JESUS, I'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH LOTS OF VICTORIES IN THE ARENA! OF COURSE I HAD TO QUIT KILLING PEOPLE, AND JUST FIGHT WILD ANIMALS! BUT IT'S GREAT KNOWING JESUS IS THERE, IN SPIRIT, ROOTING FOR ME!



THANKS, MARCELLUS! AND NOW FOLKS, YOU'RE ABOUT TO HEAR REVEREND JESUS CHRIST, A GREAT MAN OF GOD! HE'S GOT A REAL MINISTRY! LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I'VE PERSONALLY WITNESSED...



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

... CRIPPLES HEALED! LEPERS CLEANSSED! SO HERE HE IS-- LET'S GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO: JESUS !!



WELL, PRAISE THE LORD! WE'VE GOT AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD HERE TODAY! THE TITLE OF TODAY'S MESSAGE IS: "THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT"... Blessed are the poor in spirit...



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

... and great was the fall of that house! NOW LET ME TALK TO YOU ABOUT OUR GREAT FINANCIAL NEEDS... HOW MANY KNOWS IT COSTS A LOT TO KEEP A MINISTRY LIKE THIS GOING?



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

... THE SPIRIT IS TELLING ME THERE'S FIFTY PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE GOING TO GIVE A LOVE-OFFERING OF 500 SHEKELS EACH. WE'LL WAIT FOR THE SPIRIT TO SPEAK TO THOSE FIFTY... HALLELUJAH...



AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN JESUS HAD ENDED THESE SAYINGS, THE PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS CHUTZPAH: FOR HE TOOK THEM AS ONE HAVING AUTHORITY, AND NOT AS THE SCRIBES.

HOW MUCH DID WE GET, JUDAS?

DON'T BUG ME! I'LL COUNT IT LATER!



USA Lawmakers Embrace Israeli Sovereignty in Judea & Samaria: USA lawmakers Congressmen Scott Tipton, (R-CO.) and David McKinley, (R-WV.), visiting Israel as part of a fact-finding mission this week expressed their support for Israeli sovereignty over Judea & Samaria. They added that they believed many local Arabs would embrace the application of Israeli law over the area. Following a tour led by Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely, the Republican lawmakers expressed their support for the so-called "Sovereignty Movement", which seeks to apply Israeli sovereignty over Judea & Samaria. Congressman McKinley emphasized the importance of respecting Israeli autonomy, and allowing Israeli voters to decide questions regarding the final status of Judea & Samaria.

"I think it's important that we also give and respect the right of the Israeli people to make their own choice in what should happen in all parts of their destiny," said McKinley, "to be able to defend their borders, to choose the laws, whether that be with the Temple Mount, or Samaria and Judea, we all need to be working together." Representative Tipton said the delegation met with local Arabs he claimed who backed the application of Israeli sovereignty, and spoke of the "importance" of having Judea & Samaria unified under "one state" with the rest of Israel. (Arutz-7)

French Jewish Teen Assaulted While Leaving Synagogue: A 14-year old French boy was attacked on Wed. 28 Feb. 2018 while leaving a synagogue in Montmagny, north of Paris. Three fourteen year-old youths and one fifteen-year-old surrounded the boy and began punching him at the exit of the synagogue. They broke his glasses and stole his kippa while shouting anti-Semitic remarks at him. The assault took place during Purim, when the synagogue would have been filled with congregants. The boy's brother and sister were reportedly with him at the time, though he had left the building alone.

The suspects were taken into custody following the attack. The assault marks at least the third time a Jewish minor has been violently attacked in France since the beginning of 2018. In Jan. 2018 an 8-year-old boy was beaten in his Paris suburb. He had been wearing a kippa at the time of the assault. Earlier in January, a 15-year-old Parisian girl's face was slashed while she was walking down the street. She had been wearing the uniform of her Jewish high school at the time. (J.Post) **Intercede for the protection of the Jewish community in France. Pray for the comforting of the young man who was so viciously attacked last week.**

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

France Cracks Down on Islamic Radicalization in Schools, Prisons, Online:

Rocked by a string of Islamist terror attacks capped by a deadly rampage in the heart of Paris in late 2015, French President Emmanuel Macron's administration set out tough new measures to crack down on Islamic radicalization in schools, prisons and online. It's the third such plan French officials have floated in the past four years. Amid fears that French-born recruits to ISIS may be making their way home after the terror group's battlefield defeats, the state's multiple plans are seen as symbolic of France's struggles to deal with the largest Muslim population in Western Europe and to assimilate disaffected young Muslims into French society and culture. Since the first anti-radicalization plan was floated in 2014, terrorists have been blamed for the deaths of some 240 people in attacks in Paris and elsewhere.

The government will invest in training teachers to detect the early signs of radicalization among students and debunk conspiracy theories and fake news spread through social media, said PM Edouard Philippe when he announced the new policies. The new measures will also introduce tighter regulations for private and religious schools, including Islamic schools whose number has grown rapidly in the last few years. For the first time, the government is also taking new steps to reform prisons that have become hotbeds of Islamist radicalization. Radicalized inmates were previously dispersed among other prisoners. Now they will be housed in separate, sealed-off areas to prevent the exchange of radical ideas. French prisons currently hold 512 people charged with acts of terrorism, as well as over 1,100 inmates who have been identified as radicalized. (Washington Times)

'ISRAEL FOILS 20-30 TERROR ATTACKS EACH WEEK':

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said last week that the IDF has been carrying out massive operations in Judea & Samaria to thwart planned terrorist attacks, particularly in and around Hebron. "We are thwarting 20 to 30 terrorist attacks each week, facing ever-increasing terrorist efforts," he said. He attributed the successful anti-terror operations to "quality intelligence and a combination of smart deployment of forces and advanced technology," and emphasized that the IDF had prevented "the vast majority of terrorist activity." (Israel Hayom) Thank you, intercessors, for continuing to pray against terrorist attacks in Israel and for increasing intelligence strategies to detect and prevent terrorist violence. Prayers are being answered.

Source: Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265
Jerusalem 9107301, ISRAEL

When President Donald Trump announced that the United States would move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the Muslim world reacted with outrage and threats. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas warned of "dangerous consequences." The spokesman for Turkish president Erdogan warned that the move was a "grave mistake" because "Jerusalem is our red line." Bekir Bozdogan, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the move would plunge the world "into a fire with no end in sight." And Saudi Arabia's King Salman warned that the move "would constitute a flagrant provocation of Muslims all over the world."

The leaders of the Western world reacted in similar fashion. Pope Francis, British Prime Minister Theresa May, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and French President Emmanuel Macron all criticized Trump's announcement. Meanwhile, the patriarchs and heads of the local churches in Jerusalem sent a letter to President Trump warning that the transfer of the embassy "will yield increased hatred, conflict, violence, and suffering in Jerusalem."

But there is an obvious contradiction here. As *Jihad Watch* editor Robert Spencer points out in a recent column, these leaders have a record of defending Islam as a religion of peace and tolerance, which is being perverted by only a handful of extremists. Pope Francis, for example, has said that "authentic Islam and the proper reading of the Koran are opposed to every form of violence." On another occasion he drew a moral equivalence between Islam and Catholicism, saying, "If I speak of Islamic violence, I must speak of Catholic violence." For over a decade now, various Church leaders and secular leaders have assured us that violence has nothing to do with Islam.

But if that's what they really believe, why should they worry that moving an embassy would create – to quote from the letter of the church leaders in Jerusalem – "hatred, conflict, violence, and suffering."

By assuming that Muslims would riot over the announcement, says Spencer, the pope and other leaders are inadvertently admitting the truth about Islam: "that the numerous incitements to violence and hatred in the Quran and Sunnah do lead Muslims to behaving violently at the drop of a hat, or the move of an embassy."

After all, we are not talking here about a tiny minority whose actions would be rejected by the great majority, but about widespread rioting and violence on a global scale – "plunging the region and the world into a fire with no end in sight," as Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister put it.

A Catholic View of Moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem

by William Kilpatrick
from The Catholic Thing

And, apparently, the "fire" would be justified because, as King Salman said, the move "would constitute a flagrant provocation of Muslims all over the world." It's a safe bet that King Salman understands Islam better than do Merkel, Macron, May, and the Holy Father. Yet he is even more concerned than they.

He seems to assume that Muslims are highly prone to violence. He understands that they are easily provoked because their religion and their religious leaders tell them to be. Moreover, as he must know, almost anything might be considered provocative. Last July, a "day of rage"

resulting in the murder of an Israeli family was called because metal detectors had been installed on the Temple Mount as a security measure. Even Pope Benedict's measured address to an academic gathering at the University of Regensburg led to global rioting and killing.

There is no end to the number of things that offend Muslims. This, along with numerous other differences, should lay to rest the quaint notion that there is a moral equivalence between Islam and Catholicism. They are very different faiths. No one worries about global rioting should Catholics be offended by a slight to their faith. Yet if any group has cause to riot, it is Catholics and other Christians. Christians in many parts of the Islamic world face daily persecution and extermination. They are beaten, raped, and decapitated, and their churches are burned to the ground.

So on the one hand, Muslim believers are ready to commit mayhem over an academic talk or the moving of an embassy, and on the other hand, Christians remain peaceful even though their brethren are being slaughtered and burned alive. How much longer, we wonder, will Church leaders collaborate in the false assertion that Islam and Christianity are equally peaceful faiths?

Religious and secular leaders are caught in a flagrant contradiction. They tell us that Islam is a religion of peace and justice, yet they warn us not to provoke its followers in any way. Don't recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Don't draw cartoons that might offend Muslims. Don't wear religious symbols that might provoke them. Cover your women and your statutes. Don't ring church bells in the vicinity of Muslims. Don't criticize them for persecuting Christians because, as Ahmed al-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar University told Pope Francis, such criticism is a "red line" that must not be crossed.

"Just stay quiet and you'll be okay." That's what Mohamed Atta told the passengers on American Airlines flight 11 shortly before it flew into the World Trade Center. It wasn't good advice then. And it's not good advice now...

Golda Meir was Prime Minister of Israel from February 1969 to June 1974. The following is an op-ed she wrote for *The New York Times* in 1975.

"Palestinians"

To be misquoted is an occupational hazard of political leadership; for this reason I should like to clarify my position in regard to the Palestinian issue.

by Golda Meir

I have been charged with being rigidly insensitive to the question of the Palestinian Arabs. In evidence of this I am supposed to have said, "There are no Palestinians." My actual words were: "There is no Palestinian people. There are Palestinian refugees." The distinction is not semantic. My statement was based on a lifetime of debates with Arab nationalists who vehemently excluded a separatist Palestinian Arab nationalism from their formulations.

When in 1921 I came to Palestine – until the end of World War I a barren, sparsely inhabited Turkish province – we, the Jewish pioneers, were the avowed Palestinians. So we were named in the world. Arab nationalists, on the other hand, stridently **rejected** the designation. Arab spokesmen continued to insist that the land we had cherished for centuries was, like Lebanon, merely a fragment of Syria. On the grounds that it dismembered an ideal unitary Arab state, they fought before the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry and at the United Nations.

When the Arab historian Philip K. Hitti informed the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry that "there is **no such thing as Palestine** in history," it was left to David Ben-Gurion to stress the central role of Palestine in Jewish, if not Arab, history. As late as May 1956, Ahmed Shukairy, subsequently head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, declared to the United Nations Security Council, "**It is common knowledge that Palestine is nothing but southern Syria**." In view of this, I believe I may be forgiven if I took Arab spokesmen at their word.

Until the 1960's, attention was focused on the Arab refugees for whose plight the Arab states would allow no solution though many constructive and far-reaching proposals were made by Israel and the world community.

I repeatedly expressed my sympathy for the needless sufferings of refugees whose abnormal situation was created and exploited by the Arab states as a tactic in their campaign against Israel. However, refugee status could not indefinitely be maintained for the original 550,000 Arabs who in 1948 joined the exodus from the battle areas during the Arab attack on the new state of Israel.² When the refugee card began to wear thin,

the Palestinian terrorist appeared on the scene flourishing not the arguable claims of displaced refugees but of a ghoulish nationalism that could only be sated on the corpse of Israel.

I repeat again. We dispossessed no Arabs.

Our toil in the deserts and marshes of Palestine created more habitable living space for both Arab and Jew. Until 1948 the Arabs of Palestine multiplied and flourished as the direct result of Zionist settlement. Whatever subsequent ills befell the Arabs were the inevitable result of the Arab design to drive us into the sea. Had Israel not repelled her would-be destroyers there would have been no Jewish refugees alive in the Middle East to concern the world.

Now, two years after the surprise attack of the Yom Kippur War, I am well aware of the potency of Arab petrobillions and I have no illusions about the moral fiber of the United Nations, most of whose members hailed gun-toting Yasir Arafat and shamefully passed the anti-Semitic resolution that described Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, as racist.

But though Israel is small and beset, I am not prepared to accede to the easy formula that in the Arab-Israeli conflict we witness two equal contending rights that demand further "flexibility" from Israel. Justice was not violated when in the huge territories liberated by the Allies from the Sultan, 1 percent was set aside for the Jewish homeland on its ancestral site, while in a parallel settlement 99 percent of the area was allotted for the establishment of independent Arab states. We successively accepted the truncation of Transjordan, three-fourths of the area of historic Palestine, and finally the painful compromise of the 1947 partition resolution in the hope for peace. Yet though Israel arose in only one-fifth of the territory originally assigned for the Jewish homeland, the Arabs invaded the young state.

I ask again, as I have often asked, why did the Arabs not set up a Palestine state in their portion instead of cannibalizing the country by Jordan's seizure of the West Bank and Egypt's capture of the Gaza Strip? And, since the question of the 1967 borders looms heavily in the present discussions, why did the Arabs converge upon us in June 1967, when the West Bank, the Golan Heights, the Sinai, the Gaza Strip and old Jerusalem were in their hands?

These are not idle questions. They go to the heart of the matter – the Arab denial of Israel's right to exist. This right is not subject to debate.

Source: <https://israelinstitute.nz>

² The surrounding Arab nations told the Arab inhabitants that Arab armies would soon kill all the Jewish inhabitants of what was then called "Palestine." The Arabs were told to leave for their own

safety and then return to acquire the property of the dead Jews. These Arabs voluntarily left, expecting to return after the war. However, Israel won. These Arabs became the Palestinian refugees. Their descendants are also called Palestinian refugees. RAC

In the criminal-justice system romanticized by Hollywood films, those convicted of crimes are generally guilty. And a protagonist need only prove that someone's been wrongly imprisoned to get them freed by a judiciary that values truth and justice. The scrappy investigative reporter, jaded detective, or overmatched defense attorney comes up with the key piece of evidence that proves beyond doubt that someone has been wrongly convicted, and in the next scene that person walks out of the courthouse to be surrounded by joyful loved ones and supporters as the credits roll.

The real world is often quite different. Since it was established in 1992, the Innocence Project has succeeded in reversing the convictions of over 200 people, but the group says that a "staggering number of innocent people" remain behind bars today.

Perhaps even more troubling is that even when clear, indisputable evidence emerges showing that someone has been imprisoned for a crime they didn't commit, prosecutors, police, and judges will often fight tooth and nail to keep them incarcerated.

In his new book, *Blind Injustice: A Former Prosecutor Exposes the Psychology and Politics of Wrongful Convictions*, University of Cincinnati legal scholar Mark Godsey examines why that happens. Godsey was a former prosecutor who would later go on to co-found the Ohio Innocence Project, a chapter of the national organization. The book, which is in part a confessional, looks at how innocent people can become the victims of faulty eyewitness testimony, bad forensics, and a variety of blinding cognitive biases on the part of law-enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and judges, and why the system so tenaciously defends the status quo, even when it's guilty of railroad innocent citizens.

With so much attention rightly focused on racial injustice in recent years, Godsey's book offers another important piece of the puzzle. You can listen to my 25-minute discussion with Godsey in the player above, or read a transcript that's been edited for length and clarity below.

JOSHUA HOLLAND: You were an accomplished prosecutor in New York—a prosecutor's prosecutor, as you write in the book. You believed in the system. And at first, you were skeptical about the Innocence Project. Tell us a little bit about how you came to be an advocate for reform.

MARK GODSEY: It was by accident. I was very proud of my job and loved being a prosecutor. I went into academia to become a law professor, and the first school where I got a job had an Innocence Project. When I arrived, they said,

Why Does Our Justice System Fight So Hard to Keep Innocent People Behind Bars?

"The professor who runs it is on sabbatical this year. Since you've got a criminal-law background, you're going to have to supervise it." I really couldn't say no—I was untenured; I was the new guy on the block. But I remember thinking, "You have got to be kidding me. There are no inno-

cent people in prison." That was my view.

I went to the first meeting and the law students were talking about this guy they just visited in prison named Herman May, and they were totally convinced he was innocent. I remember sitting

there, just doing internal eye rolls and thinking, "What a bunch of bleeding-heart nonsense." But then DNA testing ended up proving that he was innocent and he was released. It was a huge eye-opener for me. It made me realize that my assumptions perhaps had been wrong—I'd been a little bit too cocky about the criminal-justice system that I'd been a part of.

So I went through a conversion in that one year, and then the very next year, I founded the Ohio Innocence Project. And we've now freed 25 Ohioans, who together served 471 years in prison for crimes they didn't commit.

JH: 25 people who'd served over 470 years—that works out to just under 20 years, on average.

MG: Our longest was Ricky Jackson, who served almost 40 years for a murder he didn't commit. You'd think you'd be totally broken and a mess after going into prison at 18 years old and getting out when you're basically 58, but he's an incredibly inspiring person. These exonerees are often really inspirational people that make you realize that when you get upset about traffic or stupid things, there's a lot more important things in life that we're taking for granted.

JH: Your book reveals how hostile police, prosecutors, and judges often are towards efforts to absolve those who have been wrongly convicted, even when there's solid evidence. You detail how even simple requests for records are ignored or treated as some sort of effort to undermine the credibility of the courts...

MG: The first thing that shocked me when I started doing post-conviction innocence work is when we had several cases with DNA evidence, and it was absolutely clear the person was innocent. I saw these prosecutors just going into denial and spinning all these ridiculous theories about how the person might **still** be guilty. They almost make you laugh. My first reaction was, "Are these people kidding? Are they serious?" ... I'm in court thinking, "Is this *Candid Camera*?"

That's how ridiculous these theories could be. And I realized that the Innocence Movement is really pointing out some flaws at the basic core of the criminal-justice system...

by Joshua Holland
www.thenation.com

As Democrats' support for Israel drops, political scientists debate the causes. A new poll has revealed a continued erosion of support for Israel among rank-and-file Democrats. The question political scientists are debating is: **Why?**

The new survey, conducted earlier this month by the Pew Research Center, found that 79% of Republicans sympathize more with Israel than the Palestinians, while only 27% of Democrats share that sentiment.

Dr. Michael Koplow, policy director of the dovish Israel Policy Forum, argued in *The Forward* Jan. 23 that "the drop in Democratic sympathy has occurred almost entirely in the past two years," citing the 16-point decrease from 43% in an April 2016 poll, to 27% in the new survey. In his view, the decline must be connected to the rise of President Donald Trump.

According to Koplow, many Democrats "are... conflating their feelings about Israel with their feelings about Trump, associating Israel with the American president... Democrats watch the love affair between Trump and Israel, and immediately decide that their sympathy for Israel must be misplaced."

Some earlier polls, however, indicated an even steeper decline than the 16% cited by Koplow for 2015-2016. A Gallup poll in February 2011 found 57% of Democrats sympathizing with Israel; that number dropped to 39% in a December 2012 Pew survey.

A number of political scientists take issue with Koplow's thesis. Dr. Richard Cravatts, an author on various political subjects and president emeritus of the Scholars for Peace in the Middle East nonprofit, told JNS that the deterioration in pro-Israel sentiment among Democrats "started not with the election of Donald Trump but as early as 2008, with [President Barack] Obama's election and his visible shift away from unqualified U.S. support for Israel."

Cravatts said the Obama administration's frequent criticism of Israel and "the creation of J Street by Democrats" were "clear signals to the Democrat base that Israel's policies and behavior should be critiqued and condemned, and the Palestinians would receive, for all intents and purposes, a pass."

Some experts believe the trend began earlier. Dr. Daniel Pipes, president of the Middle East Forum think tank, told JNS that "the Democrat-Republican divide was already apparent in early 2000, during Bill Clinton's presidency, and it has steadily widened through his three successors."

In Pipes's view, the cause for the divide "lies not in the specific actions of presidents but the trajectories of the two parties." Democrats, he

Democratic Support for Israel is Dropping

By **Rafael Medoff, JNS**
The Israel Group, PO Box
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said, "increasingly see Palestinians as underdogs deserving their support while Republicans increasingly see Israelis as a unique moral, religious, intellectual, commercial and strategic partner."

Dr. Miriam Elman, associate professor of political science at Syracuse University, agrees that the trend is older than the election of Trump. The reality is that liberal Democrats have been sympathizing less and less with Israel for well over 15 years," Elman told JNS.

"A major reason for these shifting attitudes," she said, "is the virulent anti-Israel messaging that young people are being exposed to on many U.S. college campuses and in America's mainline churches—where far-left, liberal faculty and clergy dominate and are constantly casting Israel and Zionism in a negative light."

Elman also connects the recent Pew findings to what she calls "the Democratic Party veering closer and closer toward the far left" in recent years. "It's not surprising to find dropping sympathy for Israel as this happens, because for the far left, identity politics dominates as an overarching world view, in which both Israel and America are cast as white supremacist, colonialist, and capitalist oppressors of minority rights and liberties."

Dr. Mitchell Bard, executive director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise nonprofit, believes the Democrats' level of support for Israel in the past was never as high as is widely assumed. He examined 24 Gallup polls since 1975 and found that the average support for Israel among Democrats was 46%.

"Democratic sympathy for Israel was never overwhelming and in the last Gallup poll [in February 2017], it was exactly the same as it was in 1975," Bard told JNS. The Pew polls have tended to find lower levels than Gallup of Democratic support for Israel.

"I stick with Gallup because of its reliability and longer trend data," Bard said. He believes that the next Gallup survey on the subject likewise will produce higher numbers on Democratic support for the Jewish state than the recent Pew poll. "What has changed—and Pew got this right—is that support among Republicans has skyrocketed," Bard added. The gap between Republicans and Democrats on Israel in last year's Gallup poll was 35 points.

"Critics are quick to blame Israel's policies today for the gap," he said, "but then how do they explain why support among Democrats was so low before the failure of Oslo, the growth of settlements, the Gaza blockade and all the other issues typically used to explain the party's current dissatisfaction with Israel?"

"Oh You Cross-Worshippers, We'll Kill You All" by Raymond Ibrahim

GATESTONE INSTITUTE, January 15, 2018

Muslim Persecution of Christians

- A popular Arabic-language newspaper attacked Morocco's Christian activists for their faith and ended with the message: the "Koran requires the killing of apostates." — *Morocco*.
- Sweden decided to deport a female Iranian convert to Christianity. When the convert, Aideen Strandsson, pleaded that in Iran she could face the death penalty as an apostate, Swedish officials told her, "it's not our problem if you decided to become a Christian, and it's your problem." Meanwhile, Sweden continues accepting Muslim refugees.
- In the name of "fighting terrorism," Bangladesh made changes to a law that forced approximately 200 Christian organizations to shut down.

A document drafted by members of the global Christian community convening at the 3rd International Christian Forum, held in Moscow, detailed how over the past ten years the Middle East's Christian population has shrunk by 80% and warned that unless current trends are reversed, Christianity "will vanish" from its ancient homelands in a few years' time. Around the year 2000, there were 1.5 million Christians in Iraq; today there are only 100,000 — roughly a 93% percent drop, the document notes. In Syria, the largest cities "have lost almost all of their Christian population."

Other experts offered similarly dismal statistics. The Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts, had predicted that by 2025, the percentage of Christians in the Middle East — which in 1910 was 13.6% — could go down to around 3%.

Christians seeking to return to areas in Iraq and Syria liberated from the Islamic State (ISIS) continue to face discrimination from local Muslim and Kurdish communities. Andrew White, also known as the "vicar of Baghdad," had said that, "the time has come where it is over, no Christians will be left. Some say Christians should stay to maintain the historical presence, but it has become very difficult. The future for the community is very limited."

Others, such as Former Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.), are more optimistic: "Now is the time. We have an administration that's open to doing something," he said, indicating the US Trump administration.

Meanwhile, ISIS continued to harbor high hopes. In a video released by the terrorist organization in August, an extremist tore up a photo of Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, while saying, "Remember this, you *kuffar* [infidels] — we will be in Rome, we will be in Rome, *inshallah* [Allah willing]." The narrator of the video also vowed that, "After all their efforts, it would be the religion of the cross that would be broken. The crusaders' enmity toward the Muslims only served to embolden a generation of youth." When asked about this, the pope's top aide said, "Pope Francis hasn't changed a thing in his agenda, nor is he going to. Furthermore, he'll continue to foment dialogue, creating bridges, defending peace. With Muslims and Christians."...

Egypt Tells Palestinians To Accept Trump's Jerusalem Decision:

In a hushed, roundabout way, Egyptian authorities are pressing the Palestinians to accept USA President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel as the new reality. A senior intelligence officer speaking on behalf of Egypt's defense establishment was taped phoning a number of popular local television talk show hosts to encourage them to deliver that message to their viewers. The officer, identified as Captain Ashraf al-Kholi, went so far as to tell one celebrity host, Azmi Megahed, that if the Palestinians truly want an independent state, they should accept Ramallah as their capital and give up their insistence on controlling eastern Jerusalem. "How is Jerusalem different from Ramallah, really?" asked Kholi, hinting at what many other Muslims in the region have been acknowledging of late — that Jerusalem doesn't really hold much religious significance for Islam. (Israel Today)

US Cuts Contribution to UNRWA in Half, Following Its History of Corruption, Terror Support - 18 Jan 2018

The Trump administration announced that it was conditioning roughly half of a periodic contribution to UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East). The administration will transfer roughly \$60 million immediately, but the remaining pledge of \$65 million has been withheld "for future consideration." The administration had previously indicated that funding would be withheld in response to a lack of movement towards peace by the Palestinian leadership.

The numerous foreign funded "human rights" organizations who operate in Israel do not actually care about human rights. In fact, recent events have shown that they do not seem to care about human beings as such, either. Instead, they are what most Israelis have always suspected them of being, namely political actors, who have organized themselves cleverly in benign sounding "rights" organizations in order to better pursue their nefarious agendas of destroying the state of Israel through "lawfare."

Last summer, the Jerusalem District Court determined that the Palestinian Authority (PA) was responsible for the kidnapping, torture and murder of dozens of suspected Arab "collaborators" within Israel, several of them with Israeli citizenship, between 1995 and 2002. The court proceedings unveiled grueling testimonies of Arabs who had been subjected to the most heinous torture in the cellars of the PA's detention centers.

The PA naturally denied all allegations, but the presiding judge ruled that the accumulation of evidence made it clear that the PA was guilty of severe torture, as well as murder. The torture included the so-called *shabah* position — widely used in PA prisons — in which the victim is hung from the ceiling for several hours and beaten all over his body.

According to the verdict, the torture also included electric shocks, pouring of boiling plastic on the body, tearing out nails and breaking teeth, sterilization, sleep deprivation, food and drink deprivation, sexual assault and the rape of family members. The PA also asked doctors to worsen the conditions of the prisoners, such as injecting urine into the prisoners' blood veins.

The verdict concluded that the PA is responsible for the torture and therefore liable for damages to the victims, whose lives it ruined. However, in order to realize the compensation, the victims need to provide medical evaluations of their conditions by medical experts, which is a very costly procedure.

According to a report by *Israel Hayom*, attorneys Barak Kedem and Aryeh Arbus turned to 15 human rights organizations to obtain their assistance in paying for the costly evaluations. "These are broken people in their bodies and souls, who...cannot afford to pay for professional opinions, which cost thousands of shekels for every opinion," the attorneys wrote in their plea to the 15 organizations.

Among the 15 organizations were Adalah, Amnesty International, B'Tselim, the New Israel Fund, Rabbis for Human Rights, Yesh Din, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture. Only the last two of-

fered assistance, whereas the rest either ignored the plea or responded negatively.

Adalah said that the organization "only helps the Palestinians who are suing the State of Israel." Amnesty International said that "the organization does not have the professional tools to address the needs" of the victims, whereas Yesh Din expressed "feelings of anger and pain," but explained that they could not help because they "represent victims of violations when they are harmed by Israeli authorities or Israeli citizens."

Let us properly digest this information: "Human Rights" organizations that the EU, Western European governments and other foreign bodies lavishly fund, ostensibly in order to fight for the human rights of Arabs, callously disregard the heinous violations of those very human rights, when the violations are perpetrated by the PA.

By so openly showing that they discard human beings as worthless of assistance, when they are not the "victims" of Jews, these human rights organizations have finally proven that Arab lives mean nothing to them, unless they can exploit them to further the political agendas that their European and other sponsors are funding them to pursue.

It is rare to see such cynical instrumentalization of human lives, especially coming from organizations whose very *raison d'être* is supposed to be about caring for those lives. Treating human beings as means to an end constitutes a particularly foul kind of racism.

Notably, there has been no outrage on the part of these organizations' funders, just as there has been no outrage over the actual heinous torture. There have been no threats by European and other governments to **halt all aid to the PA** in the face of the "shocking" revelations that it engages in torture on an almost unimaginable scale. The EU and its member states, clearly, could not possibly care less.

It is the exact same mechanism, which is at work in the international media's deliberate refusal to report on PA human rights violations in general. Reports about torture of detainees in PA prisons do not attract the interest of the overwhelming number of journalists who cover the Israeli-Arab conflict and hence the mainstream media never write about it.

Foreign governments do not care one wit about the human rights violations that occur in the PA because it has never been about Arab lives, who are destroyed everyday all over the Arab world with the world community barely blinking. It was always about one thing: destroying the Jewish state.

Judith Bergman is a columnist and political analyst.

The Racism of Human Rights Organizations

by Judith Bergman
<https://worldisraelnews.com>

Five Jewish Victims Identified In Florida School Shooting: At least five Jews were shot and killed during the mass shooting in a Florida high school on 14 Feb. 2018, a spokesperson for the ZAKA emergency response group reported the following day, while a sixth was wounded during the massacre. The sixth Jewish victim, Ben Wikander, was shot three times but survived the ordeal. Local Jewish leaders said they knew of at least four Jewish students who were among the wounded. One Jewish fatality was beloved coach and security guard, Aaron Feis, who stepped in front of a spray of bullets to protect his students. Aaron Feis, "selflessly shielded students from the shooter when he was shot. He died a hero and he will forever be in our hearts and memories," said a tweet from the school's football team. (USA Today/Arutz-7)

Source: Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265
Jerusalem 9107301, ISRAEL

Florida School Shooting's Jewish Victims Remembered For Their Kindness:

They volunteered. They played soccer. They went to camp. They were sweet, mature and easygoing. They were just beginning their lives, or helping others on their way. Jewish students and staff were among the 17 people who were killed when a gunman entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on 14 Feb. 2018 and began shooting. Among the Jewish victims are first-year students Jaime Guttenberg and Alyssa Alhadeff, senior Meadow Pollack, student Alex Schachter, Aaron Feis a football coach who shielded students from bullets, and Scott Beigel, a geography teacher who saved students' lives by closing a door as he was shot.

Jaime Guttenberg and her brother Jesse were students at Stoneman Douglas High School. While her brother managed to escape the school, Jaime was killed. "My heart is broken. Yesterday, Jennifer Bloom Guttenberg and I lost our baby girl to a violent shooting at her school," her father, Fred Guttenberg, wrote on Facebook. "We lost our daughter and my son Jesse Guttenberg lost his sister. I am broken as I write this trying to figure out how my family gets through this." Guttenberg and her brother were volunteers at The Friendship Initiative, a program that pairs neurotypical students like them with special needs kids.... The responses, as they are gathered, to each shooting victim's death or injury are heartbreaking. (JTA) **We "weep with those who weep."** Rom. 12:15

Editor's Note: Some have suggested more security for the schools such as more metal detectors and more police in the halls. I believe it would be a shame to turn schools into armed fortresses. It is true that you can kill with knives. However, if you want to kill a large

number of people, such as at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Columbine High School in 1999, the church in South Carolina in 2015, the movie theater in Colorado, the 57 murdered at the Country Music Festival in Las Vegas in 2017, the many killed at the Gay Bar in Florida, or the mass shooting at the high school in Parkland FL in February 2018, the weapon of choice is an assault rifle, such as the AR15 or AK47. **We support the Second Amendment right to bear arms.**

However, back in 1783, most firearms were muskets, very primitive by modern standards. The framers of the US Constitution were concerned about the rights of citizens to have normal firearms. They never intended for civilians to have weapons that are clearly intended only for military purposes, such as what I was trained to use in the US army. I believe our children's lives and the safety of the public are more important than someone's desire to have an assault rifle.

Help VFI Purchase Medical Supplies for the Underprivileged and Prepare for the Donation of a New Ambulance to Israel:

Please enable us to save lives by providing medical devices and emergency equipment to the underprivileged, as well as to hospital and rescue teams. Ongoing medical supplies are donated on a regular basis according to the donations coming in. These donations go to places like elderly homes for the needy and ICU and oncology wards in hospitals, as well as providing wheelchairs to children with disabilities. VFI is also raising funds for its third fully stocked ambulance to donate to Israel. We can't do it without you. Please give at www.visionforisrael.com
Thank you for your financial gifts!

Who's Responsible for the Mess in Gaza - Liel Leibovitz

We know from both Israeli and Palestinian estimates that Hamas spends approximately \$100 million a year - about 20% of the budget of the government in Gaza - on preparing for and executing attacks against Israel. The *New York Times* told us this past Sunday, "Five concrete plants have been set up, supplying 20 digging sites, at a cost of \$1 billion (\$1,000,000,000)," all for the purpose of digging tunnels designed to facilitate the kidnapping and murdering of Jews.

Given Hamas' steadfast commitment to destroy Israel at all costs, and given their dedication to spend every last shekel on tunnels, Qassam missiles, drones, and other weapons - and if Israel isn't going to provide free electricity, sewage treatment, and hospital care to the terror group busy trying to kill it - we're looking at a deep humanitarian crisis. (Tablet)

In an Orwellian Era, Celebrities Support Human Rights by Attacking Israel

by **Daniel Krygier**, World Israel News,
<https://worldisraelnews.com>

Twenty five celebrities and public figures recently expressed their "horror" by signing a protest letter against President Donald Trump's decision to cut funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) agency. The letter was conceived by the London-based Hoping Foundation advocacy group and states: "The real target of this lethal attack is the Palestinian people themselves."

The Trump administration suspended a \$65 million payment to UNRWA after Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas attacked the US for recognizing Israel's capital, Jerusalem, and his unwillingness to make peace with the Jewish state. The signatories included celebrities like Hugh Grant, Gillian Anderson, Viggo Mortensen, Emma Thompson and Tilda Swinton.

Had these public figures bothered to do some rudimentary research on UNRWA, they would have quickly discovered that this intrinsically anti-Israel organization is perpetuating the Arab-Israeli conflict by keeping the "refugee" issue frozen in time indefinitely.

We live in an Orwellian¹ time in which celebrities who claim to support human rights actually undermine them by joining Israel's enemies. These deeply flawed public figures have been elevated to the status of role models to millions of young and impressionable people around the world. In a time when "narratives" and "feelings" are replacing facts, Hollywood stars have assumed the roles of the Oracles of Delphi in the 21st century.

Despite the widespread #MeToo scandals sweeping across Hollywood and the wider entertainment business, uninformed opinions expressed by celebrities often count more than fact-based reality. Hollywood stars who live immoral lives, still consider themselves to be in a position to preach morality regarding Israel, and anyone else who does not belong to their "liberal" fan base.

The English musician Roger Waters has carved out a second career for himself through systematic demonization and delegitimization that is well received among the "progressive" left. Mr. Waters has become closely associated

with the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement that seeks the destruction of the Jewish state in the name of "human rights".

Hollywood celebrities rarely express their horror against real apartheid, genocide and serious human rights violations in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia or North Korea. Neither Roger Waters nor any other of his "progressive" celebrity colleagues expressed any support for the Kurdish people who overwhelmingly voted for national freedom and independence from Iraq. The oppressed and persecuted women and minorities throughout the Muslim-dominated Middle East rarely gain any sympathies among public figures in Hollywood who officially claim to stand up for women and vulnerable minorities. The reason is depressingly simple: supporting Israel's enemies in the name of "human rights" gives you status. Supporting genuinely oppressed people worldwide like the Kurds and the Tibetans does not.

Editor's Comment: It should be noted that Israel has the best record for human rights of any country in the Middle East or North Africa. The Arabs living in Israel have far more freedoms than Arabs living in any Islamic country, including full citizenship, and are even members of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament). Israeli Arabs have the highest life expectancy of any other nation in the Middle East. This is despite the fact that Israel is targeted by terrorists, most of whom are Arab Muslims. **RAC**

Guatemalan President Honored for Moving Embassy to Jerusalem:

The president of Guatemala was honored with an award from an international Jewish organization for his decision to move his country's embassy to Jerusalem and for his unwavering support of Israel. Jimmy Morales received the Human Rights Award from global and regional B'nai B'rith officials during a ceremony 31 Jan. 2018 in Guatemala City. "We praised Morales for his courage and determination for the embassy announcement and for recognizing that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel," said B'nai B'rith official Eduardo Kohn. "The Jewish people will always be grateful to Guatemala for its crucial role in Israel's birth, and for the great role then-President Juan José Arevalo played in recognizing the Jewish state," added the official who then gave the Central American leader a shofar and a plaque highlighting his country's record of defending human rights. (Arutz-7) Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265 Jerusalem 9107301, ISRAEL

¹ This is a reference to George Orwell's book, **1984**, a dystopian novel of a future authoritarian time where wrong is right and right is wrong.

John Kerry to the Rescue

by Ron Cantor, roncan@me.com

John Kerry is meddling in the Middle East. He was secretary of state, *during the creation of ISIS*. The Trump administration has defeated ISIS as a state. But still, Kerry feels the need to involve himself in Middle East politics.

He reportedly (jpost.com) sent word to President Abbas (the leader of the Palestinians Authority) *to encourage him*. Just so you know, Abbas replaced Arafat—the father of modern terrorism. Abbas turned down a sweetheart peace deal in 2008. He celebrates when suicide bombers kill Israelis and names streets, squares and schools after terrorists. And Kerry felt the need to lift up his spirits.

Cursing President Trump

Since President Trump recognized Jerusalem (as the capital of Israel), Abbas has been in full-on rage mode, declaring in public that he doesn't need America or her money (the next day, Trump took 65 million dollars in aid off the table) and is spewing out the wildest conspiracy theories. Of Trump, he said, **"May your house be demolished,"** the most venomous curse in Arab culture. The 82-year-old leader is fuming mad.

But Kerry, a failed diplomat, is encouraging the alleged Holocaust denier, through a confidant, telling him to:

1. "Hold on and be strong."
2. "Don't give into Trump. He will not be in office for more than another year."
3. Put your own peace plan together.

Yes, an American politician is telling a terrorist supporter to ***stay strong***. And there is little chance that Abbas will present his peace plan, because war is better for him. The Palestinian leadership has never shown any real desire for a state of their own, alongside Jewish Israel.

President Kerry?

It is also being reported that Kerry told the confidant to tell Abbas that he is considering running against Trump in 2020.

Saudi-Based Muslim Body Rejects Holocaust Denial:

A Saudi-based Muslim group rejected Holocaust denial in a letter to the USA Holocaust Memorial Museum. "History is indeed impartial no matter how hard forgers tried to tamper with or manipulate it," said the letter sent 22 Jan. 2018 to the museum by Mohammad Al Issa, the secretary general of the Muslim World League, five days before International Holocaust Remembrance Day. "Hence, we consider any denial of the Holocaust or minimizing of its effect a crime to distort history and an insult to the dignity of those innocent souls who have perished. It is also an affront to us all since we share the same human soul and spiritual bonds."

The letter was posted on the site of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Al Issa suggested the letter was prompted in part by his friendship with the think tank's director, Robert Satloff, who has written extensively about North African Muslims who protected Jews during the Holocaust. A former justice minister, Al Issa took over the Saudi-funded Muslim World League in 2016. The appointment of Al Issa appears to be a piece of Saudi Arabia's pivotal westward turn under its new crown prince, Muhammad bin Sultan, Satloff said. "Taking his lead from Mohammad bin Salman, the current crown prince who has vowed to cleanse his country of extremism and return it to 'moderate Islam,' Al Issa seems to have a specific mandate to transform the MWL from an organization synonymous with extremism to one that preaches tolerance," he said. (INN) Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265 Jerusalem 9107301, ISRAEL

Iran Spends Billions On Weapons Programs, Terrorism While Ignoring Iranians' Basic Needs:

A report, issued by the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), states that the Jan. 2018 uprising against the regime was due to what it says are the "grueling high prices and economic strains on an array of social sectors." It claims that this is a result of the regime putting its resources "toward domestic suppression, warmongering and expansion of terrorism abroad," which has led to poverty and deprivation among Iranians. The report states that over the years Khamenei has taken over the "bulk of Iran's economy." It claims that the organizations and institutions, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), show that Khamenei-controlled-companies make up over 50% of Iran's gross domestic product.

The report compares what it calls funding for "warmongering and suppression" against other state expenditures. It claims Iran's total health care budget for 2018 is \$16.3 billion, which is a third of its total war budget. The report also reveals that for the last six years the total spent on its Syrian activities is around \$15-20 billion a year. It describes how protesters shouted during the January protests, "Leave Syria, think about us, I dedicate my life to Iran." The report also compares paltry welfare payments made to those living under absolute poverty with the larger sums of money paid to Afghan mercenaries bankrolled by Iran to fight in Syria. According to statements made by Afghan mercenaries, each mercenary is paid between \$600-700 a month. Doing the math, nearly 20,000 Afghan mercenaries cost the regime \$12-\$14 million a month. Compare that to the nearly \$70 monthly stipend Iranians living under the absolute poverty line receive, according to the report. (Fox)

Vice President Pence Stands for Israel

Mike Pence, in his address to the Israel

Knesset, said: "In the story of the Jews, we've always seen the story of America. It is the story of an exodus, a journey from persecution to freedom, a story that shows the power of faith and the promise of hope. My country's very first settlers also saw themselves as pilgrims, sent by Providence, to build a new Promised Land. The songs and stories of the people of Israel were their anthems, and they faithfully taught them to their children, and do to this day. And our founders, as others have



said, turned to the wisdom of the Hebrew Bible for direction, guidance and inspiration. America's first president, George Washington, wrote with favor to 'the children of the stock of Abraham.' Our second president, John Adams, declared that the Jews, in his words, 'have done more to civilize man than any other nation.' And your story inspired my forebears to create what our 16th president called a 'new birth of freedom.' And down through the generations, the American people became fierce advocates of the Jewish people's aspiration to return to the land of your forefathers — to claim your own new birth of freedom in your beloved homeland.

The Bible says: "Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors. The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live." Deuteronomy 30:4-6

The Jerusalem Connection says: Vice President Mike Pence's speech last month will make the history books as the most Zionist speech ever given by a foreign dignitary standing at the Knesset podium. Many times over Pence stated, in firm Christian Zionist terms, the biblical, moral, and historic reasons why America stands behind Israel. Other American presidents have talked of the special relationship between America and Israel but never before has it come across so strong and so heartfelt. Pence was not giving a rehearsed speech. It was clear that he felt passionately about every word. He touched the

hearts of many Israelis. America will be blessed because of the brave and faithful stand of Vice President Pence. Jerusalem Connection readers prayed for Pence when he was in Israel, and we ask that you continue praying for him as he leads. Jerusalem Connection, PO Box 20295 Washington DC 20041

Succumbing to BDS is "Totally Anti-Semitic," declared US Pop Singer by Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

American rapper, songwriter and actress Azealia Banks fired back at those who castigated her for planning to perform in Tel Aviv.

Twenty-six-year-old Azealia Banks is known for speaking — and rapping — about whatever is on her mind, a habit that has gotten her into trouble, especially on social media. She doesn't back down from a fight either, having survived a rough childhood in Harlem, New York which toughened her up in many ways.

So after announcing on Instagram that she was fulfilling her Israeli fans' wishes and coming



to perform in the Jewish state this spring, she was not deterred when some of her fans decried her decision, falling back on the Palestinians' portrayal of the Israeli government and other common BDS tropes to justify boycotting Israel.

Banks, for her part, got right down to the heart of the problem with BDS in two sentences in a subsequent comment on her own post, calling out the double standards applied to the Jewish state in contrast to the rest of the world.

"My fans in Israel have been waiting years for me to come," she said. "I too live in a country which has its issues but I cannot hold my fans in America responsible for our country's problems and deny them the right to a good time."

"Me canceling my concert would be **totally anti-Semitic**," she continued, "and I'm not going to EVER make any of my fans feel like they don't have a place in my heart. I'm going to Tel-Aviv ... and that is the end of the discussion."

Banks starred in her first movie last year, a rap romance called "Love Beats Rhymes," with her new studio album "Fantasea II: The Second Wave" released this year. She is slated to perform in Tel Aviv on May 7th.

Why There's Muslim Violence, but not Christian Violence, in the Middle East

by **Raymond Ibrahim**, *FrontPage Magazine*
December 27, 2017 <http://meforum.org>

Because Israel is stronger than its Muslim neighbors, the latter have always been presented as frustrated "underdogs" doing whatever they can to achieve "justice." No matter how many rockets were shot into Tel Aviv by Hamas and Hezbollah, and no matter how anti-Israeli bloodlust was articulated in distinctly jihadi terms, that was always presented as ironclad proof that Palestinians under Israel are so oppressed that Muslims have no choice but to resort to terrorism.

Yet, as with all false narratives, the survival of this one relied on concealing the bigger, more complete picture, as captured by the following question: If Muslims get a free pass when their violence is directed against those **stronger** than them, how does one rationalize away their violence when it is directed against those **weaker** than them—for example, millions of indigenous Christians living in the Muslim world? According to reliable statistics published annually, some 40 of the 50 worst nations in which to be Christian are Muslim majority. Of the absolute worst 21 nations — 18 of which are Muslim — "100 percent of Christians experience persecution."

The rationalizations used to minimize Muslim violence against Israel simply cannot work here, for now Muslims are the majority—and **Muslims** are the ones violent and oppressive to their minorities, in ways that make Israeli treatment of Palestinians seem enviable. In other words, Christian persecution is perhaps the most obvious example of a phenomenon the mainstream media wants to ignore out of existence—Islamic supremacism, the true source of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Vastly outnumbered and politically marginalized Christians in the Islamic world simply wish to worship in peace, and yet they are still hounded and attacked; their churches are burned and destroyed; their women and children are kidnapped, raped, and enslaved. These Christians are often identical to their Muslim co-citizens in race, ethnicity, national identity, culture, and language; there is generally no political or property dispute on which the violence can be blamed. The only problem is that they are *Christian*—they are *non-Muslims*—the same category Israelis fall under.

From here one also understands why what has been described by some authorities as a "genocide" of Christians at the hands of Muslims in Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, Somalia, Pakistan, and Egypt—Muslims who could care less about Israel and Palestinians—is one of the most dramatic but

also least known stories of our times. The media simply cannot portray Muslim persecution of Christians—which in essence and form amounts to unprovoked pogroms—as a "land dispute" or a product of "grievance" (if anything, it is the ostracized and persecuted indigenous Christian minorities who should have grievances). And because the media cannot articulate such Islamic attacks on Christians through the "grievance" paradigm that works so well in explaining the Arab-Israeli conflict, their main recourse is not to report on them at all.

Such is the way for all apologists of Islam: to ignore or whitewash Muslim aggression—and then, in that vacuum, distort and present non-Muslim responses as the origins of the conflict. This is especially prevalent in the portrayal of history. Thus, Georgetown University's John Esposito claims that "Five centuries of peaceful coexistence [between Islam and Europe] elapsed before political events and an imperial-papal power play led to [a] centuries-long series of so-called holy wars [the Crusades] that pitted Europe against Islam and left an enduring legacy of misunderstanding and distrust." In reality, these "five centuries of peaceful coexistence" saw Muslims terrorize and conquer more than three-fourths of Christendom; but this inconvenient fact is seldom mentioned, for knowledge of it ruins the "Muslim-grievance" narrative, just as knowledge of modern day Muslim persecution of Christians ruins it.

Either way, it is refreshing to see that the sun is breaking through the darkness of deceit that has for too long clouded Middle Eastern realities, including by presenting victims as aggressors and aggressors as victims.

Editor's Comment: Israel is often falsely accused of being an apartheid state. However, as the above article demonstrates, the **real** apartheid nations are mostly Muslim nations, where persecution and discrimination are a part of daily life for minorities. Many Muslim nations are also guilty of ethnic cleansing. Today, it is primarily Christians and Yazidis who are fleeing Islamic countries. In the years since Israel became a nation again in 1948, well over 90 percent of the Jewish people who lived in Islamic countries were forced to flee, often with little more than the clothes on their backs. We often hear about the so-called Palestinian Arab refugees, but seldom hear about the Jewish refugees who fled Arab countries in greater numbers than the number of so-called Palestinian refugees.

Muslims also have a hard time getting along with each other, as we are seeing today with the chaos exploding in Islamic countries of the Middle East and North Africa. In many cases, it is the on-going battle between Shiites and Sunnis, but it also includes tribal conflicts. **RAC**

Before *the question*, how about a few statistics?

The 20th century was mankind's most brutal century. Roughly 16 million people lost their lives during World War I; about 60 million died during World War II. Wars during the 20th century cost an estimated 71 million to 116 million lives.

The number of war dead pales in comparison with the number of people who lost their lives at the hands of their own governments.

The late professor Rudolph J. Rummel, U of Hawaii, documented this tragedy in "Death by Government: Genocide and Mass Murder Since 1900." Some of his statistics are updated here.

The People's Republic of China tops the list: 76 million lives lost at the hands of the government from 1949 to 1987. The Soviet Union: 62 million lives lost from 1917 to 1987. Adolf Hitler: 21 million killed 1933 to 1945. There were lesser murdering regimes: Nationalist China, Japan, Turkey, Vietnam, and Mexico. According to Rummel's research, in the 20th century, 262 million were killed at the hands of their own governments.

Hitler's atrocities are widely recognized, publicized and condemned. World War II's conquering nations' condemnation included de-Nazification and bringing Holocaust perpetrators to trial and punishing them through lengthy sentences and execution. Similar measures were taken to punish Japan's murderers.

But what about the greatest murderers in mankind's history -- ***Josef Stalin and Mao Zedong?***

Some leftists saw these communists as heroes. W.E.B. Du Bois, writing in the National Guardian in 1953, said, "Stalin was a great man; few other men of the 20th century approach his stature. ... The highest proof of his greatness (was that) he knew the common man, felt his problems, followed his fate." Walter Duranty called Stalin "the greatest living statesman" and "a quiet, unobtrusive man." There was even leftist admiration for Hitler and fellow fascist Benito Mussolini. When Hitler came to power in January 1933, George Bernard Shaw described him as "a very remarkable man, a very able man." President Franklin Roosevelt called the fascist Mussolini "admirable," and he was "deeply impressed by what he (had) accomplished."

In 1972, John Kenneth Galbraith visited

Communist China and praised Mao and the Chinese economic system. Michel Oksenberg, President Jimmy Carter's China expert, complained, "America (is) doomed to decay until radical, even revolutionary, change fundamentally alters

the institutions and values." He urged us to "borrow ideas and solutions" from China. Harvard University professor John K. Fairbank believed that America could learn much from the Cultural Revolution, saying, "Americans may find in China's collective life today an ingredient of personal moral concern for one's neighbor that has a lesson for us all." By the way, an estimated 2 million people died during China's Cultural Revolution.

More recent praise for murdering tyrants came from Anita Dunn, President Barack Obama's acting communications director in 2009, who said, "Two of my favorite political philosophers (are) Mao Zedong and Mother Teresa."

In the 1960s, campus radicals, often accompanied by their professors, marched around singing the praises of Mao and waving Mao's Little Red Book. That may explain some of the campus mess today. Some of those campus radicals are now tenured professors and administrators at universities and colleges and K-12 schoolteachers and principals indoctrinating our youth.

THE QUESTION: Why are leftists soft on communism?

The reason leftists give a pass to communists, the world's most horrible murderers, is that they sympathize with the chief goal of communism: restrict personal liberty. The U.S. call is for government control over our lives through regulations and taxation.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Yochanan 3:16

YESHUA

Fascism and Communism

by Walter E. Williams



Tens of Thousands at Pro-Israel Rally by Far-Right Hindus

by Amanda Borschel-Dan

TIMES OF ISRAEL, February 16, 2018

Holding pro-Israel banners aloft, some 70,000 people assembled in the center of Calcutta, India, on 13 Feb 2018 to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of the far-right, anti-Muslim Hindu Samhati nationalist movement. The rally, which organizers are claiming is the "largest pro-Israel rally in history," eclipses a similar demonstration held in 2014.

Wednesday's rally included speeches by nationalist figures such as Maj. Gen. Gagandeep Bakshi, a decorated career soldier expert in counter-terrorism, from a stage in the heart of one of the poorest areas of India. The event culminated in a celebratory presentation to the crowd of a family of 14 former Muslims who converted to Hinduism.

Banner slogans included, "Jerusalem: Eternal Capital of Israel," "India-Israel: Ancient Cultures, Modern Miracles," and the inclusive "India-Israel Represents Honoring Women's rights, Freedom of Speech, Respect for Human Rights, Liberty and Equality for All, Democracy."

According to a press release, Hindu Samhati founder Tapan Ghosh passed a resolution "by voice vote" urging the Indian government to move its embassy to Jerusalem. Ghosh told the large Hindu nationalist crowd, "Moving our embassy to Jerusalem will honor Israel's long-standing commitment to peace and strengthen the bond between our two ancient peoples."

Ghosh compared the millennia-long struggle of the Jewish people for a homeland in Israel to the battle Hindus now wage in India, according to the press release. "In West Bengal... Hindus are being attacked by hostile neighbors just as Jews are fighting for their existence in little Israel. This struggle for survival unites Hindus and Jews, apart from the 2,500 years of glorious history that unites both the communities," according to the release.

According to The Indian Express, Hindu Samhati leader Ghosh told the crowd, "Hussain Ali and his wife Moyna Bibi, as well as 12 family members, have been reconverted. Their ancestors were (forcibly) converted (to Islam), and now we welcome them as Hindus on stage. Earlier we used to do this (conversions to Hinduism) secretly, but now we will do this in public."

What is Hindu Samhati?

Ghosh founded Hindu Samhati in West Bengal after leaving the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) Hindu nationalist movement in 2008. The RSS supported the establishment of Israel in 1948. West Bengal has seen increased Hindu-Muslim tensions in recent years...

Council of Nicea, 325 C.E.²

The Council of Nicea was assembled by Emperor Constantine in 325 CE. Bishops from throughout the Roman Empire were called to this council to make theological decisions for the "Church." No Jewish bishops were invited. Although this was basically during the early stages of Roman Catholicism, many of the decisions were carried over into Eastern Orthodoxy and also into Protestant Christianity. Some decisions may have been good, but other decisions were horrid, especially regarding the Jewish people, Torah, Shabbat, etc. It was rabidly anti-Semitic.

In the First Century CE, Jews were the majority of those who believed in Yeshua. However, as time went on, Gentiles became a majority. And despite the warnings of Rav Sha'ul in Romans 9 to 11, the Gentile majority began to be "arrogant toward the (Jewish) branches (Romans 11:18)." The Church became increasingly corrupt.

Roger Walkwitz sent us two pages (p. 52-53) from **Ecclesiastical History** by Eusebius, one of the early Church "Fathers." Thank you, Roger! Eusebius has some quotes about Nicea which I am now sharing with you:

"It seemed to every one (of the bishops at Nicea) a most unworthy thing that we should follow the custom of the Jews in the celebration of this most holy solemnity (Passover/Easter), who, polluted wretches, having stained their hands with a nefarious crime, are justly blinded in their minds. It is fit, therefore, that, rejecting the practice of this people, we should perpetuate to all future ages the celebration of this rite, in a more legitimate order... Let us then have nothing in common with the most hostile rabble of the Jews... In pursuing this course with a unanimous consent, let us withdraw ourselves, my much honored brethren, from that most odious fellowship... As it is necessary... we may have nothing in common with the usage of these parricides and murderers of our Lord."

Yeshua died for our sins. We are all guilty! However, the accusation was that Jesus was murdered by the Jewish people, conveniently forgetting that Roman soldiers carried out the brutal execution on a Roman execution stake.

The evil Council of Nicea separated the Jewish (Biblical) celebration of Passover from the Christian Easter, and made it official that Sunday replaced the Biblical seventh day Sabbath. Their hatred of all things "Jewish" is rather hypocritical. After all, "Jesus" was a Torah-observant Jewish rabbi. Moses, the prophets, all of Yeshua's disciples, and all of the writers of the Scriptures of both Testaments were Jews. If someone tries to justify any doctrines by quotes from the Council of Nicea, let them know you prefer the Bible.

² "Common Era," equivalent to A.D.

Winston Churchill



In May 1940, as Adolf Hitler and his Nazi war machine swept across Europe, one man stood between Hitler's seemingly invincible army and crushing defeat. His name was Winston Churchill, newly elected Prime Minister of Britain. He replaced Neville Chamberlain, who negotiated "peace" with Adolph Hitler in 1938 by sacrificing Czechoslovakia to the Nazis. This only whetted Hitler's appetite for more conquests. Hitler's military invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, thus beginning World War II.

This was a war between barbarism and civilization, much like we saw later between the Western nations and Communism, and are now seeing between civilization and the barbarism of Radical Islam. He saved Western Civilization from destruction at the hands of Nazi Germany during those awful years between 1939 and 1945 was Winston Churchill. The world owes a great debt to that man. There is now a long-awaited film about him.

USA Embassy Transfer to Jerusalem in May 2018:

USA President Donald Trump announced on 23 Feb. 2018 that he'd be accelerating the transfer of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The USA mission is slated to being moved in phases to its consular facility in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Arnona starting in May 2018. The first stages of the move are expected to see Ambassador David Friedman, and a small personal staff, take up offices at the Arnona facility, officially granting it the status of "embassy." Later, a full embassy annex will be added to the complex, with a new embassy facility to be built elsewhere in the city during the years to come. Israeli government ministers called Trump's announcement an "Independence Day gift," given that the May transfer coincides with Israel's 70th anniversary celebrations. (Israel Today) *"Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. Isaiah 24:23*

Netanyahu to Invite Trump to Inaugurate USA Embassy in Jerusalem in May:

PM Netanyahu is expected to invite USA President Donald Trump to Israel in May 2018 to inaugurate the USA embassy, which Washington announced will be relocated to Jerusalem on Israel's Independence Day. Netanyahu said the USA announcement to relocate the embassy, which follows Trump's historic declaration in Dec. 2017 to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, marked a great moment for the State of Israel. "The decision by President Trump to relocate the USA embassy to Jerusalem on the coming Independence Day, will make the celebrations even more joyful," said Netanyahu. "Thank you President Trump, thank you for your leadership, and your strong friendship," Netanyahu added.

The Palestinian Authority responded in anger to the news, and said "unilateral" moves will not contribute to achieving peace between the Palestinians and Israel. Hamas, for its part, warned that the decision would lead to an "explosion" in the region. Relations between the USA administration and the PA have been strained since Trump's 6 Dec. 2018 announcement... The PA has refused all contacts with the Trump administration. (Times of Israel)

Israel's UN Envoy Praises Trump's Embassy Move Announcement:

Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon praised the Trump administration shortly after they announced that the USA embassy currently located in Tel Aviv will be moved to Jerusalem in May 2018. "President Trump's bold decision to move the American embassy to Jerusalem this May, in honor of our 70th Independence Day, is a testament to the unbreakable alliance and true friendship between the USA and Israel," said Ambassador Danon. The Israeli envoy also urged other members of the United Nations to follow suit, saying that the world needs to acknowledge the currently reality on the ground. "The time is now for all UN member-states to follow in the footsteps of the USA and declare that they too recognize Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the State of Israel," he added. The State Department continues to scope out sites and architects for the construction of a larger, permanent embassy in Jerusalem. (INN)

Source: Vision for Israel, PO Box 7265
Jerusalem 9107301, ISRAEL

A Professor at the University of Paris wrote this interesting article.

Twilight over the "Palestinian Cause" by Guy Millière

- Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the European Union has become the main financier of the "Palestinian cause", including its terrorism. They are also contributing to war.
- Iran, strengthened enormously by the agreement passed in July 2015 and the massive US funding that accompanied it, has been showing its desire to become a hegemonic power in the Middle East.
- The grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdulaziz ibn Abdullah Al ash-Sheikh, recently issued a *fatwa* saying that "fighting the Jews" is "against the will" of Allah and that Hamas is a **terrorist organization**. (Good news! RAC)

For many years, "Palestine" has not stopped aspiring to new heights in the international community. "Palestine" has been present at the Olympic Games since 1996, and, later, became a permanent observer to UNESCO and the United Nations. The vast majority of the 95 "embassies" of "Palestine" are in the Muslim world; many others are in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. In 2014, the Spanish Parliament voted in favor of full recognition of "Palestine." A few weeks later, the French Parliament did the same.

There is no other instance in the history of the world where a state that does not exist can have missions and embassies presumed to function as if that state did exist. Now the time has probably come for the "Palestinians" to realize that they have lost and fall back to earth, as noted by the scholar Daniel Pipes.

Have "Palestinian" leaders been showing by their speeches and actions that they are ready to rule a state living in peace with their neighbors and with the rest of the world? All "Palestinian" leaders have incessantly incited terrorism, and do not hide their wish to wipe Israel off the map.

Is there a long-standing aspiration by the "Palestinian people" to have a state and to live peacefully within that state? The answer is actually no. The "Palestinian people" were invented in the late 1960s by the Arab and Soviet propaganda services. As PLO leader Zuheir Mohsen told the Dutch newspaper *Trouw* in March 1977:

"The Palestinian people does not exist.

The creation of a Palestinian state is only a means for continuing our struggle against the state of Israel for our Arab unity. In reality, today there is no difference between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese."

Reports from the West Bank after the Six Day War show that the Arabs defined themselves in interviews as "Arabs" or "Jordanians"; they evidently did not know that they were the "Palestin-

ian people." Since then, they were taught it. They were also taught that it is their duty to "liberate Palestine" by killing Jews. The Palestinians are the first people **invented** to serve as a weapon of mass destruction of another people.

It now seems a good time for Western European leaders who still blindly support the "Palestinian cause" to cut their losses, both politically and economically. Taking the side of Erdogan and the mullahs in order to support a terrorist entity that will never be a "state" will do nothing to help them fight either terrorism or the increasing Islamization of Europe.

Why This Muslim Writes in a Jewish Newspaper - Naseem Khan

As a U.S. citizen and as a Muslim who had lived and worked in Saudi Arabia for 13 years, I wanted to reach the "people of the book" and found the *Jerusalem Post* a perfect platform. While no Muslim country's newspaper would give me the opportunity to speak my mind openly, especially when I would expose the flaws of Muslims, the *Jerusalem Post* has so far published all my blogs without any alteration.

The fundamental problem with the Muslims is that they think that either God or America would solve all of their problems. The Muslims have been praying for the destruction of Israel since its existence, but their prayers still remain unanswered.

There is a mafia of religious thugs who, in the name of Islam, inflame the sentiments of the masses for stupid trivial issues. They challenge the rule of law at their will and no one has the courage to stand against this religious anarchy.

We should learn from the Jewish people and see what they did to overcome their adversaries. They emphasized education. They never let their religion become a hindrance in their progress. They let their women have equal rights and become progressive. Their contribution to science and knowledge speaks volumes. They focused on their survival and at the same time contributed a lot towards the good of mankind.

My dear fellow Muslims, please tell me if any Muslim country's newspaper will publish this article. The *Jerusalem Post* published it. That is one of the reasons that I write in this newspaper. (*Jerusalem Post*)

APMF
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INDONESIA

Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia (GKMI)

Pengakuan KemenAg Kanwil DKI

KW.09.7/BAO1.1/149/2013

JAKARTA

Sat 5 pm. Sun 08 am.

Bintaro Messianic Congregation

Bumi Bintaro Permai D7-8

South Jakarta 12320.

Contact: Benyamin Obadyah

+62-21-7364258

Sat 10 am and 5 pm.

Shores 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 *Netivvah 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: Seblum Karubaba +62-81247562203

Sat 10 am

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation

Jl Pasir Dua, Jayapura, Papua.

Contact: Benny Karubaba +62-812 47082149

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R#301, 150-2 Nonhyungdong

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JAPAN

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10:00 AM

4-14-11 Midorigaoka, Taihaku-ku

Sendai-shi, Miyagi 982

Contact: Takashi Yokoyama

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Shabbat Service from 13:00

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Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Kehilah

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

PO Box 44 118 Pt Chevalier

Auckland 1246 New Zealand

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SINGAPORE

Blk 620 Bukit Batok Central #29-522

Singapore 650620

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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
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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 Esquerre: +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

PETRAH TIKVAH

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Send to:

