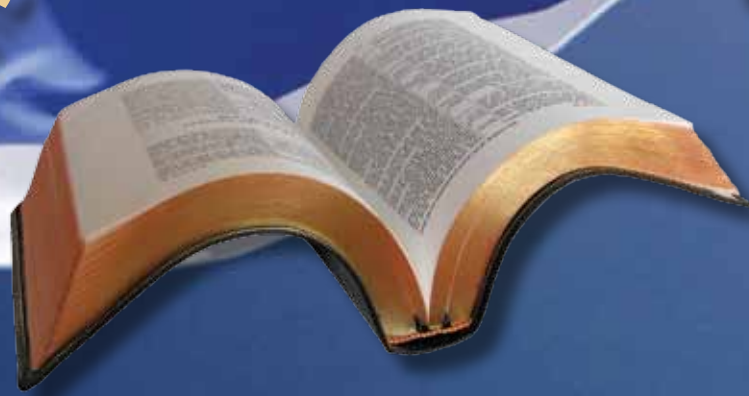


# Israel's Messenger

*Publishing Salvation to Zion - Isaiah 52:7*  
A ministry of Jewish Awareness Ministries

PREACHING THE WORD

PRAYING FOR ISRAEL



PROCLAIMING THE MESSIAH

Fall 2014

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## Mission Statement

Israel's Messenger is a quarterly publication of Jewish Awareness Ministries, a Christian ministry proclaiming the Messiah to Jew and Gentile, preaching the Word of God, and praying for Israel.

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**Cover:** The Bible is the center for Jewish Awareness Ministries Proclaiming the Messiah, Preaching the Word, and Praying for Israel, and the Israel flag shows our commitment to reaching Jewish people with the gospel, teaching the Word of God in it's Jewish context, and praying for the peace of Jerusalem.



# From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

The mission purpose statement of *Jewish Awareness Ministries* is formulated in three statements beginning with a "P." Proclaiming the Messiah, Preaching the Word, and Praying for Israel sums up what this ministry is about.

Although these statements are unique to this ministry, I believe they could, and perhaps should, be part of the mission statement of all Bible believing ministries. The main articles in this issue focus on these three statements.

Everything this ministry does - our magazine, radio broadcasts, Bible studies, tours to Israel, etc. - focuses on one or more of these statements. When we evangelize we use the word of God. When we write articles or booklets they are based on the word of God. When we lead tours of Israel we have Bible teaching at many different locations and trust that God will burden the travelers for Jewish people to evangelize and pray for them.

Dan Bergman has written about *Proclaiming the Messiah*. This ministry purpose focuses on evangelism. Every ministry that claims to be biblical should have evangelism as a core part of its ministry. Dan develops this statement in light of the scriptural commands about evangelism.

The word of God is foundational to this ministry and every biblically based ministry. How could it be any less? What oftentimes is lacking in even solidly based, biblically focused ministries is the Jewish background of the Scriptures. Ken Symes tells about this ministries emphasis of *Preaching the Word* and what that means.

Why, you might be thinking, should *Praying for Israel* be part of a ministry statement of all Bible based organizations? Perhaps you understand why it would be part of a ministry purpose statement like *Jewish*

*Awareness Ministries*, but why, for example, churches? I have written the article *Praying for Israel*. Please read it and you will discover why *Praying for Israel* is vital.

It is a blessing to report that Moshe Gold is steadily progressing. The therapists have had him on his feet and walking short distances. Although he is not off his breathing apparatus, it has

forward to this column. I believe you will enjoy it as well.

Dan Bergman has written two accounts that are used in the column "*Sowing the Seed...Reaping the Harvest*." One is about his dialogue with a Rabbi. The other is a challenge about "keeping on," even through difficult or dry times of ministry. I hope these encourage and challenge you.

The *Shadows of the Tribulation* article has been written by Ken Overby. The abduction and murder of the three Israeli teenagers in June was part of the ongoing terrorist activities of HAMAS and the PA authority. And don't be deceived, the PA is part of the problem. Ken looks at this event in light of the prophecies of the attempted annihilation of Israel and the Jewish people by the anti-Christ and his cohorts in the Tribulation period.

Please join us on our *Prophecy on the High Seas* cruise in February, 2015. It should be a great time of fellowship and studying Bible prophecy. We have limited space and rooms are starting to fill up. This is a great escape from winter and a time to relax as we go to the Bahamas. See the inside cover for additional information, and call us for details and to reserve your place.

*Jewish Awareness Ministries* is a faith ministry. We have need of personnel to fill a number of positions. Some of these needs are on the field, whether in the U.S., Israel, or elsewhere. We also have needs in the home office. If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving the Lord through a ministry such as this, please contact me. On page 13 is a detailed description of positions we need filled.

In Messiah,  
Mark Robinson



been removed for his short walks. It will be many months most likely before Moshe is back to normal, and, Lord willing, he will fully recover. Because of Moshe's present condition for the time being we are suspending his and Shoshana's column *Apples of Gold*.

With this issue we are introducing a new column by Keith Megilligan. It is titled *Eretz Israel: God's Testing Ground of Faith*. Dr. Megilligan will take us on a journey through the land of Israel. Not only will we learn some fascinating truths about this amazing land called Israel, but we will be challenged through the geography of the land in our walk with Messiah. I am looking

# Proclaiming the Messiah

Rev. Dan Bergman



*"Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ."*<sup>1</sup>

One of the main thrusts of Jewish Awareness Ministries is to proclaim, as Paul did, that Jesus is the long awaited Jewish Messiah promised in the Hebrew Scriptures, taking the gospel to the Jews first as well as to the Gentiles. The above quoted passage is an account from the middle of the first century, as Paul does just that. "Wait one second!" a critic of Jewish evangelism might interrupt, "That was the first century! The gospel already went to the Jews! They had their chance! Paul eventually left the Jews after they vehemently refused Christ, and took the gospel to someone who appreciated it - the Gentiles!"

We would do well to notice that the account of Paul in the synagogue of Thessalonica was well after he made the declaration that he would now take the gospel to the Gentiles. If we simply even view the instance where Paul makes that statement, we would be amazed to find him in the synagogue again, only seven verses later!

*"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles... And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed."*<sup>2</sup>

Paul actually continued to bring the gospel to the Jew first, going to the synagogue first in Salamis (13:5), Pisidian Antioch (13:14), Iconium (14:1), Thessalonica (17:2), Berea

## What does "to the Jew first" mean?

Even with the truths above stated in mind, there are still critics who hold Romans 1:16 to be speaking of a historical order of the gospel's distribution rather than a priority of Jewish evangelism. This view sadly, is held by no small number of theologians such as Charles Hodge, C.K. Barret, John Calvin, J.P. McBeth, and William Shedd.

Charles Hodge, the Reformed theologian, claims that "To render *πρωτον* (proton) first, here especially, would make the apostle teach that the gospel was peculiarly adapted to the Jews, or specially designed for them. But he frequently asserts that this is not the case, Rom. 3:9, Rom. 3:22, Rom. 3:29; Rom. 10:12. *πρωτον*,

therefore, must have reference to time, 'to the Jew in the first instance, and then to the Greek.'"<sup>5</sup>

Hodge most likely was influenced by Calvin's interpretation of this same passage, as he stated that "they (Israel) were the first partakers of God's promise and calling."<sup>6</sup>

It is of great importance in our determination of whether Romans 1:16 is historical in context, or continual in application, that we also examine Romans 2:9 and 10:

*"Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile."*

And I will be found of you, saith the LORD:  
and I will turn away your captivity,  
and I will gather you from all the nations,  
and from all the places whither I have driven you,  
saith the LORD;  
and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you  
to be carried away captive. Jeremiah 29:14



(17:10), Corinth (18:4) and Ephesus (18:19 and 19:8). In fact, when we read Paul's last recorded words in the book of Acts, we find him once again giving the gospel to the Jews. It was likely nearly a decade later when the Apostle penned the famous passage "...For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."<sup>3</sup>

*Continued on page 6*



Hodge, Shedd, and Barret, for whatever reason, interpret the phrase “*the Jew first*” in this passage in the opposite way that they interpreted it in Romans 1:16. They claim that although the gospel was given to the Jews first in instance, judgment (good or bad) comes preeminently to the Jew, in a continuing fashion. Calvin at least had the consistency to interpret both passages in the same way (historically).

Dr. Mitch Glasser gives us a succinct statement describing the only logical interpretation of Romans 1:16, stemming from a literal, normal and dispensational view of the Scriptures.

“Romans 1:16 is written in the present tense and applicable to every generation. Follow the logic of the text: if the Gospel is **still** the power of God to salvation and is **still** for everyone who believes, then the Gospel is **still** for the Jew first. ... The Greek word used by Paul and translated as ‘first’ ... implies priority rather than a sequential order of events.”<sup>7</sup>

Jesus used the same word, in the same tense, when He said “*Seek ye **first** the Kingdom of God...*” in Matthew 6:33!<sup>8</sup> (bold added)

This makes even more sense when we read elsewhere in Romans (as well as the entire Old Testament) that the Messiah was to be of *the seed of Abraham*<sup>9</sup>, *descendant of David*<sup>10</sup>, and to be the “*Holy One of Israel!*”<sup>11</sup> Isaiah was so bold as to assert “...*for the transgression of **my people** was he [Messiah] stricken!*”<sup>12</sup> (bold added)

If this is true - what are the implications? We would certainly not find ourselves going after a “dual covenant” theology which some teach!<sup>13</sup> The Jew must be given priority in evangelism. Do we then ignore the Gentiles? No, by no means! We find many “Greeks” being saved alongside the Jews in the book of Acts (14:1 is an example). We would see that although the Gospel going to the Jews first historically occurred in

the first century, the gospel remains even today “*the power of God unto salvation... to the Jew first!*” Oh, how we have strayed from this teaching!

### What should “to the Jew first” look like today?

Well, let’s just use “first” in Matthew 6:33 as an example, to help us understand how evangelism should be “to the Jew first.” It should be obvious that Jesus is speaking of making the things of God our priority. Worship should be an important part of our lives, as should witnessing, Bible reading and prayer.

This is what seeking first the kingdom of God looks like. We should not let any earthly thing or person take precedence over our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Does this mean we cannot own things, or have earthly relationships? No, but there is a balance.

As we put the Lord first in life, so must we put the Jew first in evangelism. Is this going too far? I don’t believe so. Paul was “the Apostle to the Gentiles,” and yet whose salvation was he consumed with? It was the Jew! On many occasions Jesus condemned the religious lifestyle of the Pharisees while showing mercy to faithful Gentiles, but what people moved Him to tears? It was the Jews!

Whether you live in a rural area with a near zero Jewish population, or a bustling metropolis like New York City, you can put the Jew first. Every church should support a Jewish missionary, and every Christian can pray for Jewish missions. Every Christian can give even a little toward a Jewish mission (little is much when God is in it)! If God has called you to go, whether you are Jewish or Gentile, you can and should go!

When you see a Jewish person, are you moved? We should be moved for all the lost, but do we realize that the Jews are God’s beloved? We must be moved - to pray, to give, and to go!

### “For I could wish...”

How would it have felt to be Paul? Romans 9:1 gives us the answer. He had “*great heaviness and continual sorrow*” in his heart.

What was his sorrow? His burden? It was the salvation of his people!

“*For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*”<sup>14</sup>

Let us refocus on proclaiming the Messiah to the people from whom He came, as well as to the Gentiles!



#### End notes

1. Acts 17:1-3
2. Acts 13:45,46; 14:1
3. Romans 1:16
4. These verses all deal with the efficacy of the gospel message, not with the identity of the recipients.
5. Charles Hodge, Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans. cf. Romans 1:16
6. Calvin, John. Commentary on Romans. cf. Romans 1:16
7. Darrell Bock, To the Jew First, Kregel Publishing, 2008 p.16
8. Ibid.
9. Genesis 12:3
10. Psalm 132:11; Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5.
11. Isaiah 41:14; 48:17; 49:7
12. Isaiah 53:8
13. This is the belief that Israel can be saved apart from the atoning sacrifice of Christ, and that they have their own way to God through the covenants given to them in the Hebrew Scriptures.
14. Romans 9:2-5

# Preaching the Word

Rev. Kenneth Symes



**I**t was Paul who wrote: *"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."*<sup>1</sup> Our conviction that the Bible is the inspired word of God and the instrument the Holy Spirit uses to teach and convince believers and unbelievers underlies our commitment to sound biblical preaching and teaching so that individuals and local churches may be challenged to adopt the biblical understanding concerning Israel and Jewish evangelism.

## Understanding the Background

We preach the word to help

reads through the Bible, by the time the reader comes to Abraham God had narrowed His redemptive plan to work through Abraham and his seed. By Exodus it becomes clear that this seed is now known as the Jews or the nation of Israel. God makes a very clear statement, regarding His attitude toward these people, through Moses when he said of the Jewish people: *"For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God; the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."*<sup>2</sup> This statement has never been rescinded. As one goes forward in his reading of the Bible he finds that God showed this to be true in a number of

truth of redemption with the world. This they refused to do and turned the revelation inward. The book of Jonah is a good illustration of the Jewish attitude toward sharing the truth of redemption with the world.

The early church was Jewish with few Gentiles. Did you ever stop to consider that every doctrine (truth) we as Christians hold dear, with two exceptions, can be found in and taught from the Old Testament (the Hebrew Scriptures)?

The doctrines not found in the Old Testament are the doctrine of the church which was a New Testament mystery revealed to us by Paul and the doctrine of the Rapture, though the concept of such an

**And he read therein ... before the men and the women,  
and those that could understand;  
and the ears of all the people were attentive  
unto the book of the law. Nehemiah 8:3**



believers understand the background of our Bible. One of the underlying rules for understanding any passage of scripture is to know the background and the context. Few consider the Bible to be a Jewish book. Yet every author, humanly speaking, was Jewish (many consider Luke was a Gentile, but the evidence suggests otherwise). Job was not Jewish because he lived before Abraham who is considered to be the father of the Jews. As one

ways. Only to Israel did God give the revelation of His word. *"He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments onto Israel. He had not dealt so with any nation."*<sup>3</sup> God chose Israel and the Jewish people for several reasons, one of which was for them to be the channel through which He would send His Redeemer, the Messiah. As they awaited the coming of the Messiah they were commissioned to share the

occurrence is found in the Old Testament. Therefore, what we believe is, in its context, very Jewish. So we faithfully *preach the word* to help believers understand the Jewish background of God's word.

## Rightly Dividing the Word

We also *preach the word* to help believers rightly divide the word of truth. The Bible student needs to understand God's plan for Israel

if he is to fully understand God's program for the ages because Israel is at the heart of it. Some years ago I was asked to speak at a citywide Hebrew/Christian Fellowship. When the leader asked for my message title I told him that I was going to speak on "*How To Destroy The Jews.*" After I explained what I was going to share he allowed me to speak. My text was Jeremiah 31:36-40. Here we are told that God will turn His back on Israel only if we can cause "*the ordinances to depart,*" that is the sun, moon and stars, from before God. God goes on to also say that if we can measure the heavens above, in other words the extent of the universe, He will turn his back on Israel. As man cannot do either, God goes on in verses 39 and 40 to re-affirm His unconditional covenant with Israel and the Jewish people. Paul reaffirmed this unconditional covenant that God had made with Israel in his epistle to the Romans. Speaking of Israel he stated: "*I say then, hath God cast away his people? God forbid.*"<sup>4</sup> These latter words constitute a Greek idiom which literally means *unthinkable thought*. He used this same idiom in verse 11 as he began to lay out the responsibility of the church to bring the Jews to faith in their Messiah, the true Lamb of God who alone can take away the sins of the world.

It is interesting to note that Paul states, speaking to Gentiles (cf. v. 13), that they are grafted into the true Abrahamic faith. How much easier it would be for us to share the gospel with our Jewish friends if, rather than saying to them that we have found the truth, come over to our side, we instead stated: "We have found the God and faith of your fathers. Let us show you what we have found." After all, we as Gentiles are grafted into the true faith through the New Covenant found in Jeremiah 31:31. Is this is not exactly what Jesus said as He was sharing that last Passover? "*For this is my blood of the New Testament (New Covenant) which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*"<sup>5</sup>

With His sacrifice at Calvary, Christ instituted the New Covenant which will have its ultimate fulfillment in the Kingdom Age. Thus, in God's economy at Calvary, the Mosaic Covenant has been laid aside and replaced by the New Covenant just as it was prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Now, rather than a covenant of Law, God is operating in His world under a covenant of Grace whereby Gentiles are by grace grafted in to the true faith which is very Jewish in the sense that its roots are found in the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament).

Except we understand the Jewish background, and the role of Israel in God's program, we will have problems fully understanding the teachings of the New Testament. For example, except we understand the ancient Jewish marriage customs we cannot perceive the great truths of John 14:1-3 which lays out for us the entire ministry of Jesus. Many have problems with putting together the activities of what we call Holy Week. Yet the schedule is prophesied in Exodus 12:1-8. Understanding the Jewish roots of our faith and the place of Israel in God's program for the ages is so essential if we are to rightly divide the word of truth.

### Who is Responsible?

We further *preach the word* to help believers understand their responsibility to evangelize the world which includes sharing God's gracious redeeming love with His uniquely chosen people. Paul stated this responsibility and privilege clearly when he wrote: "*Isay then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?...As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes....For as ye in*

*times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.*"<sup>6</sup> It is our privilege through the preaching of the word to motivate, train and equip the believer and the local church to thus fulfill this aspect of the great commission.

### Conclusions

I am often asked if Jewish people are reachable with the gospel. Paul, himself a Jew, stated: "*Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech; and not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: but that their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament: which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.*"<sup>7</sup>

That is exactly how I was saved. When, with my heart, I turned to the Lord, He saved me. Jewish people are not uniquely difficult to reach. But they do need to be reached uniquely. With this we can help. They are reachable and we are responsible. Therefore we must proclaim the word within its Jewish context both as we preach and as we teach the holy Word. In this way, it enables us to effectively share Messiah Jesus with Jewish people and enables Gentile believers to see insights into biblical truths they otherwise miss because of not understanding the Jewish context and background of the Word of God.



#### End Notes

1. 1 Corinthians 1: 21
2. Deuteronomy 7: 6; 14:2
3. Psalm 147: 19, 20. Cf. Psalm 103: 7;
- Romans 3: 1-2
4. Romans 11:1
5. Matthew 26: 28
6. Romans 11: 11-12, 28,30,31
7. 1 Corinthians 3: 12-16



# Praying for Israel

Rev. Mark Robinson



The words pray, prayed, prayer, prayers, prayest, prayeth, and praying appear 540 times in the Bible. Although used in different settings and contexts, it is clear the child of God is called upon to “pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

We are to pray about everything. Family, health, job, church, government, friends, unsaved, etc. are some of the items believers regularly pray about. Oftentimes, though, there is something that is overlooked in our prayer life. There is a command of God, not a request, to pray for Jerusalem.

Praying for Jerusalem, Israel should be an indispensable part of the life of every believer. In fact, the only city specifically mentioned in the word of God that we are told to pray for is Jerusalem.

*“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.”* Psalm 122:6

We are also told that we are to never stop praying for Jerusalem until this city is made a praise in the earth by God.

*“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”* Isaiah 62:6-7

Let’s examine these verses so we can understand not only why *Praying for Israel* is one of the ministry purpose statements of Jewish Awareness Ministries, but why it should be an integral part of your life and your churches life as well.

## Isaiah 62:6-7

The focus of this

passage is believers. Notice the passage says, “ye that make mention of the Lord.” If you claim Messiah Jesus as your Savior and Lord, if you are a child of God, this verse is directed at you.

Who are the “watchmen” God has set upon the walls of Jerusalem? I believe there are two possibilities. The first possibility is those specially called into Jewish missions. For example, Peter was the apostle to the circumcision, Jewish people, and Paul was the apostle to the un-circumcision, Gentile people, Galatians 2:7-8. Just as God called these two men into different areas of service, so God also calls individuals into Jewish missions today. The “watchmen” could be all individuals who God has called into Jewish missions as a career. This understanding certainly fits the criteria of this passage as not all people were used as watchmen in biblical times, and not all believers are called into a career ministry to Jewish people today.

The second possibility is all believers - those who “make mention of the Lord.” It is clear that God has commanded Bible believing Christians to go into all the world and preach the gospel, Matthew

28:18-20; Acts 1:8. And the priority in evangelism is to the Jew first, and also to the Gentiles, Romans 1:16. So at least by application, this verse applies to all believers.

Watchmen were often soldiers, required to report what they see and hear - warn about the coming enemy, and were absolved from any responsibility when they fulfilled their duties - warned the people - regardless of whether or not the people heeded their warning. Believers are soldiers in a spiritual battle. That is why we are told to put on the entire armor of God in Ephesians 6.

God has set believers, you and me, as watchmen, some through full time ministry to Jewish people and some because of their responsibility in carrying out the great commission in sharing the gospel with Jew and Gentile, Romans 1:16, upon the walls of Jerusalem. Our duty is to warn the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the impending judgment. The context of Isaiah 62 is the coming of righteous Messiah, bringing salvation spiritually and physically to Israel. God has called us to tell Jewish people about the salvation found in Jesus, their Messiah, so they can be spared the judgment of a righteous, holy God. Ezekiel 33:1-11 gives an extended treatment of a watchman and his duties in a spiritual or salvation context. I suggest this passage be read for further clarification on responsibilities as “spiritual watchman.”

*“Those who make mention of the Lord,”* clearly all believers, are commanded to pray



## Jerusalem Through the Ages

Jerusalem has had no less than 36 wars, over 20 sieges and blockades, the entire city has been reduced to rubble 17 times, rebuilt 18 times, and has suffered through two periods of desolation and diaspora.

- 586 BC Jerusalem destroyed by Babylon
- 301 BC Ptolemy 1 (one of the generals of Alexander the Great and his historian) captures Jerusalem
- 198 BC Antiochus III takes Jerusalem from the Ptolemaic Greeks
- 164 BC Judah the Maccabee liberates Jerusalem and rededicates the Temple
- 160 BC Syrian General Bacchides, commander of Demetrius' army, captures Jerusalem
- 152 BC Jonathan, Judah's brother, recaptures Jerusalem
- 63 BC Pompey lays siege to Jerusalem / takes it for Rome
- 40 BC Hasmonean Antigonus II, helped by the Partians, captures Jerusalem
- 37 BC King Herod recaptures Jerusalem for Rome
- 66 AD Start of Jewish revolt against Roman occupation
- 70 AD Roman general Titus captures Jerusalem and destroys the city and the Temple
- 132 AD Bar Cochba leads Jewish revolt against Rome and recaptures Jerusalem
- 135 AD Emperor Hadrian crushes the Bar Cochba revolt and renames Jerusalem Aelia Capitolina (named after Roman idol Jupiter Capitolinus and himself - Publius Aelius Hadrianus) - changes the name of Israel to Palestine
- 614 AD The Persians take control of the city of Jerusalem
- 629 AD Emperor Heraclius restores Byzantine rule to Jerusalem
- 638 AD Jerusalem is captured by Caliph Omar Ibn al-Khattab six years after Mohammed's death
- 878 AD Egyptian Ahmed ibn Tulun captures Jerusalem
- 905 AD Jerusalem returns to Abbassid rule
- 941 AD Jerusalem is taken by Egypt
- 1071 AD An army of Turkish mercenaries, the Seljuks, capture Jerusalem
- 1099 AD The Crusaders, following Pope Urban II's call, conquer Jerusalem
- 1187 AD Saladin, Muslim military and political leader, captures Jerusalem
- 1229 AD Crusaders regain control of Jerusalem
- 1244 AD Turks conquer Jerusalem
- 1260 AD Mongolian chief Hulagi Khan captures Jerusalem (this would be very brief)
- 1260 AD The Mamluks conquer Jerusalem
- 1516 AD Sultan Selim I of Turkey captures the city of Jerusalem
- 1917 AD General Allenby of Britain captures Jerusalem
- 1948 AD Jerusalem is divided between Jordan and Israel as a result of war
- 1967 A.D. Israel captures East Jerusalem from Jordan - uniting Jerusalem in Jewish hands for the first time since 70 AD - one month later Israel gives Muslims control over the Temple Mount

*Continued from page 9*

continually for the people of Israel. We are told to, *"never hold [our] peace day nor night,"* and *"keep not silence, and give him [God] no rest."* We are to bombard the portals of heaven with our prayers for the salvation of Jewish people - regularly, daily, consistently!

How long are we to pray for the salvation of Jewish people? The answer is unequivocal and clear. *"Till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."*

Our entire lives! Jerusalem won't be made a praise in the earth until the Lord returns at the end of the Tribulation period. Since the entire church will be removed from the earth in the rapture before the Tribulation begins, this command envelopes our entire life.

### Psalm 122:6

Psalm 122:6 parallels, as we shall see, in many ways what we have learned in the Isaiah passage. *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee"* is, like Isaiah 62:6-7, a command to be obeyed, and not an option to be considered.

Two seemingly unrelated, but, in actuality, interrelated statements are the focus of this verse. The first statement is to *"pray for the peace of Jerusalem."* The second statement is *"they shall prosper that love thee."*

Why the connection *"they shall prosper that love thee"* with the command *"pray for the peace of Jerusalem?"*

The ongoing hatred of the Jewish people has been documented in tens of thousands of pages throughout the centuries. We see it today in the anti-Semitic statements and acts of the Muslim world against the Jewish people, the boycott, divest, and sanction movement (BDS) promoted by the West in her colleges and religious institutions, and the anti-Semitism (disguised as anti-Israel) in the halls and chambers of the United Nations. The ongoing anti-Semitism is an enigma to many. As past articles of *Israel's Messenger* have explained, anti-Semitism is only properly understood against the backdrop of Satan's unrelenting attempt to destroy the promises of God to the Jewish people and the nation of Israel by destroying them. If he succeeds, God is a liar and Satan has won his battle with God.

Anti-Semites do not have and will never have peace! There will always be agitation in their soul and being until they get rid of Israel and the Jewish people, at least in their thinking. The Bible has a completely opposite teaching on the lack of peace in the lives of anti-Semites. It is not the presence of Jewish people and/or Israel, but their hatred that causes them unrest.

שָׁלוֹם, shalom (peace) and שָׁלָה, shalah (prosper) come from the same root and mean peace, serenity, tranquil, prosper. The *"peace"* of Jerusalem speaks of a time when Jerusalem will be a place of serenity and tranquility. Those who love Jerusalem *"prospering"* speak of a serenity and tranquility in their soul and being.

*Continued on page 11*



Continued from page 10

When one regularly prays for something in a positive manner this produces a change in the praying persons feelings and thoughts toward the object of prayer. Praying for the peace of Jerusalem will produce a love for that city where God has said His name will be placed forever, 1 Kings 11:36. It will also produce a serenity and tranquility in your heart as you come to realize God is in control.

When God commands us to pray for something, it is reasonable to presume that the prayer will one day be answered. This is certainly the case for the prayer of Psalm 122:6 - *"pray for the peace of Jerusalem."*

Zechariah 12 is a chapter that speaks of all the nations of the world coming against Israel (Judah and Jerusalem) to destroy her, verses 1-3, in the future seven year Tribulation period. In verses 8-9 we are told that the LORD, Jehovah, will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem from all the armies of the nations of the world. The next verse tells us that the LORD is *"pouring out upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplications."* *"Supplications"* is the Hebrew word תחנון, (takh-an-oon') and means *"earnest prayer."* What is the *"earnest prayer"*? It is the multiplied millions of prayers for *"the peace of Jerusalem"* commanded in Psalm 122:6.

God answers this prayer when Messiah comes and delivers Israel from her enemies. As the rest of Zechariah 12:10 says, *"and they*

*shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn,"* bold added.

This takes place at the end of the Tribulation period when Israel accepts Jesus as her Messiah, King, and Savior. Peace comes to Jerusalem and Jerusalem is made a praise in the earth as Isaiah 62:6-7 promised.

#### Let Us Pray

When we obey God and

pray for the peace of Jerusalem we know this prayer will be answered. God answers this prayer with the Jewish people living at the end of the Tribulation accepting Jesus as Messiah, the return of Jesus for His millennial kingdom reign, and Jerusalem being made a praise in the earth.

So what are we actually praying for when we follow the command of Psalm 122:6? We are praying that Jewish people come to the Lord and that Jesus returns to set up His kingdom on earth ruling from Jerusalem. We are to pray for Israel and the Jewish people until the Lord returns and Jerusalem is made a praise in the earth.

So, let us pray!

*"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."*

Romans 10:1

*"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."* Revelation 22:20



Brethren,  
my heart's desire  
and prayer to  
God for Israel is,  
that they might  
be saved.

#### You may also be interested in these resources:

##### One God or Three?

This study from the Jewish Bible on the Tri-unity of God will help equip you to understand the nature of God. Bible believing Christians believe in one God, but within this unity of God is three persons. This 16 page booklet is an excellent resource to see what the scriptures teach about the unique tri-une nature of the God of Israel.



##### Identifying the Messiah

There is no more crucial necessity for Jewish people than correctly identifying the Messiah. The major messianic prophecies of the Jewish Bible are examined in this 16 page pamphlet to help identify the Messiah of Israel. Historical Jewish sources are also used to show that these passages have been understood by the Jewish community to be prophecies of the Messiah.



##### Shalom

The word Shalom - Peace - is a very special word with complex meaning. The most fascinating is its use in the title of the Messiah, the Prince of Shalom. You will love reading about the Shalom we seek and where it is found.



##### Can You Be Jewish and Christian?

Most Jewish people believe you can't be Jewish and Christian. In fact, when these terms are correctly understood, a Jewish person will realize you can be Jewish and Christian. This provocative booklet will challenge a Jewish person about considering the possibility one can be Jewish and Christian. One Jewish Christian told me this 16 page pamphlet was "well written, easy to read and understand, and what Jewish people need to read."



4 Pamphlets for \$4.00 Includes postage and handling





# Sowing the Seed . . . Reaping the Harvest

## Eyes of Faith Dan Bergman

**M**y Russian language lessons from an Israeli born Russian Jew named Yuri have been ongoing. In a recent meeting I attempted to give him a Hebrew/Russian New Testament again. He refused it. Have you ever been there? Perhaps you ran into a staunch Roman Catholic on door to door visitation. Or maybe it was a hard hitting refusal from a relative. Take heart!!! Our job is to preach the gospel! The Holy Spirit woos and convicts, and then that individual must respond. I've been involved with Jewish ministry for a while now (in some shape or form for the last 15 years).

Most Jewish people don't want to hear the message of salvation in Jesus, let alone show even a curiosity. Can that be discouraging to someone with my kind of ministry? Sure it can; BUT, if we understand the scriptures, we will find encouragement.

Romans 11 teaches us that Israel has been blinded in part until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. What was the majority response of the Jewish people to the gospel in the first century? Rejection! Why was the Apostle Paul moved to shake off his raiment and turn to the Gentiles? It was the rejection of the gospel from the Jews at Corinth; Paul turned to the Gentiles, as he was called to be the apostle to them (Romans 11:13). What moved Jesus to tears at the sight of Jerusalem? It was the rejection He suffered from His own people. Can you imagine how Ezekiel must have felt when told by the Lord that although He was sending him to speak to the house of Israel, they would not hearken? This is in part why Jewish missions are not very popular. People want to see results in numbers. Someone whom the Lord has called to Jewish ministry may run from that calling for the simple reason of avoiding rejection. Maybe one whose eye would read these words has been running from God's calling. The overwhelming love and burden of the Lord Himself (as well as Paul) for the salvation of His people completely shattered any fear of rejection or sorrow over being refused.

Jesus still went to the cross, and Paul still went to the synagogue (read Acts 18:19). After Jesus rose from the dead, He told His disciples to begin "at Jerusalem." Are not we called to be faithful, and leave the results with God?!

I'll give you a little personal insight regarding my calling to Jewish missions. The leading, confirmation, and peace from the Spirit of God to do exactly what I am doing also made it impossible not to recognize an overwhelmingly loud heartbeat. This heartbeat is that of God Himself, and it is for His people. I am not saying that a Gentile is any less loved or valuable to God; after all, I myself could be considered a Samaritan, which was hated by both Jews and Gentiles. What I am saying is that in Isaiah and Jeremiah, the death of the Messiah, the New Covenant (Testament), and the giving of the Spirit of God, were all to and for the JEWS! It was considered a GREAT MYSTERY that the Gentiles could be saved and made one body with the Jews through the church!!

Dear believer, God is pressing me to write this for a reason. Do you care for them? Has He burdened your heart to pray? To give? To go? I realize that I am "preaching to the choir" and that those receiving this magazine have their fingers on the pulse of Jewish ministry – but

do WE in the 21st century realize the INCREDIBLE need to reach these dear ones who are descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Can you see their faces? Can you count the cost, and tell them the truth (like Stephen in Acts 7)? Will you pray if maybe God had me write this for you?

As I have continued to speak with Yuri about his need to accept Jesus as his Messiah (and even had him read passages of the New Testament in Russian), he has listened, but hasn't budged toward accepting Christ. Please pray for my future encounters with him, and for his salvation. ☞

*Editor's Note:* In light of Dan Bergman's challenge prayerfully consider the personnel needs of Jewish Awareness Ministries listed on page 13.

## Dialogue with a Rabbi Dan Bergman

**T**his past month I went as usual to my Biblical Hebrew class at the local Jewish college. One particular evening I walked up to the classroom and found it occupied by a different class! I strolled quickly on, hugging my pile of books to my chest like a JR High student trying to find homeroom on the first day of class. Where was everybody? I went to the office to see if the class was relocated, but there was a long line of people there. Then, out of the corner of my eye I saw the friendly face of the Rabbi as he waved to get my attention. I was his only student that night. He asked if I still wanted to have class, or to go ahead and cancel. I asked him what would be best for him, and he said he'd be fine either way. I then said, "Well, let's make it a short session and we can focus on the areas that I need help with."

"Sure," He said with a smile.

I am so thankful to the Lord for giving me this relationship with this dear Rabbi. As the evening progressed we ended up talking much more about theology than Hebrew. The Lord allowed me to share 8-10 New Testament passages with him! Many of the passages that the Lord used in our conversation were ones I had been studying while putting together a pamphlet for Jewish people that shows that Roman Catholicism is far from New Testament Christianity, and that the New Testament is not an anti-Semitic book. We also spoke of resurrection, prophecy, and interpretations of the latter chapters of the book of Daniel (specifically as they relate to Jesus' statement about the yet to come abomination of desolation). Our conversation ended with the Rabbi making the statement that he felt like he should pick up the New Testament and start reading it again. Praise the Lord for this amazing one on one meeting! Praise Him for its outcome! Please pray for my future encounters with the Rabbi, for his eyes to be opened to the truth of the gospel, and for my care for him to be an encouragement as he is still grieving the loss of his dear wife. ☞



# Jewish Awareness Ministries



## HAS A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL IN THE HOME OFFICE AND IN THE FIELDS OF ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

If you, or someone you know, have a love for Israel and Jewish people and are interested in serving in a ministry with a priority of bringing the gospel to the Jewish people, prayerfully consider contacting us. Jewish Awareness Ministries is a faith work, dependent upon the support of churches and individuals to carry out the work God has called us to. Our personnel raise their own support as we depend upon God to provide our needs. Each of the following opportunities require the raising of support to serve with *Jewish Awareness Ministries*.

### U.S. AND ISRAEL

#### Field Director

The Field Director is directly accountable to the Executive Director and will work with him in recruiting and training men to serve with Jewish Awareness Ministries in the capacity of Field representative. The Field Director will oversee all Field men, domestic and foreign, and work with them to develop their ministry. The Field Director is to regularly represent and promote the interest of Jewish Awareness Ministries in churches, conferences, and contacts with individuals and groups. A knowledge of Jewish evangelism is important for this position.

#### Missionaries

Missionaries are needed in the major metropolitan cities of the U.S. to develop a ministry to Jewish people. A love for Jewish people and calling into this type of ministry is a must for all applicants. Personnel must be self-motivated and able to develop and carry on a ministry in their city of service in reaching Jewish people with the gospel of Messiah. Service in Israel will be considered on a case by case basis but is only available for Jewish need believers because of the issues involved in living and serving in Israel.

#### Field Men

Field men represent Jewish Awareness Ministries in Bible Colleges, Churches, and Conferences. Their ministry is largely based on communicating the needs of Jewish evangelism, Jewish missions, and Israel in the plan of God. Field men should also have an outreach to Jewish people in the area they live. A love for Jewish people and calling into this type of ministry is a must for all applicants. We have of Field men throughout the United States.

#### Education Ministries Director

The Education Ministries Director will develop curriculum for all educational programs including, but not limited to, a Jewish Missions minor for use in Bible colleges and other venues. He will visit Bible colleges to set up an on-line Jewish missions minor in conjunction with the college. He is to be a teacher, but not exclusively, of the courses that are offered by J.A.M. A minimum of a master's degree and preferably a doctorate is required. A background in Jewish missions or Jewish evangelism is necessary. He is to regularly represent and promote the interest of Jewish Awareness Ministries in churches, conferences, and contacts with individuals and groups.



### HOME OFFICE

#### Graphic Design

The graphic designer will lay out and design the ministry magazine *Israel's Messenger*, as well as design and layout all books, booklets, pamphlets, advertisements, etc. needed by *Jewish Awareness Ministries*. The position will also require building virtual sets with our NewTek Tricaster TV Production Studio to be used in video production. The graphic designer will work under the direction of the Executive Director.

#### Information Technology

The position of IT will include overseeing the internet needs of this ministry (website, facebook, twitter, email newsletter, etc.) and the internal computer and telephone needs of the home office. The position requires knowledge of, or the aptitude to learn, the NewTek Tricaster 40 TV Production studio in recording videos and overseeing our live streaming needs



# ERETZ ISRAEL ארץ ישראל God's Testing Ground of Faith

Dr. Keith Megilligan

It has a land mass no larger than the state of New Jersey. But that's where the similarities cease. Its topography, geology, geography, climatology and history stand by itself - even in a worldwide comparison. It exists as what geographers call a land bridge (more of that later). It connects three major continents of the world and carries the topography and geography characteristics of each. It has two bodies of water located on the same fault line: one is the most mineral rich body of water on the planet and the other is the largest fresh water body in its region of the world.

It is a land that hosts the center for the three largest major monotheistic religions in the world. It is a land that at once is most beautiful, and most threatening, simultaneously. The topography and geology of this land can produce beautiful undulating hills and pock-marks of moon-scape-like scaring.

Its capital has been fought over, razed and rebuilt, so that there are thirty plus layers of occupation for archaeologists to ponder. It has the lowest (elevation) spot on the earth (-1,300 feet), located on the lowest geological rift on the planet - covering two continents. It is a land that can be openly hostile and inviting simultaneously. As long as you know where the water sources are, you can cover it on foot from north to south (roughly 290 miles) without needing additional hydration. It has no natural seaports, but since ancient times, at least three different powers "forced" their architectural will upon this land and built three ports of historical significance. It is a land through which some of the mightiest armies of the world have marched leaving their various imprints behind. It is a land that

depends heavily upon the rains of heaven and is exposed to some of the most intense rays from the sun compared to most any other country on earth. It is land of plenty; it is a land of (occasional) famine. It has had giants roam its hills. It has become a land of faith in more ways than one.

It is the land that God chose. It is the land of covenant. It "belongs" to God but He has "leased it" to His chosen people. This very covenantal provision has irritated Satan so that he has continually stirred the nations of the world to either capture or obliterate it and its chosen inhabitants. The land is, of course, Israel.

Starting with this article, I want to take you on a geographical journey of "*God's testing ground of faith*," as Jim Monson calls the land. We will examine the reason and results of the "former and latter" rains. I will show you that just getting around in the land is not easy, but quite possible, if you know where you're going! The flora and fauna are beautiful and necessary, and we'll find out why. The region of the land is located in a critical juncture of place, habitat and transportation and, again, we'll discover why. It is a land put together like a geological puzzle: intriguing and very interesting. And yes, there will even be a few pictures from time to time. To this land God invited His children; and for that reason alone it is important to biblical students. It is the land of

covenant. It is the land of promise. It is the land of milk and honey. It is the land of the history of redemption. For all of those reasons and more, we'll take a look at the land. I invite you to pull up your easy chair, grab your favorite tea (sweet or unsweet!) and join me as we explore the land. Welcome to Biblical Geography 101!





# Shadows of the Tribulation

Rev. Ken Overby

The news is the same old news when it comes to the reporting. The headlines are definitely slanted against God's chosen people. The headline **"Israel Attacks Gaza"** should have read, **"The World Attacks Israel for Defending Herself."** We have watched the disparity in the reporting of the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens and the murder of a Palestinian youth. The slant continues as days of rocket attacks on Israeli citizens from Gaza went under reported while Israel's self-defense actions against terrorist targets were branded as "attacks." While one half of the Israeli population spent days running to bomb shelters, we as born again believers have been running to our prayer closets to plead for the peace of Jerusalem. If we love God's people we will pray for their peace and safety and for peace in their souls through the Messiah Jesus. Recently as we were leaving a midweek service in a local church, a lady came running out to the car to tell how excited she was about our new Jewish ministry in the area. Her husband is a born again Russian Ukrainian Jew. They had just visited Washington D.C. She was heart-broken over the hostile demonstration by Palestinian supporters in front of the White House. Where were the supporters of Israel? Though public demonstration may have a place, it is not usually where you find us. Hopefully, in prayer meetings all over this country, Israel was prayed for like it was in that church last night. We must stand with her on our knees. May our prayer for Israel be that of David when the Lord had delivered him out of the hand of King Saul; *"The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence,"* 2 Samuel 22:3.

We, who know the scriptures, understand that one of the shadows of the tribulation is the turning of every nation against Israel until they try to annihilate her in the final battle. We quickly jump to the triumphant conclusion when Jesus descends on a white horse and delivers Israel. But sadly we skip the horrible truth that the majority of Israelis will not survive to see that moment. *"Two parts therein shall be cut off and die..."* Zechariah 13:8. Another holocaust is coming, relegated

not only to Europe but to the entire world, in which two thirds of Jewish people will be slaughtered by the nations under the Anti-Christ. Literally *"all Israel"* that will be saved is just one third. Jesus said it this way, *"He that shall endure unto the end the same shall be saved,"* Matthew 24:13. Two of every three in *"all the land"* in the Tribulation will not survive. It is possible that we may be coming face to face with those precious Jewish souls today.

As we see the earth shaking impact of rockets and bombs we have to wonder, how violently does the cup of Jerusalem have to tremble before we awake to the impending rapture of the church and the woeful tribulation that follows. Jesus said we must work while it is day. *"The night cometh when no man can work."* The work is getting the gospel of Jesus Christ, Yeshua ha'Moschiac, to *"the Jew first."* Why to them first? It was established in the doctrine of soteriology - *"salvation is of the Jews."* It was

confirmed as a priority to the disciples in ecclesiology - *"Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria."* It was prophesied in eschatology - *"all Israel shall be saved."* But when it comes to the "doctrine of actuality," Jewish evangelism has become the Great Omission of the Great Commission. When any church carrying out the mission of Jesus leaves out missions to the Jews, they have missed His mission.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has presided nobly over the Israeli Defense Force's *Operation Protective Edge*. Even after the Knesset agreed to an Egyptian proposed cease fire over a month ago, Hamas responded by launching more rockets toward Israeli citizens. Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to answer "quiet with quiet." The IDF halted its air campaign for giving Hamas a chance to accept this proposal of "quiet." It reminds me of the campaign of the gospel. While the enemy continues to steal, kill and destroy souls, the church remains quiet about people dying in their sins and quietly slipping into an eternity without anyone telling them that Jesus the Messiah died and rose again to give them peace. The enemy will not cease. We must not remain silent. The time remaining until the rapture of the church and the following tribulation period seems to be close at hand.



## Jewish Awareness Ministries

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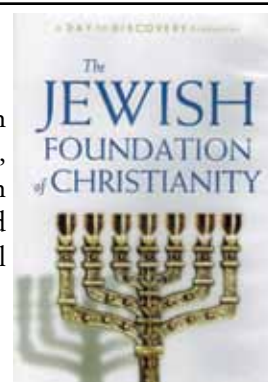
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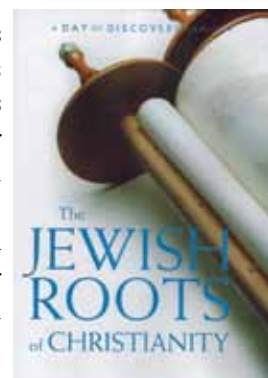
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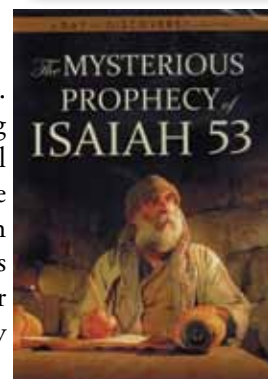
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