

Israel's Messenger

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



Dear Pastor,

I invite you to grab a cup of coffee and join me for a few minutes at a table in a little town called Emmaus and allow Jesus to warm our weary souls. I have had the privilege of serving as a Pastor for the last 20 years and as an Assistant Pastor for 8 years before that.

The blessings have been many but I know firsthand how the lukewarm apathy that can settle over our congregations can creep into our own souls as well.

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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.

Ministry Personnel:

Dan and Lois Bergman, Cleveland, OH
 Moshe and Shoshana Gold, Israel
 Keith and Toni Megilligan, Wake Forest, NC
 Mark and Cheryl Robinson, Raleigh, NC
 Ken and Joyce Symes, Asheboro, NC

Field Representative Appointee

Ken and Layne Overby, Callao, VA

Board Members:

Rick Fox, Pastor
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 Mark Robinson, Executive Director
 Ron Scarborough, Businessman
 Jeff Vaughan, Businessman

Editor

Mark Robinson

Design

Dolores Testerman

Postal Information

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
 P.O. Box 1808, Angier, NC 27501



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 P.O. Box 1808, Angier, NC 27501
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Subscription rate \$9.95 per year



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Contents

Dear Pastor

Ken Overby



Replacement Theology

Keith Megilligan

Anti-Semitism in the Name of Christian Love?

Mark Robinson



Confronted by Christian Anti-Semitism

Keith Megilligan

Apples of Gold

Shoshana Gold



Sowing the Seed...

...Reaping the Harvest

Dan Bergman
 Cheryl Robinson



Shadows of the Tribulation

Mark Robinson

From the Director's Desk

Mark Robinson



Cover: Dear Pastor, ... Jewish Awareness is here to help and support you in your work as well as challenge you in your own walk with the Saviour. Call us!



From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

We live in a time when the word of God is under assault – not by the enemies of God such as Islam, cults, atheists, and other groups who hate the Bible, although these continue their attacks. The Bible is under attack by people and groups claiming to be evangelical, but, in reality, have made shipwreck of the clear teaching of the word of God. I am referring to the assault on Israel and her place and calling by God as revealed in the Scriptures. These so-called Bible believers deny the clear teaching of the Bible on God's plan for Israel and the Jewish people.

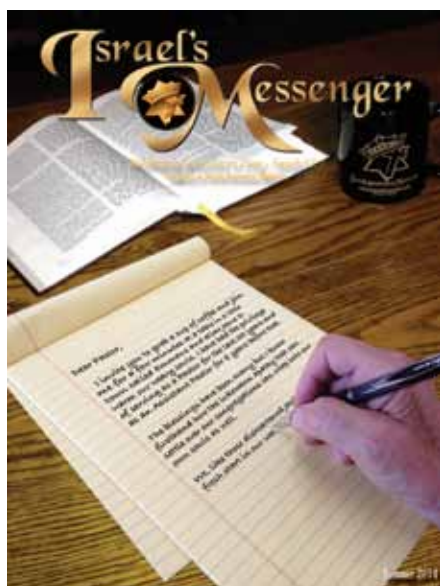
Two articles in this issue address this problem. Keith Megilligan has written about the pernicious doctrine of *Replacement Theology*. This teaching throughout the centuries has caused much grief, heartache, and persecution for Jewish people. Sadly, it is becoming more and more popular in the evangelical world. Please read this article.

I have written an article on Christian Palestinianism titled *“Anti-Semitism in the Name of Christian Love”*. Some of the leading luminaries in evangelical circles have attended conferences promoting this aberrant teaching and belief. It is anti-Zionist, anti-Israel, and driven, at least theologically, by the erroneous doctrine of Replacement Theology. If you care about the Bible, Israel, and prophecy, you need to be aware of Christian Palestinianism.

Dr. Megilligan has also written about an encounter he had a number of years ago when he visited Europe to minister to and with some missionary friends. The account is unfolded in the article *“Confronted by Christian Anti-Semitism.”*

Ken Overby has penned a letter directed at pastors. Ken will be serving with *Jewish Awareness Ministries* starting in July, 2014. At this time he is pastor of Northern Neck Baptist Church in Callao, Virginia. He has written this letter from a pastor to pastors. If you are a pastor, please read this letter. If you are not a pastor, this letter will help you understand one of the main ingredients missing in most churches.

We have hosted a number of groups in our new building over the last couple of months. In April we had two Passover Seders with about 80 people attending each night. One person wrote us, “The teaching, dinner and fellowship Monday night was beyond awesome.” Praise the Lord everything went exceptionally well. The meal was delicious. The volunteer help was a blessing. The person above commented on the food, “Please let



me have your beef and chicken recipes. [My husband] loved all of it, but I thought that I had the best beef recipe until I tasted yours on Monday. WOW!!!!!!” If the Lord tarries, we plan on hosting a couple of Passover Seders next year in our building.

We also hosted a church group and a home school group for *Christ in the Passover* presentations. There were about 50 – 60 people present at each of these functions. Another home school group contacted us and said “we would like to do a series with you over the next year.” This will likely include a presentation on *Christ in the Day of Atonement* (Yom Kippur) in the fall, *Christmas and Chanukah: How they Relate*, in December, and *Christ in the Passover* in the spring of

2015. Other groups have also contacted us. If you have a group that would benefit from a program we offer, please contact me. We can discuss details and dates.

There are two interesting *Sowing the Seed...Reaping the Harvest* stories in this issue. Cheryl Robinson, my wife, tells about an atheist Jewish man who stopped at the headquarters when he saw our signage. He mentioned that Chaim Weisman, the first president of Israel, was a relative of his. He stayed and talked for a rather lengthy period.

Dan Bergman shares about the opportunity to hand a pamphlet to an Israeli on our recent *Prophecy on the High Seas* cruise. He was disappointed in her response, but it was a lesson of reminder for him, and can be for you as well, as you share your faith.

Speaking of our *Prophecy on the High Seas* cruise, our 2015 cruise is scheduled for Feb. 16-20. The inside cover has an ad about the cruise and a QR code for you to access and watch our video ad using your smart phone or tablet. We have limited space. Join us for a week of relaxation and sunshine, and some great studies on Bible prophecy, as we cruise to the Bahamas. Call us to reserve your spot.

Our *Journey to Jerusalem* tour in October sold out in one month after the mailer arrived in homes at the end of February. We only take one bus and stop taking sign-ups when the bus is full. The great price we are able to offer as well as the quality of the tour is probably the main reason for selling out so quickly. We actually have 21 people who have given us their names for our October, 2015 tour. We won't have any pricing or schedule information until December of this year, but these people wanted their names on a list for first option to go with us in 2015, if the Lord tarries. If you are interested in an October, 2015 Israel tour with *Jewish Awareness Ministries* contact us and we will add your name on the first option list.

We serve a great Savior! May His richest blessing be yours as you serve Him.

In Messiah,
Mark Robinson



Summer 2014

Dear Pastor

Rev. Ken Overby



Dear Pastor,
I invite you to grab a cup of coffee and join me for a few minutes at a table in a little town called Emmaus and allow Jesus to warm our weary souls. I have had the privilege of serving as a Pastor for the last 20 years and as an Assistant Pastor for 8 years before that. The blessings have been many but I know firsthand how the lukewarm apathy that can settle over our congregations can creep into our own souls as well. We, like those disheartened Jewish disciples, need a fresh start in our walk with Christ. They were at a loss for where to turn. Even if the reports of a resurrection were true, those early disciples needed a “resurrection” from their personal despair. What they heard that day steeled their faith and stoked their zeal to repeat that seven mile hike in record time. Do you sense a need for a new personal “revelation” of Jesus? Maybe that room full of disheartened disciples in our little town needs to first see that we have seen Him, then they will want to see more of Him for themselves.

Let’s sit in Jesus’ seat for a few minutes. Imagine having just experienced unjust trials, vicious torture, inhumane execution, judgment for the sin of mankind and then being forsaken by your Heavenly Father. Having conquered hell and risen from the grave, you find that not even your Apostles believed the report of the eyewitness you sent. Those incredulous words, “we thought it was He that should have redeemed Israel” surely would have grieved your soul. Every Pastor knows the feeling of wanting to exclaim, “What’s it going to take for you folks to have just one ounce of faith in God?” The resurrected

Jesus was sitting right in front of them, yet their eyes were veiled behind hopeless hearts. Then everything changed! “He was known to them in breaking of bread.” Did they for the first time catch a glimpse of His nail pierced hands? Jesus did say later that same day, “Behold my hands and my feet,” Luke 24:40. But for those of us who will never look on those wounds this side of heaven, what is there in the Emmaus cottage, or in the upper room account, that can reveal Jesus anew to us? Today we have access to the special effects of the

would propel them all the way to the ends of the earth. What we need is more than a Jesus movie. We need a fresh understanding of Him. It is He that opened their faithless eyes. Although the unabridged content of the Emmaus and the upper room discourses is not available, the outline is. “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself,” Luke 24:27. The common denominator is the subject matter: Himself. The content is “in all the scriptures.” The teacher is the “Word

made flesh.” The disciples’ names have changed from Cleopas and Mary to your name and mine. And the outcome of seeing Him anew is certain. Hearts aflame for Jesus always produce feet that move to seek the lost and proclaim His glory!

How long has it been since you allowed Jesus to reveal Himself to someone using your finger pointing out the scriptures? Can you show Jesus to an unsaved Jewish person in a couple

of hours using the Law, Prophets and Psalms (Writings). I have never had a Jewish person receive Jesus as their Messiah in only one sitting. But I have had a few who came to that “Aha” moment over a period of several months. Their understanding slowly opened. Then their eyes were opened and they received Him for who He is. My training with this Emmaus model during my first two years of ministry in Jewish missions set me on an approach to scriptures, in the context of Jewish culture, that has affected every area of my study, teaching, preaching and witnessing. Full immersion into witnessing to people who did not acknowledge the



graphic crucifixion of Christ portrayed on film. Many, in an attempt to supplement our weak faith, have found these to be nothing more than an emotional fix. Why is it that the impact of visual stimuli of the cross is so short lived? Maybe the most precious moment in history is reduced to a mere dramatic tragedy. They sat down and watched Him die.

It was something far more powerful than a peek at those nail pierced hands that rejuvenated the discouraged disciples. No doubt that was the eye opener. But it was the opening of their understanding by the living Word that carried them further than just back to Jerusalem. This transformation

Continued on page 6

New Testament forced me to “learn the language” of the same Emmaus Road plan of salvation that Jesus and the Apostles used. I am deeply indebted to those who trained me in Jewish evangelism early in my ministry. If you want to have a personal revival for Jesus, take His challenge personally to rediscover Him in the Jewish scriptures. Then build a loving relationship with a Jewish person and begin to walk with them down the Emmaus Road. With love, prayer and the Spirit’s work you will find that opportunity to sit down and answer those questions disguised as objections.

The transformation you will undergo through taking the Gospel to the Jew first will inspire you and your church. Is there a greater way to receive the blessing of Genesis 12:3 than to bless Abraham’s seed with the One through whom all families on the earth have been blessed? Your study and preaching will come alive as you behold Him through types, proofs and prophecies in the Old Testament.

One unexpected benefit I gained through learning to witness with only the Old Testament was that it equipped me to respond to those in cults who take the New Testament out of context and superimpose Law onto Grace. Cults are usually based on a replacement of Israel by the church theologically and denial of the deity of Jesus. You’ll discover great passages like Isaiah 48:12-17 that show how God called Himself the Messiah/God. Equipping your people in these scriptures will inoculate them from swallowing the flawed ideologies of replacement theologies. It will deepen their roots in sound doctrine which, sadly, is no longer in vogue.

We at Jewish Awareness Ministries have each had our Emmaus experiences with Jewish people, some in their own personal salvation experience. We are on a mission to develop disciples among Pastors and their congregations who have a heart to build relationships with people who desperately need the Redeemer of Israel. We desire to partner with you in Jewish evangelism to personally equip you and your folks.

With increasing understanding of Jesus in the Old Testament our feet are better prepared for seeking the lost. Let us help you with the biblical mandate to seek *“the Jew first and also the Greek.”* You will never find a more invigorating

experience than being in the scriptures with a Jewish person when they see Jesus for the first time. To truly love the Jewish people we must stand with Israel and be equipped from the only scriptures that they recognize to help them see Jesus as the coming Messiah who already came.

It is very probable that we are on the cusp of the second greatest harvest in history. Scripture is clear that Jesus could return in the clouds and call his Bride to meet Him at any time, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-19. The signs of the coming tribulation that follow the rapture are casting their long shadows across our world stage. All nations, sadly including America, are falling into line against Israel as is prophesied.

The Russian bear is moving in her direction driven by carnivorous hunger.



Europe is returning to the pre-holocaust hostility toward Jews. College campuses across the west are becoming breeding grounds of anti-Semitism through the (BDS) Boycott, Divest & Sanctions movement that seeks to de-legitimize Israel’s right to Judea and Samaria known as “the West Bank.” Jewish people need to look around and see that born again believers and our churches are the true friends standing with them and by Israel’s side. We can help you build bridges of faith through an emphasis in your church on Israel in Prophecy, Hebrew Christian fellowships, Jewish Roots Sunday School series, Christ in the Passover dinners and other Feasts of Israel presentations.

Though our primary motivation has been to get people saved ahead of the rapture, it is clear from scripture that the greatest response to the gospel that has ever happened will come during the Tribulation period. Not only will 144,000 Jewish men be saved and become evangelists, but *“a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues”* will receive Christ, Revelation 7:9-10. The

leading edge of that impending harvest is Jewish missions today. We may be sowing seed that will sink into the softening soil of the very Jewish minds and hearts of those Tribulation saints. They will take the gospel to an innumerable host of Gentiles in the not so distant future

Dear Pastor, He has counted you faithful putting you into the ministry. He will be faithful to complete the work He has started in you. He joins you on the dusty road home. He, the Good Shepherd, wants to restore your soul. You can finish your course with joy. He is our only source of joy and He wants our joy to be full. Let’s invite our Lord in. He desires to “sup” with us. We cannot let Him stand outside of the door of our church. We under shepherds are the doorkeepers. Our hearts can burn with a passion for Jesus and for the salvation of the least of His brethren. Then we can set out on a new path to bring them the message of salvation in their Messiah. That night in the upper room, Jesus said to the Apostles, *“And ye are witnesses of these things,”* Luke 24:48. We stand ready to come along side of you with the personnel and resources to help your folks take the Gospel *“to the Jew first.”*

John reminded the church in Philadelphia that Christ could open a door that no man could shut. Recently this verse stood out to me. My Jewish Savior who called me into Jewish Missions has the key. *“These things saith He that hath the key of David... behold I have set before thee an open door,”* Revelation 3:8. Let’s first open the door and spend time with Him in the word, Revelation 3:20.

A journey down the Emmaus road will bring new insight, encourage and revitalize you and your local body, and give you a fresh breath of God!

To Him be the glory!

Pastor Ken Overby
Northern Neck Baptist Church
Callao, VA

Editor’s note: Pastor Overby has resigned from his ministry at Northern Neck effective June 30, 2014, as God has led him to serve in Jewish missions. He is now raising support to be a Field Representative/ Missionary with *Jewish Awareness Ministries* in the Charlotte, NC area. Ken can be reached through the headquarters of *Jewish Awareness Ministries* if you would like him to speak at your church.



Replacement Theology

Dr. Keith Megilligan



There is a branch of theological study that has existed since almost the beginning of church history that has trailed and tainted the church's relationship to her Jewish friends. In recent years, this study has taken on a level of sophistication that brings new life and a new name. Replacement theology has been its standard nomenclature; more recently it has been called supersessionism. Now, before I lose you, let's tackle this subject piece by piece.

First, what is replacement theology? Basically, it is the view that God has turned His back upon the Jews, Israel and His promises to them in Scripture and has replaced them with the church. Thus, whatever covenants and provisions God has made with and for the children of Israel now belong to the children of God in the church. God has rejected the "old Israel," and the church has become the "new Israel." Whatever has been promised to Israel in the Scriptures (read Old Testament) was no longer for them, the church obtained those rights. Literal or normal understanding of God's relationship to Israel has been replaced with a "spiritual" understanding of Scripture. According to this view, Israel has been replaced by the church.

Second, how did this view originate? The origin started with Origen! Origen was the one of the most prominent early church fathers (about 185-254 AD). He had concluded and espoused the view that God had judged the nation of Israel and abandoned them forever because of her sins. He further taught that the Jews would never be restored to their former condition. What basically had happened (from Origen's point of view) was that the nation of Israel suffered yet another dispersion (dissolution) at the same time that the church had become the visible spiritual entity that God was going to use to get His message out.

Third, but how is that possible, that the church would replace Israel? Basically, you would have to redefine "Israel." Origen was also part of the

early church's development of allegorical teaching and preaching. He and others espoused a view that would "spiritualize" their interpretation of Scriptural passages to have meanings that were not normal or literal. Thus, anything that the text said about Israel, since she had now been set aside by God, was "spiritualized" in its meaning to refer to the church.

Fourth, so did the church continue to believe and practice such teaching?

Yes and yes! Within a few centuries of its origin, the church split into two major factions: eastern church (Orthodox) and western church (Roman Catholic). The western church became the prominent force for "Christianity" and her influence became the more dominant of the two worldwide. The Roman church continued the teaching and preaching model of allegorical interpretation. Israel was replaced in their eyes as well. So, for well



over 1,600 years replacement theology "grew," and the Jewish people suffered both biblically and literally for it.

Fifth, didn't things change in the reformation?

Sort of - let's use Martin Luther as a principle example. Though it appears

that Luther struggled during much of his career/ministry with what place in God's plan the Jew/Israel had, he settled, by the end, with strong anti-Jewish sentiment. As he viewed their history, he concluded that the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem (70 AD) was argument enough for God disregarding the Jew. He also struggled with the matter of why couldn't/shouldn't a Jewish person accept Jesus as Messiah since Jesus was a Jew as well?

Luther was torn by these two (among other) factors that left him basically with an anti-Semitic mind set. For example, he wrote a tract entitled: "On the Jews and their Lies." Luther adopted a position very consistent with Origen. He wrote at one point, "Thus all the Gentiles who are Christians are the true Israelites and new Jews, born of Christ, the noblest Jew." It is not difficult at all to see Luther's "replacement theology" in such a quote.

Sixth, what about the rest of the leaders of the Reformation, did they hold the same position?

Essentially, yes. Since Roman Catholicism had held such a powerful sway upon the thinking of Christian leaders for so long, it was not easy to throw off this yoke. In other words, allegory and its implications still influenced the reformed leaders with their attitude toward the Jew and Israel. Though the reformers certainly tightened up their interpretation of Scripture with regard to salvation, justification, sanctification, and glorification, and they developed a much improved exegetical approach to the interpretation of Scripture, they couldn't shake the allegorical (if not anti-social) view of Israel and the Jewish people which had been held for centuries.

Seventh, so where does that leave us today?

Church history continues to impact this answer. As the Reformation settled down and even an "anti-Reformation" came in to play, orchestrated by the Roman Catholic church, the teaching

and the practice of the church (Reformed and Catholic) in matters related to Israel stayed the same. Post-reformation German theologians grew in prominence in the European/western church. They eventually brought to the forefront two brands of theology. One was neo-orthodoxy and the other was documentary hypothesis.

Though the mere mention of these disciplines of study may turn you off, they impacted the church's teaching regarding Israel significantly. First neo-orthodoxy: the term simply means "new doctrine." However, there is little that is orthodox about it. Liberal German (and other) theologians began to present a view of doctrine that used the same and familiar biblical terms (in their teaching/preaching) but gave them entirely new meanings. "Salvation" could simply be a new experience a person had that made them think or behave in a better fashion. "Grace" was cheapened to be more expressive of a feeling than a sovereign display of God's character towards an undeserving sinner. And so it went. This took allegory to a new level. The text was beyond being spiritualized; it was re-defined. One German theologian of the previous century, for example, while having good things to say about Jesus and Judaism, implied that Jews were children of Satan. The "problem" of the Jew, in his day, was a social issue and the church had nothing to do with it. Let the state deal with it/them (Rudolph Bultmann, Liberal and Anti-Jewish). It is not too far a jump to see how liberal theology had influenced the church to turn its back on the Jew and stay focused on (what it considered) church issues. Documentary hypothesis taught that the Bible (Scripture) was not really a divinely authored or inspired text, and it was written and edited by man. Thus, they developed a "complete editorial" staff for the Old Testament and divided their "schools of editors" into various factions: those that favored Jehovah, those that favored Elohim, the priests, etc. Each group wrote his portion/emphasis of the Old Testament. The liberal emphasis thus took God completely out of the picture. Who then cared about Him or what He had to say about Israel?

Okay, but surely the impact of the "fundamentalists" of the early twentieth century until now cleaned up and corrected that view of disparaging the Jews

and replacement theology, didn't it?

Sadly, no. We have major denominations, seminaries, and Christian leaders who still espouse the view of replacement theology, or supersessionism. Though this is a broad statement, many, if not most, seminaries that consider themselves "reformed" (or covenantal) in their theology are also "replacement" in their Israelology! That is, since most reformed seminaries have a covenantal view of theology (which makes little or no distinction between Israel and the church) they are much more prone to espouse replacement theology as their view of Israel in Scripture. On the other hand, those Bible colleges and seminaries that are more, or exclusively, dispensational in their view of Scripture (that is, there is a distinction between Israel and the church and God still has a plan for His chosen people, the Jew) do not adopt replacement theology. Of all the "fundamentals" that were listed as fundamentals of the faith, the language regarding the return of Christ and the nature of His coming kingdom was most fuzzy.

Eschatology became the sacrificial lamb of the fundamentals. And since your view of the end time events highly impacts your view towards God's place for Israel in prophecy and thus your view of who is Israel, once again the tension among theologians, theology and the church became evident. To a certain extent, the development and declaration of the modern State of Israel (1948) boosted the dispensational view of Israelology.

How did modern day Israel's existence boost dispensationalism?

The argument of course is more historical than biblical (we'll get to that in a minute). Simply because Bible believing Christians could see God preparing the way for fulfilling His scriptural promises to Israel and her people, the mere fact that Jews were back in their land created enormous excitement among their ranks! 1948 wasn't the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel (9:24-27), but the events surrounding the UN's declaration of the modern state of Israel showed clearly that God would/could bring Israel's dead bones back to life (Ezekiel 37). It would also set the stage for the Lord to put a new heart and spirit in His people. They would be His people and He would be their God (Jeremiah 31, 33). Further, Paul would show how all the parts - Jews, Gentiles, and the promises of God - would fit together (Romans 11).

Good, so now we have no more issues regarding Israel and the church as long as we attend Bible believing churches, right?

Oh that it were so! Bible-believing Christian does not always equal discerning Christian. We are told to rightly divide the Word of God, to test the spirits to see if they are of God, the Bible, or not. There are several prominent denominations today who are replacement theology advocates, such as: the Roman Catholic Church, the United Methodist Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church, Churches of Christ, Corsicana, Texas, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church United Church of Christ, Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, Joplin, MO, and Jehovah's Witnesses. Similarly there are some prominent theologians of our day who advocate replacement theology such as: RC Sproul, Michael Horton, Meredith Kline and JI Packer. Another person I would add to this list I do with a great deal of personal sadness because his ministry has tremendously impacted the Bible believing church for decades. But recently, evidence has come to light that John Piper appears to support replacement theology. There are both nuances in his preaching, as well as blog statements of his which evidence at least a confusion of covenant and/or replacement theology.

He has called Jewish people, "a non-covenant-keeping people" that does not have "a divine right to hold the land of promise." At the least he has not read God's clear statement to Abraham (Genesis 12-15) or worse, he refuses to accept God's promise to keep Israel as His own in the Land (Jeremiah 31, 33).

So, what's the bottom line?

Be discerning! Seek to understand both the biblical and historical framework for replacement theology. Learn to take God at His word, interpreting Scripture with its normal or literal meaning. Make sure you understand the distinction between Israel and the church: your basic theology and final eschatology are pinned to it.



(The writer credits several on-line, as well as other sources, for their contribution to this article. The sources include, but are not limited to: h4cblog.com, theologicalstudies.org, *The Survivors of Israel*, Mark Eliot. Another excellent resource from a biblical point of view is, *The Coming Apocalypse*, Renald Showers)

Anti-Semitism in the Name of Christian Love?

Rev. Mark Robinson



Be aware that replacement theologians are gathering in Bethlehem for a 4-day conference to be unbelievably called “Christ at the Check Point.”

The main aim of this event is to drive a wedge between Christian Zionists, Evangelicals, and Israel.

Incredible as it sounds, Christians are gathering under a Palestinian regime that has killed, threatened their Christian population, and desecrated their holy shrines, to castigate the Jewish state, in support of that Islamic regime.

And these Christian leaders are repositioning Jesus as a Palestinian!

Just how far Christian truth, love, and sincerity has become twisted into deception and hate can be seen at this obscene and unholy event. Sections of Christianity have gotten themselves seriously lost. It will take, perhaps, right-minded Christian leaders to either isolate these deceivers or lead these lost sheep back into the fold.

*As an Israeli Jew, I find their machinations deeply disturbing and anti-Semitic. We have suffered too long by such Christian haters. It seems their evil designs are alive and well and are about to manifest themselves in the once Christian town of Bethlehem.*¹

Perhaps the above sounds extreme to you? Or, you may ask, is this really taking place in the Christian world? Would it surprise you to learn that many of these “Christian” participants identify with the evangelical world?

Anti-Semitism is an ancient scourge, perpetrated by Satan, against the Jewish people, and in our present world, the nation of Israel as well. Through the centuries it has reared its ugly head in the pharaohs of Egypt, Antiochus Epiphanes, the crusades, pogroms, holocaust of Europe, and the Islamic world, as well as other individuals and peoples. Its root in satanic desires is foundational to its cause no matter the

label attached to the person or group.

Christian Palestinianism?

What is Christian Palestinianism? Paul Wilkinson coined this term “whilst doing [his] PhD research at Manchester University (2003-2006)...The term is used to represent those within the Church whose theology of Israel is diametrically opposed to that of biblical Christian Zionism, and whose opposition to Israel and her Christian allies is expressed in their outspoken support of the Palestinian agenda.”²

Early in the life of the church, around



Bethlehem hotel where “Christ at the Checkpoint” conference is held. - Photo by Brian Schrauger

the 2nd and 3rd century, a teaching developed that is commonly referred to as replacement theology. Its core teaching is that when the Jewish people rejected Jesus, God in return rejected them as His special people. In their place, God has now “replaced” them with the church. For a more detailed treatment of this, see Dr. Megilligan’s article in this issue.

The fruit of this teaching has historically been devastating for the Jewish community. Rabbi A. James Rudin, in his book *Israel for Christians*, comments, “Some Christian theologians and Bible scholars have long taught that ancient Israel, the ‘old Israel’ of the ‘old covenant’ has been replaced by the ‘new Israel’ of the ‘new covenant,’ the Christian church. Israel’s spiritual vocation and mission has been transferred from the Jewish people to the church...Not only has such Christian thinking rendered the Jews vulnerable to violent anti-Semitism, it has also negated any Jewish claim to the land of

Israel because it maintains such claims have been emptied of all concrete meaning... This position has resulted in theological anti-Semitism on the part of some Christian leaders.”³

Christian Palestinianism is an “old” movement repackaged in modern day clothes of the same theological lies, the embracing of a false Israel/Palestinian narrative, and historical revisionism. It is a shame that there are those from the evangelical world who champion this movement.

Christian Palestinian History

In 1989, Naim Ateek, serving then as canon of St. George’s Cathedral (Anglican) in Jerusalem, wrote *Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Justice* which was the impetus for this movement. In 1994, Ateek founded Sabeel, a Palestinian Ecumenical Theology

Center in Jerusalem. Following this beginning many different conferences have been held and books written. According to Sabeel’s website they have an International Conference every two years.

In 2009 the Kairos Document was issued. In part this says, “In this historic document, we Palestinian Christians declare that the military occupation of our land is a sin against God and humanity, and that any theology that legitimizes the occupation is far from Christian teachings because true Christian theology is a theology of love and solidarity with the oppressed, a call to justice and equality among peoples.” This document is based on a replacement theology view, an anti-Christian Zionist view, as well as a misrepresentation of the Israel/Palestinian issue. In essence, it is a package of theological and historical fabrications formed in the cauldron of liberal theology.

Bethlehem Bible College in Israel

Continued from page 9

sponsored the first “Christ at the Checkpoint” conference in 2010. A second one was held in 2012 with “600 international and local Christians, including renowned evangelical leaders” (excerpted from Christ at the Checkpoint website), and the most recent one March 11-14, 2014. Some of the speakers at these conferences, and proponents of Christian Palestinianism, have been notable evangelical leaders. These include Bob Roberts, founding and Senior Pastor of NorthWood Church near Dallas/ Ft. Worth, TX. NorthWood’s congregation of active participants now averages in excess of 2000. NorthWood has started over 130 churches in the US and is a center for training new pastors. Also, Gary Burge, who is Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College, in Wheaton, Ill; Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe the CEO / Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance; Dr. William M. Wilson, the fourth president of Oral Roberts University; Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus at Eastern University; Lynne Hybels, cofounder of the Willow Creek Community Church; Brother Andrew, leader of “Open Doors” ministry; Darrel Bock, Professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, Colin Chapman, writer and expert on Islam; John Feinberg, Professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Manfred Kohl, VP with Overseas Council International; Stephen Sizer, incumbent at Christ Church; Hank Hanegraaf, the “Bible Answer Man” on his nationally syndicated radio show; Gary DeMar, director of American Vision,

as well as a number of men associated with the Messianic Judaism movement. Personally, I am saddened at some of the men who have associated with this movement by speaking at their conferences. The driving force behind these conferences can be seen by some of the statements from their website. “Some of the themes of the conference included a biblical critique of dispensational theology and repudiation of an exclusive theology of the land that marginalizes and disenfranchises the indigenous people”. “Palestinian theologians gave speeches showing how... their rejection of Christian Zionism is based on Christ’s teachings”; “Scholars and participants in the conference agreed to reject the teachings of any theology that promotes unbiblical

teachings, and declared that much work is needed to transfer those findings to ordinary evangelicals in the West who often express uncritical support of Israel because of their ignorance both of scriptures and of the facts on the ground.”

What in the World...?

In the spring, 2010 issue of *Israel’s Messenger*, this author wrote an article titled, “*Jewish Missions and Zionism.*” In it the comment was made, “*Jewish Awareness Ministries* believes the Jewish people have a right to the land of Israel. It is a God given, biblical right. I believe a persuasive case can also be made from a legal, moral, and historical basis for the right of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. We are Zionists.” Nothing has changed in this regard at *Jewish Awareness Ministries*. We are unashamedly pro-Israel and support the Jewish people’s God given right to the land of Israel.

Satan, though, hates Israel, the Jewish



Jack Sara, president of Bethlehem Bible College. Photo by Brian Schrauger

people, and a biblical view of God’s plan for the Jew and Israel. I am convinced we are living in the “*Shadows of the Tribulation.*” This being the case, Satan is aware that his time is short. He is marshaling the forces of Hell to persecute and destroy the Jewish people and Israel. Among his dupes is the Christian Palestinianism movement.

Many in this movement will never change their desires and designs. There are some, though, who should separate themselves from this movement and conferences. Perhaps they mean well and want a voice of opposition to be heard, but in reality, all they are doing is providing a veneer of respectable covering for this satanically inspired attack against God’s plan for Israel and the Jewish people.

In conclusion, I would like to share a

quote from Paul Wilkinson’s book *For Zion’s Sake: Christian Zionism and the Role of John Nelson Darby*. The following summarizes well the issues and problems with Christian Palestinianism.

“Christian Palestinianism is an inverted mirror image of Christian Zionism. All the basic elements of a Christian Zionist eschatology are reversed, so that the Bible is seen as Christian, not Jewish, the land of the Bible is Palestine not Israel, the Son of God is a Palestinian, not a Jew, the Holocaust is resented and not remembered, 1948 is a catastrophe not a miracle, the Jewish people are illegal occupiers not rightful owners and Biblical prophecy is a moral manifesto and not a signpost to the Second Coming. Despite enlisting support from the theological community and seeking validation through academia, the overriding thrust of Christian Palestinianism is political, not Biblical.

As we have seen, this reactionary movement, spearheaded by Sabeel, is a one issue coalition of strange bedfellows whose diverse, ideological perspectives are held in tension as they unite against a common enemy... In particular, the inherently Biblical and Evangelical nature of Christian Zionism has been contrasted with the inherently political and Liberal character of Christian Palestinianism. In the process, the reader has been alerted to the scale of this para-church movement which, by covering itself in a veneer of Biblical respectability, has gained a major foothold within the Evangelical Church.”⁴

Bible believing Christians should have nothing to do with Christian Palestinianism. The choice is clear – embrace the God of Israel and His word, or embrace a movement that is antithetical to biblical teaching and the eternal God and His plan and promise for Israel and the Jewish people. What is your decision?



Endnotes

1. Freeman Center email, March 9, 2014, From Barry Shaw’s FB page.
2. Paul Wilkinson, “*Prophets Who Prophecy Lies in My Name*”, Introduction page, Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church, Cheshire, England, 2011
3. James Rudin, *Israel for Christians*, Fortress Press, 1983, pg. 125-126
4. Paul Wilkinson, *For Zion’s Sake: Christian Zionism and the Role of John Nelson Darby*, Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2007, Pg. 65

Confronted by “Christian” Anti-Semitism

Dr. Keith Megilligan



My wife and I were visiting and ministering to missionaries in Austria in January of 1992. I was asked to teach a Bible study one evening. My topic was on Daniel 9:24-27. I focused on the importance of God’s plan for Jerusalem, the Jew and the Messiah. They were very attentive. However, there was a slight hint of restiveness in the air that evening!

Earlier that day, my wife and I were taking a walking tour of downtown Vienna with our friends. One of the places we visited was the synagogue. As we turned down the street on which the synagogue in Vienna is located, the first impression for a visitor is rather startling. First, the entrance to the synagogue is nondescript. It looked like an entrance to any other shop or business or residence in the city. It is crowded by other store fronts/businesses virtually identical in appearance. That’s where the similarity ended.

Outside the entrance stood two security officers who were accompanied by two large and rather ferocious looking German Shepherds. As we went in, we were required to register, show our passports and go through electronic screening devices.

Once we entered, we turned from the somewhat darkened corridor to walk down a brief hallway that led to the entrance of the synagogue. It was a beautiful and very modern looking synagogue! Freshly decorated and painted with beautiful ornamental fresco-like features. It is probably one of the more attractive buildings I have ever been in.

I tell you this because the Austrian government has gone to great pains to see to it that the building is very well protected. Anti-Semitism was not only prevalent during WW II, it was in 1992, and is still so today. This is true not only in Vienna, Austria, but throughout much of Europe.

Thus, as we sat and listened to the responses and discussions that evening

in the Bible study, I was shocked by the response. “Do you really believe that about the Jews and the future of Israel?” “I have never heard such positive things about God’s plan for the Jews.” “We have never studied such things as this before.” I tried my best to shield my surprise, but I was truly taken back. Though students of the Bible, professing Christians, their response was not what I had expected. My thought at the time was, “Is it possible that Christians really exist that say they love God and his Word and yet do not love the Jews or His plan for Israel?” It was my first personal encounter with anti-Semitism.

When I first heard the word supersessionism, I had no understanding of its meaning. Though the word is somewhat modern in its usage, the concept behind it,



Synagogue in Vienna, Austria

that the church has replaced Israel in God’s plan, goes back to the beginnings of anti-Semitism in the church.

Historically, at least by identification, Martin Luther may be the most prominent Christian in church history to have manifested signs of supersessionism. Though it appears that Luther vacillated on the matter, it is evident that he did settle on the side of anti-Semitism.

Luther is certainly not the only Christian leader in church history to espouse such a view. Sadly, there are many today who hold to this position as well. What supersessionism looks like today is this: since the Jews have rejected Jesus

as Messiah, and since Christianity has gotten along quite nicely without other Jews carrying Christianity as their spiritual mantle, then let’s just replace them, their position in prophecy and church history with [Gentile] Christians and be done with them (the Jew). Individual Jews can come to faith in Christ, that’s fine. BUT, the church has replaced Israel as a people both in purpose and in prophecy.

Dr. Renald Showers writes in *The Coming Apocalypse*, “According to this view, God will save individual Jewish people, but He has no present or future program for Israel as a nation. He has rejected Israel as His people and replaced Israel with the church. The technical name for this view is supersessionism. But it is more commonly known as Replacement Theology. And it is wrong.”

My concern is simply this, either you accept what the Bible says straightforwardly about the Jew and their place in history and prophecy (as distinct from the church) or don’t claim to be a Bible believing Christian. If, for example, we only had Romans 11 in the Bible, where Paul starts by saying, “*I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin,*” we would have enough.

Yes, we live in an era called the church age, but that does not give us the authority to turn to the Jew, to turn to Israel and say, “You’re done. It’s all over. The church will now take over for you. We now get the benefits of your covenants. We have replaced you as God’s chosen, we have superseded you!”

As Dr. Showers said of this teaching, “Supersessionism ... Replacement Theology is wrong.” And that’s good enough for me. Besides, Dr. Showers, and those who are in agreement with him, stand with Paul, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel, and Jesus. And, that’s some pretty good company!





Sowing the Seed . . . Reaping the Harvest

Shalom!
Dan Bergman

A Searching Jewish Atheist
Cheryl Robinson

This year, Lois and I were privileged to be a part of *Jewish Awareness Ministries'* "Prophesy on the High Seas" cruise. What an amazing time we had on this trip! I spoke four times in the conference - two were shorter "prophetic nuggets" and two were full messages.

While we were in the conference, I told *Jewish Awareness Ministries'* Executive Director, Mark Robinson, that I overheard a few people speaking Hebrew as they exited one of the elevators on the ship. Mark then told me that there were 41 Israelis onboard according to the ship's passenger list.

What an opportunity to speak of the Messiah! I put a Jewish tract in my pocket, hoping to run into one of the Israelis. Some time later my family and I were perusing the various gift shops on the ship. It was then that Ken Overby (*Jewish Awareness Ministries'* new Field Rep/Missionary Appointee) informed me of a group of travelers speaking Hebrew. I went over to one of the women, praying as I went. I asked her if she was speaking Hebrew. She said that she was. I then began telling her about our recent trip to Israel, and how amazing it was. I told her that I had something for her, and gave

her the "Shalom" tract produced by the ministry. She smiled as she read the cover. Then she opened the tract. Her smile quickly turned to a scowl. She thrust it back at me, and said "Shalom".

I tried to speak to her some more, but she literally ignored me. I realize that my scriptural duty is to tell her of her need and that the Holy Spirit is the One who convicts and convinces, and that it is the Lord who does the saving, but it still feels pretty rotten to have someone reject your message.

The Lord spoke to my discouraged heart that afternoon. I felt as though His Spirit was reminding me "It's not your message - **it's mine**. It's not you who was rejected, **it was Me**."

Luke 6:22-23 says, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets."

We must remember this as we witness. Don't let fear of rejection keep you from delivering the message.



Ever since we moved into our new building, we often have people stop by to ask who we are, what we do, and why we're located in Angier, NC. While there is a sizeable Jewish community not far from us, our immediate neighborhood would be considered far from Jewish, which is why the sign on our building *Jewish Awareness Ministries* invokes quite a bit of curiosity.

Case in point: a Jewish man by the name of Mike stopped by recently. He'd been across the street at a local restaurant and noticed our sign. He'd driven by about six months ago, and, in his words, almost had an accident when he noticed *Jewish Awareness Ministries*. He felt he must stop by to see what we are all about. (He lives in a neighboring county, and thinks he and his family are the only Jewish people in that entire county.)

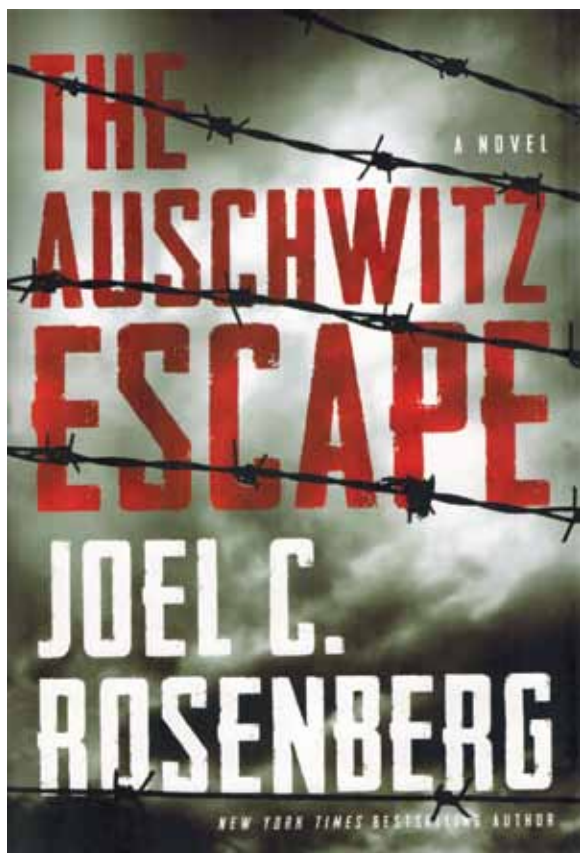
I told him we are a group of Jews and Gentiles who believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. He was not offended, but commented, "Jesus is Jewish!" I agreed. I went on to tell him we teach both Jewish people and Gentiles how they can recognize who the Messiah is from the Scriptures - the Hebrew Scriptures (but in English). I mentioned there are many passages in the Jewish Bible that tell us how we can recognize the Messiah. I invited him to come to our Friday evening Bible study, and he immediately said "I could never come to a meeting like that!" When I asked him why, he responded with "I'm an atheist!"

He then asked for some literature to take with him to read. More than happy to oblige, I gave him a couple of pamphlets on *Shalom*, how a Jewish person can have peace, another on *Identifying the Messiah*, and one titled *Passover: Four Questions*. He promised me he would read them.

Our conversation went down several rabbit trails, from Jewish food to the holocaust and WWII. We carry a book in our bookstore *The Auschwitz Escape* by Joel Rosenberg. He was interested and copied down the ISBN number. In talking about the Holocaust, I reminded him that he himself, being Jewish, was proof that there is a God; that the nation of Israel is proof that there is a God. I stated, were it not for God, the Jewish people would not have survived centuries of persecution and attempted annihilation. Apart from God, the nation of Israel wouldn't exist.

Before he left, he asked if he would be welcome to attend the Bible study to observe. I assured him he would be very welcome. He said he's never encountered a group like us before. Pray that Mike will read the pamphlets, and that he will come to our Bible study soon. He may claim to be an atheist, but I'm sure he is searching.





The Auschwitz Escape by Joel Rosenberg

“A terrible darkness has fallen upon Jacob Weisz’s beloved Germany. The Nazi regime, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, has surged to power and now holds Germany by the throat. All non-Aryans—especially Jews like Jacob and his family—are treated like dogs. When tragedy strikes during one terrible night of violence, Jacob flees and joins rebel forces working to undermine the regime. But after a raid goes horribly wrong, Jacob finds himself in a living nightmare—trapped in a crowded, stinking car on the train to the Auschwitz death camp.

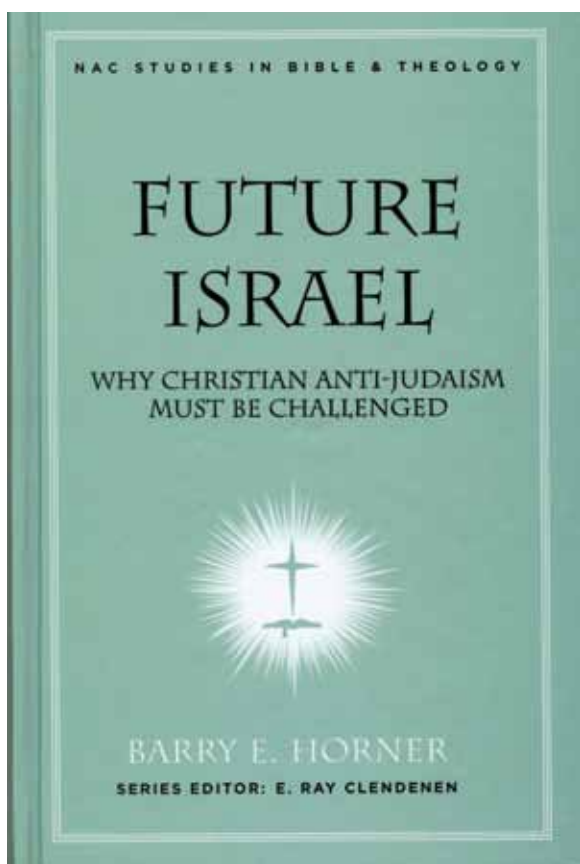
As World War II rages and Hitler begins implementing his “final solution” to systematically and ruthlessly exterminate the Jewish people, Jacob must rely on his wits and a God he’s not sure he believes in to somehow escape from Auschwitz and alert the world to the Nazi’s atrocities before Fascism overtakes all of Europe. The fate of millions hangs in the balance.”

NEW YORK TIMES best selling author Joel Rosenberg delivers a spellbinding novel about one of the darkest times in human history. Inspired by true stories of those who were captured and sent to the death camps - and by the stories of the few who actually escaped in hopes of saving the lives of millions - Rosenberg gives a glimpse of the horrors that existed behind those prison walls and the unfathomable courage needed not only to survive a death camp but to break free and tell the world the truth.

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Future Israel: Why Christian Anti-Judaism Must Be Challenged by Barry E. Horner

Replacement theology, sometimes called “supercessionist theology,” is the view that the church has replaced or superseded Israel in God’s redemptive plan. Author Barry Horner shows the prevalence of anti-Judaic teaching from church leaders in the past and present, and argues that it is contrary to the Bible, especially the writings of Paul the apostle.

Dr. Horner also shows the negative impact anti-Judaism has on the church as well as on Jewish evangelism. He argues that the presence of Jewish believers in the church does not adequately fulfill the biblical promises. Rather, God’s promise still stands of a regenerated nation of Israel in the land under its acknowledged Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. A unifying teaching of Scripture, he says, is a Judeo-centric eschatology.

One reviewer says: “This is a tremendous book, well researched, thoroughly documented and dealing with a vital biblical principal, one that offers a death blow to Amillennialism and its treatment of the Jew, stealing all of Israel’s promises and claiming them for the Church (but leaving the curses, of course, for the Jews)... If you fail to get this book you are going to miss a key publication in the early twenty-first century! And it is priced at a bargain for a hardbound book of nearly 400 pages.”

Price \$20.00

Apples of Gold



Shoshana Gold

On the evening of November 18, 2013 Moshe's and my life changed in a dramatic way. This was the night Moshe had a hemorrhagic stroke and immediately plunged into a coma for two weeks. The past months have seen him in ICU, Internal Medicine and a rehab hospital. From the beginning of his hospitalization my prayer has been that we would glorify God in all situations and places.

God has led us all the way. When Moshe was in ICU the chief doctor took me aside one day and told me that surviving this type of stroke was a miracle. I told him that it was the LORD that enabled Moshe to still be alive and asked him what he thought about that. He then told me his name which means "salvation." I learned that this doctor is a Christian and we are still in contact to this day.

The nurses in ICU tolerated what I had to tell them about God. One nurse in a mocking tone told me, "It's alright if you want to believe, but there are many gods out there to pray to and Jesus is just one of them." Another nurse was a male Christian, and friends of ours were able to pray and talk with him and give him material in Arabic to encourage him in his walk.

While Moshe was in the ICU the nurses, doctors and families who had loved ones in the room were able to witness many of our friends praying for and singing to Moshe in Jesus' name. This witness carried on for the next month while Moshe was in the Internal Medicine Department, in a room with 3 other men, their families, friends and a round the clock nurse.

After three weeks in a rehabilitation hospital the doctors decided to move Moshe to a regular hospital in order to find out the reason for his recurring fever. God had answered prayer by moving him to rehab and my elation soon turned to disappointment that he was returning to the hospital. I couldn't help but wonder what God was doing. Suddenly God brought to remembrance my prayer to glorify Him in EVERY situation and place and I began to do that.

I developed an immediate connection with Sarit who was the caretaker for her dad. As we stood in the hallway and began talking about God she said, "I don't believe in God." I asked

her why, but she really didn't have an answer. Over the next two weeks she saw friends come and pray with Moshe. She was listening and told me that she wanted them to pray for her dad but she was too embarrassed to ask them. I reminded her she had told me she didn't believe in God. A shy smile came across her face and she became silent for a moment and we continued speaking about other things. Her dad moved to a rehab hospital for about a week and when she returned with him we renewed our conversations. As I was leaving one Friday she asked me to pray for her dad. I told her I prayed for her and her dad daily.

The next day her dad passed away. I still have some contact with Sarit and hope to meet her for coffee one day.

Nili's husband presently shares the room with Moshe and she and I speak quite often during the day. Moving from Hebrew to English and back, we understand each other very well. She knows that we believe in God and also in His Son, Yeshua (Yeshu she called Him, which doesn't have a nice connotation). She too has heard our friends praying, many who speak in Hebrew. We share a great deal of time in the room together and I pray that His power and glory would permeate her heart with His saving grace and mercy.

One day I introduced myself to Rachel and learned her mom had cancer. Many times we would pray for and with her mother and read from the Bible. Rachel and I would pray for Moshe by his bedside in the name of Jesus.

Rachel's mom went home to be with the LORD, but Rachel made such an impression on the nurses that they still ask me how she is doing. The nurses have heard His Word and it won't return void.

Moshe has been in this hospital for nearly two months and I truly believe that God is allowing him to be a witness just through the miracle of his continued healing. We look forward to the day when Moshe will be walking and talking again, and pray that those who witness this healing will turn their lives over to Jesus the Messiah in faith.



Editor's Note: Moshe has been transferred back to the rehabilitation hospital and continues to progress in his healing.

S u m m e r 2 0 1 4

Shadows of the Tribulation

Rev. Mark Robinson

One of the intriguing developments in the Jewish world is the ongoing preparations for rebuilding the Temple and the institution of Temple sacrifice and worship. This column has reported on this in the past and will continue to update events regarding the Temple.

This past Passover saw a number of important events take place. The following is a fascinating insight into the progress of rebuilding the Temple and starting sacrificial worship.

“On April 10, 2014 at 5 p.m., hundreds of Jews will gather at the Maimonides rabbinical institution plaza in the Kiryat Moshe neighborhood in Jerusalem and start learning the Jewish laws of Passover.

Rabbis and experts, including Rabbi Yisrael Ariel, the head of the Temple Institute in the Old City of Jerusalem, the leading body preparing for the establishment of the third temple, will teach the audience the laws of the Passover sacrifice. Alongside Ariel, the ritual slaughterer (shohet) Rabbi Yehudah Giatt will teach the audience about the unique elements of the slaughter of the Passover sacrifice. After the lessons, the real thing will start: the simulation of the Passover sacrifice.”

“This isn’t the first time that the *“Association of Temple Organizations”* will hold this activity, but this year the practice drill and re-enactment of the Passover sacrifice will be carried out by the students of the school for priests, *Nezer Ha-kodesh*, which started operating this year. The priest school intends to train the hundreds of priests that would be needed to work at the third temple; many Jews endeavor for its establishment in Israel today...”

“Everything is ready, then, except two additional, small matters. The easy one, you’d be surprised, is the Ark of the Covenant. ‘The Second Temple didn’t have an ark, either,’ Arnon Segel [a journalist who devotedly follows the preparations for the establishment of the temple] reminds me, and Rabbi Yehoshua Friedman [director of the school for training priests] adds, ‘There are 10 studies about the location of the Ark of the Covenant. We read them and studied all of them, and reached the conclusion that the right answer is that it’s buried in the tunnels under the Temple Mount. When the day comes, we will get to it.’

“The more problematic issue is the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, which slightly impedes the architectural plans. ‘The temple will not be built through private acts and blowing up mosques,’ emphasizes Segel. ‘That’s not the direction. The direction is changing consciousness. The preparations are mental more than anything.’ One of the people involved in preparations, who requested anonymity, explains, ‘If not for the problem of the Dome of the Rock, they would build the temple today, and the temple would be built there. The third temple will be built by the government of Israel, not by private individuals. No one will do what shouldn’t be done,

like an underground action to blow up the Dome of the Rock. The people who are committed to establishing the temple are normative and rational people, and just like we established the State of Israel, the day will come when we will build the temple, in an orderly, state-sanctioned manner.” *read complete article at <https://www.templeinstitute.org/archive/10-04-14.htm>

The prophetic Scriptures teach a rebuilt Temple standing, and sacrificial worship taking place no later than the middle of the Tribulation period, Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4. There is no reason, though, that the Temple and sacrificial worship can’t be instituted prior to the start of the Tribulation period. All the scriptures tells us is it must be in place by the middle of the Tribulation.

According to the article, the Ark of the Covenant is no problem or impediment to the building of the Temple and the offering of sacrifices. Why? First, the second Temple (Herod’s Temple) didn’t have an Ark and sacrifices were offered, so the coming Temple doesn’t have to have an Ark. Second, according to the article, they know the Ark is in the tunnels under the Temple mount. As the article stated, “When the day comes, we will get to it.”

Jeremiah 3:16-18 gives us some interesting information about the Ark of the Covenant. The context of these verses is the Tribulation period and the Millennial kingdom.

“And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more. At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.”

Notice it says that when Jerusalem is the throne of the Lord, all Jewish people are in the land and walk with the Lord, and the nations also come to Jerusalem to worship, that the Ark will no longer be visited.

Two things need to be mentioned. Since the Ark was where God dwelt in the Tabernacle and then the Temple, with Jesus, the Son of God, on earth, reigning from the throne of David, there is no need for the Ark. Second, the verses state that the Ark shall no longer be visited. This implies that the Ark is present in the time period previous to the Messianic kingdom. In other words, it is in the Tribulation Temple.

We live in fascinating times - Shadows of the Tribulation. Are you ready for His coming? It could be very soon!!!



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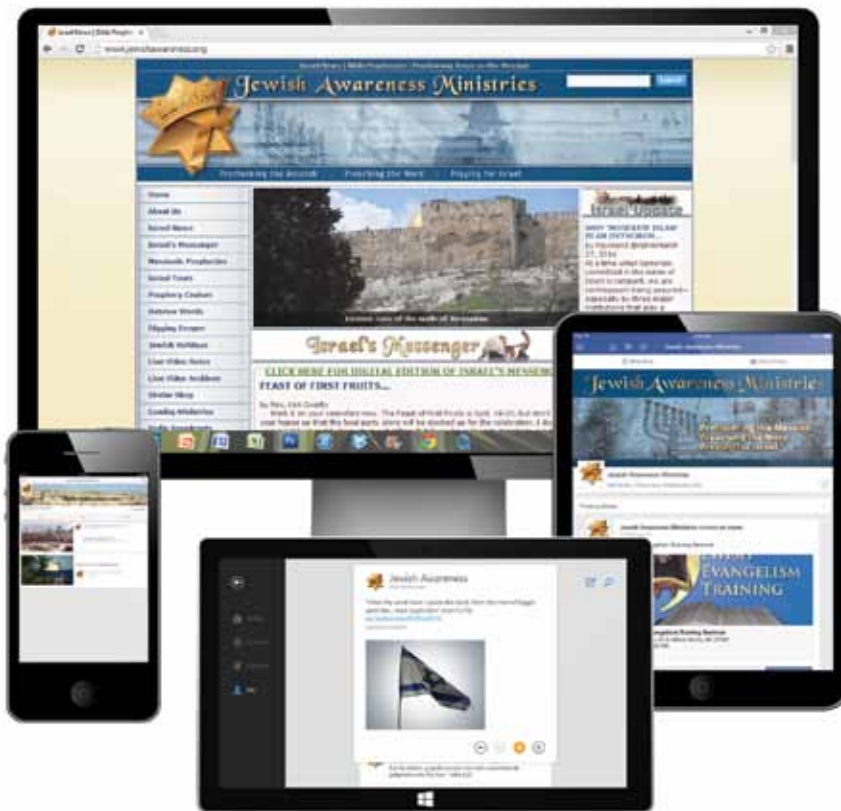
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