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Spring 2023 (April-June)

PETAH TIKVAH

"Door of Hope"

Consecration
and Naming
Ceremonies 2023

Mission Possible

FIRST-EVER EWMC MESSIANIC
OUTREACH MISSION
IN BICOL

Anti-Semitism:

ENDANGERING AMERICA
AND ITS VALUES

According to Roger:
Creation Week
Lesson Review

BY ROGER WALKWITZ

ASIA PACIFIC MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP- EDITION

Nisan-Sivan 5783 | Volume 41 #2



*Out through the Door of Hope
(Petah Tikvah) to the Promised Land. (Exodus 12:29-41)*

SHAVUOT (Pentecost): THE BIRTHDAY OF MESSIANIC JUDAISM.....	3
CONUNDRUMS OF CREATION (Part 3).....	8
HAS THE NEW COVENANT MADE THE "OLD" OBSOLETE? (Hebrews 8).....	11
WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW <u>CAN</u> HURT YOU!.....	14
FASCINATING HISTORY OF THE FIRST JEWISH BELIEVERS (Part 2).....	16
OBITUARY: BUTTERCUP BOTKIN.....	18
ANTI-JUDAISM AND THE COUNCIL OF NICEA.....	20
JONAH: THE RELUCTANT PROPHET.....	23
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ROD SERLING.....	28
INVITATION TO SERVICES.....	SUBSCRIPTION FORM.....
UMJA CONFERENCE IN GEORGIA.....	38
ANTI-SEMITISM: ENDANGERING AMERICA AND ITS VALUES.....	39
ANTI-JUDAISM AND THE ORIGIN OF THE 'SUNDAY SABBATH'.....	48
ORIGINS OF ARAB SETTLERS IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL.....	51
'PRO-PALESTINIAN' MEANS NO SUCH THING.....	61
MESSIANIC DIRECTORY.....	62

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Welcome to Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition!!

APMF Edition PT Spring 2023

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

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

Dave@APMFInc.com

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

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

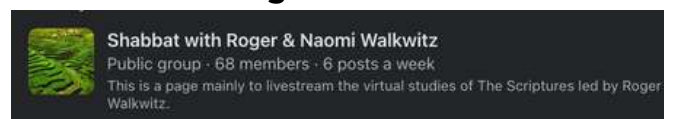
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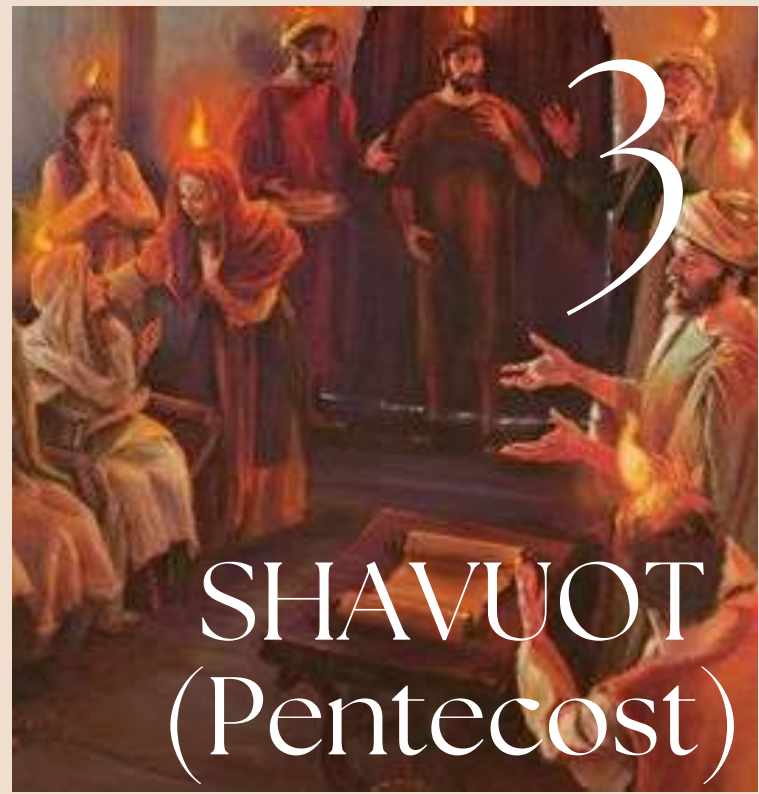


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INDEX

- 3 Shavuot (Pentecost): The Birthday of Messianic Judaism
- 8 Mission Possible
- 11 Has the New Covenant Made the "Old" Obsolete? (Hebrews 8)
- 14 What You Don't Know Can Hurt You!
- 16 Fascinating History of the First Jewish Believers (Part 2)
- 18 Obituary: Buttercup Botkin
- 20 Anti-Judaism and the Council of Nicea
- 23 Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet
- 28 The Gospel According to Rod Serling



- 32 Invitation to Services...
Subscription Form
- 38 UMJA Conference in Georgia
- 39 Anti-Semitism: Endangering
America and its Values
- 48 Anti-Judaism and The Origin of
the 'Sunday Sabbath'
- 51 Origins of Arab Settlers in the
Land of Israel
- 61 'Pro-Palestinian' Means No Such
Thing
- 62 Messianic Directory
- 64 Consecration and Naming
Ceremonies 2023
- 68 Creation Week Lesson Review

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 the first two 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, which is the merger of two or more 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

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.

SHAVUOT

The Birthday of Messianic Judaism

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

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

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

harvest. 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.” (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

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

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.

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.” 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 many 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.

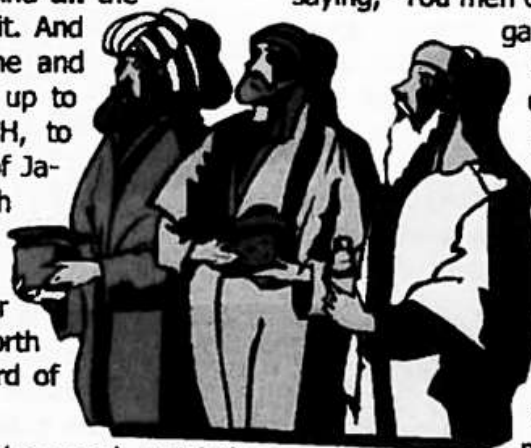
Many years ago, “Pentecost Sunday” was widely observed in Christian churches. Surprisingly, most modern Pentecostal and Charismatic churches tend to ignore this day. It would be neat to see Christians observing at least one biblical holiday. I can tell you with

certainly that during the Millennium, Christians will be commanded to observe Sukkot,¹⁰ 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,¹¹ 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?"¹² 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 almost 2000 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!

¹⁰ Zechariah 14:16-20.

¹¹ Acts 1:4.

¹² Acts 1:6.

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."¹³ 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."¹⁴ 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 cults.

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. (Acts 2:1-4)

These are the introductory verses to Acts chapter 2. In verse 1, we see that these events happened "when the day of Shavuot

¹³ Acts 1:8.

¹⁴ Acts 1:11.

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."¹⁵ 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 by the Crusaders less than 900 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 do we hear 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." (Acts 2:5-13)

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 languages¹⁶ 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 (languages) 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 they were saying. 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.¹⁷ (New wine also contains alcohol, but at a lower percentage. See Hosea 4:11.)

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. In Judaism, the actual immersion is

¹⁶ Actual languages, not gobbledygook.

¹⁷ Yes, new wine is also an alcoholic beverage. Hosea 4:11 says, "Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away the understanding."

¹⁵ Acts 1:4-5

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 God!

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.¹⁸ 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."¹⁹ 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 together, 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 **kehillah** (congregation) daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

"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 **kehillah** ("congregation") 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 3 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),²⁰ 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 *cohanim* (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.

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¹⁸ Available on DVD, © 1999, British Screen and Icon Entertainment International.

¹⁹ Romans 6:11.

²⁰ Ezra 3:12-13.

FEATURE STORY

MISSION POSSIBLE

by: Kristine Rachel Cruz
Eagles' Wings Messianic Community



It was on October 23, 2021 when we received a direct message on our community's Facebook page from someone who's requesting immediately if she and her whole family may be baptized in HaShem. We were surprised by the sudden request which made us probe if she is a Messianic believer.

She said that she had been baptized as an Adventist but their whole family had been seeking for a Messianic congregation in the Philippines for a long time, since they believe that the root of our faith is in HaShem alone, and that He is the one true giver of salvation.

Ms. Bemar Llobit of Del Gallego, Camarines Sur was overjoyed to have received a reply from one of the admins of our Facebook page. She's glad to know that there is an actual Messianic community in the Philippines, since as early as 13 years old, she already had doubts on the Adventist belief. She and her father had been seeking answers about Israel after watching several videos online. They tried communicating with other Messianic communities abroad, but they knew it would be a challenge to make any connection with them due to the distance and time difference.

Upon learning that Bemar wanted to be baptized, we sought her contact details to connect her to our Head Elder, Tony Arceo and his wife, Macy Arceo for personal introductions and further clarifications. Tony and Macy explained that baptism or immersion should not be taken lightly. Bemar and her family should first learn the Messianic beliefs deeper so that they understand "what they are getting themselves into" and to make sure that they are 100% willing to embrace this faith and firmly stand by its teachings.

With determination, the Llobit family zealously joined Shabbat and mid-week services since October 2021 via online means (background: Camarines Sur is as far as 155 miles or a 9-hour drive from Rizal, where the EWMC community is located). Bemar also attended some of the online HaYesod teachings, despite the weak internet connection in their place, where they had to pay around Php10 per hour at a nearby store just to get a decent signal. The fellowship and kinship with the Llobit family grew stronger as months and years passed by, most especially when the whole community donated financial assistance to Bemar's father, Mr. Nestor, who experienced an accident back in January. They were grateful for the help, and they felt how it is like to have a community that's always there for you through life's challenges.

Fast forward to April 2023, when EWMC was about to hold its annual Community Outing and Tevilah services in Famy Laguna, Bemar and her kids were invited to join so that they may already be immersed. Due to their financial challenges, the EWMC community decided to chip in for Bemar and her kids to help lessen their burden on the fare. Unfortunately, due to Roem's (Bemar's husband) reasonable fear for his wife's health and safety – since it would have been a long travel, and that Bemar has a heart condition with only her kids with her – they have decided to forego the trip to Laguna.

A few weeks later, a friend and fellow brother, Mr. Jose “Joe” Gimeno based in New York City, USA called one of our elders Christina “Christy” Cruz to ask how everything’s going. Christy talked about the EWMC Community Outing/Tevilah, and she spoke briefly about Bemar’s family as well. Joe mentioned that he knew of someone in Sorsogon (about a 3-hour distance from Camarines Sur) who happens to be a Messianic believer attending online at the Emunah Torah Community. EWMC reached out to Ms. Pretty Hagad from Sorsogon to know more about her journey in the Messianic faith. Several chats and coordination later, an arrangement to hold a Messianic Outreach Mission in Camarines Sur with Bemar’s family, together with Pretty and her child, came about. Joe having learned of this plan, was moved by YHVH’s hand to donate a generous amount to make the whole mission possible.

EWMC gathered available volunteers for the mission, and donations from supportive members poured in. Despite the threat of the Mayon Volcano’s eruption (located in the same region as Camarines Sur), and Typhoon Mawar’s (local name Chedeng) impact, it was with strong faith and fervent prayers that the first-ever EWMC Messianic Outreach Mission still pushed through. Bemar and her whole family, together with Pretty and her daughter, welcomed and observed Shabbat (for the first time with a community after merely watching them on Youtube before), and were immersed in HaShem with the guidance of Elder Tony.



In 3 days and 2 nights, teachings on Erev Shabbat, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and Mo’edim were also held, leaving them hard copies of the respective programmes for their own use.



Bemar’s kids Jacinth Em Llobit and Rochiemar Llobit, and Pretty’s daughter, Sheekinah Adame had also undergone the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ritual and received their first Bibles as gifts.



Before the mission ended, a possibility of visiting them again was suggested, possibly on Pesach for them to experience and properly go through the Seder.

Before the mission ended, a possibility of visiting them again was suggested, possibly on Pesach for them to experience and properly go through the Seder.

It is with a full and grateful heart that we are wishing for a new community in Camarines Sur and Sorsogon to be planted and to blossom, hopefully encouraging families, friends, neighbors and more, to be one with Bemar and Pretty's families.

Eph. 4:12 "For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ." (NASB2020)



EWMC members/missionaries in the Photos: Antonio Arceo, Ma. Concepcion Arceo, Abel Marco Arceo, Dindo Turado, Josefina Turado, Jonardino Turado, Christina Cruz, Kristine Rachel Cruz, Jeffrey Gallendez

Camarines Sur and Sorsogon members in the Photos: Pretty Hagad, Sheekinah Adame, Roem Llobit Bemar B. Llobit, Jacinth Em B. Llobit, Rochiemar B. Llobit

IS the "old" covenant obsolete? This may seem like a strange question to ask. However, many have their minds made up, and they are on both sides of the issue.

Has the New Covenant Made the "Old" Covenant Obsolete?

Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin
Hebrews 8

Biblically, there have been several covenants that God has made with mankind. The very first covenant is the Adamic Covenant, made with Adam and Chava,¹ which was never done away with. Women still have pain in childbirth, and men still have to wrestle with the soil to produce a crop.² This covenant also had a blessing: The seed of the woman would one day have victory over HaSatan, the "serpent."

The next covenant that God made with man was the Noahic Covenant, with the sign of the rainbow as God's promise in Genesis 9 to never destroy the entire earth again with a flood.

In the Abrahamic Covenant, YHWH promised to Abraham that his descendants would inherit the Holy Land, an area actually far larger than what the Jews have even to this day.³ Circumcision was the seal of the Abrahamic Covenant, which is binding on all of the physical descendants of Abraham.⁴

None of these covenants were ever in any way "done away with." Women still have pain in childbirth, the rainbow still appears, and in a great modern miracle, the Jews are back in the Land, to the great displeasure of Replacement Theologians⁵ everywhere.

The Mosaic Covenant is the covenant that most people refer to when they talk about the "old" covenant, which includes the many

commandments, statutes, and ordinances given to us from God by the hand of Moses.

We have the promise of the "New Covenant" given to us in Jeremiah 31:31-33:

31 "Behold, the days come," saith YHWH, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah, 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they broke, although I was a husband to them," saith YHWH. 33 "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days," saith YHWH, "I will put my Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

This same promise of the New Covenant is repeated in Hebrews 8:8-10 and Hebrews 10:10. Please note: This covenant is made with only the House of Judah and the House of Israel. This means that it was made only with the Jews and the Gentiles who are grafted onto the Jewish olive tree described in Romans 11. By the very nature of the New Covenant, it automatically excludes anti-Semites. An anti-Semite would never want to be in covenant relationship to Jews. God promises to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel.⁶ I don't see how one can be "blessed" and "cursed" at the same time. Believers should not hate anyone without cause, and anti-Semitism is also directly contrary to the New Covenant. There won't be any anti-Semites in the New Jerusalem!

Most Evangelic Christians, thank God, believe that the Jews are still God's Chosen People. However, there are those who believe that God "changed his mind" and no longer keeps His promises to the Jews.

There are also Dispensational Christians, many of whom love Israel and the Jewish people, so I don't want to be too hard on them. However, Dispensational Theology teaches that the "old" covenant (that is, the 'Mosaic' covenant) was replaced by the New Covenant. However, Jeremiah 31:33 tells us that the New Covenant is simply the "Old Covenant" (that is, the *mitzvot* - "commandments") are now written on our hearts instead of tablets of stone. In other words, we have internalized God's commandments, and obey Him out of love for Him, not to obtain favor or because of fear. We don't obey God's instruc-

¹ In most Bibles, Chava is called "Eve" or "Eva," after the name of a pagan fertility goddess. However, in the Hebrew her name was "Chava," related to the Hebrew word of "life" because she was the "mother of all living" (Genesis 3:20).

² Genesis 3:15-19.

³ Genesis 15:18-21; 17:1-8.

⁴ Genesis 17:9-14.

⁵ Replacement Theology teaches that God is finished with the Jews, and that the "Church" is now the "New Israel," replacing the Jews. This is, of course, a heresy.

⁶ Genesis 12:3; 26:4; Numbers 23:8; 24:9; Isaiah 54:15-17; 60:2; Matthew 25:40-45.

tions in order to "get saved," but because we are saved.

A New Covenant or a New Priesthood?

There are some who would appeal to Hebrews chapter 8 to "prove" that the "old" (Mosaic) covenant was done away with. In Hebrews 8, immediately after the promise of the New Covenant, we read in verses 11-13:

11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother," saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13 When He said, "A new *covenant*," he has made the first obsolete. Now that which decays and grows old is ready to vanish away."

Gee, that seems to settle everything. The new covenant came along, and replaced the old covenant, right? No... **Wrong!** If you have a King James Bible or a more literal modern translation such as the New American Standard, you will note that the word *covenant* in Hebrews 8:13 is in italics. When translating from one language to another, it is often felt necessary to add a word here or there to "make sense" of the sentence being translated. The way in which the King James translators notified the reader that they had added a word was to put the word (or words) into *italics*. For that, we should be very grateful to the KJV translators. Many modern translations add words or even whole phrases with no indication of having done so.

So, what's my point? Simply this... The word *covenant* was **not** in the underlying Greek text of the Book of Hebrews. The noun *covenant* was added in *italics* in order give sense to the passage, as well as in Hebrews 9:1 which comes directly after Hebrews 8:13. The noun is missing. The word "testamentum" was added in the Latin Vulgate,⁷ and the word "covenant" was added by the KJV translators (and many others as well). However, neither "testamentum" nor "covenant" are in the Greek New Testaments in Hebrews 8:13 or 9:1. I checked out my Hebraic-Roots Version New Testament,⁸ which is translated from the Aramaic into English. The word "covenant" is completely lacking in the English translation of the Aramaic, which is as it should be.

This is hard for English speakers to under-

stand, but in most other languages, you can have an adjective without a noun, as is the case here. The writer just assumes that the reader will understand the subject matter and mentally fill in the correct noun. In this case the Dispensationalists have had a field day by adding either "testament" or "covenant" to the text, based on their assumptions and theology. However, I feel this is a serious error, and directly contradicts Yeshua's words in Matthew 5:17-19. Perhaps someday in the far-off future when the current heavens and earth pass away, Torah might be abolished or replaced. But that isn't going to happen in our lifetimes and I don't believe it will ever happen.

The natural question should arise: What noun should be supplied to give proper sense to Hebrews 8:13? There is a saying: "**Text without context is pretext.**" In other words, we need to look at the passage in light of what the subject matter is in the surrounding material. In this case, I would take us back to Hebrews chapter 7 and continue on into Hebrews chapter 9.

Hebrews 7 reintroduces us to Melchizedek. You might have recalled him from Genesis 14. He was the king of Salem, known as a "priest of God Most High." Abraham gave to him a tenth of all the spoil from a battle he fought in rescuing Lot from his enemies. According to Jasher 16:11, Melchizedek was Shem. The book called *Jasher* that we have today may just be a very clever forgery. However, there was an original Book of Jasher which is referred to in Joshua 10:13 and 2 Samuel 1:18. The Rabbis also believe that Shem and Melchizedek were one and the same man, but the Rabbis can also be wrong. Others feel that Melchizedek and Yeshua are one and the same. My personal opinion is that Melchizedek is a special created being, because he is "without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he abides as a priest forever."⁹

The priesthood inaugurated by Moses was of the descendants of the Tribe of **Levi** through Aaron. However, Yeshua was from the Tribe of **Judah**. Therefore, Yeshua is called a priest (or cohen) after the order of Melchizedek in Hebrews 7:15, which then goes on to quote Psalm 110:4: "YHWH has sworn, and will not repent, **Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.**" Melchizedek existed long before the Levitical priesthood came into being, because Melchiz-

⁷ The Vulgate is a Latin translation of the Bible done by Jerome, completed in about 381 CE.

⁸ By James Trimm, PO Box 471, Hurst TX 76053

⁹ Hebrews 7:3.

edek predated the people of Israel. Likewise, Yeshua also had an existence before his birth. In Yochanan 1:1-3, we read: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." Yeshua was "in the beginning" creating with the Father! So, like Melchizedek, Yeshua pre-existed not only Abraham, but even the world we live in!

The initial part of Hebrews 8 also concerns the priesthood. Then in the latter part of Hebrews 8, we learn about the "New Covenant" that God would be making with Israel. The common teaching that we hear in the church is that the Book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians in the First Century. The writer of Hebrews, who we believe to be Rav Shaul (Paul), was warning the Jewish believers of the dangers of "backsliding" into Judaism.

The truth of the matter is far different than is traditionally taught. The writer of Hebrews in no way teaches against Torah or Judaism. Far from being made obsolete, Torah is now written upon the hearts, according to the New Covenant prophesied in Jer. 31:31-33 and Hebrews 8:8-10. Yeshua didn't come to start a new religion; **He came as the Messiah of the old religion – Judaism!**

The problem occurs with a poor choice of words used by the translators in Hebrews 8:13. The context is about a new covenant requiring a new priesthood. The new covenant is simply the "old" covenant being written on our hearts, so the old "Mosaic" covenant isn't growing old and passing away; instead, **it is being given new life!**

The correct word to insert in Hebrews 8:12-13 would be "priesthood," not covenant. It should read as follows: "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more. 13 In that He said, 'A new priesthood.' He has made the first old. Now that which decays and waxes old is ready to vanish away."

Likewise, in Hebrews 8:7, the word *covenant* was added by the translators, when the word *priesthood* would have been more appropriate. The Book of Hebrews was written in approximately 64 CE. The *Beit HaMikdash* (Temple) was still in existence. The writer of Hebrews recognizes that the Temple with its priesthood would soon be passing away.

The chapter divisions of the Bible are also very artificial. We can be grateful to the Catholic Church for giving us chapter and verse divisions, which certainly makes the Bi-

ble much easier to navigate. However, the chapter and verse divisions are sometimes very inappropriate. In this case, the very next verses after Hebrews 8:13 has been separated into an entirely separate new chapter, even though Hebrews chapters 8 and 9 should **not** have been separated in that location.

As in Hebrews 8:13, if you pick up a KJV Bible, you will note that the word *covenant* in Hebrews 9:1 is again in *italics*, as an indication that the word *covenant* was added by the translators, and cannot be found in the underlying Greek text. The KJV of Hebrews 9:1 reads as follows: "Then verily, the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary."

The verses that come after Hebrews 9:1 are all about the priesthood of the Temple, compared with the priesthood of Yeshua the Messiah. Obviously, the KJV translators again inserted the wrong word. However, unlike other translations, the KJV translators are kind enough to let us know that they added a word to help the reader make sense of the passage. Many other translations also add the word *covenant*, but they don't do anything to indicate that the word *covenant* was added, which isn't being totally honest to the readers.

The obvious word which should have been used is *priesthood*, as follows: "Then verily, the first *priesthood* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary." When the translators used the word *covenant* instead of *priesthood*, it helped to bolster Dispensational Theology, which teaches that Torah (that is, the "Mosaic Dispensation") was basically abolished by the New Covenant. This would be anathema to the writer of Hebrews. In Malachi 3:6, we read, "For I am YHWH, I change not; therefore, you sons of Jacob are not consumed." In Hebrews 13:8, we read, "Yeshua the Messiah, the same yesterday, and today, and forever." The fickle gods of Greek mythology were moody and unpredictable. The fickle Greek gods seem to have entered into the theology of many Christians. However, our God is a God that changes not. Each *covenant* (or "dispensation," if you prefer) builds onto the previous covenant, and does **not** replace the previous covenant.

If we can't trust God to keep the word he spoke to ancient Israel, how can we expect Him to keep his promises to us? The New Covenant definition of sin remains as it was under the Old Covenant: "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the Law, for sin is the transgression of the Law (1 John 3:4)."

What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You!

By: Kitty Schneider

Sunshine warms my body, as I lounge here in my friends' backyard. I've known Joan and Wade for several years now, but today they are visiting their son in sunny California. They bought airline tickets and traveled far for their vacation. In contrast, they pay me to stay at their delightfully large, modern home in the country. You see, I am a pet-lover, but live in a modest apartment, where pets aren't allowed. So, each year I get paid to care for their three dogs and five cats, a 'job' I really enjoy.

As I relax on their swing, I'm grateful to The Lord for arranging this wonderful vacation for me. As I absorb the soothing sun's warmth, feel the gentle breezes, and listen to the sounds of a choir of birds singing, I'm reminded of a day when my freedom to enjoy life came to a sudden screeching halt. It happened one summer day when I was forced into the back of a police car with hands cuffed behind my back. Although this happened several years ago, it's still painful to replay the event in my mind. My purpose for reviewing this story with you is two-fold.

First, I hope to express empathy for anyone else who has broken the law, then regretted it. Especially those who didn't even realize they were making a choice that was in violation of the law and could result in jail time. Secondly, I hope to encourage those who are law-breakers on a regular basis, and quite frankly, I'm convinced this includes everyone reading this story.

"Oh no," you say, **"not me. I never broke any law! Oh, I know I'm not perfect, but I'm no criminal. Actually, I'm a pretty good person."** To that person, I say, **"Are you?"**

Consider this. The laws of our land were established to create a peaceful place in which to live. In a similar fashion, our Creator gave us laws to guide our lives, so we could enjoy peace. The government's laws are based on His laws. In other words, Our Creator really does know what's best for us. Our forefathers decided to try to enforce godly living in the only way they could, by establishing laws with penalties for violators. Our Heavenly Father has penalties for breaking His laws too, but somehow it's become common to ignore His

teachings, simply because He's invisible. It's almost as if we only believe what we can see, when it comes to Him. How unfortunate for us! We can't see our hearts, but we believe we have them because some doctor has listened to our heartbeat.

Yet, we deny acknowledgement of the very One who created us – hearts and all! – And keeps them beating!

Now, back to the story of my arrest. It began shortly after 11 p.m. on a summer night, with a phone call. Like today, I was house-sitting, but at another friend's place, and I had already settled down to sleep. When I answered the phone, I heard the voice of a young lady, who described an unpleasant altercation with her father that took place that night. She'd waited until the house was quiet, and assuming he was asleep, she called me to say she was leaving home. She asked if I'd pick her up and give her a place of refuge. Concerned for her safety, I did just that, thinking I'd call her parents the next day and help them reconcile. But before I ever got the opportunity, a policeman arrived to arrest both of us! (Proverbs 26:17 warns us not to get in the middle of someone else's problems. I sure wish I would have understood that teaching sooner.)

The young lady was not yet eighteen years old, although she had a responsible job and seemed quite mature. I was charged with "interfering with custody"! As I sat in the back-seat of the police car in handcuffs, the officer assured me I had committed a crime punishable by up to six months in jail! I sat there in total disbelief! I only meant to help someone who seemed scared and asked for my help. As the officer took me to the city jail, I remember praying to my Lord. I remember how close I felt to Him that day. I was arrested and faced severe punishment because of my love and concern for someone else. Yeshua had been arrested too, when His main goal was to love and help all of mankind.

Tears flowed like a river down my face, as I quietly pleaded my case to the eternal Judge. My arthritic fingers ached as the officer's strong hands manhandled my fingers one at a time, as I was fingerprinted. Next, I was ordered into position for a 'mug shot'. (Actually, I'd like to see a copy of that photo, because as the officer was adjusting the camera, I realized that the front of my T-shirt said, "FOCUS...on The Lord." I think I must've been smiling, thinking of that.) Fortunately just after that, friends of mine arrived to post bail for me. I

truder to think of what might've happened next, if they had not shown up just then. Thoughts of strip-searching and being thrown into a cell with others flood my mind.

Did I know I was breaking a law when I agreed to help this young lady? "No," I didn't. Did that fact matter to the policeman who arrested me? It did not. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. To make a long story short, the legal process took months and involved several hearings. My lawyer fees totaled about \$1,500, and my adjusted gross income that year was approximately \$7,000. Eventually the charges were dismissed, but not the legal debt I had to pay. Sin is like this. We can be forgiven, but we still live with the consequences of our wrong choices.

These events caused me to develop a new healthy respect for the law. It became crystal clear to me that whether we know we are breaking a law or not, the consequences apply just the same. Since then, I've come to realize that God's laws, like the government's laws, are for our protection. It is now my lifelong goal to learn His teachings for my own benefit.

I want my life to be blessed because of my obedience, not cursed because of disobedience...or worse yet, ignorance. What you don't know CAN hurt you! Ignorance of the law is no excuse. The law applies equally to everyone.

How about you? Are you a student of God's Word? Does it matter to you what He

teaches? He is the one Teacher, who always teaches truth, because He **IS** Truth.

He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man comes unto the Father, but by me". (John 14:6)

He loves each one of us perfectly and in return, longs for us to walk and talk with Him. To learn His ways. To long to obey Him. He wants to write His teachings on our hearts. How's your heart? Do you yearn to see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly and follow Him more nearly?

If not, please ask Him right now to place that desire in your heart. Ask Him to bring people into your life, who want those things...for themselves AND for you. He created us for fellowship with one another and Himself. The Creator of the Universe wants to walk and talk with you and me! What an amazing truth that is!

For more information on the importance of incorporating God's Word into your life, why not read Psalm 119?

Perhaps this entire story sounds strange to you. Perhaps, you have no personal relationship with The King of Heaven and Earth. If you don't understand what it means to be 'born again', please read the gospel of John. Be willing to pray to God for understanding. Talk to someone who loves Him... and you. The Savior's arms are always wide open to us... to forgive, accept and teach us how to live and be blessed.

Daniel Botkin Presents

YOU MIGHT BE A MESSIANIC GREENHORN IF...

YOU BAKE A LOAF OF CHALLAH BREAD FOR YOUR PASSOVER SEDER
I HAD TO USE EXTRA YEAST TO MAKE IT RISE THIS BIG.

YOU THINK THE SYMBOL ON KOSHER FOOD MEANS "UNKOSHER." THAT'S STRANGE - IT'S UNKOSHER, BUT IT'S GOT HEBREW WRITING ON THE PACKAGE.

YOUR OLDER CHILDREN HAVE NAMES LIKE JENNIFER, BRANDON, AND ASHLEY, AND YOUR YOUNGEST KIDS HAVE NAMES LIKE ELJAHU, D'VORAH, YAEL, AND YOSHIYAHU.

AND THIS IS OUR YOUNGEST, ZAPHNATH-PAANEAH.

YOU THINK KASHRUT IS THE NAME OF A JEWISH COUNTRY MUSIC SINGER.
HELLO. I'M JOHNNY KASHRUT.

WOW... HE REALLY IS THE MAN IN BLACK!

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

One main factor in the survival of Pharisaical Judaism, which became what we know today as Rabbinic Judaism, was the surrender of Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai. He opposed the war and would have been killed by the Jewish military leaders, mostly the Zealots, for treason, had he not been smuggled out of Jerusalem by his disciples in a coffin, where he promptly surrendered to the Romans.

They carried the coffin to [General] Vespasian's tent, where ben Zakkai emerged from the coffin. He told Vespasian that he had had a vision (some would say, a shrewd political insight) that Vespasian would soon be emperor, and he asked Vespasian to set aside a place in Yavne (costal city south of Tel Aviv) where he could start a small school and study Torah in peace. Vespasian promised that if the prophecy came true, he would grant ben Zakkai's request. Vespasian became Emperor within a year, and kept his word, allowing the school to be established after the war was over.

A Fatal Blessing

In the year 80 CE, Ben Zakkai was succeeded over the school in Yavne by Gamaliel II—grandson of the Gamaliel we see in Acts 5. Gamaliel II will be remembered for one primary act. Despite the fact, as we will soon see, that the Messianic Jews had at least one synagogue of their own, it is believed many Jewish believers still attended traditional synagogue. Gamaliel wanted them out; so he added a nineteenth benediction called the *bircat haminim*, a blessing against heretics (more like a curse!), to the *Amidah*. Interestingly the other name for the *Amidah* is the *Sh'moneh Esrei* (the eighteen [benedictions]), but it should be called the **tisha esrei**¹ (the nineteen benedictions) for the one that was added. It was as if they wanted to quietly insert it without drawing attention. The fact that it was placed at number 12 and not 19, adds some credence to this suspicion. It was intended to weed out Messianic Jews, who were being more and more considered heretics by Pharisaical Judaism.

¹ The current pronunciation in Israel today is normally "cha-esrei," despite the fact that there is no "ch" sound in the Hebrew alphabet.

The Fascinating History of the First Jewish Believers

By **Ron Cantor (Part 2)**
CEO of Tikkun Global, a family of Messianic ministries and leaders based in Israel (WWW.RITG.ORG) and the President of Shelanu.tv.

Religious Jews recite the *Amidah* thrice daily and when they do, one of the prayers is directly aimed at Jewish believers, Nazarene (as we were called then):

"For the apostates let there be no hope. And let the arrogant government be speedily uprooted in our days. Let the *Notzrim* [Nazarenes] and the *minim* [heretics] be destroyed in a moment. And let them be blotted out of the Book of Life and not be inscribed together with the righteous. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who humblest the arrogant."

The Messianic Jews certainly could not pray a curse upon themselves that

declared them apostates and heretics to be destroyed and blotted out. It is likely that Messianic Jews in large numbers ceased to attend traditional synagogue. However, over the next generation, with the decline of the Jewish wing, if you will, of the body of Messiah, Church fathers began to claim that the Jews cursed Christians in their prayers. Action was taken to clarify this.

Without exception, the word *Notzrim* was expunged from all Jewish prayer rites, and in many, substitutions were made for *minim* (heretics) and *meshummadim* (apostates), as in the accepted opening in the Ashkenazi rite "may the slanderers (*malshinim*) have no hope."

Prayer Replaces Sacrifice

More than anyone else, Ben Zakkai was responsible for the survival of Pharisee/Rabbinic Judaism. In Yavne, he birthed a school that became the worldwide center of Jewish learning. He re-formed the Sanhedrin there with the blessing of the Romans. Without a Temple, Judaism would decline. Unlike today, first-century Judaism aggressively sought to expand through converts. Ben Zakkai realized that converts would not be attracted to a Temple-less Judaism and would instead flock to Yeshua (and they did!). The focus of Jewish life had been the Temple and the sacrifices. It would have been great if he interpreted the falling of Jerusalem as judgment (as Yeshua predicted) and understood that in light of Yeshua's death, the Temple was no longer needed. The writer of Hebrews said a few years before:

"By calling this covenant² 'new,' he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear" (Hebrews 8:13).

Bible teachers have wrongly interpreted this passage as God rendering the Torah, the Writings, and the Prophets, obsolete. For two reasons this is impossible. 1) Yeshua said He did not come to destroy the Torah. (Matt. 5:17). Secondly, almost all New Testament theology is based on the Hebrew Scriptures. Paul constantly quotes them, as do the Gospel writers. What *was* obsolete, however, in light of the death of Yeshua, was the *sacrificial system*. Yeshua was the once-for-all-time and all-sin sacrifice.

Sadly, Ben Zakkai could not see this and sought to create a *new Judaism*—a bloodless, sacrifice-less, Temple-less, Judaism. He convinced the newly established Sanhedrin to replace the need for sacrifice with prayer, quoting Hosea 6:6, "*I desire mercy, not sacrifice.*" There would be no need to rebuild the Temple. Before this, sacrifice was central to Judaism. Temple ritual was replaced with prayer service in synagogues which built upon practices of Jews in the Diaspora dating back to the Babylonian exile.

Whenever God condemned sacrifice, it was not because He is condemning the very system *that He Himself established*, but rather He is condemning the people for forsaking Him while still offering sacrifices. In the context of the Hosea passage, this is clear. He continues the verse about desiring mercy, not sacrifice with, "and **acknowledgment of God** rather than burnt offerings." God was not against sacrifice, but was seeking to confront hypocrisy; He was seeking relationship with His people.

Sadly, one of the main arguments that Orthodox Jews use today to try and refute Messianic Judaism is that prayer and repentance are enough to atone for sin. Of course, this was not the Jewish view until after the Second Temple was destroyed.

² The word *covenant* is added by the KJV translators in *italics* because it is not in the underlying Greek text. This noun is missing. I believe that the correct noun should be "priesthood," which is the topic beginning in Hebrews 9:1 the very next verse after Hebrews 8:13. **RAC**



"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" (Lev. 17:11).

Even in the Babylonian Exile, the dream was always to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. We see in Lamentations a broken-hearted prophet, lamenting over Jerusalem's demise. Ben Zakkai's response is the opposite. He cared not for Jerusalem nor the Temple but for preserving the traditions of the elders, the Oral Law. It was successful and practical, but not the biblical response that we see after the first destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BCE.

"If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth— If I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy" (Psalm 137:5-6).

After Ben Zakkai, there is virtually no movement in Judaism to rebuild the Temple. Even those today who seek it are considered extreme. 卍



Art by Joey Balboa, Missouri

OBITUARY by Daniel Botkin

Buttercup Botkin

2008 - 2023

Buttercup Botkin of East Peoria IL passed away on January 31, 2023, just a couple weeks shy of her 15th birthday.

Buttercup was born in Eureka, IL on February 17, 2008. She graduated from the PetSmart Obedience School in East Peoria, and was employed as the family pet and watchdog at the Botkin home from her puppyhood until her death.

She is survived by her master and her mistress, Daniel and Teresa Botkin, and by her owner, Autumn Sunshine Botkin, and by several siblings and cousins.

Hobbies that Buttercup enjoyed included eating, sleeping, running, and spending time with her humans. She also enjoyed barking at strangers.

There will be no funeral service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Gates of Eden. Buttercup was given a proper burial in the Botkin Pet Cemetery at the edge of their yard in East Peoria.



How did I let myself be talked into getting a dog? In 2008 we had four daughters still at home. Twins Abby and Anna, 13; Emily, 9; and Autumn, 7. The girls asked me if we could get a pet dog. "Let's get some goldfish instead," I said. "They're easier to take care of."

So we got some goldfish. Then one day Abby and Anna came home from a yard sale with a big bird cage. "Dad, look at this bird

cage we got for only \$5! Can we get a couple of parakeets to put in it?"

Well, an empty bird cage is kind of useless, so I let them get two parakeets. Later on, they persuaded me to let them get a cat.

They still wanted a dog, but I was determined to not have a dog. Then one day Au-

turn came into the living room where I was sitting. Autumn has Down syndrome and autism, and cannot talk. Back then, she

could say a few short, simple words, but she very rarely spoke. That day, she walked up to me and said very clearly, "I want dog."

How could I refuse? So we got a yellow lab and called her name Buttercup. The girls were delighted.

A few years later, I found out that Autumn had not said "I want dog" by her own volition. Her sisters had coached her. They took Autumn aside and said, "Autumn, say 'I want dog. I want dog.' Say that! Say 'I... want... dog!'"

After their speech therapy sessions enabled Autumn to say those three words together, they said to her, "Now go and tell Daddy, 'I want dog! Go tell him!'" So I was set up, a victim of manipulation.

The loss of a pet often raises the question of whether or not we will see our pets again in the age to come. Many years ago, I knew a man who was a Baptist pastor. One day he was helping a family bury their pet dog that had been hit by a car. As he was digging the hole, the little boy who owned the dog was standing there weeping. The boy's mother said, "Don't worry, Jimmy. Your puppy is in heaven with Jesus now. Isn't that right, Pastor?"

I asked the pastor what he said. "I didn't say anything," he told me. "I just kept digging." The Bible does not say that we will see our pets again in the afterlife. However, the Bible does not say that we *won't* see them again. So maybe we will.

The Messianic kingdom described in Isaiah chapter 11 includes various kinds of animals, not only domestic animals but also wild animals like wolves, leopards, lions, and even snakes. Apparently even now there are some sort of animals in the heavenly realm. Elisha saw chariots of fire being pulled by horses of fire. Zechariah saw some sort of heavenly horses in his visions (chapters 1 & 6). In Revelation, John also saw horses, as well as living creatures like a lion, a calf, a man, and an eagle.

So apparently there is some sort of animal life in the heavenly realm. This fact (as well as Isaiah chapter 11) strongly suggests that there will likewise be some sort of animal life on the new earth. It is possible that this animal life in the new earth will include our pets in resurrected or recreated bodies.

In Romans 8:22, Paul says that "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now," waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. Animals are a part of "the whole creation." Furthermore, Paul says that "the creation itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption" (Rom. 8:21). Pets are part of "creation itself," so maybe our pets will experience some sort of deliverance "from the bondage of corruption."

I'm not going to tell grieving children that their dead pets are in heaven with Jesus now. But I'm also not going to tell them that they will never again see their beloved pets someday, because maybe they will. I will not be surprised if I see Buttercup in the new earth, as well as Mutt, Sniffy, Raffles, Adolph, Booger, and Bardolph, the other dogs I had in this life. Actually, I think I will be more surprised if I do *not* see them in some form.

I did not expect to be so sad when Buttercup died. She was almost 15 years old, so I knew her time was coming. I thought I was emotionally prepared for her death, but I wasn't. I did not realize that I was so attached to her. I did not expect to cry. My grief took me by surprise. I was and still am very sad about losing her. I'm crying right now as I type this. I feel angry at myself for being so sad. I almost feel guilty for being so grieved over the loss of a dog.

In my puzzled state I was wondering why I am so sad about this loss, and these words came to me:

*"The more deeply you love,
the more deeply you grieve."*

I do not know if those words were from the Holy Spirit or not, but they do not give me any comfort. All they give me is an explanation of why I am so sad, and that does not comfort me. I also find no comfort in all the good memories. The wonderful memories bring me more grief than comfort, because they remind me of what we have lost.

I think that one reason for my unexpected grief is because we had Buttercup for so many years. All the other dogs I had in the past either died, or were given away, or ran off and disappeared after just a couple years or so. But Buttercup was with us for almost 15

years.

I think another reason for my grief is because Abby, Anna, and Emily were so much a part of Buttercup's life. All three of those daughters now live hundreds of miles away from us and we seldom see them. The loss of Buttercup is a sad reminder that those three daughters are no longer with us. Losing Buttercup is sort of like losing another piece of Abby, Anna, and Emily.

I know Buttercup was an animal, not a person, but she had a personality of her own, a wonderful, loving, joyful distinct personality. It's difficult for me to believe that the personality that dwelt in that canine body is now forever gone, and irretrievably lost, and will never ever come back again. It seems to me that all of the love, affection, fidelity, and joy that God poured through that dog will someday, somehow be restored to me in some form.

I do not know if pets will be resurrected, or if brand new bodies will be created to contain a composite of all the pets we had, and all the good qualities that they embodied. I don't care how God does it, but He is a God of restoration, so I expect some sort of restoration in some form. After all, dogs are not sinners like us, so why should they be eternally deprived of life? Dogs did not bring sin into this world, we humans did. So I expect some sort of restoration in some form. Maybe our pets will even be able to talk to us. Why not? In the Bible, Balaam's donkey talked to him, and the serpent spoke to Eve. So who knows? We'll see what happens.

I am reminded of Billy Graham's answer to a man who asked him, "Rev. Graham, will I be able to play golf in heaven?" Billy said something like this: "If you need to play golf in heaven to be happy there, then you will be able to play golf."
-Daniel Botkin

Editor's Note: Last year, I published an article about cats called, "How to Raise a Messianic Cat." Then someone was unhappy that I had not published an article about dogs, so I wrote an article called, "Do Dogs go to Heaven?" I had fun with both articles, including some good information as well as a good dose of humor. I was reluctant to do another article about dogs. I didn't want our readers to think that this publication was going to the dogs. But this article was too good to pass up. I hope you all appreciate it. By the way, if you don't like dogs or cats, don't get a kitten or puppy. It would be unfair to them. Kittens and puppies are adorable, but they grow up to be cats and dogs, as well as great companions.

Anti-Judaism and the Council of Nicaea

Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA (also spelled Nicea) was convened in 325 CE [1] by Constantine, Emperor of the Roman Empire. Constantine, a worshipper of the "Sun God," technically "converted" to Christianity. His reign marked the alliance of church and state. Christians were no longer to be persecuted by the pagans. Instead, Christians [2] would persecute other Christians with a zeal and a vengeance that would shock the pagans. More Christians were slain (by other Christians!) in the first 100 years after Nicaea than had been killed by pagans in the previous three centuries.

Constantine, only one year after convening the Council of Nicaea, had his own son (Crispus) put to death. Later he suffocated Fausta (his wife) in an overheated bath. Then he had his sister's son flogged to death and her husband strangled. [3] It was also during the reign of Constantine that the **cross** became a sacred symbol of Christianity, just as it was among various cultures which predated Christianity.

Throughout his reign, Constantine treated the bishops as political aids. He agreed to enforce whatever opinion that the majority of the bishops formulated.

ISRAEL rose up against the Roman occupiers in 67 CE, a war in which the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) was destroyed in 70 CE, and ended when over 900 Jewish men, women, and children committed mutual suicide on Masada rather than surrender to the Roman army in 73 CE. The total number of Jews who were murdered, starved to death, or who died due to disease and privation was 1,300,000 out of a population of 2 million.

Because of a high birth rate and an undying hatred of the Romans, Israel felt strong enough to rise up against the Romans again with a revolt that began in 132 CE. However, Israel was totally destroyed as a nation with the defeat of Bar Kochba (a false messiah) in 135 CE. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were murdered. Most of the survivors were dispersed into the *Galut* (Diaspora or **Exile**), many of whom were sold into slavery. The city of Jerusalem was turned into a completely pagan city by the Romans, with a temple to Jupiter (Zeus) erected on the Temple Mount.

The final and utter defeat of Israel of Israel was seen by many Christians as a sign that Israel was rejected by her God. The

"Church" was seen as the "new Israel," replacing the Jews as the people of God

Jews were seen as the "old Israel." Today this is known as **Replacement Theology**. All the promises of God went to the "Church," where as the curses went to the Jews, according to this blasphemous theology.

By the time Constantine called the first general church council together at Nicaea in 325 CE, anti-Semitism was already endemic in what had become apostate Christianity. The Council of Nicaea was attended by 318 bishops, none of whom were of Jewish extraction. In fact, no Jewish believers were even invited even though Messianic Judaism continued to persist among many Jewish believers, as well as Gentile God-fearers.

Although Passover was still celebrated by the Gentile Christian church, the Gentiles began to see a need to differentiate "their" Passover from the "Jewish" Passover. The bishops at Nicaea decided to move the Christian celebration of Passover to the first Sunday after the Jewish Passover, which always falls on the 14th of Abib (Nisan), which can fall on any day of the week. Centuries later, the very name Passover (or *Pesach*) became distasteful to the Gentile church, and the term "Easter" (from the pagan goddess Ishtar) was adopted in place of Passover. In addition, the calendar was finally manipulated to remove any direct connection with the celebration of the Jewish Passover. In 1989, for instance, the "Christian" observance of Easter was almost a month **before** Passover.

The first edict in favor of the "Venerable Day of the Sun" (Sunday) was made at this Council. Although some Christians had begun observing Sun Day before Nicaea, most Christians generally observed the seventh day Sabbath according to the Biblical commandment before Nicaea.

It was also at the Council of Nicaea that the standard creed for the Trinity was formulated, consisting of belief in a Three-Person Godhead that is co-equal, co-eternal, and co-substantial (of the same substance). Belief in the Trinity became mandatory, and those who did not hold to the belief in Trinity as constituted by Nicaea were subject to tremendous persecution. Hundreds of thousands were murdered by the "Church" after Nicaea for not holding to this and other Nicaean doctrines. In large part, Nicaea was the genuine "birthplace" of the Catholic Church, the direct result of the marriage of Church and State.

Civil legislation enforced the decrees of the Council of Nicaea. This was a victory of civil legislation over truth by civil legislation. Constantine, as Emperor, presided over the entire Council. The decisions of the 318 church bishops were endorsed by civil law and backed by military power.

The churches which flourished in worldly wealth were the primary churches represented by this Council. The poor and humble churches could not afford to send representatives over a thousand miles away. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* says, "Some bishops, blinded by the splendor of the court, went so far as to laud the emperor as an angel of God, as a sacred being, and to prophesy that he would, like the Son of God, reign in heaven."^[1]

Nicaea, with its theological anti-Judaism, laid the foundation for the anti-Semitic legislation and judgments of later church councils. The Council of Antioch (341 CE) prohibited Christians from celebrating Passover with the Jews. The Council of Laodicea in the same century forbade Christians from observing the Jewish (and biblical) Sabbath. (Prior to this time, Christianity was somewhat divided, with some Christians observing the Sabbath, some observing Sunday, and some observing both!) Christians were also forbidden from receiving gifts from Jews or *matzo*^[2] from Jewish festivals as well as other "impieties."^[3]

It wasn't all bad news in those early centuries; Judaism was not a "prohibited sect," according to the *Codex Theodosianus* of 438 CE. Rabbis were entitled to the same privileges as the Christian clergy. Jews were not to be disturbed on their Sabbath or Feast Days. Their synagogues were not to be attacked, violated, burned, or confiscated. However, conversion was a one-way street. Jews could convert to Christianity, and were encouraged to do so. However, Christians were forbidden to convert to Judaism. Also, Jews were forbidden to have Christian slaves, but Christians could own Jewish slaves. Christians were forbidden under penalty of death to marry Jews. (This was kind of a blessing for the Jews, who didn't have to worry about intermarriage decimating the ranks of the Jews as we see happening today.) Jewish tribunals were considered valid only in matters purely religious. The *Fiscus Judaicus* (Jewish tax) from earlier centuries was maintained, a tax which only Jews were required to pay to government authorities.

The few protections offered by the *Codex Judaicus* were relatively short-lived. It wasn't many decades later until attacks on Jews and their synagogues became commonplace. The

Jew was a second-class citizen, somewhat protected by law, but merely tolerated, something akin to the *dhimmi* status that is given to non-Muslims in Islamic countries. However, these were the "good old days" compared to the horrors that would be inflicted upon the Jews in later centuries by the "Church triumphant." Rav Shaul (Paul) commanded Christian gentiles to "provoke the Jews to jealousy" with their righteous living. Christians did end up provoking the Jews, so they got it half right.

Considering the rampant anti-Semitism at the Council of Nicaea, I am both surprised and disappointed when I see even Messianic Jews quote decisions from the Council of Nicaea in support of certain theologies and creeds. The Council of Nicaea (the first genuinely Roman Catholic council) was very creedal oriented. Creeds (what you believe) is far more important than what you do. In Judaism, observance of the *mitzvot* (commandments) is the litmus test of being a good Jew. Little emphasis is placed upon creeds.

The emphasis upon creeds in the Christian church resulted in the deaths of millions of martyrs and "heretics." Christian love and charity were sorely lacking, even to other Christians. In fact, a Jew usually had a far better chance of surviving than a Christian who was deemed to be a heretic.

I am grateful to live in a society in which honest differences of opinion can exist. Yeshua said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another."^[4] This is far more important than any creed formulated by any church council.

I would like to conclude with the following comments: There is a world of difference between the genuine followers of Yeshua and the pretenders. We highly esteem genuine Christians who are truly born-again of the *Ruakh* (Spirit) of God. We do not intend to slander the true disciples of Yeshua, whether they be Jews or Gentiles. ∩

[1] "Common Era," equivalent to A.D.

[2] I am using the term "Christian" loosely. A genuine disciple of Yeshua would never commit these crimes against others.

[3] *Babylon Mystery Religion*, p. 55-59, Ralph Woodrow, © 1966, 1981, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association.

[4] Vol. 4, "Constantine."

[5] "Unleavened bread."

[6] *Apostolic Fathers*, p. 357.

[7] Yochanan (John) 15:12.

Three Books of Love

By Rabbi Leonardo Bitran

If you look at the *Sheloshet HaRegalim* (the three pilgrimage festivals), Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost), and Sukkot (Booths), you find something remarkable, particularly if you look at the three Megillot (small scrolls). On Pesach, we read *Shir HaShirim* (the Song of Songs). On Shavuot, we read *Megilat Rut* (Book of Ruth). On Sukkot, we read the Book of *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes).

The amazing thing is that those three books are about love. The Song of Songs is about love when one is young. Nothing is said about forming a family and having children. There are no responsibilities about the future. It is all about sensations, taste, and smell.

Kohelet in the fall, half a year forward, is about the autumn of the year. Kohelet is no youngster. He speaks about old age, looking back at life and asking if it was really worthwhile. Nature, actions, and experiences of people are limited in number, yet no one can predict them all correctly. Kohelet says, *Re'eh Chayim im yisha asher ahavta* – "See life with the woman you love." This is love grown old, grown serene, but it's still love in the autumn.

Between Shir HaShirim and Kohelet is the summer. On Shavuot, we read the story of Ruth. Love is now a form of *Chesed* (loving-kindness). Love means action, love as a deed. Ruth's Chesed is shown to her mother-in-law, whom she sees as bereaved and bereft. Naomi is returning alone to her people. Boaz, moved by this kindness, takes Ruth as his wife, caring for Naomi, and making sure they will have a marriage and a home.

Four generations down the line, King David would be born. Love as loyalty is the essence of the Book of Ruth. It mirrors the relationship of Israel and God on Shavuot at Mount Sinai. A religion is born at Sinai. On Shavuot we discover our religion without extremism, but rather born with the essential message of faithfulness and kindness.

Editor's Note: Christians generally see the Song of Songs (also called Song of Solomon) as a love story between Jesus and the Church. Jews generally see it as a love story between God and the Jewish people. Rabbi Bitran sees it as it really is: A love story between a man and a woman. There is nothing wrong with romance. Why is this often "censored out"?



Boaz and Ruth

Psalm 122:6 **שְׁאֵלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם**
PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

The tiny "book" of Jonah is one of my favorites. In Judaism, it is thrown into the "Book of the Minor Prophets." It only takes up about three pages in the Bible, and therefore isn't considered to be a book in Judaism. It is also not just a "fish story." Jonah is mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25 as the "son of Amittai."

Also, Yeshua referred to Jonah in Matthew 12 as a genuine prophet, and confirms the veracity of the events mentioned in this tiny 'book,' as He used Jonah as a story to discern the signs of the times. Jonah is traditionally read on Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement. Jonah learned the hard way that God is also concerned about all of humanity, which is one of the lessons for Jews observing Yom Kippur.

In Jonah 1:1 tells us that Jonah is the son of Amittai. In most Western cultures, people choose names that sound good to them as names for their babies, or perhaps to honor a relative. In the Bible, names were chosen for their meaning. Jonah (Yona in Hebrew) means "dove." Amittai also is a very meaningful name. I have to thank Daniel Botkin for the following insights.¹ In Hebrew, the name of Jonah's father is אִמֵּיטַי. In transliterated form it is spelled *alef-mem-tav-yod*. The first three letters of his name are *alef-mem-tav* אִמֵּיטַי which is the spelling for **emet**, meaning **truth** in Hebrew. Emet is also a combination of the first letter, middle letter, and last letter of the Hebrew alphabet. If you take the first two letters of his name, you have *aleph + mem*, or **em**, which means **mother** in Hebrew, who is the beginning of life. If you take only the *mem + tav*, you have **met**, which means **death**, which is the end of life. Daniel writes, "This truth is our inconvenient truth."

Daniel writes, "But what about the letter *yod* at the end of Amittai's name? If you add a *yod* to a noun, that noun becomes first-person singular possessive, i.e., 'my.' Even if you do not know Hebrew, you can see this in the transliteration of certain words in the KJV: 'Eli, Eli ²...**My** God, **My** God... But the suffix on Amittai's name is pronounced *-ai*, not *i*. What does that mean? When the first-person singular possessive suffix *yod* is pronounced *-ai*, it pluralizes the word. Therefore, the name Amittai means 'My truths.' When God refers to Jonah as 'Jonah the son of Amittai, we can

¹ "Jonah & The Joy of Salvation," Gates of Eden.

² In Hebrew transliteration, the *i* is pronounced as "ee," as in "Lisa."

JONAH: The Reluctant Prophet

Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

understand this as 'Jonah, the son of my truths'."

God spoke to Jonah, but it was not something Jonah wanted to hear. He said, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city and cry against it; for their wickedness has come up before me." Please note: He wasn't carrying a mess such as, "Repent, and you shall be saved." It was strictly a message of harsh judgment.

The time of this happening was about 800 BCE.³ Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, in an area that is very roughly where northern Iraq is today. The Assyrians were brutal people. When they defeated their enemies, they would bring back the captives with their hands tied behind their backs, and with fishhooks in the lips of the captives, with a line attached to the captives ahead of them. They would often torture the captives as entertainment for their children. Jonah wasn't at all eager to go to Nineveh, even if only carrying a message of judgment. The people of Nineveh were almost as diabolically evil and cruel as the Nazis of the Second World War.

Jonah decided to go down to Joppa (Jaffa), where he found a ship going to Tarshish, rather than go to Tarshish. Tarshish was likely a city also called Tartessus on the southwest coast of what is today Spain. This was a Phoenician colony, as well as a port city with ships that traveled the ocean, many centuries before Columbus. The only ones "brave" enough for such ocean voyages were the Phoenician sailors. The Phoenicians spread fanciful legends of giant deep-sea monsters, and included stories about the edge of the world. Only they knew where the sea monsters were, or where the edge of the world was. They were the dominant seafaring nation of ancient days. Therefore, it is likely that Jonah chose a Phoenician ship for his travel adventure. In Jonah 1:3, we learn that Jonah was seeking to flee "from the presence of YHWH."

In those days, many nations had their own gods and goddesses. Remember Naman, the captain of the army of Aram? He went to Israel where he was healed from **tsara'at** (mistakenly called "leprosy" in most Bibles), following the directions of Elisha. After being healed, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel." He asked for two mules' loads of earth from Israel to

³ "Before Common Era," equivalent to B.C.

bring to Aram. Apparently, in order to worship the God of Israel, he felt he had to bring some of Israel home with him.⁴

It seems a bit strange that Jonah thought that he could flee from God, but that is apparently what he thought as he fled in a ship to Tarshish, which is perhaps the farthest place from Israel that he was familiar with. Then God hurled a monstrous storm on the sea, and the ship was about to break apart. In their panic, the sailors on the ship threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down below into the hold of the ship and had fallen fast asleep. That's a very sound sleeper, even more so than my cat!

The captain approached him, saying, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps *your* god will be concerned about us so that we do not perish."

The men decided to cast lots to find out which man was causing this calamity. Proverbs 16:33 says, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD." I'm not sure this is always the best way for deciding things. However, it did work in this instance. The lot fell on the guilty man: Jonah!

The men shot out a bunch of rapid-fire questions: "Tell us, we pray, for whose cause this evil is upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? What people are you from?"

Jonah didn't answer all of the questions, but what he said frightened them all. He said, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear YHWH, the God of heaven, who has made the sea and the dry ground (Jonah 1:9)." That's a powerful God!

The men demanded, "Why have you done this?" because they know that he had fled from the presence of the LORD. Then they said to him, "What shall we do with you, that the sea may be calm for us?" Jonah told them to throw him overboard.

The sailors were reluctant to throw Jonah overboard, and began rowing desperately to escape the storm. They even cried to God, saying, "We beseech Thee, O YHWH, let us not perish for this man's life." These were men from pagan nations. However, they are already calling on God's Name.

The storm didn't stop, so they reluctantly threw Jonah overboard, and the sea stopped its raging. "Then the men feared YHWH greatly, and offered a sacrifice unto YHWH, and made vows." The great Jewish commentator Rashi claims that these men formally converted to Judaism, including circumcision, and

then offered up sacrifices to the LORD. These were the first converts that Jonah reached.

"Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." According to the Rabbis, this fish was specially prepared at Creation for its future mission of swallowing Jonah! That part might be a fish story. However, if modern man can create submarines that can hold men underwater for weeks at a time, it seems logical to me that God can create a fish that can hold a man alive for a mere three days and three nights.

The story is told of the great philosopher and skeptic, Voltaire. He encountered a young lady preaching on the streets of Paris. Voltaire decided to amuse himself at her expense. He approached her saying, "Young lady, do you really believe that book in your hands is the word of God?" She replied, "Well, yes, I certainly do." Voltaire broke out into uproarious laughter, and said, "If Jonah was in the belly of this big fish for three days and three nights, how did he breathe?" The young lady replied, "I don't know, but when I get to heaven, I will ask him." Voltaire laughed again, and said, "What if Jonah isn't in Heaven?" She replied, "Then **you** ask him."

The Sign of Jonah

Yeshua confirms the story of Jonah, so if you don't believe this story, then you have bigger problems than you might realize. In Matthew 12, we read about Yeshua healing a man who had a withered hand, and then healing **all** of those who needed healing. He also healed a man that was both blind and dumb (that is, he couldn't speak). Yeshua healed this man, who then spoke and saw! Then some Pharisees and Sadducees approached Yeshua and asked Him to show them a **sign** from Heaven. What about the signs and wonders that just occurred? However, Yeshua responded, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign shall be given it, except for the sign of Jonah." And what was the **sign of Jonah**? Yeshua said, "For just as Jonah was **three days and three nights** in the belly of the sea monster, so shall the Son of Man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40).

As a new believer many years ago, this really threw me for a loop! I had been taught that the crucifixion occurred on "Good Friday," and that the resurrection occurred on "Easter Sunday." I was ignorant about lots of things, but I was really good at math. There is no way in which I could get three days and three nights from Friday to Sunday. Eventually I

⁴ 2 Kings 5.

learned that the first day of Pesach (Passover) was also a Sabbath (Lev. 23:7), regardless of which day of the week it fell on, and that Yeshua had been put in the tomb just for sunset before the first day of Passover began, not just before the seventh day Sabbath. In the year 30 CE, the first day of Passover was on day 5 ("Thursday"), which biblically begins on Wednesday at sunset. Therefore, Yeshua was put in the tomb just before sunset on a Wednesday, and was resurrected three days and three nights later on "Saturday" night. Voila! Three days and three nights, just as Yeshua said.

There are some who will insist that each part of a day counted as a whole day in biblical reckoning. Therefore, part of "Friday," all of "Saturday," and part of "Sunday" ⁵would count as three days. However, Yeshua only spent two nights in the tomb, not three nights, so there is no way in which these 1½ days from Friday evening to Sunday morning would count as three days and three nights.

And if Yeshua had only been in the grave for a day and a half, Jews would never have accepted this as a genuine resurrection. "The **Encyclopedia Judaica**, Vol. 4, page 1517 confirms that Jewish authorities throughout history traditionally legislated that a person was not legally or officially pronounced dead until the 4th day, after 72 hours – three complete days and nights had passed. Indeed, graves were even closely watched for pseudo-death (Matt. 27:66). Obviously, that is why the chief priests did not dispute his death, but instead claimed that Jesus' body was stolen (Matt. 28:15)."⁶

While in the belly of this really big fish, Jonah began to pray, using prayers from the first Jewish **siddur** (prayer book). What was the first Jewish siddur? So glad you asked! It was **Tehillim** – the Book of Psalms! Keep in mind that nobody, not even observant Jews, had a Bible on their bookshelf to pick up and read whenever they wanted. The **Tanakh** (so-called Old Testament) was all hand printed on scrolls. I assume that Jonah spent lots of time in the *beit kneset* (synagogue) where he would hear the Bible being read aloud, even sung (chanted) aloud. To this day, there are

trops (musical notations) to indicate how the books of the Bible were to be chanted. You may have heard the expression: "Sing it, and you'll never forget it." Jonah had memorized large sections of the Tehillim (the Psalms). And while in the belly of this giant fish, he assembled various verses from the Psalms, including verses from Psalms 18, 69, 32, 18, 116, 142, 143, 33, and 60, and assembled them into an amazing prayer, which I recommend that you read for yourself in Jonah 2. He concluded this prayer with the following words: "But I will sacrifice unto You with the voice of thanksgiving. I will pay that which I have vowed. Salvation is from YHWH." At that point, this humongous fish had had enough. "The LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto the dry land (Jonah 2:10)."

In chapter 3, God again commands Jonah to carry this message of judgment to Nineveh. At this time, Jonah decides to obey God, as he travels eastward across the land to Nineveh. Nineveh is described as "an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk." Jonah walked into the city a "one day's walk, proclaiming, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown." Genesis 10:11-12 tells us that Nineveh included other towns which were incorporated into Nineveh.

However, to Jonah's horror, the people of Nineveh believed in God, and called for fasting and repentance. Even the king of Nineveh covered himself with sackcloth and sat on ashes. He made a proclamation, "Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Let them not feed nor drink water... Who can tell if God will turn from his anger... that we perish not?"

"And God saw their **deeds**, that they turned from their evil deeds, and God repented of the evil that he had said that He would bring upon them (Joel 3:10)." It isn't enough to merely believe. God sees our deeds.

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

Jonah had a real pity party for himself, because the people repented and the judgment upon Nineveh was spared. Perhaps what was

⁵ I use "quote" marks around the names of the days of the week, because these names would have been utterly foreign to Jews 2000 years ago. Biblically, each day begins at sunset and ends at sunset 24 hours later.

⁶ I am quoting from a letter from John Bennett that was published in PT several years ago.

most exasperating, it was his preaching that caused the people of Nineveh to repent. This seemed to be one of Jonah's great fears from the beginning, which is one additional reason for why he had fled to Nineveh. God's mercy is great to all who will repent and call upon Him. While this was a hard lesson for Jonah, it can be a great source of comfort to us today.

I had read about the arrest of Adolph Eichmann, who had been basically kidnapped by Israeli agents in South America and forcibly brought to Israel to stand trial for his crimes. Eichmann was the "architect" of the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews were murdered. While awaiting the verdict, an Evangelic Christian tried witnessing to Eichmann. Eichmann responded, saying, "I will go to hell laughing, knowing that I sent 6 million Jews ahead of me." Yes, he was evil to the end. I hate to imagine if he had repented. Would God really have opened up the gates of heaven to that monster? I sure hope not! He was found guilty and executed in 1962.

However, the people of Nineveh genuinely repented, thus sparing them of destruction, and Jonah was angry. God said to him, "Do you have good reason to be angry?" Jonah didn't bother to answer. Instead, he perched himself on a hill east of Nineveh to see what

would happen to that city.

God appointed a plant which rapidly grew to provide shade for Jonah, and Jonah was happy about the plant. On the next day, God appointed a worm to attack the plant, which quickly withered. The sun then beat down on Jonah's head, and Jonah begged to die, saying, "Death is better for me than life."

In the concluding verse, God said to Jonah, "Do you have a good reason to be angry about the plant?" Jonah replied, "I do well to be angry, **even to death!**" God chastised Jonah about the plant, and said, "And should I not spare Nineveh, that great city of more than 120,000 persons... and also much cattle?" God was concerned not only about the people, but also about their animals.

Jonah might have taken comfort in knowing that many decades later, in about 610 BCE, that the Medes came against Nineveh and destroyed the city. However, Jonah never lived long enough to see the judgment upon Nineveh. The Medes, by the way, are the ancestors of the Kurds, who today are primarily located in parts of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. They have been denied a country of their own for many centuries. They are not Arabs. They are an entirely separate ethnicity.



Jonah the Prophet being coughed up on the shore

Man Swallowed by Whale and Survives, Modern-day Jonah Story

Robyn Roste, June 21, 2021

<https://faithstrongtoday.com>

It's a story of biblical proportions. On June 11, 2021, Michael Packard, a commercial lobster diver, was on his second dive of the day when he was swallowed by a humpback whale.

The Cape Cod Times reported the 56-year-old veteran diver was inside of the whale's mouth (not the stomach) for between 30 to 40 seconds before the whale breached, shook its head and spit Packard out.

"All of a sudden, I felt this huge shove and the next thing I knew it was completely black," he said in an interview with the Cape Cod Times. "I was completely inside; it was completely black... I thought to myself, 'there's no way I'm getting out of here. I'm done, I'm dead.'"

At first, Packard said he thought he was inside a great white shark, but realized it was a whale after feeling around the darkness and not finding teeth.

"Thank God, it wasn't a white shark. He sees them all the time out there," said Packard's sister, Cynthia Packard. She reported Packard's crewman Josiah Mayo had seen the whale fling her brother into the sea after noticing some action at the top of the water.

Mayo rescued Packard and then radioed the shore and returned to the pier. Packard was taken to hospital in a waiting ambulance suffering from a dislocated knee and soft tissue damage.

This unusual ocean encounter is being called a modern-day **Jonah and the Whale** story, which has brought the Old Testament lore and the possibility of being swallowed by a whale.

Editor's Note: Humpback whales are not normally aggressive toward humans. They feed on krill and other small ocean critters. This whale apparently swallowed Michael Packard accidentally. Michael didn't taste very good, so the whale spit him out after only 30 to 40 seconds. It should be noted that Jonah was swallowed by a gigantic fish, not a whale. But I thought this story was a nice addition to this article. **RAC**



Write a Letter to the Editor!

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

Bold thoughts from visionary leaders

B'YACHAD

by Thomas Seltzer



Theodor Herzl

"Dreams and deed are not as different as many think. All the deeds of men are dreams at first, and become dreams in the end."



David Ben-Gurion

"In order to be a realist you must believe in miracles."



Golda Meir

"Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement." ♣

Nachmanides was a great Jewish scholar who was born in Spain in 1194.

Just from reading the first chapter of Genesis, he came to the conclusion that there were ten dimensions, four of which are knowable (length, width, height, and time) and six of which are unknowable. Curiously, many modern physicists tell us the same thing today. This is far beyond my understanding.

At this point, I want to introduce you to Rod Serling. He was born on December 25, 1924 to a Jewish family in Syracuse NY. He enlisted in the US Army during World War II to fight the Nazis. He injured his wrist and knee, and acquired some emotional injuries as well, winning the Purple Heart, and returned home after the war. He eventually died in Rochester NY in June 1975, so he became a Rochester boy!

Beginning in 1959 until 1964, he wrote, produced, and narrated a television show called **The Twilight Zone**, which I enjoyed tremendously. During the introduction of each show, Rod Serling would invite the audience to "the **Fifth Dimension**," which was something of an alternate reality where things were kind of upside down, sort of like life today! I wonder if Rod Serling was aware of Nachmanides and his belief in ten dimensions.

I share all of this to tell you about one of the episodes of **The Twilight Zone** that I saw decades ago. In this episode, a man died and went to his eternal destiny. It was all very pleasant. And if there was anything he wanted, all he had to do was to speak it, and it appeared right in front of him. Initially, he was very pleased. But having all of his wishes immediately satisfied eventually caused him to become very **unsatisfied**. In despair, he shouted, "If this is Heaven, what is Hell like?" Then he heard a booming voice from up above saying, "You're in Hell."

Of course, this is just fiction. But it is a good illustration of the emptiness being experienced by the self-centered "Me" generation. I have a hunch that Hell would be much more uncomfortable than this imaginary episode from **The Twilight Zone**. However, in an age of almost immediate satisfaction (as with this man in Hell), we find an epidemic of depression and even suicide. People are often unful-

filled, living lives of quiet desperation. Life is meaningless and empty.

The Gospel According to Rod Serling

Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

The world seeks happiness, but the only happiness it finds is brief and fleeting. Happiness depends on circumstances, such as an "A" on a report card, or for a fellow having a girlfriend, or getting a new car, or obtaining a house, etc. However, joy transcends the circumstances. I give a happiness that the world can not give, regardless of circumstances.

Scripture gives us directions to this joy. "Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners nor sits in the seat of scoffers. But his delight is in the Law (Torah) of YHWH, and in His Law

he meditates day and night... and whatsoever he does shall prosper." ¹ The word that is translated "Blessed" is **ashrei** from the Hebrew word אֲשֶׁר **asher**, which more properly means **happy**, but can also mean **blessed**. (I assume that most people who are blessed are also happy!) Man-made theology teaches that

Torah (the Law) is bondage — something that was "nailed to the Cross." Scripture tells it differently; the Law is a source of **joy**! Malachi 3:6 tells us, "I, the LORD do not change." In Matthew 5:17, Yeshua said, "Think not that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill."

In today's permissive society, rules, regulations, and laws are often seen as preventing us from having "fun," as enemies of our finding happiness. That's exactly how I felt many years ago. With some man-made laws, there may be an element of truth. But when it comes to Torah, it's the **real thing** that can truly satisfy us. Our Creator gave us many teachings and commandments for our own good, and we would be foolish to disobey them. Our earthly parents gave us rules to obey. Most were for our own benefit and for good discipline. How much more does this apply to our Heavenly Father! Society is finding out the hard way that the mitzvot (commandments) given to us in Scripture really are for our benefit. Obey God! The relatively lawless societies of today have given us pain and sadness, not joy, and anarchy, not peace. ׀



¹ Tehillim (Psalm) 1:1-3.

Peace in the Middle East: How Tossing Out the Old Playbook Brought Historic Change to Israel and Her Arab Neighbors

by **Chris Mitchell**, CBNNEWS.COM

The Trump Administration forged what some people thought was impossible in the Middle East: peace deals between Israel and her Sunni Arab neighbors. Then U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman served as one of the main architects of what's become known as the Abraham Accords.

Ambassador Friedman served during one of the most historic times in U.S.-Israel relations. On May 14, 2018, Friedman presided over the opening of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem – a move decades in the making. Many thought that move could spark a regional war. Instead, peace broke out. Friedman played a key role in the development of the historic agreement between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco: the Abraham Accords.

For decades, many had said it couldn't be done without first solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Friedman and his team broke with that conventional wisdom and produced groundbreaking results. He reveals the behind-the-scenes maneuvering in his new book, ***Sledgehammer: How Breaking with the Past Brought Peace to the Middle East***. From the Oval Office to the halls of power in the Middle East, it's the story behind the Abraham Accords.

Legal Expert: The Palestinian Authority Practices Apartheid, Not Israel

by **Chris Mitchell**, CBNNEWS.COM
JERUSALEM, Israel — CBN News reported on backlash caused by an Amnesty International report accusing Israel of being an apartheid state. One result of the fallout shines the light on a major issue basically ignored by this group that purports to end abuses of human rights.

The amnesty international report concluded that "Israel's cruel policies of segregation, dispossession and exclusion across all territories under its control clearly amount to apartheid." Apartheid refers to the South African policy of separating blacks and whites, which existed for more than 40 years. It ended in the mid-1990's.

"Amnesty and the UN, which is going to be joining the effort by describing Israel as an apartheid state isn't just getting it wrong; they're getting it an opposite of the truth," says legal expert Prof. Eugene Kontrovich.

Kontrovich explains his conclusion in a piece published by the Wall Street Journal titled "There's Apartheid in The Holy Land, But it's Not in Israel."

"Israel is a country where Arabs participate in all walks of public life, hold positions in the gov-

ernment," he says. "In Israel, Arabs and Jews mingle, in cafes and on buses, in all public places. But right next door, in those areas of the Holy Land run by the Palestinian Authority, real apartheid is practiced."

Kontrovich points out the PA has a law that calls for the death penalty if a Palestinian sells land to a Jew. Back in November, CBN News asked the Palestinian Authority's Prime Minister about that law.

"Land in Palestine is not a real estate issue. Land in Palestine is a political issue. So therefore, the Palestinian law does not allow land to be sold to non-Palestinians," Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh told CBN News.

Another controversial government policy is referred to as **pay to slay**. That program rewards terrorists convicted of killing Jews. "Israel is not sponsoring a program of pay to slay against Palestinians," Kontrovich says. "The Palestinian Authority government supported by Western governments ... funds a **pay to slay** program to pay for the murder of Jews."

Kontrovich says through all its laws and policies the PA has created a Jew-free zone. "When you at the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, it's not that there's no separation between Jews and Arabs, there's just **no Jews**. Because they have created a Jew-free state and they have enforced this through official methods." Despite these policies, it's a situation seldom reported on by Amnesty International, the UN and other human rights groups.

Jewish Roots

God, who spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai is God of Christians and Jews. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are our spiritual Patriarchs. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel are our prophets. Christians serve Jesus Christ, the one and only Son of Father God, and a Jew who is the divine Messiah of Israel spoken of by the ancient prophets.

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"I had faith in Israel before it was established, I have faith in it now."

- President Harry S Truman, May 14, 1948, the same day that the newly chosen Prime Minister, David ben Gurion, declared Israel to be the reborn State of Israel. On the following day, Israel was attacked by five surrounding Arab armies, far larger and better equipped than the hastily organized Israeli army, composed of Jewish pioneers and Holocaust survivors speaking many different languages. Then a miracle happened, although at the cost of 6000 Jewish lives: Israel defeated the invading armies and won her independence. **RAC**

Dear Rav Richard & Miriam ~

I was going through some of my stuff, and found an old **Petah Tikvah** from 2014. I used to read them all the time, but in my several moves I lost the address. Now that I have it, I am requesting to be back on the mail list. I look forward to information on Shabbat and the Feasts of Yahweh. I am including postage costs for the magazine and for a calendar.

David Noriega, Stockton CA

Dear Rav Richard

I have been going through trials and tribulations which is why I have not written for some time. However, "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." I resist the devil. "It is no longer I that liveth, but Messiah who lives in me," and "I can do all things in Messiah who strengthens me."

Please note that I have been relocated to another Correction Center for discipline. I am in the process of teshuvah ("repentance"). I am including some of my artwork on this stationery, using my talents to help out where necessary.

Roger Kinnerson, Menard IL



Joseph with the baker and cupbearer in prison

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

Thank you for the wonderful and enlightening magazine that you have blessed me with over the years. I really enjoy the wide range of topics that you cover. I have been in prison for 35 years, and have been a Messianic believer for over 20 years. I have also read all of the commentaries that you published, and am blessed with the calendars that you make available, and for all that you do for us inmates. Please also

note the new address. I do not want to miss out on any issues of **Petah Tikvah**.

Randolf Blackwell, Helena OK

Dear Rabbi Chaimberlin ~

A fellow believer and I were talking about what year we are really in, dating from the creation of Adam. Your Jewish calendar says we are in the year 5783. My friend says that we are actually closer to the year 6000. Are we in the Last Days?

Eric Smalley, Waverly VA

Our Reply: The great Rabbinic commentator Rashi said that Israel's sojourn in Egypt was only 210 years.¹ However, Exodus 12:41 says that it was 430 years. Rashi was a very smart guy, but he was also a vintner. Perhaps he dipped into his wine a bit too much. I prefer to believe Scripture, 430 years.

What happened to the other 220 years? According to some rabbis, Israel fell into sin and idolatry during those years, so they aren't counted. Others say that the time of Israel's 400 years servitude began with the

birth of Isaac. However, the years of servitude began after the passing of Joseph. I have great respect for the rabbis of old, and we can learn much from their wisdom. However, not everything they wrote is true. When we add the "missing" 220 years to the Jewish calendar, we come up with the year 6003. Nothing significant happened three years ago that I can think of.

Regarding the "Last Days," there are various opinions. However, I believe a good candidate for this would be the rebirth of the nation of Israel in May 1948. We are living in prophetic times, including the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, and the victories of Israel over her enemies.

RAC

Dear Rebbe Rick ~

This prison sentence preserved me from the direction I was headed after I foolishly walked away from the Lord. The loss of my father, divorce, loss of job, children, and driver's license caused much despondency. As I sat in jail, Messianic Jewish teachings were introduced to me via **Petah Tikvah**. Since then, I have devoured the volumes of teachings from your offered resources. I now attend Messianic services here.

David Zdan, Craigsville VA

¹ *Schottenstein Interlinear Chumash*, Mesorah Publications, 313 Regina Ave, Rahway NJ 07065, page 12.



SEPTEMBER 2023 תשרי תשפ"ג - תשרי תשפ"ד
 25A 25B - 25C 25D

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JEWISH CALENDARS

The new **5783 Petah Tikvah** calendars cover the 13-month period from **Sept 2022 to Sept 2023**. The cost for US readers remains **\$5 each** with free S&H. Cost for **5784** calendars (Sept 2023 to Sept 2024) will be **\$6** each. Cost for our Canadian friends is **\$7** each. The cost for our friends overseas is **US \$10** total because of the high cost of postage. We want to ensure that everyone will be able to obtain beautiful, high-quality Jewish calendars at a low cost. In addition, prison inmates can receive a **free** calendar. However, we request that inmates send **4 stamps** (or a money order for \$2) for mailing costs.

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

THE BOOK OF ACTS:

A Messianic Jewish Commentary

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

BACK ISSUES OF PETAH TIKVAH

You might want to find out what you have been missing, especially if you are a new subscriber! Each year's editions include all 4 **Petah Tikvah** magazines for that calendar year. Each year's editions cost only \$12:

- 4 issues 2019 **Petah Tikvah**: \$12.00
- 4 issues 2020 **Petah Tikvah**: \$12.00
- 4 issues 2021 **Petah Tikvah**: \$12.00
- 4 issues 2022 **Petah Tikvah**: \$12.00

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A Messianic Jewish Commentary

This book will help the reader better understand the Book of Revelation in its original Jewish context. Cost is only **\$8 each**, free S&H, checks made out to **Petah Tikvah**. (Special price for our friends in prison is only **6 stamps** for P&H.)

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

BIBLICAL STUDIES AND FELLOWSHIP

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

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

Rav Richard 'Aharon' and Miriam Chaimberlin
585- 475-1188

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

The suggested cost for each subscription is \$20.00 annually per subscriber. This covers only the cost of production and mailing. Please try to send contributions in U.S. currency if at all possible. (You can also use your credit card on our website, with any of 21 different currencies.) We send out free subscriptions to inmates, and to those in Third World countries, who cannot pay the cost of subscriptions. Prisoners must write a letter at least once every 10 months requesting us to renew your subscription. Subscriptions to inmates are free. However, we ask that prison inmates send **4 postage stamps** or a money order for \$2.00 for postage for their subscriptions. We depend upon you, our readers, to meet our many needs. Contributions are **tax-deductible**. Please fill out the form below, or simply write to us!

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



Name.....

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Phone Number (Optional)..... New Address?

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Petah Tikvah

Make copies for friends!

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**Shalom Rav Aharon, Lady Miriam,
& Tzippy the Cat ~**

I am now in the faith dorm, very unusual. They have religious meetings 7 days a week! The chaplain teaches everything you can think of. You name it, we have it. They have a class that I have to take on raising a family. Imagine that... me, at 82 years old, learning how to raise a family when my 'kids' are nearly 60.

Ya'akov Cates, Palestine TX

Dearest Rav Richard & Miriam ~

I am just one of many who are blessed by your devotion and willingness to share the truth of our Messiah and His teachings. Thank you for your dedication. I pray that you and all others who contribute or take part in your ministry will be blessed.

Thank you for your response regarding hair and beards. I respect people more when they are willing to admit that they don't have all the answers, instead of trying to lead others dogmatically according to traditionally biased beliefs. Your answer left me feeling fully informed and better able to decide for myself how to move forward. Thanks again. It saddens me that some biblical knowledge has been lost and/or obscured.

We are no longer able to receive mail directly. Letters must be sent to another address, where the letters are processed, scanned, and emailed to the prison I am in.

James Sawyer, Spruce Pine NC

Editor's Note: We appreciate the donations from our readers that enable us to reach the several hundred inmates that read **Petah Tikvah**. Most are only able to send a few postage stamps, and some only offer to pray for us, which we appreciate. There are also several inmates that contribute very generously. However, the bulk of expenses to our prison ministry is covered by readers in the free world. We believe in miracles, but the greatest miracle is perhaps changed lives. Thanks to all who donate to the prison ministry.

Dear Ministry ~

Thank you so much for the two back issues of **PT** from 2020 that you sent to me. So

much great reading in such a seemingly small publication! Thank you for expanding my walk with Yeshua. I am enclosing more stamps for additional back issues. Valerie Carter, Alto GA

Petah Tikvah ~

Shalom! I am an inmate here at the F.C.I. in Oakdale. I am the leader of a small community of five. One of our members was going through some items we have accumulated over the years and discovered **Petah Tikvah** mags from 2012 and 2018. How very awesome this was! I so enjoy learning more about our faith.

I am writing to see if your organization still exists, and of so, please send me a subscription to your magazine, as well as what other materials you offer. I am including a donation of stamps.

Brian McRee, Oakdale LA

Hi Rick & Miriam ~

I was just thanking the Lord for how good He is to me. I was praying about donations, and He put you on my heart. I love you guys, although we have never met. You are certainly loved by the Lord. We had a great Thanksgiving back in November, with turkey, stuffing, lumpy potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. What a feast!

Sue McLaughlin, Concord NH

Shalom ~

Our ever-growing Messianic group wants to express how thankful we are to receive your publications. They are truly a blessing and help in our growth. Please keep us on your mailing list for this amazing publication. We are also interested in back issues you might have available. Chaplain Anne Williams

for the Messianic Group in Anamosa LA

Editor's Note: We are very pleased to have contact with a prison chaplain who is so very supportive of the Messianic group in her midst. We have encountered all kinds of chaplains, some of whom are wonderful, and some who feel it is their duty to be an obstacle to the Messianic believers. May Adonai bless Chaplain Anne Williams for her efforts on behalf of the inmates in Anamosa.



Dear Petah Tikvah ~

Thank you so much for the inspirational and informative material that I receive from you. This is a place where most things are negative, while your material is very positive, a shining light in the darkness that I call home for now. Your ministry has provided me with a strong foundation to rebuild my life upon. After 50 years, I finally realized my reason for being here. It's not about me and what I want. It's about the glory that belongs to Yahweh. I am here to glorify Him, obey Him, fear Him, respect Him, and cherish my relationship with Him. Your ministry has put me on the right path. They say that prison is the end of the road. But I have found out it can be a new beginning, a life of walking with our Creator, and eternity of keeping my eyes on the prize: eternal salvation.

Freddy Barboza, Walla Walla WA

Dear Richard & Miriam ~

With your help, I've been studying your commentaries on Acts, Hebrews, Revelation, and Matthew. Your commentaries are great! We do our best to observe the Sabbath and all of the other Feasts that the chaplains allow us to observe. Do you know where I may obtain a Messianic Passover Haggadah?

John Costello, White Deer PA

Editor's Reply: We have a full-color Passover Haggadah that was designed for us by Rav Michael Everage which is designed specifically for the celebration of the Passover seder. We are making these booklets available to inmates for 4 stamps each to cover postage. Readers outside of prison can send \$4 each.

Shalom Rav Rick & Rebbetzin Miriam

We are ignored by the rabbi here. Yeshua HaMashiach is our Rabbi. I now lead the prayer service on Friday evenings and always incorporate Messiah Yeshua to the delight of the other brothers. I never deny Yeshua.

I also feel that you are our rabbi, because you have helped and taught us the most through your brilliant quarterly. Toda raba! We are praying for you both to be healthy and strong. Also, my grandfather Vangle Vangelov passed on January 13. Please say the Kaddish for him. Daniel Stoganovski, Ontario, Canada

OBITUARY

Larry and Barbara Artrip made many friends by their many years of service to inmates in several states. I regret to inform our readers that Larry passed on to glory in December

2022. You might want to send a letter of comfort to Barbara Artrip. Her address is: 7786 SW Independence Ave, Hobe Sound FL 33455

Shavuot (Pentecost)

Shavuot is the second of the three major holidays called the Shalosh Regalim (the three pilgrimage festivals) in which adult Jews traveled to the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and in later years to the Beit HaMikdash (Temple), per Exodus 23:14-17. The other festivals are Passover and Sukkot (Tabernacles). Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai almost 3500 years ago. It marks the beginning of the Jewish people as a nation, when God pronounced the Israelites as His Chosen People and a holy nation.

Pesach (Passover) marked the exodus of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt to liberation. However, freedom without laws to protect that freedom would not last long. That's why Shavuot is sometimes called Atzeret Shel Pesach, that is, "The Completion of Passover."

Shavuot means "Weeks," for the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot. Shavuot also means "oaths." This indicates the oaths which God and Israel exchanged on the day in which the Torah was given, to remain faithful to each other forever. It symbolizes the "marriage" of God to His people. The Torah was the ketubah - the wedding contract.

About 1500 years after that first Shavuot, we read about another Shavuot in the second chapter of Acts, in which it is often called Pentecost. On the very same day in which the Torah was given at Mount Sinai, God poured out the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) upon Jews who had made the pilgrimage from many different nations, including proselytes to Judaism (Acts 2:10) who had also made the pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Christians often call this the "Birthday of the Christianity." However, more accurately it was the birthday of Messianic Judaism. None of the 3000 (Acts 2:41) who were ritually immersed that day "converted" to another religion. They remained faithful Torah-observant Jews. The first ones to be called Christians were the Gentiles in Antioch who had come to believe in Yeshua (Acts 11:20-26).

Eventually, these early Gentile Christians became far more numerous than the Messianic Jews, and turned their faith in Yeshua into an entirely new religion. In upcoming centuries, they abandoned the biblical Sabbath for Sunday, and dropped the biblical holidays for days like Christmas and Easter.

Har HaBayit – The Temple Mount

As recently as 1924, the Supreme Muslim Council, which controlled the Temple Mount area, published its first English-language tourist guide which stated:

"The site is one of the oldest in the world. Its sanctity dates from the earliest times. Its identity with the site of Solomon's Temple is beyond dispute. This, too, is the spot, according to universal belief, on which David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings." (A Brief Guide to al-Haram al-Sharif)

Regretfully, Muslims of today now choose to deny that there ever was a Jewish Temple on the Temple Mount. This is the holiest site in Judaism. This is also the location where the future Temple described by the prophet Ezekiel in chapters 40–48 will be built.

The Temple Mount, called Haram al-Sharif by Muslims, was never a primary location for Muslim pilgrimage. Until 1967, the primary places of Islamic pilgrimage were the cities of Mecca and Medina. That changed after the Six-Day War in which Israel's Arab neighbors sought to destroy the Jewish nation of Israel, make the land red with Jewish blood, and throw any remaining Jews into the Mediterranean Sea.

However, Israel won that war in only six days, gaining the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the so-called "West Bank" (Judea and Samaria) from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. However, the most important and meaningful conquest was the recapture of the old city of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount.

General Moshe Dayan was a great general, and is largely responsible for Israel's divine miracle of winning the Six-Day War. However, he surprised the world as well as the Arabs when he gave jurisdiction over the Temple Mount to the Wakf, the Islamic authorities who had been given authority over the Temple Mount by the Jordanians.

Moshe Dayan was a secular Jew for little regard to the sanctity of the Temple Mount, and was perhaps not happy to have it back in Jewish hands. However, to surrender the holiest location in Judaism to Islam was a tragic blunder of historic proportions. To this day, neither Jews nor Christians are allowed to pray on the Temple Mount. This is a privilege given only to Muslims. Today, we have a right-wing government in Israel. We pray that Jews will be permitted to pray at the holiest site in Judaism. Israel offers freedom to worship to all religions, except for Jews who choose to pray on the Temple Mount. Even visitation by non-Muslims is strictly restricted.

by **Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin**

Renate Kaufmann

Source: Excerpt from: "Are You Jewish Enough to Live in Israel," article by Simon Stout, published in **Inherit**, www.inheritmag.com

Renate Kaufmann, a German-Jewish woman who survived the Holocaust as a child, was denied citizenship a few years ago because of her faith in Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah. Even though she had fought for her own survival and lost most of her family in the concentration camps, Renate was forced to fight again—she hired a civil rights lawyer and raised thousands of dollars in order to appeal the decision. Only then was she finally able to receive her Israeli identity card.

Editor's Note: Renate attended Petah Tikvah for about two decades before making aliyah to Israel. She now lives in Haifa, Israel, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Despite the trials and difficulties, she is happy to be living in the Jewish homeland. **RAC**



Baha'i Gardens in Haifa

The Baha'i Gardens may very well be the most beautiful gardens in the world. People of the Baha'i religion were severely persecuted in their native Iran. They sought a place of refuge. They found that refuge in Israel. In gratitude to the people of Israel, they made the Baha'i Gardens.

"The **Bahá'í Terraces**, or the **Hanging Gardens of Haifa**, are garden terraces on Mount Carmel in Haifa, and one of the most popular tourist destinations in Israel. Completed in 2001, there are 19 terraces and more than 1,500 steps ascending the mountain. The central terrace has the Shrine of the Báb, one of the main religious figures of the Bahá'í Faith." Quote from: Wikipedia

Dear Rav Richard & Miriam ~

Thank you for everything y'all do for us behind bars, and for pointing us in the right direction to follow our faith. I am also the coordinator for the Jewish and Sabbatarian men at this unit. I recently received the UMJM siddur (United Messianic Jewish Ministries, 15 Pearl St, Brandon VT 05733). I believe it is the best \$12 I have ever spent. It's packed full of information.

Here in prison, I am a cook for the lunch and dinner shifts, and about one out of three of the meals contain pork. I always have someone else taste the pork, as I don't eat any of it. I would like to not cause others to stumble in their walk. Is it okay for me to cook these meals and/or handle the meat?

Please continue my subscription. I read them and pass them around to other men when I am done with them. Then they are placed in our chapel library.

Wesley Bunch, Huntsville TX

Editor's Reply: It sounds like Wesley has a "tasty" job, as long as he doesn't eat the unclean meats. I personally don't even like to touch furs of an unclean animal, much less their meat. It is too much like touching the carcass of an unclean animal. I presume that Wesley could cook the pork without touching it, although he might be able to find someone else to handle the unkosher meats.

Petah Tikvah ~

I thank you so much for your magazine. I've learned so much, being a new convert to Messianic Judaism.

Petah Tikvah Magazine, and the other materials I

have received from you guys is all that I have to further my studies as a Messianic Jew.

Tracy Sharpe, Quincy FL

Editor's Note: Messianic Judaism isn't an easy walk to accomplish by oneself, although it can be done. Please keep Tracy and others in prayer who may be lacking in fellowship with other Messianic believers. Hebrews 13:8 tells us to

"Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some..." However, it isn't always easy or possible for many, especially for those behind prison walls. And read the Scriptures regularly.

Dear Rav Rick ~

Toda raba for publishing my letter in the previous **Petah Tikvah**. I'm famous! 😊 I'm always interested in the correspondence that you publish, and also wonder who will recognize my name. Joy! I am enclosing stamps for your commentary on Matthew.

Question: What do you feel is a reliable translation of the Bible? You quote from various translations. I know that there is no such thing as a perfect translation.

Shea Huffman, Lawrenceville VA

Editor's Reply: As Shea mentioned, there is no perfect translation. I prefer the more literal translations. It seems logical that Jewish translations of the Tanach (O.T.) would be more accurate than Christian translations. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Some Jewish translations (including Messianic Jewish) are more of a paraphrase than a translation.

On a personal level, I often use the New American Standard, which is a more literal translation. The NAS also uses *italics* for words that are added to give greater clarity to the text, as does the KJV. I don't know of any other translation that does that. The NAS remains my favorite translation.

In many cases, no precise English translation is possible, because there often are no precise Eng-

lish words for the original Hebrew words being translated. I also consult the original Hebrew in the Tanach and Strong's Concordance for the Greek in my attempt to give a more accurate rendition of the original text in my articles in **Petah Tikvah**. We recommend the study of Hebrew if you are able to do so. However, it is very difficult to do without a teacher.

Beautiful Hebrew-English New

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

Upcoming Holidays

First Day of Passover: April 6

7th Day of Passover: April 12

Holocaust Remembrance: April 18

Israel Independence Day: April 26

Shavuot (Rabbinic): May 25

Shavuot (Biblical): May 28

Each Holy Day begins at sunset the previous day. For instance: The first day of Passover begins at sunset on April 5 and ends at sunset on April 6. Only the first and seventh days of Passover, as well as Shavuot (above) are Holy Days this spring. Work and commerce can be done on the other days.

Shavuot (Pentecost) biblically always falls on Yom Rishon ("Sunday"), per Lev. 23:11,15-16), on May 28 this year. Rabbinically, Shavuot is on May 26 this year. Orthodox Jews outside of Israel add an extra day to each of the Holy Days. This is not done in Israel.

Our readers can go to our website to make purchases, get subscriptions, and make contributions. 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

Using your computer, you can also set up single contributions or recurring electronic contributions from your checking or saving accounts to **Petah Tikvah**. You can cancel or change contributions at any time.

GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

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

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

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

Source for the above:
www.gatesofeden.online

We are getting lots of readers on our website WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM. We encourage our readers to visit the website for the information and excellent articles that are freely available. Please make use of this resource. We also welcome donations to support this resource that has benefited people in many countries.

Brave Women in the Bible

By **Sandy Shoshani**, Director
Be'ad Chaim (Pro-Life), PO Box 2623
Jerusalem 9102601, ISRAEL

In the weeks leading up to Passover, I was deeply encouraged as I remembered the very brave women in the book of Exodus: Shifra and Puah, the midwives who refused to kill the Hebrew baby boys, because "they feared God more than Pharaoh" (Exodus 1:17). Also Yochebed, Moses' mother, who dared to place her precious son in the Nile knowing by faith that God would care for him. There is also Moses' sister Miriam who, although a young girl, bravely spoke with the princess of Egypt, and also the princess herself, who courageously and lovingly spared the life of a Hebrew child, despite the decree of her father, the king of Egypt, to kill the Hebrew boys. These women inspire us to persistently defend those who are defenseless. Thank you for obeying with us the words of Proverbs 31:8-9:

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Editor's Note: Be'ad Chaim helps young Israeli women with crisis pregnancies to have an option other than abortion, so that they can bring their babies to delivery. Be'ad Chaim provides finances, diapers, counseling, and food to those unable otherwise to bring these Israeli babies into the world. The government of Israel often provides thousands of dollars to bring new olim (immigrants to Israel). Here is the chance for an investment in internal aliyah for these children to be born in the Land of their forefathers. WWW.BEADCHAIM.COM



WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM



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Beit HaShaar**

“Identity in Yeshua

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Petah Tikvah Magazine is now an official publication of the **UMJA**. This does not mean that every article is in total agreement with all of those in the **UMJA**. However, both **Petah Tikvah** and the **UMJA** (United Messianic Jewish Assemblies) promote Torah-inspired lifestyles for both Jews and Gentiles who have been grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree described in Romans 11:17-24. This includes the Biblical Shabbat (Sabbath) and Holy Days of Leviticus 23, as well as avoiding the unclean meats mentioned in Deuteronomy 14. Richard 'Aharon' Chamberlin is also one of the 5 *zakenim* (elders) of the UMJA. We will have the next UMJA conference in Phenix, GA. If you are enjoying this publication, you will also enjoy joining us at this conference. There will be great speakers, musicians, worship, food, and fellowship. Recreational activities are also nearby. We are working hard to keep costs to a minimum as we did at last year's **UMJA** conference. We will keep you informed of additional details of the conference as they become available.

At a summit held by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in November, FBI Director Christopher Wray spoke about "the tragic reality that the Jewish community uniquely ends up on the receiving end of hate-fueled attacks from all sides."

He referred to the white supremacist attacks in recent years in Poway, CA and Pittsburgh, PA and the 2022 attack at the synagogue in Colleyville, TX, motivated by "violent jihad." But it's not just white supremacists and radical Muslims.

There are myriad groups espousing Jew-hatred – the far-right, the far-left, radical Muslims, and black supremacists such as Louis Farrakhan, to name a few. The reality is that these groups and their individual members and supporters pose a danger not only to the Jewish community but also to all Americans. Antisemites target Jews first, as they see the Jewish people as easy prey, but what they are really after is changing America beyond recognition, according to their distorted and extreme ideologies.

The tragic reality is that America as a whole is on the receiving end of hate-fueled attacks from all the radical elements of society. The fabric of America is disintegrating in front of our eyes at the hands of the sworn enemies of the American and the Jewish people.

Threat to Jewish Americans

In recent years, the threat against American Jews, and consequently the American people, has been mounting. Per FBI Director Wray, "A full 63 percent of religious hate crimes are motivated by antisemitism—targeting a group that makes up just 2.4 percent of our population."

Interestingly, this hate is one of the sole common threads between far-right, far-left, radical Muslim, and black supremacist ideologies. These groups are united by familiar antisemitic tropes of a nefarious and powerful Jewish or "Zionist" cabal that allegedly seeks to dominate and subjugate individuals, societies, and nations through behind-the-scenes scheming.

More and more, these hate groups, who at their core are enemies to each other, are coalescing and cooperating in their hatred of the Jewish people and the Jewish state. How did we arrive to this point, and is antisemitism just

a Jewish problem?

ANTISEMITISM: Endangering America and Its Values

Far-Right Threat

Jew-hatred from the far-right has grown in recent years with the popularization of the Great Replacement conspiracy theory. It commonly holds Jews responsible for a plot to subjugate if not eliminate the white race through

promotion of non-white mass immigration, feminism, transgenderism, and other supposedly devious schemes.

Hence, at the notorious white supremacist "Unite the Right" rally held in Charlottesville, Virginia in August 2017, marchers feverishly chanted, "Jews will not replace us."

Within the year, this unfolded into real-world violence against Jews. Accused in the October 2018 murder of 11 Jews at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue is 50-year-old white supremacist Robert Gregory Bowers. This Shabbat morning attack was the deadliest on Jews in America's history. Blaming the Jews for mass migration to the U.S., Bowers posted on social media before the attack, "I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in."

A little over a year later in April 2019, 19-year-old John Timothy Earnest burst into the Chabad of Poway synagogue outside San Diego, killing one congregant in a blast of gunfire, again during Sabbath services. In his manifesto, Earnest wrote, "Every Jew is responsible for the meticulously planned genocide of the European race. They act as a unit, and every Jew plays his part to enslave the other races around him – whether consciously or subconsciously."

As I've warned, the Jews were just the first, most attractive target. Soon these attacks spread to the rest of America. In August 2019, a far-right shooter targeted Latinos in an El Paso, Texas Walmart, killing 23. In May 2022, a far-right shooter targeted black Americans at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, killing 10. Both cited the "Great Replacement" theory as motivations for their attacks.

Black Nationalist Threat

Jew-hatred doesn't only come from white nationalists, but also from black nationalists, who since the 1960s have been exerting a major national influence through the ideas of the numerically small Nation of Islam (NOI) and

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 Quarterly
Excellent magazine!
 highly recommended to
 our readers!

their cohorts through race pride for African Americans and black separatism.

Hatred of Jews has long been brewing in the black community. Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the antisemitic NOI (Nation of Islam), has been a prominent voice among African Americans for decades.

Farrakhan spews hateful venom at Jews, alleging that the Jewish people were responsible for the trans-Atlantic slave trade and that they conspire to control government, communications media and Hollywood, as well as various black individuals and organizations. He frequently denies the legitimacy of Judaism—or the Jewish claim to the Land of Israel—arguing that “Judaism is nothing more than a ‘deceptive lie’ and a ‘theological error’ promoted by Jews to further their ‘control’ over America’s government and economy.”

The severity of this problem burst onto the national scene in December 2019, with a spate of attacks against the Jewish community in the New York metropolitan area. On December 10, two heavily armed individuals connected to the Black Hebrew Israelite (BHI) movement murdered three people at a kosher supermarket in Jersey City, NJ. Weeks later, on December 28, a BHI-inspired individual attacked a Chanukah gathering in Monsey, NY with a large knife, killing 72-year-old Rabbi Josef Neumann.

Once again, this hate then migrated from Jews to the rest of society. In November 2021, Darrell Brooks, a black nationalist, drove his SUV into a crowd of Christmas-parade attendees in Waukesha, WI, killing six people and wounding dozens. In April 2022, another black nationalist, Frank Robert James, perpetrated a mass shooting on the New York City subway during rush hour, injuring 29 people. James’s online incitement and bigotry included antisemitic diatribes.

Farrakhan’s views are echoed in the recent antisemitic outbursts of famed rapper Kanye West, who now goes by “Ye.” West is now claiming, “Somehow our country has been taken over by, you know, maybe about 300 Zionists.” Farrakhan and West have actually been publicly connected for years, with West referring to him as “sensei” in one of his songs.

When West talks about blacks being the real Jews, he mimics the beliefs of the Black Hebrew Israelites. While white supremacists say, “Jews will not replace us,” BHI followers insist they are us. Just this past month, a group of BHI marchers in Brooklyn ominously chanted, “we are the real Jews.”

And now Kanye West has united with the far right, bringing white supremacist Nic Fuentes along with him when dining with former President Donald Trump at the latter Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida on November 22.

“Red-Green” Left-Right Allies

Not to be outdone, the radical left has been boosting its Jew-hatred for decades, disguising it by using hatred for the homeland of the Jewish people, the state of Israel, instead. This radical new grouping of antisemitism initially gained intellectual currency in universities and other leftist intellectual circles. Contemporary antisemitism can be found among members of the radical left, who are inherently anti-American and see Israel as a symbol of American and Western imperialism, aggressive military rule, and the violation of human rights.

Similarly, radical Muslims have long sought Israel’s destruction and promulgated conspiracies about Jewish-Zionist global domination. Despite the fact that radical Muslims and leftists are naturally otherwise misaligned in their belief systems and ideologies, they have joined forces against Jews and the West. As the Reut Group warns, “The strategic partnership between the radical left and political Islam, known as the red-green or Islamo-Left alliance, emerged in Europe, but it has migrated to the U.S. in recent years.” Despite their hatred and intolerance for each other, they have a shared agenda that is anti-Western, anti-American, and anti-Zionist.

The New Antisemites report by StopAntisemitism.org and Zachor Legal Institute in which anti-Zionism or hatred of Israel is identified as an acceptable stand-in for the classical hatred of Jews, documents how this contemporary hate, as disseminated by the Islamo-Left’s so-called “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions” (BDS) Movement, is negatively influencing large segments of the U.S. population and creating a dangerous environment that normalizes vilification of Jews, as well as inciting violence against Jews, something that history has shown to have deadly consequences.

The radical left has also been promoting Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs at universities and high schools, contributing to antisemitism in the American education system. However, antisemitism is not just a Jewish problem – it is an American problem. While CRT and DEI policies may disproportionately target and harm Jewish students (identifying them as “white adjacent” in a “system of white oppres-

sion"), the agenda ultimately seeks to undermine and replace fundamental American values and replace it with its own radical vision.

Islamo-Left Ties

The strange alliance between the radical left and radical Muslims – two groups that, despite their seemingly incompatible worldviews, happily collaborate against Israel and the Jews – can be explained by the theory of "intersectionality" adopted by many in the far left. According to this theory, groups that consider themselves neglected and discriminated against must come together to fight against each of those groups' supposed enemies.

This new partnership was on full display during the last major conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in May 2021, when terror groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad launched more than 4,000 rockets and mortars at Israeli civilians. Americans witnessed stunning and unprecedented scenes in New York, Los Angeles, and other major politically progressive urban centers of Jews being assaulted by mobs of anti-Israel activists. This surge of anti-Jewish hate also included harassment, vandalism and online abuse.

Few imagined that such a wave of violence against Jews in American cities would be possible within living memory of the Holocaust. Jews in America now report that they often fear walking the streets wearing Jewish symbols, congregating outside Jewish community buildings, or even speaking Hebrew or Yiddish in public. This is a growing threat to American society. Street violence and hate speech is replacing American principles of reasoned discourse and debate.

Through intersectionality, the Red-Green alliance seeks to replace universal virtues like tolerance, pluralism, freedom of speech, and rule of law with racialized "anti-racism," hierarchical critical race theory, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies that discriminate against Asians, Jews and whites, intolerant "cancel culture," and the censorship of social media "de-platforming."

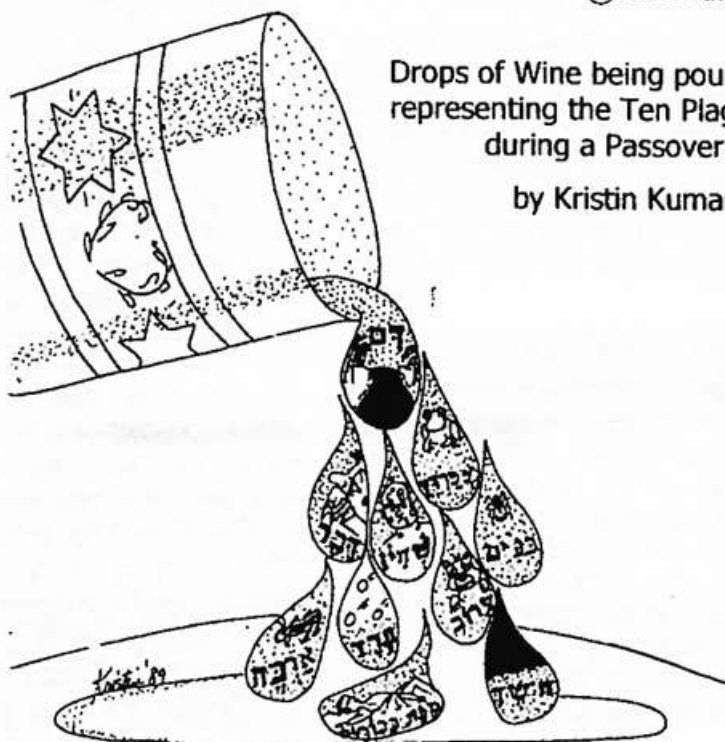
Danger on the Doorstep

Defining antisemitism as a Jewish problem is a lose-lose proposition. Antisemitism is a threat to America, as it is a harbinger of rising violent extremism that will soon consume us all.

Together, those who foremost target Jews – white and black nationalists as well as the Red-Green alliance of the left and Islamists – are a fundamental threat to America and its values. These radical groups are spearheading efforts to erode the core principles that make our country exceptional, replacing America's commitment to individual rights and equality, meritocracy, rule of law, tolerance, pluralism, due process, freedom of speech, and free-market capitalism with a racialized and violent world steeped in conspiracy theories and political polarization.

The Jewish people have long been portrayed as the sacrificial "canary in the coal mine," a powerless creature that through its demise will warn others of danger. However, here we are not a canary but an eagle, warning Americans of the looming threats on the horizon. Heed our warnings.

Adam Milstein is an Israeli-American "Impact Philanthropist." He can be found on Twitter @AdamMilstein.



Drops of Wine being poured on a plate representing the Ten Plagues on Egypt during a Passover seder.

by Kristin Kumana

Does Abortion Violate Jewish Law?

By **Lisa Fishbayn Joffe**, director of the Hadassah-Brandis Institute
Source: <https://www.brandeis.edu>

What does the Hebrew Bible say about abortion?

The Bible makes clear that a fetus does not have the status of a human life. Exodus 21:22-25 says that if a man accidentally hits a woman and she dies, the offender must be put to death — "the penalty shall be life for life." But it **also** says that if the man accidentally hits the woman and she miscarries, he must pay a fine to her husband. **If the fetus were seen as a full human being**, the punishment would again be execution, **not** financial compensation.

Does Jewish law permit abortion?

The Talmud, a compendium of rabbinical commentaries and laws written during the 1st millennium C.E., characterizes a fetus as "mere water" and doesn't prohibit abortion before 40 days gestation. After this point, abortion is generally prohibited but exemptions are permitted to preserve the mother's health or life.

If a woman is at risk of death while giving birth, the fetus can and should be destroyed to save her because her life outweighs its potential life. It is considered a mitzvah, a commandment, to save the life of a mother when she is at risk of life-threatening complications such as an ectopic pregnancy or an incomplete spontaneous miscarriage. There are different rationales for this. The medieval French rabbi Rashi says it is permissible to terminate a pregnancy because the fetus is not yet a human life.

Maimonides (also known as the Rambam), another major medieval Jewish thinker, takes a different approach. He says a fetus after 40 days gestation is a human life, but if its birth threatens the mother's life, it is a "pursuer" (**rodef** in Hebrew), a human who is trying to kill another human. You can and should terminate the pregnancy if the fetus threatens the life of the mother.

But what about when the fetus isn't a threat to the mother's life?

Jewish denominations take different views on this. As currently construed, Orthodox conceptions of Jewish law do not support a woman's right to choose an abortion for reasons of her own. But over time, the definition of when pregnancy jeopardizes the mother's life has been expanded to include severe pain and suffering, including to her mental health.

The classic discussion in the modern era has been what to do about Tay-Sachs, a genetic dis-

ease that afflicts Ashkenazi Jews and causes those born with it to live brief and painful lives.

Orthodox rabbinical opinion on this is divided:

- Moshe Feinstein, the leading American Orthodox legal mind of the 20th century, forbade such abortions even though he acknowledged "there is very great suffering involved."
- Eliezer Waldenberg, a leading Israeli expert on Jewish law, took a different position, finding that abortion for Tay-Sachs and other conditions that caused great physical or mental suffering to the mother should be permitted because the Talmud required the alleviation of pain and suffering.

There is also not necessarily an exception for pregnancies that result from rape or incest, although a woman may be able to find a rabbi who will approve an abortion because of her mental suffering.

This is as far as traditional Orthodox **halacha** (Jewish law) goes, but it may be shifting. Leaders of the Open Orthodoxy movement, which seeks to liberalize Orthodox Judaism, recently wrote that they respect pregnant people's rights to make up their own minds about how to proceed.

Minimizing Abortion

The article above is an **excerpt** from a much larger article. Conservative and Reform Judaism take a much more liberal view of abortion. Messianic Jews usually would be much more in line with the Orthodox view of abortion.

I remember when 70% of the American public was opposed to same-sex marriage. The Supreme Court legalized it in 2015. Today 70% of Americans support same-sex marriage. It would be difficult to roll back the clock on same-sex marriage or abortion. However, it is possible to drastically reduce abortion, rather than forcing women to give birth to unwanted children. Behavior is unlikely to change in any great degree. However, we can minimize the consequences of bad decisions. Keep in mind that women who don't get pregnant never have abortions.

LARC (Long-Acting Reversible Contraception) is nearly 100% effective in preventing pregnancy. I would strongly recommend that contraceptives be made freely available to prevent unwanted pregnancies. You never have to talk a woman out of getting an abortion if she isn't pregnant. Most abortions would never occur if contraceptives were freely available. Some may find emotional satisfaction when marching against abortion providers carrying pictures of dead fetuses. However, contraceptives are a better choice. Every woman given a choice would prefer to avoid pregnancy instead of getting an abortion. **RAC**

Be'ad Chaim: Israeli Pro-Life

By Shelly Neese

<https://TheJerusalemConnection.us>

The Jerusalem Connection has long supported **Be'ad Chaim**, a pro-life organization in Israel dedicated to helping mothers in crisis pregnancies. They provide blessings all over Israel for all types of families. The next generation of Israelis is being born because of the work of Sandy Shoshani and her organization.

Sandy Shoshani is Founder of Be'ad Chaim. Sandy is a Jewish believer, and she ministers Yeshua's words to us in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Her faithful dedication to moms and babies in Israel is inspirational.

As of January 2023, since Be'ad Chaim's founding in 2006, 3725 babies have been assisted through the Operation Moses program. The first of these children are teenagers—15 years old—fast-approaching adulthood! How much of a blessing are their lives to Israel and the world? Immeasurable, I am sure!

Well over 1000 women and their babies were helped last year. That number grows, exponentially, each and every year. After the bus and billboard campaign in 2022 that *The Jerusalem Connection* assisted with last year, the number of women calling the hotline and receiving counseling, choosing life, and receiving aid (food, diapers, etc.) has doubled!

With this enormous blessing, **Be'ad Chaim** had to open an office, hire additional staff, and opened a maternity house. The organization is now so well known that many consider it a household name. The news is circulating that aid for women with unplanned pregnancies can find resources and counseling. Feedback includes the fact that the organization is well-known throughout the military and among women of ages and walks of life.

Interestingly, nearly 50% of the women assisted are married with children already. The economic pressures in Israel are adversely affecting life itself. We can help overcome temporary material hardships that would otherwise lead women to consider the unthinkable—to end their pregnancy, to end the life of their son or daughter, just because they fear they cannot afford diapers while continuing to feed their families.

Editor's Note: The Holocaust resulted in the murder of 6 million Jews. Today there are still far fewer Jews than in 1939. There is also a demographic battle in Israel. Israeli Jews must maintain a higher birthrate than Arabs in order

to maintain a Jewish majority in the historic Jewish homeland. Meanwhile, there is a shortage of Jewish babies available to those who want to adopt. Simultaneously, many Jewish babies are being lost to abortion. **Be'ad Chaim** aids young women to be able to carry their children to full-term, helping to mitigate the shortage of babies. This is a worthy charity:

Be'ad Chaim, PO Box 2623
Jerusalem 9102601, ISRAEL

The War Against Normal

Perhaps I am showing my age, but I remember when marriage was composed of one man and one woman, which in turn was foundational for most families. We also could define male and female from birth. It was an obvious matter of biology. We now have a judge on the Supreme Court in the USA who tells us that she is unable to define what a woman is! Also, trans-women (actually biological men) now give birth. **Real** men do not give birth!

After the US Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, we began to hear about new gender identifications that needed to be accommodated: cross-dressers, transgenders, non-binary, bi-sexual, etc. We are also told to use new pronouns to accommodate some of these genders. However, they are not to be just accommodated; these are now things that are to be **celebrated** and taught to our children in school, often beginning in kindergarten, and often without the parents' consent or knowledge. When people protest their children being indoctrinated, they are often accused of being bigots or even fascists! We have a brand-new approach to civilization, never seen before on our planet.

WHEN AMERICA FALLS, as it surely will if we don't change direction, it will be dangerous for the entire world. Years ago, the famed evangelist Billy Graham said, "**If God doesn't judge America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.**" America is not the best example to the rest of the world. However, if (or when) America falls, another country will fill the vacuum, and it might not be as benevolent as the USA. Russia and China are each seeking to be the next superpower, replacing the USA. Any sane person does not want to see either China or Russia as the next superpower replacing the United States.

This is just one more reason we need to pray as Yeshua told us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come..." He is returning, and will set up His Kingdom in Jerusalem, which will be the capital of the entire world! **RAC**

Why U.S. Support for Ukraine is Right

www.rjchq.org Republican Jewish Coalition

Two writers made the case for continued US support of Ukraine in its defensive war against Russia, one from a practical point of view and one from a moral perspective.



President Volodymyr Zelensky

Timothy Ash at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) argues that the US should keep supporting Ukraine because "when viewed from a bang-per-buck perspective, US and Western support for Ukraine is an incredibly cost-effective investment." He writes:

[US assistance to Ukraine] represents 5.6% of total US defense spending. But Russia is a primary adversary of the US, a top tier rival not too far behind China, its number one strategic challenger. In cold, geopolitical-terms, this war provides a prime opportunity for the US to erode and degrade Russia's conventional defense capability, with no boots on the ground and little risk to US lives.

The Ukrainian armed forces have already killed or wounded upwards of 100,000 Russian troops, half its original fighting force; there have been almost 8,000 confirmed losses of armored vehicles including thousands of tanks, thousands of Armored Personal Carriers, artillery pieces, hundreds of fixed and rotary wing aircraft, and numerous naval vessels. US spending of 5.6% of its defense budget to destroy nearly half of Russia's conventional military capability seems like an absolutely incredible investment.

... Meanwhile, replacing destroyed weapons, and keeping up with the new arms race that it has now triggered with the West will surely end up bankrupting the Russian economy.

Ash also posits that the Ukraine war has destroyed the myth that Russian military technology is of comparable quality to that of the US and the West, giving other countries good reason to want to buy US-made equipment for their own arsenals; and sent a powerful signal to China about the wisdom of its own expansionist ambitions; and gave Europe good reason to move away from Russian energy and toward US fuels.

Anne Applebaum, writing at *The Atlantic*, describes what life might be like if the US didn't help Ukraine. As in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life", the counterfactual world is a dark and horrible place. For example:

Had [the Russian invasion succeeded] as planned, Ukraine would now be pockmarked with the concentration camps, torture chambers, and make-shift prisons that have been discovered in Bucha, Izyum, Kherson, and all of the other territories temporarily occupied by Russia and liberated by the Ukrainian army. A generation of Ukrainian writers, artists, politicians, journalists, and civic leaders would already be buried in mass graves. Ukrainian books would have been removed from schools and libraries. The Ukrainian language would have been suppressed in all public spaces. Hundreds of thousands more Ukrainian children would have been kidnapped and transported to Russia or trafficked further around the world.

Russian soldiers, strengthened by their stunning victory, would already be on the borders of Poland, setting up new command posts, and digging new trenches. NATO would be in chaos; the entire alliance would be forced to spend billions to prepare for the inevitable invasion of Warsaw, Vilnius, or Berlin.

Editor's Note: The article above may seem like hyperbole or unnecessary fear-mongering to some. However, Putin has already made it clear by his previous statements that he considers the breakup of the Soviet Union to be the worst disaster in the Twentieth Century. He apparently is seeking to rectify this and reconquer the many territories that were lost in the years after 1990. Ruling over the largest country in the world is not enough for Putin. He wants a full restoration of the Russian Empire. He is willing to not stop at any barbarity to accomplish this. The gulags of the past will seem mild compared to what Putin is willing to do. **RAC**

Israel to Halt PA Construction, Withhold Funds in Response to UN General Assembly Vote

Israel plans to sanction the Palestinian Authority for its push to seek an advisory opinion against it from the world court by withholding tax fees, freezing building plans in Area C, penalizing Palestinian officials and taking steps against non-government groups it holds is involved in diplomatic warfare against the Jewish state.

The Prime Minister's Office published information regarding the sanctions on January 6, after the security cabinet approved the measures Thursday during a closed-door meeting. "The current government will not sit idly by in the face of this war and will respond as necessary," the Prime Minister's Office said.

Israel will transfer NIS 139 million from tax fees it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority to compensate the families of Palestinian terror victims. It will withhold PA tax fees to offset the monthly stipends the PA provides to the families of terrorists involved in killing Israelis. This will be retroactive to the start of 2022.

Benefits will be denied to Palestinian VIPs "who are leading the political and legal war against Israel", the PMO's office said. The Security Cabinet said it would also continue to target non-governmental groups in the West Bank involved in terror activity or any hostile activity, "including political and legal action against Israel under the guise of humanitarian work." (JPost / VFI News)

Senator Cruz Blasts Biden over Condemnation of Israel

US Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, blasted the Biden administration on Wednesday, January 4, after top administration officials condemned Israel and suggested that the government may be changing the "status quo" regarding the Temple Mount following National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir's visit to the compound...

"A visit by a minister from Israel's government to a site inside Israel is not a change in any status quo arrangement, and it should not be controversial for a Jew to visit the holiest site in Judaism," he clarified.

"The statements from the Biden White House and State Department, which suggest otherwise, will further destabilize the Middle East and risk inciting terrorism. They convince Palestinian officials that compromise is unnecessary because Democrat administrations will coerce our Israeli allies into making dangerous concessions."

Cruz said that the Biden administration "has consistently sought to undermine Israel's security and sovereignty over its territory. It prohibited even mentioning the 'Abraham Accords,' sought

to open a Palestinian consulate in Israel's capital Jerusalem, unleashed the FBI against the Israeli army, and publicly ostracized parts of Israel's democratically-elected government."

"Meanwhile, the administration is pouring over a billion dollars into Palestinian areas and bringing officials from the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization to Washington, D.C. Now it is doubling down on these disastrous policies," he concluded. (INN / VFI News)

Barry & Batya Segal, **Vision for Israel**,
PO Box 7743, Charlotte NC 28241-7743

Editor's Note: Vision for Israel is a great source for news items, as well as a great charity organization providing essential services for worthy causes in Israel. <https://vfinews.com>

Israeli Singer Ofra Haza Named as One of 200 Greatest Singers of All Time



Israeli singer Ofra Haza has been named to the list of Rolling Stone Magazine's 200 greatest singers of all time, coming in at 186. "Like a call to prayer, the opening phrase of Ofra Haza's 1984 song 'Im Nin'alu' is instantly transportive, sweeping the listener up in her expressive, fluttery mezzo-soprano," the magazine wrote.

"Inspired by her Yemeni-Jewish ancestry, Haza combined traditional vocal conventions with modern technique to create something that felt at once ancient and ahead of its time."

Haza, who was born in Tel Aviv in 1957, was the youngest of nine children. She joined a local theater group at the age of 12 and became Israel's foremost pop star at the age of 19. Haza recorded 17 studio albums and one live album. She passed away in 2000, at the age of 42. (INN / VFI News)

Problems With the Kids

A Jewish father was very troubled by the way his son turned out and went to see his rabbi about it. "Rabbi, I brought him up in the faith, gave him a good Jewish education, gave him an expensive Bar Mitzvah, and it cost me a fortune to educate him. Then my son tells me last week that he's decided to be a Christian. Rabbi, where did I go wrong?"

The rabbi strokes his beard and says, "Funny you should come to me. I also brought up my son as a boy of faith, gave him a good Jewish education. After that, I sent my son to study in Israel, and my son comes home and tells me that he became a Christian."

"Rabbi, what did you do?" asked the man. "I turned to God for the answer," replied the rabbi.

"What did He say?" asked the man. He said, "Funny you should come to Me... Let me tell you about My son."

I tried to imagine God completing the punch line to the story above. "I, too, sent my son to Israel"

Are we trying to say that Jesus rebelled against God? That Jesus converted to Christianity. Maybe we should compare this story to the real thing. Jesus **never** converted. He was born Jewish and stayed that way.

On his mother's side, he counted 14 generations from Father Abraham to King David, 14 generations from King David to the Jews' exile in Babylon, and 14 generations from the exile to the Messiah. On his father's side the list was just as long, just as true. They circumcised him on the eighth day, as God specified to Abraham. They took him to the annual Passover in Jerusalem, where he wowed the Jewish teachers with his knowledge of Torah.

But did he change his mind as he grew more mature? Let's see... As an adult, Jesus knew the Jewish Bible well enough to quote it during arguments. At least 70% of his teachings parallel First Century rabbinical literature. Jesus went to synagogue every week, kept the Jewish Sabbath, and observed all the Jewish holidays. Instead of decorating a Christmas tree, Jesus lit Hanukkah candles. Jesus sided with his fellow Pharisees when a powerful sect (the Sadducees) mocked their belief in the resurrection of the body. At other times, Jesus scolded the Pharisees for their hypocrisy.

Like most itinerant Jewish preachers of the time, Jesus clustered people around him, not in synagogues, but in fields and on hillsides among the farms. All his early followers were

Jews, including the fishermen, Peter, James, and John. Some of his chief followers were Jewish leaders. When pagans asked his help, he usually refused, saying he had come to find the "lost sheep of Israel." The sign over his stake of execution read "KING OF THE JEWS" in three languages -- Greek, Latin, and Hebrew.

It's still a great joke. But it's built on faulty ideas. "Funny you should ask," says God in the real story. "I, too, sent my son to Israel, and he came home a Jew."

WWJD — What Would Jesus Do? He remained a Jew, and so should you. And accept him as your Messiah and Savior. And live a life of obedience to Torah, just as he did. Be a witness to others, both to Jews and Gentiles.

Domestic Terrorism in the USA

I kind of miss the old days of decades ago when most of the domestic terrorism was from Radical Islamists. The situation has changed radically in the last several years. I am including mass shootings as **domestic terrorism**. If the men pulling the triggers had been Muslims, we would certainly count such mass killings as domestic terrorism.

However, as it turns out, most of these mass murders have been committed by **white** men, oftentimes **white supremacists**. In Uvalde, Texas, the murderer who shot and killed 19 elementary school students and two teachers on May 24, 2022 happened to have been Hispanic. In January 2023, two different Chinese men committed mass murder, one attacking a dance club killing 11, and the other attacking workers at mushroom farms, killing 7. These killers were **exceptions** to the rule, as the vast majority of such mass killings happened to be white men. Also, I don't recall any cases at all of any women committing mass killings.

The other thing that most mass killings have in common is that nearly all were carried out using assault rifles or assault guns. You can kill with a normal gun or even a machete. However, usually the weapon of choice for those seeking to kill many people happens to be assault weapons, often AR15 or AK47 types of weapons that allow the cold-blooded murderers to kill many people in a short period of time. These are not weapons of self-defense; these are **offensive** weapons. Bad weapons in the hands of bad men are causing enormous damage and heartache.

Israel Among Top 10 Countries with Longest Life Expectancies

<https://vfi-news.com>

Israel has the 10th highest life expectancy in the world, according to research conducted by NiceRx, which claims Israelis have a life expectancy of 83.49 years: 81.98 years for men, and 84.91 years for women. Taking the number one spot on the list is Hong Kong followed by Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, Italy, Spain, Australia, Iceland, and South Korea.

The list is comprised of OECD countries. Hong Kong, which headed the list with a life expectancy of 85.29 years (82.38 years for men and 88.17 years for women), has seen its life expectancy rise to such a degree, largely, due to beneficial lifestyles and healthcare opportunities that mitigate risks from diseases and chronic conditions.

Although life expectancy in OECD has ceased its dramatic growth and fluctuates slightly from year to year, Israel's life expectancy has maintained a slow growth.

There are numerous reasons why Israel does well in relation to other countries. According to an OECD report last year, Israelis, among other things, drink less alcohol and commit suicide less frequently than people in other OECD countries.

Additionally, a 2016 study published by The Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel showed that countries with **mandatory military service**, such as Israel, enjoy significantly higher life expectancies.

Meanwhile, according to the research by NiceRx, Israel ranked 27 of 39 on the list of countries with respect to healthcare expenditure per capita. In this respect, Israelis spend an average of \$3,057. (JPost / VFI News)

According to the United Nations, the global average life expectancy is 72.6 years. However, women have higher life expectancy than men, despite their higher morbidity rate. Today's global average life expectancy is higher than any other nation in 1950.

Just for the record, the United States ranks at number 32. (I suspect that the low ranking is because Americans eat too many calories and too much meat per capita, more than any other country. **RAC**)

Israel is Halting Money Going to Palestinian Terrorists

Jewish News Service (JNS)

On Jan. 5, Israel's Security Cabinet approved a series of retaliatory measures against the Palestinian Authority. These included sanctions

against senior Palestinian officials, the withholding of Palestinian funds collected by Israel and a halt to illegal Palestinian construction in Area C of Judea and Samaria... On Sunday, Israeli Finance Minister **Bezalel Smotrich** announced the transfer of **\$40 million in confiscated Palestinian funds to Israeli victims** of terrorism, money that would have gone to support terrorists had it reached PA hands. **I24News** from Israel adds:

According to a ruling by the Jerusalem District Court, the Palestinian Authority can be held liable for several terrorist acts against Israelis due to its "pay-for-slay" stipends to terrorists' families.

... A family that has been affected by terrorism and has not received compensation as required by the authority, can now apply for one. Since Israel collects taxes for the Palestinian Authority, it can deduct money from the funds that the Authority owes to the families and transfer the compensation to them.

Arutz Sheva from Israel adds:

"Today we are correcting an injustice. It is an important day for morality, the war on terror and justice. There is no greater justice than offsetting the [Palestinian] Authority's funds to support terrorism and transferring them to the families of the victims of terrorism... There is no comfort here for the murdered families, but there is justice here," stated Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.

... **Mirav Hajjaj**, mother of the late Lieutenant **Shir Hajjaj** (killed by a terrorist) said: "I am here today on behalf of my daughter, on behalf of thousands of mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters who were murdered under the auspices of terrorism from the PA. No amount in the world will bring back our children, but today there is a feeling here that justice will be done. I pray that in the next attack they will think twice before the Authority sends people [to do terrorist attacks] and I believe that this is the beginning of a new way."

Lunch Time During Passover

A Jewish man took his Passover lunch to eat outside in the park. He sat down on a bench and began eating.

A little while later a blind man came by and sat down next to him. Feeling neighborly, the Jewish man passed a sheet of matzo to the blind man.

The blind man ran his fingers over the matzo for a few minutes, looked puzzled, and finally exclaimed, "Who wrote this crap?"

Anti-Judaism

When Samuele Bacchiocchi, a Seventh-Day Adventist, immersed himself in the research of how the biblical Sabbath moved from Saturday to Sunday, he did so in an unlikely environment for a non-Catholic – the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He not only had open access to long-forgotten historical records, he also graduated at the top of his class – *summa cum laude*, an honor which included a gold medal from Pope Paul VI.

But what he found in that investigation would probably shock most Christians who have never studied the subject, nor thought deeply about what became of the fourth commandment.

What caused the switch from worship on Saturday to Sunday? One of the principle motivations in the early church, Bacchiocchi finds, was anti-Judaism.

Consider this Nicene conciliar letter from Constantine written in A.D. 325: "Let us then have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd: for we have received from our Savior a different way ... Strive and pray continually that the purity of your souls may not seem in anything to be sullied by fellowship with the customs of these most wicked men ... All should unite in desiring that which sound reason appears to demand and in avoiding all participation in the perjured conduct of the Jews."

Not surprisingly, anti-Sabbath laws followed in Rome – imposing harsh penalties for anyone who refused to work on Saturday or who deigned to worship on that day of the week.

He quotes Sylvester I, the pope from 314-337: "If every Sunday is to be observed joyfully by the Christians on account of the resurrection, then every Sabbath on account of the burial is to be execration (loathing or cursing) of the Jews."

Observing the Sabbath meant excommunication from the church as of A.D. 363 and the Council of Laodicea: "Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honoring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be Judaizers, let

and the Origin of the 'Sunday Sabbath'

them be anathema from Christ. But Bacchiocchi also reminds readers that the Saturday Sabbath, despite official repression against it, never was completely abandoned.

Likewise, over the years some prominent voices have never forgotten the Sabbath – and what became of it.

Was it, indeed, a Roman Catholic decision made after the first century and the death of the apostles? It's hard to argue with the historical record. In fact, some Catholics revel in the role Rome played in the switch.

"The Catholic Church of its own infallible authority created Sunday a holy day to take the place of the Sabbath of the old law," wrote the *Kansas City Catholic* on Feb. 9, 1893.

Other Catholic sources agree with little self-doubt. "Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles," wrote the *Catholic Press* in Sydney, Australia, on Aug. 25, 1900. "From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first."

James Cardinal Gibbons seconds the motion in his famous "The Faith of Our Fathers," published in 1876: "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."

But it's not just Catholics who acknowledge the church has just plain forgotten one of God's great commandments – without so much as a second thought.

Dwight L. Moody, one of America's great Protestant evangelists of the 19th century, noted the omission in his book, "**Weighed and Wanting.**"

"The Sabbath was binding in Eden, and it has been in force ever since," he wrote. "The fourth commandment begins with the word '**remember,**' (Exodus 20:8) showing that the Sabbath already existed when God wrote the law on the tablets of stone at Sinai. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away with when they will admit that



the other nine are still binding?"

Insects Are Dying Off at an Alarming Rate

Jason Daley, 2019 www.smithsonianmag.com

Ecosystems can't function without the insects that make up the base of the food chain, and a new review in the journal *Biological Conservation* suggests human activity and climate change are chiseling away at those foundations.

The new study shows 41% of insect species have seen steep declines in the past decade, with similar drops forecast for the near future. It's estimated that 40% of the 30 million or so insect species on earth are now threatened with extinction.

Previous studies have looked at smaller areas, with a 2017 study showing 76% of flying insects had disappeared from German nature preserves and a study showed that insect populations in pristine rainforest in Puerto Rico have also seen precipitous declines, dropping a factor of 60. This new study, however, looks at 73 studies about insect decline from around the globe. Though most focus on North America and Europe, and it is the first attempt at quantifying the global impact.

Brian Resnick at *Vox* reports that the individual numbers are sobering. *Lepidoptera*, the order of insects that includes butterflies, which are often the canary in the coalmine for ecosystem problems, have declined by 53%. *Orthoptera*, which include grasshoppers and crickets, are down about 50%, and about 40% of bee species are now vulnerable to extinction. Many other orders of insects have seen similar drops.

"We estimate the current proportion of insect species in decline ... to be twice as high as that of vertebrates, and the pace of local species extinction ... eight times higher," the review states. "It is evident that we are witnessing the largest [insect] extinction event on Earth since the late Permian and Cretaceous periods."

Marlowe Hood at *AFP* reports that the impacts on the ecosystem are already being felt. In Europe, over the past 30 years bird populations have declined by 400 million, likely a casualty of the huge decline in flying insects. But birds, lizards, bats, and plants aren't the only species that will suffer if insects continue to decline. Hood reports that 75 of the top 115 global food crops depend on insect pollination.

"There are hardly any insects left—that's the number one problem," Vincent Bretagnolle, an ecologist at French National Cen-

tre for Scientific Research says. The causes are not surprising, and have all been on the radar for decades. Deforestation, agricultural expansion and human sprawl top the list. The wide use of pesticides and fertilizer as well as industrial pollution are also taking massive tolls. Invasive species, pathogens and climate change are also getting punches in.

"It is becoming increasingly obvious our planet's ecology is breaking and there is a need for an intense and global effort to halt and reverse these dreadful trends" Matt Shardlow of the U.K. advocacy group Buglife tells Matt McGrath at the *BBC*. "Allowing the slow eradication of insect life to continue is not a rational option."

Editor's Note: I'm not a great lover of bugs. My favorite bug is the preying mantis, primarily because it eats other bugs. (It is also the only bug that can rotate its head from side to side.) However, bugs are important for our planet and for life on this planet, including us humans.

I personally have seen a drastic reduction in insect populations. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, I would drive about 300 miles and arrive at my destination with hundreds of dead bugs on the windshield, front bumper, etc. That doesn't happen anymore. There are also far fewer mosquitoes and gnats. I no longer need to spray for mosquitos. I got on the internet, and discovered that my hunch was right. There has been a collapse in the insect population. And we really need those nasty little buggers. **RAC**

Interesting Facts

Many years ago a new game was invented in Scotland. It was ruled, "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden," and thus the word GOLF entered into the English Language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter was **Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. Therefore, in old England, when customers became unruly, the bartender would yell at them to "Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down." This is where we get the phrase, "Mind your P's and Q's."

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

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"So he went and took Gomer...."
Hosea 1:3

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

The Origins of Arab Settlers in the Land of Israel

Rotem Nimkovsky | 16/05/2018

<https://en.mida.org.il/2018>

The Arabs mark May the 15th as a day of remembrance for the catastrophe, the "Nakba" in Arabic, that befell them with the creation of the State of Israel. They claim the "indigenous" Arab inhabitants had to flee their "homeland" as a result. They conveniently fail to mention the reason for the "catastrophe" and where these supposed indigenous Arab inhabitants actually came from and when.

UN General Assembly resolution 181 of 1947 called for the partition of the British Mandate in Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab entities. The Jewish leadership accepted the resolution. The Arab countries rejected it, which is their right. What they had no right to, was to declare war on the Jewish population in the area.

The armies of seven Arab countries set out to destroy the Jewish state, which they outnumbered a hundred to one. They also persecuted the Jewish citizens who lived in their own countries for hundreds of years, forcing them to leave and take refuge in the newly created State of Israel.

The Arab nations, together with the Arab population in the British Mandate area, sought to annihilate the Jews in the region and failed. The only catastrophe for them in this scenario was that they lost the war.

As in any war, people were uprooted and made to relocate. Nearly a million Jews – who were not even involved in the hostilities – were expelled from Arab countries; and over 600,000 Arabs from Israeli territory, many of whom were actually told to leave by the advancing Arab armies.

The "Mandate for Palestine" by the League of Nations (1922) defined the borders of the homeland of the Jewish people as the area between the Jordan river in the east, to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. This, as explained, due to a long historical and deep religious connection of the Jews to this land. It defined "Jews" as the people of the land which the San Remo commission (1920) called "Palestine", using the old Roman title "Syria-Palestina", given by Caesar Hadrian, in 132 A.D.

The Jews brought back the original name of "Israel" (ישראל) after almost 2000 years. To counter that, the Arabs adopted the Roman term "Palestine", a word which is has no meaning in Arabic...

The PLO emblem, as well as that of the Hamas, define a "Palestine" in the same exact borders the League of Nations used for the Land of Israel: from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

They claimed indigenous status as "Palestinians" who lived in the area for generations. A review of history though, shows that from the time of the expulsion of the Jews by the Romans, the inhabitants of the area fluctuated.

From the time of the conquest of the land by the Muslim Arabs in 636 CE, the rulers of the land constantly shifted between Muslims, Crusaders, Arab Tribes among themselves and even the Mongols. This until 1517, with the Ottoman conquest that brought a measure of relative stability to the country, but also not for long.

The waves of conquests and wars; natural calamities such as earth quakes, harsh living conditions; as well as the periodic plundering of Arab Bedouin tribes from the desert, made the area undesirable. There are relatively few elements that can prove continuity of settlement in the Land of Israel whether Jew or Arab.

Thus, on the eve of the Zionist settlement, which began with the founding of Petah Tikva in 1878, the country was mostly deserted and abandoned. Its population was sparse and partly nomadic. Famous tourists who visited Israel at the time testified separately to this situation: They found a small rural Bedouin population living in muddy huts and described the place as a marshland, mostly uncultivated terrain, used as grazing fields for goats and sheep. The local inhabitants were not the owners of the land. The owners were wealthy families from throughout the Ottoman Empire, who had no use for the land beyond the titles and honors it bestowed upon them.

With the migration of Jews to the Land of Israel between 1870 and 1947, the Arab population in the area grew by 270%, nearly three times that of Egypt, the Arab country with the highest natural birthrate at the time. In other words, the increase was mostly due to migration. The mass immigration was the result of economic development and modernization following Jewish immigration. The Arab immigrants came in search of a livelihood.

Tawfiq Bey al-Hourani, the Syrian governor of Hauran, said in 1934 that "over 30,000 Syrians invaded Palestine within a few months." Winston Churchill, on May 22, 1939, stated that Arab immigration during the Mandate period to Palestine was so great that their numbers grew by such a rate that even the Jews of the entire world could not match.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States, said on May 17, 1939 that the immigration of Arabs to Palestine since 1921 was far greater than the immigration of Jews in recent times. According to the British census in 1931, the Muslims in the country were not necessarily Arabs, judging from the languages they spoke: Afghan, Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Circassian, Kurdish, Persian, Sudanese and Turkish.

UN Condemns Israel More Than All Other Countries Combined

by Ilse Strauss, www.bridgesforpeace.com

3 January 2023 | Over the course of 2022, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) condemned Israel more times than it did all the other countries in the world combined, UN Watch revealed.

According to a calculation by the pro-Israel monitoring group, UNGA passed 28 resolutions rapping a specific nation across the knuckles for behavior deemed harmful or detrimental to its own population or its neighbors. Fifteen of these resolutions criticized Israel, while only 13 condemned various countries in the rest of the world. Russia was the focus of six of these 13 motions, while Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Syria and the United States received one citation each.

Let's put matters into perspective. In 2022, Russia invaded a sovereign neighbor, resulting in thousands of civilian deaths and the worst refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. Iran cracked down on innocent civilians protesting inhuman treatment by the regime, imprisoning, torturing and executing its own people for something as simple as a woman refusing to cover her hair. Women in Afghanistan continue to be subjected to a future without education, worth or a voice. And in Syria, the Butcher of Damascus [President Bashar Assad] continues to slaughter his people with impunity. Then there are human rights violations in countries like Algeria, China, Cuba, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Venezuela and Vietnam.

But despite these well-documented atrocities, UNGA felt that Israel was the main perpetrator of evil over the course of the past twelve months and thus focused its full attention on vilifying the only democracy in the Middle East.

2022 was no exception. UN Watch pointed out that the world body has a long history of anti-Israel bias, with its voting record standing as irrefutable proof of its fixation on condemning the Jewish state. Since 2015, UNGA has passed 140 resolutions against Israel, while adopting a scant 68 motions against all other countries in the world combined. Moreover, between 2006 and 2022, the UN Human Rights Council has adopted 99 resolutions against Israel. This stands in stark contrast to

the 41 motions against Syria, 13 against Iraq, 4 against Russia and 3 against Venezuela.

UN Watch's tally comes hot on the heels of the latest anti-Israel resolution UNGA passed on Friday. The motion, entitled "Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories," approved a call led by the Palestinians for the International Court of Justice to pass an opinion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

With such a track record, is it any wonder that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu call the UN a "circus of the absurd"?

Israel's Population Nears 10 Million as 2022 Wraps Up

by Yaron Druckman ~ Ynet

www.bridgesforpeace.com

2 January 2023 | Israel's population reached 9,656,000, said a report published 29 December 2022 by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) ahead of the new year. According to the CBS, 7,106,000 residents of the state are Jews (73.6% of the population), 2,037,000 are Arabs (21.1%), and 513,000 (5.3%) are defined as other—*i.e.*, Christians who are not Arabs, different religions and people without religious classification in the Interior Ministry.

Figures show that during 2022 the population of Israel increased by 2.2%, divided into 62% of newborns and 38% of people who immigrated to the state. The population growth rate rose compared to 2021 (at the time, the growth rate was 1.8%), mainly due to the high number of immigrants, as opposed to the previous year.

In 2022, some 178,000 babies were born in Israel (74.8% to Jewish mothers, 23.8% to Arabs and 1.4% to others) and 73,000 people made *aliyah* [immigrated to Israel]. The major countries from which immigrants arrived this year were: Russia (58.1%), Ukraine (21.3%), the United States (4.1%), and France (3.2%). In comparison, in 2021, only about 25,000 people made *aliyah*. In 2022, about 51,700 people died. The number of deceased was said to be similar to the number in 2021. And despite being only 1/8 of 1% of the world's population, Israel is the tenth most powerful country in the world.



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

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

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(Recommended to our readers! RAC)

Gun Deaths in the USA

John Gramlich www.pewresearch.org

What share of U.S. gun deaths are murders and what share are suicides?

Though they tend to get less public attention than gun-related murders, **suicides have long accounted for the majority of U.S. gun deaths.** In 2020, 54% of all gun-related deaths in the U.S. were suicides (24,292), while 43% were murders (19,384), according to the CDC. The remaining gun deaths that year were unintentional accidents (535), involved law enforcement (611), or had undetermined circumstances (400).

What share of all murders and suicides in the U.S. involve a gun?

Nearly eight-in-ten (79%) U.S. murders in 2020 – 19,384 out of 24,576 – involved a firearm. That marked the highest percentage since at least 1968, the earliest year for which the CDC has online records. A little over half (53%) of all suicides in 2020 – 24,292 out of 45,979 – involved a gun, a percentage that has generally remained stable in recent years.

Which states have the highest and lowest gun death rates in the U.S.?

The rate of gun fatalities varies widely from state to state. In 2020, the states with the **highest** rates of gun-related deaths – counting murders, suicides, and all other categories tracked by the CDC – included Mississippi (28.6 per 100,000 people), Louisiana (26.3), Wyoming (25.9), Missouri (23.9) and Alabama (23.6). The states with the **lowest** rates included New York (5.3), Rhode Island (5.1), New Jersey (5.0), Massachusetts (3.7) and Hawaii (3.4), states with strong gun laws.

Editor's Note: I assume that most people in the USA purchase guns to protect their homes and families. However, people might need more protection from themselves, when you consider that suicides account for more gun deaths than murder and defense combined. These statistics do not show the number of murders committed in defense of home and family or murders involving domestic violence.

However, I hear of very few reports where a home invader was shot by a homeowner. I am in complete favor of using a gun to protect home and family. But chances are much greater that the gun will be used for suicide or even murder. As an added note, I hear of many mass killings done with assault rifles. I have never heard of an assault rifle being used to protect home and family. Maybe that is why they are called assault rifles. **RAC**

Future Israeli Lasers Can Shoot Down Iranian Drones, Like in Ukraine - Top Defense Official

Senior Defense Ministry official Brig.-Gen. (res) Danny Gold on Tuesday, February 14, said Israel's air defense lasers, when fully deployed in the future, could shoot down the drones Iran has been sending against Ukraine.

Speaking at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) conference at Tel Aviv University, the Director of MAFAT [Directorate of Defense Research & Development] said his ministry is working on developing "the next generation of using lasers."

He talked about multiple successful tests of destroying rockets "with a very sophisticated laser weapons system... We have done the same for mortars, rockets and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), like the Iranian UAVs they are sending to Ukraine. The same concept of UAV, we can shoot them down."

In February 2022, then prime minister Naftali Bennett proclaimed that Israel's ability to use lasers had jumped forward and could be operational much sooner than people had expected.

Last month, Aviv Kohavi told Israeli media in an outgoing interview as IDF chief, "The laser defense system is truly great news. It will be both land- and air-based. I do want to be cautious regarding time frames. In another two years, we expect to deploy systems along the Gaza Strip border to test this tool's effectiveness." (JPost / VFI News)

Vision for Israel · PO Box 7743

· Charlotte NC 28241-7743

Editor's Note: Vision for Israel is an excellent source for news, as well as a worthy charity providing school supplies for Israeli children, as well as aid to Holocaust survivors and poor people in Israel. **RAC**

National Federal Budget Deficits Under Presidents Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden

The national federal debt during **Joe Biden's** presidency has increased by **\$2.5 trillion**, or 8.79% as of September 2022. That is over **\$1 trillion** for each year that he has been in office as of Sept 2022. During **Donald Trump's** 8 years in office, the U.S. national debt increased by **\$8.18 trillion**. This an average of over **\$2 trillion** for each of his 4 years in office.

Barak Obama added **\$8.6 trillion** to the national debt during his 8 years in office, also over **\$2 trillion** dollars per year. **George Bush** added **\$5.85 trillion** to the national debt during his 8 years in office, less than **\$1 trillion** for each year in office, although corrected for inflation would have been considerably more.

Source: www.thebalancemoney.com



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

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

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

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

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REVEREND TWISTRUTH & HIS DISCIPLES

by Daniel Botkin

SOME JEWISH-LOOKING GUY WITH A BEARD AND TATTOOS CAME TO CHURCH LAST SUNDAY--A BUNCH OF US LAYED HANDS ON HIM, CLAMPED ONTO HIS HEAD REAL TIGHT, AND TOLD HIM TO CALL ON THE NAME OF JESUS!



HE JUST KEPT YELLING, "YESHUA, YESHUA, HELP ME, YESHUA!" WHATEVER THAT MEANS!



WHAT DID YOU DO THEN?

WE SHOOK HIM HARDER AND REBUKED THAT "YESHUA" SPIRIT IN THE NAME OF JESUS!



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

Blinken Tells Israel's New FM: US Will Oppose Steps that Undermine 2-State Solution

Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday, January 2, stressed US opposition to policies that undermine efforts to reach a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, during his first call with new Foreign Minister Eli Cohen.

Netanyahu's right-religious coalition has agreed to expand Israeli settlements in the West Bank and legalize dozens of wildcat outposts. The first clause of its overall government guidelines specifies: "The Jewish people have an exclusive and inalienable right to all parts of the Land of Israel" — an area that includes the biblical Judea and Samaria, today's West Bank.

For the Biden administration, any moves toward West Bank annexation or changing the status quo barring Jewish prayer at the Temple Mount represent "red lines," according to two Israeli and US officials familiar with the matter.

Apart from the aforementioned points, the US and Israeli readouts on the roughly 40-minute Blinken-Cohen call were largely the same. According to the statements, Blinken and Cohen talked about the US commitment to Israel's security, as well as efforts to strengthen the Abraham Accords and advance Israel's integration in the region.

They also discussed the Iran nuclear threat. Blinken told Cohen that US efforts to revive the Iran nuclear agreement were currently on hold, due to Tehran's intractable stance, the ongoing protests in the Islamic Republic and the latter's intensified cooperation with Russian forces invading Ukraine — a reality that the new Israeli government is likely satisfied with, given its opposition to the nuclear deal.

The readout from Cohen's office said he also used the call to explain his approach to the Palestinians and emphasized his opposition to Palestinians' effort to bring the conflict to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). (TOI / VFI News)

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Biden Compares Asylum Seekers at US Border to Jews Escaping Nazi Germany

"Comparing Haitians leaving Haiti or Nicaraguans leaving Nicaragua to Jews fleeing violent extermination from Nazi Germany is both an outrageous minimization of the Holocaust and a vile slander of Latin American nations," wrote Miller in the Jewish Press.

Editor's Note: Regretfully, during World War II, during the Holocaust in which millions of Jews were being murdered by the Nazis, the US gov-

ernment had effectively shut the gates to millions of Jews who were attempting to escape the genocide being committed against them by Nazi Germany and collaborating nations and people.

I realize that we have hundreds of thousands of people trying to escape evil dictatorships, poverty, domestic violence, and gangs. However, it is a horrendous perversion of history to compare these people to Jews attempting to escape the industrialized murder of the Jewish people. The United States also had the ability to destroy the railroad tracks that brought millions of helpless Jews to the concentration camps, as well as the ability to bomb the fences of these death camps. President Franklin Roosevelt seemingly had very little interest in such humanitarian gestures. The USA could have done far more. This country should have shown more interest in saving the lives of Yeshua's brethren according to the flesh.

I sympathize with these people attempting to come to the USA. However, if we were to have an open-door policy, there would be many millions, perhaps even tens of millions, who would then crash the borders. We need to encourage better governments and also encourage investments for the nations south of the border, so most of these people would hopefully stay where they are. **RAC**

Why Christian Zionism is More Important Than We Think

By [Israel Hayom](http://www.jewishpress.com) www.jewishpress.com

In the days preceding his election victory, Israel's incoming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was interviewed by Christians United for Israel (CUFI) founder and chairman, Pastor John Hagee. The comfortable rapport between the two men was evident throughout their talk. Pastor Hagee heaped "God's prayers" on the Israeli leader "for all the rest of his life."

This display of mutual admiration reflects the years Netanyahu has spent cultivating connections between Israel and the US evangelical community. For example, Netanyahu spoke at CUFI's 2017 annual conference and told the Christian crowd that they are "Israel's best friends in the world." Netanyahu's address to attendees at the Christian Media Summit in Jerusalem this week indicates that a Likud-led government will remain wedded to safeguarding Israel's relations with evangelicals.

That Netanyahu would take time away from a hectic campaign to speak to Pastor Hagee suggests an awareness of the fractious response Israel's new coalition would soon receive from American Jewish groups.

Does God Carry Israel, as the Eagle Carries its Young?

"Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them. He carried them on His pinions."
Deuteronomy 32:11, NAS

Though some have doubted that the eagle ever actually carries the young on its back, a guide in Scotland is reported by Sir W. B. Thomas as testifying concerning the golden eagle that "the parent birds, after urging, and sometimes shoving the youngster into the air, will swoop underneath and rest the struggler for a moment on their wings and back." (The Yeoman's England, London, 1934, p. 135) An observer in the United States is quoted in the Bulletin of the Smithsonian Institution (1937, No. 167, p. 302) as saying: "The mother started from the nest in the crags, and roughly handling the young one, she allowed him to drop, I should say, about ninety feet; then she would swoop down under him, wings spread, and he would alight on her back. She would soar to the top of the range with him and repeat the process... My father and I watched this, spellbound, for over an hour." G. R. Driver, commenting on these statements, says: "This then is not a mere flight of fancy but is based on actual fact."—Palestine Exploration Quarterly, London, 1958.

Muslim-majority Country Azerbaijan Makes Historic Ambassador Appointment to Israel

Messiah's Mandate | PO Box 535157
Grand Prairie TX 75053

Azerbaijan, a country that shares a border with Iran, made history on January 8th, appointing its first ambassador to Israel, Mukhtar Mammadov. The decision by the Muslim-majority country follows on the heels of their parliament's decision to establish an embassy in Tel Aviv.

There was also tragic news in Israel in January. A Palestinian gunman killed seven Jewish worshipers outside of a synagogue. Ten others were injured. As news spread of the successful terror attack, inhumane celebrations by Palestinians in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip broke out, where they fired bullets into the air, shouted "Allah is great!" and handed out sweets, *as is their custom when Jews are murdered.*

Again, these were not soldiers. These were Jewish people going into a synagogue to pray. I can't imagine being a child growing up in a culture where you celebrate cold-blooded murder. I was reading just this week about how Palestinian mothers celebrate when their own children become suicide bombers:

"I am a compassionate mother to my children. Because I love my son, I encouraged him to die a martyr's death for the sake of Allah... Jihad ("holy war") is a religious obligation incumbent upon us, and we must carry it out. I sacrificed [my son] as part of my obligation. This is an easy thing...I asked Allah to give me 10 [Jews] for [my son] Muhammad, and Allah granted my request and Muhammad made his dream come true, killing 10 Israelis."

Persecution of Christians Skyrockets Worldwide as 360 Million Oppressed

Open Doors' 2023 World Watch List brings much-needed attention to courageous Christians around the world who suffer because of their faith. Released on January 17, the annual World Watch List is a ranking of 50 countries where severe persecution and discrimination against Christians prevail.

According to the report, more than 360 million Christians face severe persecution and discrimination for their faith. The number of Christians who have been killed for their faith has also risen by 80% in the last five years.

The majority of these killings – 90% – have occurred in Nigeria. As militant Islamist groups use violence to advance political and ideological objectives, persecution against Christians is most severe in the north, though enforced Islamization is gradually spreading toward the south.

One-in-five of the world's persecuted Christians live in Africa, and according to the report, "Violence against Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa has reached new heights."

While in Asia, the Chinese Communist Party's model for controlling Christian communities is expanding to other countries. According to the report, "Countries as diverse as Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Malaysia have headed down this same authoritarian path, joining states like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Russia." (FN / VFI News)

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"Respect" for Marriage Act

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed into law the Defense of Marriage Act, defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman. In 2015, the US Supreme Court overturned this law and made the decision legalizing same-sex marriage for the entire country.

We had been told that the religious rights enshrined in the First Amendment to the US Constitution would respect the religious rights of those who disagreed. This is partially true. Clergy members who disagree with same-sex marriage are thus far not forced to perform same-sex marriages.

However, other people of faith, such as Christian bakers, florists, photographers, etc. have been heavily fined or forced to close their doors if they do not accommodate same-sex marriages for their customers. In other words, the religious rights for freedom of religion enshrined in the Constitution are trumped by those seeking services for same-sex marriages. Basically, those in power lied when they said religious rights would be protected when same-sex marriages would be legalized.

In December 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law the Respect for Marriage Act. This was passed by both houses of Congress to protect same-sex marriage in the event that a future Supreme Court decision might overturn the 2015 decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

This new law does protect clergy and houses of worship from having to accommodate same-sex marriages. However, Republicans proposed a common-sense amendment protecting people of faith from being **forced** to accommodate same-sex marriages. This would have protected any church, school, or group from being forced to accommodate same-sex marriages. This amendment was rejected by Democratic lawmakers. Nonetheless, the Respect for Marriage Act passed Congress with bipartisan support, despite the lack of protection for people of faith.

This new law would also respect as legal all marriages performed according to the laws of any state or country in the world. I would hope that I am wrong about possible results. However, in many countries (especially Islamic countries), men are legally allowed to have child brides and multiple wives. Will this new law enable men with multiple wives and even child brides now force this country and each of the states to recognize these marriages? How about women with multiple husbands? Will we also be forced to recognize incestuous marriages done in other countries?

Meeting Zelensky, Biden likens Ukraine's fight against Russia to Hanukkah story

By **Ron Kampeas** (Jewish Telegraph Agency)

WASHINGTON (JTA) — During a closely-watched press conference on Dec. 21 with Ukraine's Jewish president, Volodymyr Zelensky, US President Joe Biden brought up the Hanukkah story, comparing Ukraine's struggle against Russia to the Maccabees' uprising.

"Tonight is the fourth night of Hanukkah," Biden said Wednesday standing next to Zelensky, who was on a last-minute visit to Washington to speak to Congress and appeal for the approval of more assistance for Ukraine. It was Zelensky's first foreign trip since the start of Russia's invasion in February.

"A time when Jewish people around the world, President Zelensky and many families among them, honor the timeless miracle of a small band of warriors fighting for the values and their freedom against a much larger foe and how they endured and how they overcame," Biden continued. "How the flame of faith with only enough oil for one day burned brightly for eight days. The story of survival and resilience that reminds us on the coldest day of the year, that light will always prevail over darkness." The Biden administration has had a number of Hanukkah celebrations in December, using them as a platform to denounce antisemitism.

UN Vote Calls on Israel to Get Rid of its Nuclear Weapons Israel News

Dec 8th. The UN's General Assembly voted 149-6 that Israel should accede to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, (NPT) and get rid of the nuclear weapons cache that the world assumes Israel has. The only 5 nations who voted with Israel against the resolution were the United States, Canada, Liberia, Micronesia and Palau. 26 countries abstained, including several from the European Union and India. Just as in the preceding Committee vote, the resolution called on Israel to sign the NPT immediately and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce their possession and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards. While foreign estimates have put Israel's stockpile between 80 and 400 nuclear warheads, the country has always maintained a policy of deliberate ambiguity on its nuclear status for strategic reasons. Israel will never be the first to introduce weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Editor: These are strictly defensive weapons. Israel did not use them even when attacked in the 1973 Yom Kippur War by Arab neighboring nations. Source: David@OutofZion.org

The Wild Conspiracy Theories of David Icke

David Icke contends that the universe consists of vibrational energy and infinite dimensions sharing the same space. He claims that there is an inter-dimensional race of reptilian beings, the Archons or Anunnaki, which have hijacked the Earth. Further, a genetically modified human-Archon hybrid race of **reptilian shape shifters** – the Babylonian Brotherhood, or "elite" – manipulate events to keep humans in fear, so that the Archons can feed off the resulting "negative energy." He claims that many public figures belong to the Babylonian Brotherhood and propel humanity towards a global fascist state or New World Order, a post era ending freedom of speech. He sees the only way to defeat such "Archontic" influence is for people to wake up to the truth and fill their hearts with love. Critics have accused Icke of being antisemitic and a Holocaust denier with his theories of reptilians serving as a deliberate "code."

Editor's Note: I wouldn't normally waste precious space in this publication with such garbage. The information above about David Icke is an excerpt quoted from **Wikipedia**, which provides extensive fully foot-noted information about this charlatan. Regretfully, supposedly intelligent people have bought into Icke's conspiracy theories, which are also loaded with anti-Semitism. In fact, a couple of years ago, one of the ladies that attended Petah Tikvah believed David Icke's garbage, and sought to spread these ideas in our fellowship. Regretfully, we had to ask her to leave. We believe in truth, not lies. However, we live in an age of wild conspiracy theories. **RAC**

Israel Begins Pumping Desalinated Water from the Mediterranean to the Kinneret

Source: <https://vfinews.com/news>

Mekorot Israel National Water Co. and the Israel Water Authority have launched the billion shekel Reverse Water Carrier project in the north, to bring desalinated water from the Mediterranean to the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee).

The project is meant to 'top off' the inland sea, maintaining its level during years of below-average rainfall. This is the first project of its kind in the world.

Israel Water Authority director Yehezkel Lifshitz told media, "The project we have launched today proves that Israel is leading in innovative thinking and a creative planning approach to dealing with the effects of climate change, while ensuring a sustainable water supply, safeguarding Israel's natural resources and maintaining the Kinneret as a strategic buffer for

the State of Israel."

The project, launched on December 27, 2022, was conceived in 2009 following a series of drought years (2013-2018) and work began four years ago.

The new pipelines connect five desalination plants along the coast with the Kinneret via 100-kilometer water channels, advanced quality control and command systems, and water reservoirs. The project will allow the maximum streaming of 120 million cubic meters of water back into the Kinneret.

The Kinneret is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible and prominently featured in the New Testament. The Kinneret first appears in the Bible in the Book of Numbers. (I365N / VFI News)

Barry & Batya Segal, Vision for Israel,
PO Box 7743, Charlotte NC 28241-7743

"From Shepham the boundary shall descend to Riblah on the east side of Ain; from there the boundary shall continue downward and about on the eastern slopes of the Sea of Chinnereth." - Numbers 34:11

Netanyahu Pans 'Despicable' UN Vote, Says Jews Cannot Be Occupiers in Their Own Land

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed the United Nations General Assembly Saturday, December 31, for a resolution passed the previous day to refer Israel's "occupation... of Palestinian territory" to the International Court of Justice, accusing the global body of "distorting historical facts" and declaring that the Jewish people cannot be "an occupier" in its own land.

In a strongly worded statement, Netanyahu, who only regained the prime ministership on January 5, said Israel would not be bound by the UNGA resolution demanding the ICJ weigh in on the conflict, in accordance with international law and the UN charter.

"Like hundreds of the twisted decisions against Israel taken by the UNGA over the years, today's despicable decision will not bind the Israeli government. The Jewish nation is not an occupier in its own land and its own eternal capital, Jerusalem," he said, adding that "no UN decision can distort the historical facts."

"We will continue to fight for the truth," the statement concluded. The UN General Assembly resolution, passed by 87 votes to 26, calls on the Hague-based ICJ to "render urgently an advisory opinion" on Israel's "prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of Palestinian territory." (TOI / VFI News)

In Selma, Sold-Out Yarmulkes and Shabbat Behind Bars

by Gabe Friedman, WWW.JTA.ORG/2015

(The article below was written in 2015, quoting from an article written in 1965. RAC)

This year (2015), many of the conversations surrounding Martin Luther King, Jr. Day have involved the new movie "Selma," about the historic marches from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama in 1965.

The film, nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture on Thursday, has provoked discussion in some Jewish circles, with some having criticized "Selma" for leaving out mention of Jewish contributions to the civil rights movement. Viewers may wish to supplement the film with JTA's coverage at the time, which, not surprisingly, zoomed in on the Jewish role:



After the "Bloody Sunday" march on March 7, 1965, in which many of the 600 protestors were beaten and hit with tear gas, Jews helped ramp up the pressure on President Lyndon Johnson to respond. On March 19, 1965, the Jewish Telegraph Agency reported that the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (what is now the Jewish Council for Public Affairs) and seven of its affiliate organizations — including the National Council of Jewish Women and the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America—sent Johnson a telegram demanding that he take immediate action on voting rights legislation for African Americans, who JTA, in the style of the time, referred to as "Negroes." Other Jewish organizations, such as the Association of Reform Rabbis of New York City, joined in over the next couple of days with telegrams of their own.

Hundreds of Negro freedom marchers today wore yarmulkes (skullcaps), in respectful

emulation of rabbis who participated in demonstrations in Alabama as Jewish participation in the march from Selma to Montgomery.

The Alabama Negroes called the yarmulkes "freedom caps." The demand for yarmulkes was so great that an order has been wired for delivery of 1,000 when the marchers arrive in Montgomery later this week for a great demonstration at the state capitol...

While not assuming the Jewish faith many Negroes adopted the yarmulke as a symbol of their movement.

Rabbis jailed by Selma police during the weekend for participating in demonstrations conducted Friday evening services in the Selma Jail, it was learned. Five rabbis recited Hebrew prayers behind prison bars. They have since been released on bond. An estimated 10 to 12 rabbis took part in the march which began yesterday.

Editor's Note: Sadly, many African-Americans have forgotten the many times that Jews stood with them during their struggle for civil rights. We hope this short article (excerpted from the much larger article written by Gabe Friedman) will be an inspiration for all of our readers, regardless of color or creed. RAC

Israel Ranked World's Fifth Safest Country for Tourists JNS

December 2022 | Israel is the fifth safest country in the world for tourists to visit, according to data on the 50 most popular destinations. According to data reviewed by the Swiftest analytics startup for its Travel Safety Index, published earlier this month, the top-ranked country was Singapore, followed by Denmark, Netherlands and Switzerland.

Israel came next, followed by Sweden, Austria, Ireland, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Japan, France, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Australia and Croatia.

The deadliest travel destination was South Africa, followed by India, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Brazil, Cambodia, the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

The index is based on seven risk factors: death rates from homicide, road traffic accidents, poisoning and poor hygiene conditions; life years lost from communicable diseases and injuries; and a natural disaster index.

Source: www.bridgesforpeace.com

There are three kinds of lies," Mark Twain said, "lying, cheating and stealing." Turns out there is a fourth: "pro-Palestinian."

Virtually everything described as pro-Palestinian is a lie. That is, it does not pertain to improving Palestinian Arabs' lives in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and Gaza Strip, let alone in United Nations-maintained Palestinian internment centers—euphemistically labeled refugee camps—in those territories and Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Ever attend a rally or lecture advocating improved standards of living or civil rights for Palestinian Arabs under jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank? Or those repressed by the Hamas Islamic theocracy in Gaza? Or those subject to the authoritarian governments of neighboring Arab countries? Me neither. Such pro-Palestinian events don't happen. Instead, events ballyhooed as pro-Palestinian can be described accurately as anti-Israel.

Anti-Israel propaganda dressed up as pro-Palestinian has a long history. In 1958, Ralph Bunche, a former director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), discussing regimes' treatment of Palestinian Arab refugees from Israel's 1948-1949 War of Independence, said:

"The Arab states do not want to solve the refugee problem. They want to keep it as an open sore, as an affront to the United Nations and as a weapon against Israel. They don't give a damn whether the refugees [numbering approximately 500,000 – 600,000] live or die."

Hence, UNRWA established camps instead of promoting resettlement in Arab states. This was at a time (the late 1940s and 1950s) when more than 800,000 Jewish refugees from Arab lands were being resettled. Roughly three-fourths went to Israel, the rest to Western countries.

Several end-of-2022 news items served as reminders that maintaining the "pro-Palestinian" fraud as an anti-Israel weapon continues. One was a Christmas season commentary about Bethlehem.

Raymond Ibrahim, writing for Gatestone Institute, reviewed 2022's developments regarding the town's Christians. Headlined "The Death of Christianity in Bethlehem," the article noted constant persecution and intimidation of Christian Palestinian Arabs by Muslim Palestinians.

The Palestinian Authority does not support the former but rather exerts pressure on them so anti-Christian violence is not reported to news media. International headlines could damage the authority's image with major foreign donors.

From 1947 to 2016, according to Ibrahim, the percentage of Christians in Bethlehem, the religion's birthplace (under PA administration since the 1993 – 1995 Oslo accords) has dropped from 85% to less than 16%. And following Hamas' 2007 takeover of Gaza from the PA, the Strip's remnant Christians either fled or live virtually underground beneath Islamic rule.

Persecution of Palestinian Christian Arabs by Palestinian Muslim Arabs rates little or no media coverage, generates no public outpouring and little political investigation. Not being inherently anti-Israel, it doesn't rank as pro-Palestinian...

Of the United Nations itself, which this year adopted another 15 anti-Israel resolutions, compared to 13 dealing with all the organization's 192 other member states? ... (There was one UN condemnation each for Russia, Iran, North Korea, China, Cuba, and Syria—all major violators of human rights. **RAC**)

In the West Bank, Fatah leader and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is in the 17th-year of his four-year term. In Gaza, Hamas, unlike Fatah, does not bother to call elections before postponing them. Both quash any dissent. A genuine pro-Palestinian rally or U.N. resolution would call for liberation of Palestinian Arabs from their Palestinian tyrants. Until then, it's the old anti-Israel vaudeville.

Poll: Both Israeli Jews & Israeli Arabs are Proud to be Israeli

www.israeltoday.co.il

An annual "state of the nation" survey conducted by the Israel Democracy Institute last week found that a firm majority of both Jews and Arabs are proud to call themselves Israeli.

Unsurprisingly, 86 percent of Jewish respondents had no problem identifying with their nationality. But those who often characterize Israel as a racist state might be surprised to learn that 65 percent of Arabs, also, are proud to be Israeli. The survey also asked respondents to rate national institutions as either trustworthy or not.

Amongst Jews, the most trusted were the IDF (Israel Defense Force) (88%), the president (71%) and the Supreme Court (62%). Surprisingly, the response from Arab participants was very similar, with most trusting the Supreme Court (60%), the police (57%), the president (56%) and the IDF (51%). Both groups distrusted the media, the Knesset, and religious leaders.

"Pro-Palestinian" Means No Such Thing

Eric Rozenman

Jan. 10, 2023

The Algemeiner

◆ COLORADO

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

◆ FLORIDA

Kehillat Elohim Messianic Synagogue. Rabbi John Schutz, 4815 Executive Park Ct #201; Jacksonville FL 32216. Call 904-318-6002. Shabbat service at 2 pm.

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

◆ GEORGIA

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

◆ ILLINOIS

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

◆ IOWA

Siouxland Messianic Fellowship. 1620 Glendale Blvd, Sioux City IA 51105.

◆ MASSACHUSETTS

United Messianic Jewish Assemblies, promoting a Messianic Torah-centered life. PO Box 148, Baldwinville MA 01436. WWW.UMJA.NET Call 508-982-0830 kwmacneil@gmail.com

Petah Tikvah Magazine is the official publication of the UMJA.

◆ NEBRASKA

Adat HaTikvat Tzion. Shabbat Services at 10 am at the SW Church of the Nazarene, 14808 Q St, Omaha NE. www.adat.org Call Rav Roger Nichols at 531-484-7810.

◆ NEW JERSEY

Beit B'rachot. Rav Joseph Kresefsky. 51 No. Lincoln Ave, Washington NJ 07882. Shabbat Service at 10:30 am. Call 908-674-5601.

◆ NEW YORK

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

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

◆ PENNSYLVANIA

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

BeitTorah2015@gmail.com

Congregation of Yahshua Messiah. Cong. Leader: Bob Young. Shabbat services, 11 am. Call 412-372-5173. pathwayofflight.org

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

Messianic Directory

◆ RHODE ISLAND

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

◆ TEXAS

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

◆ VERMONT

United Messianic Jewish Ministries (Prison Ministry), PO Box 122, Brandon VT 05733: umjewishministries.com email: umjewishministries@yahoo.com

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

HEBREWS 10:25



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INTERNATIONAL

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A.G. Jewish Congregation and Petah Tikvah Yeshiva. Messianic Rabbis David Cassady and J. Berlandi, Av. Pancrácio Rocha, 1558 Bairro Camuxinga Alagoas, 57500-000.

Rabbi.Cassady@gmail.com

CANADA

Calgary L'Chaim Fellowship. Shabbat service at 2 pm, Queensland Dr SE, Calgary AB. Contact Ro'eh Louwell Ogbinar 587-998-7644. Website: www.LeChaimBibleFellowship.org

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Obtain beautiful Judaica, hand-crafted by Be-te-Israels (the Black Jews of Ethiopia). Contact: Daniel Belay, www.EthiopiaJudaica.org daniel_belay95@yahoo.com

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Beth Yeshua. Rabbi Lion Erwtaman. Veluwelaan 20, Amsterdam. www.beth-yeshua.nl Call 31-20-890-6950. info@beth-yeshua.nl

INDONESIA

Moriah Messianic Ministries. Jakarta Email: Coltwo_id@wilhardto.com

NIGERIA

B'rit Olam Kehilah. PO Box 47, Ijeshatedo 101015, Lagos. britolamkehilah@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINES

Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship. PO Box 212, 2600 Baguio City. They also publish the Asian online edition of *Petah Tikvah Magazine* at:

WWW.APMFINC.COM/PT.HTML

Bayit HaShem. PO Box 3272; 1200 Makati City Visit blog at bayit hashem.com. Max 'Nonong Tuason. (Author of great books! RAC)

La Trinidad Bible Congregation. PO Box 133, 2601 LaTrinidad, Benguet. Shabbat services. Ph. 63-74-445-5144

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

Check out our website. We appreciate the work of our webmaster, Josiah Lebowitz. We have separate sections for articles in Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, English, Indonesian, and Estonian. English articles are divided up according to topic (History, Bible, Holy Days, News Items, Israel)

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TAKE TWO TABLETS DAILY!



FEATURE STORY

Consecration and Naming Ceremonies 2023, CMC

by: Elder Joel Cruz
Cebu Messianic Community

The Blessing and Introduction of Newborn Babies into the Community.



*"Before I formed you in the belly I knew you,
and before you came forth out of the womb I
sanctified you; I have appointed you a
prophet to the nations."
(Jeremiah 1:5)*

*"...the Lord has called me from the womb;
from the bowels of my mother has he made
mention of my name:"
(Isaiah 49:1)*

The baby naming ceremony is considered to be one of the most important celebrations in a person's life and is a way to declare both blessings and good fortune to the newborn baby. In fact, this is the very first ceremony that a person may get involved in!

In addition to introducing and welcoming the child as he/she enters into the world, this ceremony also becomes an opportunity for the community to show their love, support, and commitment to the physical and spiritual

well-being of the newest and youngest member of their covenant community.

The baby naming ceremony involves a lot of Bible-based blessings or prayers, and also a time for the parents to explain how and why they chose the particular name for their child. It is that name that will be used in school, in government records, at his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah/B'rith ceremony, other religious rituals, ceremonies, and feasts, his/her wedding, and is the one that will ultimately be passed down to future generations.

In Hebrew or Jewish culture, names bear a special meaning and relevance to the child's past, present, or future circumstances. Prime examples would be the circumstances surrounding the birth of our great patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as the twelve (12) sons of Israel.

For a baby boy, the naming ceremony is part of a commandment in the Torah that is referred to as B'rit Milah, "covenant of circumcision", which usually takes place on the eighth day after the child's birth.

*Here is my covenant, which you are
to keep, between me and you,
along with your descendants after you:
every male among you is to be circumcised.
You are to be circumcised in the flesh
of your foreskin; this will be the sign of the
covenant between me and you.
Generation after generation, every male
among you who is eight days old is to be
circumcised, including slaves born within
your household and those bought from a
foreigner not descended from you.
(Genesis 17:10-12)*

FEATURE STORY

For a baby girl, the baby naming ceremony does not involve the circumcision aspect for obvious reasons, but the rest of the ceremony closely parallels the ceremony for the boys. It is called the B'rit Bat "covenant of the daughter" or Simchat Bat "celebration of the daughter" which may take place during the first regular Shabbat fellowship following the baby girl's birth and up to two months after.



Furthermore, another important part of the ceremony is the consecration of the child, which is inspired by at least two passages in Scripture.

*Adonai said to Moshe, "Set aside for me all the firstborn. Whatever is first from the womb among the people of Isra'el, both of humans and of animals, belongs to me."
(Exodus 13:1-2)*

*Then she took a vow; she said, "Adonai-Tzva'ot, if you will notice how humiliated your servant is, if you will remember me and not forget your servant but will give your servant a male child, then I will give him to Adonai for as long as he lives; and no razor will ever come on his head."
(1 Samuel 1:11)*

And just like how the B'rit Milah for boys has a parallel ceremony for girls, so does the consecration ceremony. At this point, the parents make this bold declaration...

We consecrate this child to You, O Holy One, Who sets apart Your servants for Your service, the service of Your Anointed, Yeshua. Blessed are You, LORD our God, Who sanctifies the children of your servants.

Whether it is for a boy a girl, the baby naming ceremony is a festive celebration which, like most feasts, usually involve traditional blessings, Bible reading, singing and dancing, testimonials from guests, special numbers, and of course food, drinks!

On a special note, the modern day Naming and Consecration Ceremonies are both man-made but time-tested and enriching traditions which find their inspiration from different Biblical passages. Communities and families who plan to integrate them into their activities need to understand that they are not specifically commanded in the Torah and they are purely voluntary and optional, unlike the circumcision of the 1st born males on the 8th day.

With all that said, we are pleased to announce that in May 2023, two more babies were added to the covenant through the Cebu Messianic Community!!!



Last May 20, 2023, Alden Ray & Jennyfer consecrated their 1st baby, a daughter, to the LORD and named her Liana Rose. It was a purple & pink with a touch of gold-themed and intimate gathering, attended by the immediate

FEATURE STORY

family, closest relatives, community members, and of course the loving grandparents from both sides of the family. Alden's father himself, Kuya Nowyn, facilitated the ceremony. Jennyfer was from the Baguio City Messianic Congregation, of which her father, Gen Oliver, is also a member.



Less than a week after that, on May 26, 2023, Nowyn-Hope & Ana Delia consecrated their firstborn son to the LORD and named him Ephraim Nowyn. And as a boy, Ephraim Nowyn was supposed to be circumcised on the 8th day. Unfortunately no doctor was available that day so it pushed through on the 9th day.

The scene was a mix of pastel blue, gold, and white. Aside from the immediate family, closest relatives, and community members, the ceremony was also attended by close friends

and workmates of the parents. The ceremony was facilitated by yours truly.



It has been a tremendous blessing to see the life cycle continue as we see the parents, who used to be the youth in their respective communities, grow into loving and caring parents to their offspring! Congratulations and Mazel Tov to the parents and the children!!!

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain... Behold children are a gift from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them..."
(Psalm 127:1-5)

Contributor:

Joel Cruz - Elder, Cebu Messianic Community

According to Roger

Creation Week Lesson Review

by: Roger Walkwitz
Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship

Shalom to my beloved brethren in Yeshua in APMF! On Sept 14, I will be 94, 81 of which have been joyfully serving my Master & Friend Yeshua as His born-from-Above bond-slave. From the beginning, He gave me that child-like trust to believe His Word as written and act upon it. Take to heart Luke 18:17:

"Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

To test you, and others, please answer the following:

Q: How many objects were there in space during the first 72 hours of God's Creation?

A: 1, planet earth

Q: How old is planet earth now?

A: About 6,000 years with the appearance of being millions of years old.

Q: Where did the light come from during 36 of those 72 hours?

A: From God. Check out Revelation 21:23.

"And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb." Remember this for Day 4.

On Creation Day 4, Genesis 1:14 "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 (Gospel in the Stars) and for seasons (Moadim) and for days and years; and it was so."

Q: How old are the sun, moon and stars now?

A: About 6,000 years

Q: Are the statements of Astronomers accurate about the age and distances of the sun, moon and stars?

A: Yes, because God created everything mature and functioning with the appropriate appearance of age. A born-from-Above astronomer should know this.

Q: How old was Adam on Creation Day 6?

A: Only a few hours. "But Adam, you look like a young man of 21 or so!

All of the above and all of Genesis is factual history as written with no indication otherwise. I hope your faith agrees with it and your God is as big and powerful as portrayed in His Bible, and yet He is interested in and love you and me! Amazing!!

Let us not fail to love, honor and obey Him as His children. It seems that the purpose of Creation and that Yeshua took on humanity to become the Son of God so that He could die and be raised from the dead to pay for the sins of humanity was to provide for Himself a select group of redeemed humans for His Family!!!

Sometimes scientific articles in Petah Tikvah magazine compromise with the religion of evolution. This is wrong as evolution is a total lie! There is no need to accommodate any of the teachings of the devil in whatever academic discipline or worldly wisdom it is found.

Read everything with discernment, trusting His Spirit to alert you to conflicts with Scripture that is in your memory. The more Bible you know will determine how accurate your discernment will be, as His Spirit will not tell you what you have not stored in your memory! Like your computer, nothing put in, nothing comes out.

Be an Overcomer living victoriously, ready for Yeshua's soon Return!!!

Your brother, Roger.

August 2023



**KEHILOT, COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE
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INDONESIA

Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia
(GKMI = Indonesian Assemblies of Messianic
Congregations with the gov't recognition)
Pengakuan KemenAg Kanwii DKI
KW.09.7/BAO1.1/149/2013 Jakarta
Sat 5PM Sun 8AM

Bintaro Messianic Congregation
Bumi Bintaro Permai D7-8 South Jakarta 12320.
Contact: Benyamin Obadayah +62217364258
Sat 10AM and 5PM

Shoresh Messianic Fellowship Plaza
Pasifik Bld A1/1, 4th Fl, Jl Raya Boulevard Barat
Kelapat Gading, North Jakarta
Contact: Benyamin Obadayah +62-812-9912-430

Central Java Sat 10AM
Purwokerto Messianic Congregation Jl Lend
Sudirman 883, Purwokerto, Central Java
Contact: Bambang Rianto +62-8886657801

East Java Sat 5PM
Kehilat Mesianik Congregation
Jl Wonokromo 7/5, Mojosari,
Kab Mojokerto, East Java
Contact: Judo Nugroho +62-81913224624

South Kalimantan Sat 10AM
Banjarmasin Messianic Congregation
Jl Pasar Baru 2, Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan
Contact: Edy Purwanto +62-8125189517

North Sulawesi Sat 10AM
Yerushalayim Congregation
Manado, North Sulawesi
Contact: Jefrey Rualemba +62-89655471976
Sat 10AM Netivyah Ministry Jl Garuda 37,
Manado, North Sulawesi
Contact: Oral Bollegraf +62-853 98128567

PAPUA Sat 10AM
El Shaddai Messianic Congregation
Jl Argapura Kanon, Jayapura, Papua
Contact: Seblum Karubaba +62-81247562203
Sat 10AM

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation
Jl Pasir Dua Jayapura, Papua
Contact: Benny Karubaba +62-812 47082149

South Korea

Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat meeting at 2PM
F2,16, Gyeongin-ro 940beon-Gil, Bupyeong-gu,
Incheon, 21424, Korea.
Contact: Yehoshua Jo, yehoshuajo@msn.com,
+82-10-5090-5821

Japan

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10AM
4-14-11 Midorigaoka, Taihaku-ku, Sendai-shi,
Miyagi 982
Contact: Takashi Yokoyama +81-22-285-9227,
jmf@bekkoame.ne.jp

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat Service at 1PM R# 301, 3-9-12
Shinmachi Kitaku, Tokyo, Japan 114-0012
Contact: +81-3-3810-8828, yehoshuajo@me.com

New Zealand

Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand

www.messianic.org.nz

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+64 21 029 08194

PO Box 8654 Havelock North, 4157 NZ (Talmidei
Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand may
not necessarily accept or agree with all the views
expressed in this magazine)

Singapore

The Congregation that Song Lai Hee has founded
"Noahide," a totally false pathway so he is alone
now until Yeshua forms a true Kehillah there. He
lives at Blk 620 Bukit, Batok Central #29-522,
Singapore 650620
Contact: Song Lai Hee +6590027471
laihee@gmail.com

Thailand

Bangkok Messianic House

Shabbat 10:30AM 33/5 Soi Nai-Lert, Wireless rd.
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
Contact: Nobuyuki Ito +66-81-915-6154
nobubosuke77@gmail.com

Philippine APMF Diaspora in Canada

Calgary L'Chaim Bible Fellowship

Shabbat service 4PM 138 Bridlewood Ave. SW
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loubinar@yahoo.com; Marvin Mayo
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Ted Franco: ted_franco@yahoo.com
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La Trinidad Bible Congregation (LTBC)

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Baguio City Messianic (BCMC)

Shabbat service at 9:30AM
#7 Modesa St., Mines View, Baguio City 2600
Contact: Dave Angiwan dave@apmfinc.com

Ifugao

Banaue Messianic Fellowship

3601 Banaue, Ifugao
Contact: Jose Sarol (0967) 966 3562
clairesarolsarol@gmail.com



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

Cebu

Cebu Messianic Community

Shabbat Service 10AM, 1PM

Contact: Joel Cruz (0922) 822 5327, Imee Cruz
(0922) 851 2454

Bukidnon

Talakag Messianic Fellowship

Talakag Bukidnon, Mindanao

Shabbat gathering 10AM-6PM

Contact: Solomon Buasag (0977) 802 1025 &
(0935) 297 4405, vivsbuasag@yahoo.com

Rizal

Cainta Torah Community

Shabbat Service at 10:30AM

Dayspring Academy Sunset Drive Brookside

Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal 1900

Contact: Willy and Lita Miranda (0939) 325 3000
(0927) 704 8000 willyz_miranda@yahoo.com

Eagles Wings Messianic Congregations

Friday 6:30PM and Saturday 9:30AM

#7 Saratoga St. Park Place Executive Village,
Cainta Rizal

Contact: Jenny Joven (0928) 655 5469 Christy
Cruz (0995) 194 1502

Also Saturday 9AM #450 L Cerrero St. Brgy.
Macamot, Binangonan Rizal

Contact: Tony Arceo (0926) 829 6338

Paranaque City

Eemunah Tabgha Community

Executive Heights, Paranaque City

Contact: Eva Agustin (0917) 896 0995

Shabbat service 10:30AM

Tagaytay

Tagaytay Torah Community

Shabbat Service 10:30AM

Contact: Ning (0919) 984-0878

Davao Oriental

Pujada Community

Yakal St. Barangay Sainz, City of Mati, Davao

Oriental 8200: Saturday 3-6 PM

Contact: Mark Pineda (0918) 353 2549

Lupon Torah Community

Panuncialman St., Purok Hayahay

Brgy. Poblacion Lupon, Davao Oriental

8AM-11:30AM every Shabbat

Contacts: Petronio (Bong) Conte
bongskik04@gmail.com (0907) 731 9723

Alen Kelly Conte billionairealenkelly@gmail.com,
(0917) 162 3763

Greater Manila Area

Cavite

Eemunah Torah Community

Shabbat service 9:30AM

Block 3 Lot 21 Java St., Cybergreen Hills, General
Trias Cavite 4107

Contact: Christopher Madrid (0932) 844 2958

christophermadrid75@gmail.com or
emunahtorahcommunity@gmail.com

Quezon City

Mishpachat Ha'Mashiach Torah Community

Shabbat Service 2-6PM

Bldg. 11 BLPC, Road 3, Quezon City

Contact: Ian Asuncion or Cecilia Agustin
(0918) 573 6838

Mandaluyong City

Metro Strata Learning Center

Shabbat Service 9:30AM

11th Floor 685 Nueve de Pebrero Ave.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

Contact: Tanggol Esquerra (0915) 320 8083

Laguna

Chesed V'Emeth Community

Shabbat Service 12:30PM

Block 11 Lot 36 Calendola Village

San Pedro, Laguna

Contact: Monette Guiruela (0920) 658 3847



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