

SPRING 2018

# Israel's Messenger

A Ministry of  
Jewish Awareness Ministries

Publishing Salvation to Zion

Isaiah 52:7



## TYPES OF THE MESSIAH



BRIDEGROOM  
PASSOVER LAMB  
TABERNACLE  
DAY OF ATONEMENT





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with



# Jewish Awareness Ministries

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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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The cover of this issue of Israel's Messenger draws our attention to 4 types of Messiah Jesus that are in the Bible. A biblical type (of the Messiah) is an actual event that pictures the Messiah and/or what He would do. The fulfillment of the type is referred to as the anti-type. The Bible speaks of types using different words. For example, Adam is a "figure" (Greek: *tupos*) of Jesus, Romans 5:14. In Colossians 2:17, "shadow" (Greek: *skia*) is used of the Jewish practices mentioned in verse 16 as "picturing" "things to come." Messiah as the Passover Lamb, the Day of Atonement, the Bridegroom, and when seen in the Tabernacle should encourage your worship of our Savior and LORD and increase your appreciation for the infallible word of God.



# FROM THE *Director's Desk*

REV. MARK ROBINSON

## Shalom in the Messiah!

The first issue of Israel's Messenger for 2018 brings some major changes to this magazine. The first is that we have increased the size from 16 pages to 20 pages. This will allow us to increase content, incorporate more graphics, and, overall, make it a lot more attractive publication. As always, the content will focus on subjects germane to this ministry. Topics such as Israel, Messianic Prophecy, Jewish Culture, Feasts of Israel, Bible prophecy, and Israel's unique history as God's nation, among other topics, will be developed in articles that

should educate you and glorify the Messiah. We have moved the preparation and graphics of the magazine in-house with Dan Bergman overseeing this part of the magazine. As in the past, I choose the article topics, assign the writers, and have full editorial responsibility over the magazine. I hope the new look glorifies our Lord and the content continues to educate and edify you.

This issue looks at biblical types – specifically types that are seen in Jewish culture. You will learn about types as you read this issue, but basically a type is a historical event that is illustrative of a spiritual truth primarily revealed in Messiah Jesus, with the “fulfillment” of the type referred to as the anti-type.

Dan Bergman has contributed two articles for this issue. The first is “Messiah as our Passover Lamb.” The historical events of Exodus 12 illustrate a host of truths that come to fruition in Jesus as the Passover Lamb. It is no wonder that 1 Corinthians 5:7 says, “For even Messiah (Christ) our Passover is sacrificed for us.” You will learn some of the ways Exodus 12 and Jesus relate when you read Dan's article.

The second article Dan provides for this issue is “Messiah in the Tabernacle.” Many books have been authored through the years on this subject. This article will give you a good, brief overview of how the Tabernacle portrays the spiritual truth of Messiah Jesus.

I have written the article on “Messiah as the Bridegroom.” When Jesus is referred to as the “Bridegroom” and the church is referred to as the “Bride,” the understanding of Jewish marriage customs sheds light on Jesus as the Bridegroom and His first and His second coming. The insights and scriptural truth seen in this custom are simply amazing! Don't miss this article.

I have also penned the article “Messiah as our Day of Atonement.” Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is the holiest day of the year for Jewish people. This was true in biblical times and is true today. On that day, one man, the High Priest, went into the Holy of Holies to offer a blood offering for the sins of the people of Israel. This Feast Day vividly portrays our Lord and Him being the fulfillment of Yom Kippur. I also discuss a statement in the Talmud, in relation to Jesus the Messiah's death and resurrection, that, I believe, you will find intriguing.

The “Shadows of the Tribulation” column was authored by me as well. The subject is President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the “unhinged” response seen throughout the world.

Ken Overby has written the first in a series of articles for the column “Messianic Witness to Israel.” His use of Jewish holidays can help you share Messiah Jesus with your Jewish friends. Follow his series, and you will learn some valuable tips.

Our Journey to Jerusalem tour this year is from October 16 to October 26. We have spots available. Our tour is one of the most reasonably priced tours you will find when you compare all facets – quality of hotels, sites visited, leaving from your domestic city, all expenses except some lunches and personal items covered, etc. Join us. Call us to reserve your spot with a \$500 deposit.

On page 2 (inside cover) you will find some preliminary information on a new ministry we are developing. Jewish Awareness Ministries' on-line “School of Biblical and Jewish Studies” (SBJs) will initially have 3 courses. In each course there will ultimately be dozens of classes. Each class will have many lessons which we are trying to restrict to about 20 minutes per lesson. For example, my class on the “Tri-unity of God in the Tenach (Old Testament),” part of the Jewish Evangelism course, has 6 lessons with most of them lasting about 20 minutes. Lord willing, the school will be on-line by this summer. Details will follow.

Our on-line evangelistic radio station is up and running. Go to [www.shalomshalom.radio](http://www.shalomshalom.radio) to listen. You can download an app to your phone or tablet from this website as well. We have business cards we will send you at no charge if you would like some to hand out to people. Contact us about getting some of these.

This year is the 70th anniversary of Israel becoming a nation. Perhaps Jesus returns this year for His bride!

In Messiah,

Mark Robinson





# MESSIAH AS OUR PASSOVER LAMB

REV. DAN BERGMAN

**T**he freshly plucked hyssop branch became heavy as it soaked up the thick blood from the clay basin. Smelling the pungent copper-like stench of so much blood was difficult to avoid. The air was filled with the cries of children who had just lost their newest friend, the lamb. He was spotless, young, from the flock, and kept for a short time before his death. His blood - still warm, was dripping down the front of their homes.

The children of Israel had been under Egyptian slavery for over four centuries. The God of their fathers was bringing them out of Egypt with a mighty hand. If they hadn't seen such amazing miracles with their own eyes, it would have been hard to believe what was going to happen that night. They had seen the Nile river turn into blood, smelled the piles of rotting frogs, and heard the swarms of flies and locusts fly overhead. They witnessed the thick darkness that enveloped the entire land of Egypt for three days, while all of the Hebrews had light. The I AM hadn't failed them yet. They would trust Him with their lives tonight. It was going to take something much more terrible for Pharaoh to let them go. Little did they realize that everything they were going through was going to vividly picture a much greater future deliverance.



## THE LAMB WAS SPOTLESS

In Exodus 12:5, we read *“Your lamb shall be without blemish.”* This lamb was to have zero imperfections. He could not have any disfigurement, sickness, or injury. This lamb would serve as an example for all future sacrificial lambs in the yet ungiven Levitical system. Anything less would be an unacceptable sacrifice in the eyes of the LORD.

The lamb that was to be chosen and sacrificed to save the firstborn that night was in many ways a pattern for the coming Messiah who would be made *“an offering for sin,”* and is compared to a lamb being brought to the slaughter who had done no wickedness in Isaiah 53:7,8-10.

In Hebrews 9:14 we are told that Jesus offered Himself *“without spot”* to God.

In Hebrews 4:15 it is proclaimed that Jesus was tempted in all of the ways that we are, yet was wholly without sin. Jesus the Messiah was truly our

spotless sacrificial lamb. We are told in 1 Peter 1:18-19 that *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

## THE LAMB WAS YOUNG

We also see in Exodus 12:5 that the lamb would need to be a *“a male of the first year.”*

This lamb could not be two years old. It couldn't be a fully grown sheep that would soon die of natural causes. This lamb had to be a young, male lamb.

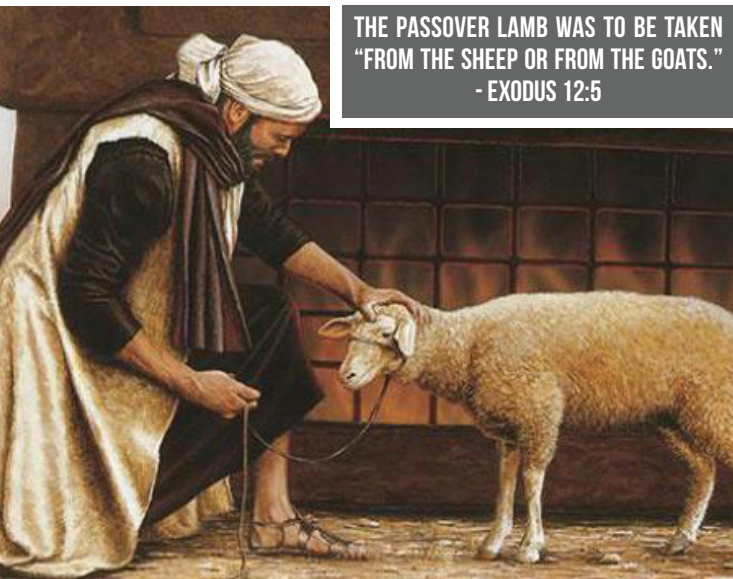
Jesus began His earthly ministry at age 30.<sup>1</sup> At the time of my writing this article, I am almost exactly 33½ years old. Based upon the number of Passovers mentioned during the earthly ministry of Jesus, we can gather that this is roughly the age He



was when He died on the cross for you, and for me. I am still looked at by many as a “young man.” It is strange to me, to be this age - as I always viewed Jesus as being much older when he died, was buried, and rose again. His sacrifice was not only spotless but at an age in which men are in their prime.

## THE LAMB WAS FROM THE FLOCK

This lamb was a “local lamb.” He was one that was likely often seen and cared for by various residents of Goshen.



THE PASSOVER LAMB WAS TO BE TAKEN  
“FROM THE SHEEP OR FROM THE GOATS.”  
- EXODUS 12:5

He was not from a far country, imported for the purpose of sacrifice. He was one born and raised within the Israelite community. My good friend, and co-laborer Moshe Gold, well summarizes how this concept relates to Jesus.

*Just as the Passover lamb was taken from the flock (Exodus 12:5), the Messiah would come from the congregation of Israel (Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Isaiah 49:6). More specifically, He would be born in Bethlehem, Ephrata, (Micah 5:2), from the house of King David (II Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 9:6-7), after the completion of, but before the destruction of, the second Temple (Daniel 9:24-26). As the lamb was a male in order to be the suitable sacrifice to redeem the first-born from death, so the Messiah would be an Israelite in order to identify with his own people in death and to take the penalty for their sin upon himself (Isaiah 53:4-6). Furthermore, as a man he would represent all of mankind in this sacrifice (Isaiah 52:15).<sup>2</sup>*

## THE LAMB WAS KEPT FOR A SHORT TIME

These Jewish homes in Goshen were multi-generational family dwellings, full of parents, grandparents, and children. It was not normal for these homes to house a lamb - and yet, that is exactly what happened for the four days leading up to the Passover. Each family was to take a lamb (with the previously stated specification) into their house on the 10th of Nisan.<sup>3</sup> Can you imagine the excitement of the children in these homes? I had a Bible teacher in college who said that maybe they gave the lamb a name. This was a very unique time: four days. It would be just long enough to get used to having this cute little animal in their house... then they would kill it. They would have to cover the door frame of their house with its blood.

As mentioned previously, Jesus began presenting Himself as the Messiah only 3½ years before His death. It was in the midst of the Feast of Tabernacles that Jesus went into the Temple and said to the crowds of Jewish people, “Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.”<sup>4</sup>

Jesus was here on the earth just long enough for the house of Israel to get to know Him (although many refused to believe who Jesus really was). John, speaking of Jesus, wrote “And we beheld His glory...”<sup>5</sup> and “...which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled...”<sup>6</sup>

We get a sense that Messiah, the only begotten Son of God, was here with us. We heard Him, saw Him, and touched Him... and now, He is gone to be with the Father. There is a feeling of the temporary nature of Jesus earthly ministry. His disciples who loved Him so dearly most assuredly must have felt as though they were just getting to know Jesus when He said that His time had come. We see this clearly in Peter’s response to Jesus, refusing to believe that Jesus was going to die.<sup>7</sup>

## THE LAMB IS THE PASSOVER

This was the LORD’s provision to save those that would trust Him from the very last plague. The Passover night would deal a devastating blow to all of the land of Egypt. It was not just the male children that would be threatened by this plague - but *all* firstborn in the entire land: both man and beast, male and female, captive and king. The only way that the firstborn would live through the night would be if the lamb’s blood was on their doorpost. As mentioned previously, these were multi-generational homes. If my parents and I, and my family were all dwelling together, my dad, myself, and my son would all be in danger of losing our lives that night. Speaking of the lamb in Exodus 12:11, we are told the “*It is the LORD’s Passover.*”

The lamb would not bring deliverance from the plague, but the lamb *itself* would be the deliverance. The lamb itself



would be the salvation of the firstborn. This mirrors the actual name of Jesus - ישוע (Yeshua) which means "Salvation." He is our Salvation! He is our Deliverance, our Redemption, and our Hope! As 1 Corinthians 5:7 says, He is our Passover! In this sense, John the Baptist cried out "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!"<sup>8</sup>

Jesus is referred to as the Lamb 27 times in the book of Revelation. This is undoubtedly one of the ways that He will be referred to throughout eternity! He is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world!"<sup>9</sup>

## "THIS IS MY BLOOD"

It would be the last earthly Passover of Jesus the Messiah. His disciples would have no doubt performed the "Bedikat Chametz," or removal of the leaven in preparation of the upper room. The Messiah blessed the first two cups of Passover wine, the Cup of Sanctification as well as the Cup of Deliverance, and all drank. This "fruit of the vine" had one requirement - it had to be red, symbolizing the blood of the Paschal (Passover) lamb. They were now partaking of the Passover meal.

Jesus took the unleavened bread, blessed it, and broke it. He gave it to all, proclaiming that it symbolized His body, which would be broken for them on a cross. He would be their sacrifice.


Then He took the third cup, the cup that comes after the meal - the Cup of Redemption. Remember that this juice symbolized the blood of the lamb - the blood that was smeared on the Hebrews' doorposts. Jesus the Messiah blesses it and makes a bold statement, "This is my blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins."<sup>10</sup>

Everything that the Hebrews had celebrated regarding the Passover for the previous 1400 years had led up to this point! Jesus Himself would die on the Passover, as the ultimate fulfillment of everything the Passover feast pointed towards!

Just as the lamb was to be kept whole, not a bone in Jesus' body was broken! His blood will cover and save all who trust in Him by faith!

## CONCLUSION

Are you like a Hebrew who was confronted by Moses with the way of salvation, and yet you are skeptical about it? Imagine what would happen if on that first Passover night, a Hebrew neglected to place the lamb's blood on his doorposts. Maybe he figured being a Hebrew was good enough. Maybe he didn't want to admit that he needed God to deliver him from the last plague. Please don't play games with God! He loves you, and sent His Son to die in your place - as your Passover Lamb! Would God have ever done such a thing if there was another way to redeem us? Don't put off having your "doorposts" covered! Just as that lamb died to save those within the household, Jesus the Messiah died to save you from

the eternal wrath of God that is upon you! Trust in what He has done for you today! 

## ENDNOTES

1. Luke 3:23. In Numbers 4:3, we see that thirty is the minimum age that a Levite needed to be to serve as a priest.
2. Moshe Gold, *Messianic Symbols in the Passover Seder*, Jewish Awareness Ministries, Angier, NC p.61,62.
3. Exodus 12:3
4. John 7:33
5. John 1:14
6. 1John 1:1
7. Matthew 16:21-23
8. John 1:29
9. Revelation 13:8
10. Matthew 26:28

BY REV. DAN BERGMAN

Campus Ministries Director  
Jewish Awareness Ministries



*You are invited to a*  
**Passover Seder**

**Location:**  
Jewish Awareness Ministries  
8311 NC HWY 55 S  
Angier, NC 27501  
**Dates:** March 30, and 31, 2018

**Time:** 6-9 p.m. on Friday, March 30  
5-8 p.m. on Saturday, March 31

**Cost:** \$14.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 12 years of age and under

Join us for this edifying and challenging evening as we share in a Passover Seder. The order of this Seder will be the same as that in a traditional Jewish home with explanations about the traditions and insights into the Messianic understanding of the Passover.

You have two nights to choose from – Friday, March 30, or Saturday, March 31. Ticket price includes the Passover Haggadah book, a delicious meal including matzoh ball soup, salad, vegetable, beef and chicken dinner, dessert, and all the elements used in the Passover Seder.

**For tickets or more information please call 919-275-4477.  
Seating is limited so reserve your place early.**



# MESSIAH IN THE TABERNACLE

REV. DAN BERGMAN



“

*And Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.”*

- Exodus 25:8,9

**F**or almost 500 years, this would be the dwelling place of God among the children of Israel. On the outside were goat's hair, ram's hides and badger skins. On the inside were gold, silver, fine linens, beautiful tapestry, and above all - the presence of God! This was a magnificent mobile worship center that vividly pictured many different facets of the person of Messiah! Built around 1400 B.C., the Tabernacle was patterned and designed specifically by God Himself.

This is important to realize as we consider how the Tabernacle, its furniture, and its offerings so vividly picture Jesus the Messiah!

We will take an abbreviated look at some of the items involved in ancient Tabernacle worship, and as we do so, we will glimpse the Messiah. As it says in Hebrews 9:8,9 *“the first Tabernacle... was a figure for the time then present.”*



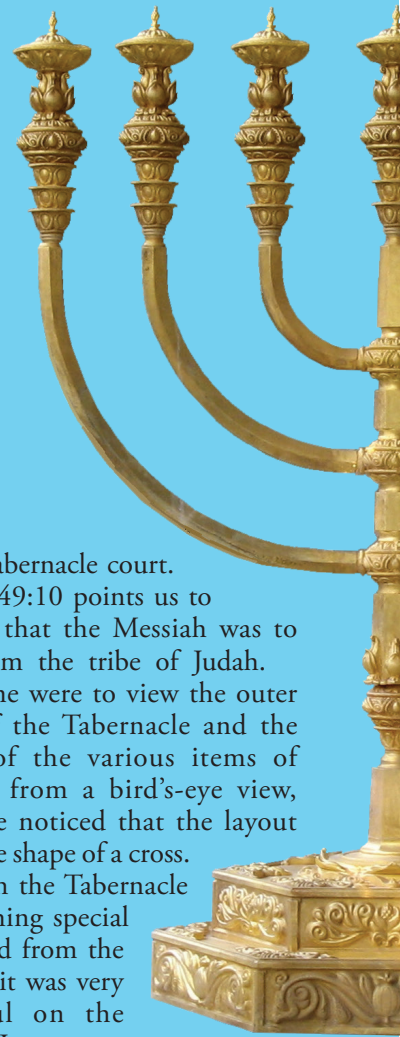
## AN OVERVIEW OF THE TABERNACLE

According to Numbers 2:3, the tribe of Judah was to be situated right next to the entrance of the Tabernacle. This gate was the only way in or out

of the Tabernacle court. Genesis 49:10 points us to the fact that the Messiah was to come from the tribe of Judah.

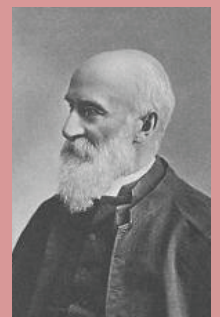
If one were to view the outer court of the Tabernacle and the layout of the various items of worship from a bird's-eye view, it can be noticed that the layout forms the shape of a cross. Although the Tabernacle was nothing special to behold from the outside, it was very beautiful on the inside. Just as our Savior had no beauty that he should be desired,<sup>1</sup> He was *“fairer than the children of men.”*<sup>2</sup>

The word “fairer” here is “the beauty of all beauty.” It speaks of who Messiah would be, as the greater Son of David. This is not saying that He had the look of a Hollywood celebrity, but in contrast, that He would be in His love, care, mission, and righteousness, the most beautiful person to ever walk the planet.



## Thoughts on Types

*“To apprehend them [types] requires a certain measure of spiritual capacity and habitual exercise in the things of God, which all do not possess, for want of abiding fellowship with Jesus. The mere superficial glance upon the Word in these parts brings no corresponding idea to the mind of the reader. The types are, indeed, pictures, but to understand the picture it is necessary we should know something of the reality. The most perfect representation of a steam-engine to a South-sea savage would be wholly and hopelessly unintelligible to him, simply because the reality, the outline of which was presented to him, was something hitherto unknown. But let the same drawing be shewn to those who have seen the reality, such will have no difficulty in explaining the representation. ..It is just so in Types.”* Andrew Jukes, *The Law of the Offerings*, pg, 14-15





## BRAZEN ALTAR

This was the first item one saw upon looking past the gate moving inward and eastward toward the Tabernacle. *“The brazen altar was at the gate of entrance, representing God’s claims. These claims must be met before God can fellowship [with] the sinner. The altar demanded a sacrifice and blood.”*<sup>3</sup>

The worshipper is instantly confronted with his need for a blood sacrifice to atone for his sins before a holy God. Hebrews 9:12 tells us that *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

## LAVER

The laver or wash basin was placed between the altar and the entrance to the Tabernacle itself. Its use was so necessary in Levitical worship, that if the priests in service neglected to use it, they would die.<sup>4</sup> We have been completely cleansed in Christ from all defilement. Speaking of the church, Ephesians 5:26,27 says, *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish,”* and 1 John 1:9 tells the believer that *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

It is through the sacrifice of the Messiah, that we are declared clean! It is only through Him that we can now approach God!

## TABLE OF SHEWBREAD

*“Right across the Tabernacle, on our right as we enter, and in the full blaze of the golden candlestick, which almost seems to shine for the purpose of revealing it alone, stands the table of shewbread...”*<sup>5</sup>

This table held 12 loaves representing the 12 tribes of Israel. Jesus declared Himself to be *“the Bread of Life”* numerous times in John chapter 6. He is our spiritual sustenance in this life!

## GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

Moses was commanded to make a seven branch lampstand out of one talent of gold. This was the only source of light inside the Tabernacle. One talent of gold would be

1,500 ounces in today’s vernacular.<sup>6</sup> Today this Menorah would be worth \$1,891,500! In John 1, Jesus is referred to as *“the Light”* 6 times! In John 8, 9, and 12 Jesus refers to Himself as *“the Light of the world!”* This is foreshadowed by Isaiah 9:1, a prophecy about the Messiah bringing light to the region of Galilee!




## THE OFFERINGS THEMSELVES

*“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”* Hebrews 9:24-26

Isaiah 53 tells us that the LORD would make the soul of the Messiah an offering for sin. The burnt, meat, peace, sin, and trespass offerings all symbolize some facet of who Jesus the Messiah is. 2 Corinthians 5:21 speaks of Christ as our sin offering, *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Ephesians 5:2 says that Jesus the Messiah *“hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour”* speaking of Him as our burnt offering.

He is the One casting the shadow that is clearly seen throughout the Tabernacle! Come to Him, for He is the only way to experience true forgiveness! 

## ENDNOTES

1. Isaiah 53:2
2. Psalm 45:2
3. W.S. Hottel, *Typical Truth in the Tabernacle*, Union Gospel Press, Cleveland, OH, p.98
4. Exodus 30:17-21
5. A. B. Simpson, *Christ in the Tabernacle*, Christian Publications Inc., Harrisburg, PA, p.87
6. Theodore Epp, *Portraits of Christ in the Tabernacle*, Back to the Bible, Lincoln, NE, p.118





***Journeying to Jerusalem  
with Jewish Awareness  
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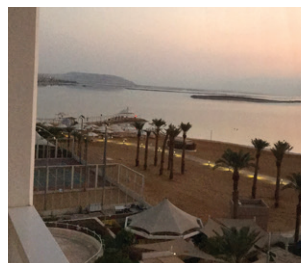
The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks. Proverbs 30:26

On the banks of the Jordan river, near Jericho, our group met two IDF soldiers. Here Dan Bergman is pictured with Eli. He is holding a Hebrew tract, and wearing the paracord survival bracelet that one of our travelers made. Our group handed out dozens of these to Israeli soldiers, as well as some gospel tracts like the one in Eli's hand. What a blessing it was to tell them we love and pray for them!



At the top of Masada our guide Joni, asked Mark to lead our group in a very special prayer for Israel. She brought out a huge Israeli flag, and had everyone hold on to it as Mark went to the Lord in prayer.

Masada is a fortress built by Herod near the Dead Sea. It was here in 73/74 A.D. that it became the last stand for a group of Jewish rebels who chose suicide rather than become slaves of Rome.



Above is the view from our hotel balcony at the Dead Sea. This is the lowest spot on the earth. Water flows in from the Jordan river. The only way water leaves is via evaporation. When this happens, all of the minerals are left in the Sea. It's impossible not to float if you get into the water!

The Land of Israel is an amazing place! It was promised to Abraham and his descendants in Genesis chapter 12. Today many are attempting to eradicate the almost 4,000 year history that the Jewish people have with this land. The vast majority of the entire Bible either occurred in, or speaks of this land. This is where Jesus walked, where He died, and where He rose from the tomb! It is where He will soon return to set up His kingdom! It is a land like no other.







# MESSIAH AS THE BRIDEGROOM

REV. MARK ROBINSON

With palpable joy, the bridegroom recited the betrothal vow to his prospective bride. “Behold you are consecrated unto me with this ring according to the law of Moses and Israel.” Accompanying this statement would be two benedictions – one over wine and the other over the act of the reciting of the marriage formula. The entering into this engagement/marriage relationship was orchestrated by the parents.

joy by all. Even the death of a parent of either the bride or the groom on the wedding day was not allowed to interrupt the joyous occasion of the wedding. The wedding was to go on and the funeral would be the day after the wedding.

Upon completion of the nissu’in the couple are now married in all legal understandings, and able to consummate the marriage sexually and live together, which during the first part of the “marriage,” the betrothal, was not allowed.<sup>1</sup>

## BRIDEGROOM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The use of the term bridegroom is found in a number of passages in the New Testament. The gospel of Luke and John mention the bridegroom in relation to Jesus.

*“Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink? And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?”* Luke 5:33-35

*“I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.”* John 3:28-29

The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 speaks about the bridegroom in the context of Jewish marriage customs.

*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*

## JESUS AS OUR BRIDEGROOM

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also,”* John 14:1-3.

Jesus’ words of comfort to His disciples should be underlined and magnified in the heart and mind of every believer. In a world laden with turmoil, sin, and immoral excesses of every kind, “let not your heart be troubled.” The background of this statement, I believe, was most likely understood by

**J**ewish customs saw the marriage ceremony in two parts. The first, briefly mentioned above, was referred to as *kid-dushin* or *erusin*. In western tradition this would be what we call the engagement or betrothal of the bridegroom and bride. The second major part was referred to as *nissu’in* or “the marriage proper,” and sometimes was referred to as *huppah*, and took place at a later time period, usually about a year after the first part.

Upon completion of the first part, the bride would remain in her father’s home eagerly anticipating the return of her bridegroom to complete the second part of the marriage. The groom would go back to his home and prepare a home for his bride, soon to be wife. The second part would start with the groom going to get the bride and returning to his home where the second part ceremony would occur.

The ceremony for the second part usually lasted 7 days. There was dancing, singing, feasting, and great



His Jewish followers. They certainly would have been aware of, and attenders at, marriage ceremonies and the accompanying traditions of the times. It is believers today who are not familiar with Jewish marriage customs at the time of Jesus that miss the fullness of what Jesus was communicating.

The opening paragraphs summarized the marriage customs in Talmudic time in the Jewish world. This would have included the first century and time of Jesus and the early church. Marriage starts with the parent orchestrating the marriage. Ephesians 1:4 says, *“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”*

The context of this verse shows born again children of God being chosen by the Father in Christ. As a bride in biblical times would be “married” at the first part of the wedding ceremony and live a pure life waiting for her bridegroom, so we who are saved, the church, wait expectantly for Jesus, our Bridegroom, to come for us. We are in the engagement period. Part two of the marriage is still future.

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:2, *“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”*

Espoused is betrothed or engaged. He recognized that believers are set apart for Jesus. Paul’s desire was that when Jesus comes for the church, His bride, we would be like a pure, holy virgin. Presently, believers are in the engagement phase of the wedding – part 1.

As the bride we are waiting at our home, planet earth, for the return of our Bridegroom. Where has our Bridegroom gone? As John 14:1-4 says, which is analogous to the Jewish marriage customs of the day, Jesus has gone back home. He has gone back to heaven. What is He doing there? Again, similar to Jewish marriage customs, He is preparing a home in heaven for His bride, and one day will return for her. What a glorious promise and hope! No wonder we are told *“let not your heart be troubled.”*

In New Testament times, the general period of time before the bridegroom returned for his bride was one year. The important concept, though, was that there were two parts to the marriage with the parts separated by a period of time. The bridegroom WILL return for the bride. This is why Acts 1:11 tell us, after Jesus went back to heaven, *“... Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”*

Yes, it has been upwards of 2,000 years since our Bridegroom left. *“Let not your heart be troubled,”* He WILL return for His bride.

When Jesus returns, He returns in the air, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18, and the expectant, waiting bride goes to meet Him.

Jesus said, *“Let not your heart be troubled.”* Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:18, *“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”* These two parallel thoughts are both based around the concept of the Jewish marriage customs at the time of

Jesus. Understand it, internalize it, rejoice in it, and be not troubled but comforted in it! He is coming for His bride!

After Jesus has returned (in the pre-tribulation rapture, which is the only rapture view that fits this often used N.T. analogy of Jewish marriage customs), the bride of Messiah, the church, now enters into part two of the marriage ceremony in heaven, Jesus’ home.

Revelation 19:7-9 declares, *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”*


In Ephesians chapter five marriage is spoken of with some of the duties of the husband and wife. In the midst of this the church is compared to the wife (the bride) and Jesus as the husband (the bridegroom), verses 26-27. *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*

## THE CHURCH AS THE BRIDE

The Jewish marriage customs at the time of Jesus are clearly used over and over in the narrative of the New Testament. Jesus is the Bridegroom. As the cup of wine is drunk to symbolize the engagement period of the bride and groom, so has our Bridegroom, Jesus, left us the “cup of juice” used in communion to symbolize our relationship with Him. We are told in 1 Corinthians 11:26, *“For as often as ye... drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”*

When He comes we will go to heaven and “consummate” the marriage. We will be in the presence of our Bridegroom who has been gone for a long time.

*“Let not your heart be troubled!”*

Prepare for His return. Live as the expectant bride you are, waiting for the coming of your Bridegroom. What a day that will be! He is coming! 

## END NOTE

1. The first five paragraphs are a summation of Jewish marriage customs taken from the Encyclopedia Judaica, Vol. 11, Marriage Ceremony (in the section under Marriage), page 1032-33 and from the book The Jewish Wedding Book, written by Lilly Routtenberg and Ruth Seldin, Schocken Books, 1968, page 4.

# MESSIANIC WITNESS

## TO ISRAEL

REV. KEN OVERBY

**M**aking disciples is inherently about building relationships for communicating the love of Messiah through a genuine interest in the other person. The biblical Feast of Passover provides one of the greatest potential common grounds for discussion. Since our understanding of Passover's ultimate meaning is very different from a Jewish person's understanding, start with the commonly known details, not the differences. Most Jewish people are somewhat familiar with the account of the Passover in Exodus. Although some 55% of American Jews are not affiliated with a synagogue, almost every Jewish person has experienced a Passover Seder ("SAY-dur") dinner. Express your desire to your Jewish friend to attend a "Seder" sometime. We recommend that you attend a "Christ in the Passover" presentation or "Christ in the Passover Seder" first. Don't discount your lack of knowledge about Jewish customs, but use it as an opportunity to become a learner from a Jewish acquaintance.

**ASK: Do you hold a Seder in your home every year? You may be invited.**

Here are some leading questions you can "ASK," that will give you opportunities to bridge from the particular practices to the fulfillment in Jesus, our Passover Lamb. For starters, share that you have been familiar with the Passover story since you were a child in Sunday School.

**ASK: Do you realize that every month our church reads how Jesus and his Jewish disciples kept a Passover Seder in Jerusalem, and that we share the matzah - unleavened bread and drink the cup of redemption?**

**ASK: What is one of your fondest memories of Passover as a child?**

Answers may range from the food and fun of getting together with family to playing with their cousins. They may mention getting the prize for finding the afikoman, or going to the front door at the end of the meal and calling out for "Eliyahu!" to see if Elijah had come. You can use those later in the conversation.

**ASK: What is the main meaning of Passover to you?**

Their answer may be freedom from slavery, religious freedom or the birth of the Jewish nation. To most Jews the personal redemption by the blood of a lamb doesn't apply today. That central issue is where you're heading in the conversation, but first take them through some more leading questions.

**ASK: Do you eat lamb at Passover?**

Most Jewish families don't eat lamb at Passover, although the Bible clearly commands it.

**ASK: Why is lamb not eaten at Passover?**

Generally, they will not know why. Perhaps they will say, tradition. Some may answer that since the Temple was destroyed and there is no priest to sanctify the lamb, they cannot eat it. This would be a good time to mention that the biblical requirement was that Passover is to be focused on the lamb. This will bring up a crucial missing piece in their spiritual need later in the discussion. Review the first Passover with them.

**ASK: Why did God command the Israelites to kill a lamb and put its blood on their door posts?**

**ASK: What did God promise to do when He saw the blood on the doors of the home?**

**ASK: How can you know that God will be the Passover for your soul when the time for death comes?**

Since there is no Temple today, nor lamb for a blood application, the main component in the Passover celebration is missing.

**ASK: What will God require from you for your sins to be covered?**

Their answer will likely include good works – mitzvahs – or, just as likely, an acknowledgment they don't know.

**ASK: Does the Bible/Torah teach that good deeds atone for sins?**

**ASK: Do you think good deeds can erase the sin of child murder, or sexual abuse?**

A recent survey of Israelis revealed that a majority think the Temple should be rebuilt.

**ASK: If the Temple gets rebuilt and the priestly sacrifices are resumed, will lamb again be required at Passover?**

**ASK: How do you feel about an innocent lamb dying for your sins?**

**ASK: What is the main symbol of redemption in the Seder now, since the lamb is no longer the central point of the Passover?**



**“ ONE RABBI SAID THAT HE HAD TRAINED HIS CONGREGANTS TO DEFEND AGAINST THE EVANGELISM TACTICS OF CHRISTIANS BUT THAT THEY WERE DEFENSELESS AGAINST A LOVING CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR.”**



Most likely your Jewish friend won't know. Perhaps they will say the wine or the afikoman. The afikoman is the central "drama" of the entire Seder.

ASK: What do you do with the afikoman at the Seder?

ASK: Are you aware that the afikoman replaces the lamb now?

ASK: Have you heard that the early Jewish disciples of Jesus used the drama of the afikoman to teach that Jesus died, was buried for three days, and then was resurrected?

This truth is vividly portrayed in the drama of the afikoman in the Seder.

ASK: Why do you set a place for Elijah and send a child to the door calling for him?


ASK: Do you believe the Messiah will come?

ASK: Do you know that the Jewish prophets said that the identifying marks of the Messiah would be that He has pierce wounds in His hands and feet, Zechariah 13:6, Psalm 22:16, Isaiah 53:3-6?

ASK: Have you read the four accounts of the Jewish Passover in the New Testament?

Invite them to do so. Offer to get them a New Testament.

One Rabbi said that he had trained his congregants to defend against the evangelism tactics of Christians but that they were defenseless against a loving Christian neighbor. Jesus said "I send you out as sheep," and also "be as harmless as doves." Prayer, love and a genuine interest asking leading questions that provoke them to jealousy is very powerful.

**The above are some of the many possible questions you can ask your Jewish friend around the Passover celebration to open a conversation of spiritual things.** 

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# MESSIAH AS OUR DAY OF ATONEMENT

REV. MARK ROBINSON

*“Our Rabbis taught: During the last forty years before the destruction of the Temple... the lot [“For the Lord”] did not come up in the right hand; nor did the crimson-coloured strap become white; nor did the western-most light shine; and the doors of the Hekal would open by themselves.”*

THE BABYLONIAN TALMUD,  
SEDER MO'ED YOMA, VOLUME 1, YOMA 39B



**T**he above, almost a throw away comment, from the Talmud, a work of multiple volumes and thousands of pages, is a fascinating statement. Very few in the Jewish<sup>1</sup> and Christian world are aware of this statement from the Talmud. It is impossible to ascertain the factual correctness of this statement, but the application of this to Jesus and His fulfilling the type of the Day of Atonement is insightful. First, though, we need to briefly consider the biblical teaching of the Day of Atonement. The primary text is Leviticus 16.

## LEVITICUS 16

*“And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not:*

*for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat,” vs. 2.*

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, was the one time a year, when one man, the High Priest, was able to enter the holy of holies, where the presence of God was, and not die from being in the presence of God. The awesomeness of this day is captured by this truth. Sinful man, and we are all sinners, has no hope of mercy and forgiveness if we approach God our way.

*“And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering,” vs. 5.*

The High Priest was to take two goats for a sin offering. Notice that the sin offering consisted of two goats, but one offering.

*“And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door*

*of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD’S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness,” vs. 7-10.*

The two goats would be presented to the LORD and lots cast. One would end up being the blood sacrifice that God required, Leviticus 16:15-17, and this blood sacrifice was for the entire nation.

The second goat was the scapegoat and was for the people. A scapegoat as defined by one online dictionary is “a person or group made to bear the blame for others or to suffer in their place.”



*“A type is a historical person, object, or event that has, in addition to its historical significance, a divinely intended future significance. It foreshadows a corresponding person, object, or event, known as an antitype.... A further word needs to be said concerning types... It is important not to invent types that cannot be substantiated by sound exegesis. Types are limited to only two categories, and any supposed type that does not fit one of these two categories is not legitimate. A type can be substantiated when the New Testament designates it as one. An example is that of Adam (the type) and Jesus (the antitype). The New Testament clearly shows a relationship between Adam, the head of the human race, and Christ, the head of the new creation (1 Cor. 15:45). A second category allows for types that are not explicitly designated as such but are strongly implied. One example of such a type is that of Isaac (the type) and Jesus (the antitype). In Genesis 22:2 we read that Isaac, Abraham’s only son, was to be offered up as a sacrifice. The similarity between that verse and John 3:16, in which God’s only Son is said to have been offered up, strongly implies a typical relationship.”* **Leviticus, Louis Goldberg, page 8**



## Thoughts on Types

*“And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness,”* vs. 21.

All of the nation of Israel’s sins were symbolically placed on the scapegoat. This goat was taken into the wilderness and let loose, being thrown off a mountain, assuring it would not be able to make its way back into the camp of Israel, as it carried all their sins.

So this one sin offering was made up of two parts. The first being a blood sacrifice and the second being a goat who would innocently bear the sins of the people of Israel and pay their sin penalty by dying.

### ISAIAH 53

Isaiah 53 is among the mountain-tops of Messianic prophecy. Probably more Jewish people have accepted Jesus as Messiah from reading this chapter than any other passage in the Jewish scripture. It foretells the entire breadth of Jesus’ ministry – from His birth, ministry, death, resurrection to His return as King. It also brings insight on the Yom Kippur sacrifice and how it is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

*“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,*

*he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand,”* vs. 10.

God was satisfied with the sin offering Messiah, Jesus, made when He died for our sins. Speaking of Jesus, Hebrews 9:12 declares, *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

Not only was Jesus the perfect, eternally efficacious blood sacrifice God requires for forgiveness of sin, but He was THE scapegoat! *“For Messiah also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit,”* 1 Peter 3:18.

### HEBREWS 9-10

Hebrews chapter nine and ten bring in focus the Day of Atonement and Jesus as its fulfillment in vivid color and graphic detail.

Hebrews 9:24-28 says, *“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”*

*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”*

It is worthwhile to read the entire chapters of Leviticus 16, Isaiah 53, and then Hebrews 9 and 10. When this is done it becomes abundantly clear that Jesus is the fulfillment of Yom Kippur. He is our blood sacrifice and our scapegoat, who paid for the sins of the entire world, John 3:16.

### WHAT ABOUT YOMA 39B?

According to the text of Yoma 39b, there were 4 things that did not take place during the last 40 years of the standing of the 2nd Temple which was destroyed in 70 A.D. As mentioned earlier, whether historically factual or not, the mention of these in the Jewish Talmud, and its correlation with the ministry of Jesus at the beginning of these 40 years is interesting, to say the least.

1. According to rabbinic understanding the choosing of the lots for the two goats was important. If the lot for the sin offering goat was drawn by the right hand of the High Priest, it was a sign from God that the blood sacrifice was acceptable. According to this passage from the Talmud, the lot for the sin-offering goat NEVER was



*“Every well-established type is an instance of fulfilled prophecy; and when we view them all combined, we have a congerie [collection] of prophecies manifestly fulfilled, and affording an amount of accumulated evidence which must be convincing to any candid mind. In all the necessary elements of prophetic evidence, the argument derived from these types is remarkably certain and facile. . . Their fulfillment, also, is equally certain; we compare the antitypes with the types and find them answer, the one to other, in an immense variety of particulars. It is utterly impossible that this agreement should be the result of accident; it is so minute, and carried out into such numerous ramifications, that it exceeds even the credulity of infidelity itself to ascribe it to anything but design.”* David Baron in *Types, Psalms and Prophecies*, pg. 4-5, quoting J.B. Lowe’s “The Annual Festivals of the Jews,”

## Thoughts on Types

drawn by the right hand of the High Priest in the last 40 years of the 2nd Temple, 30 A.D. to 70 A.D. If this indeed did happen, it would be a sign that God’s Yom Kippur sacrifice, Messiah Jesus, was His acceptable blood sacrifice and was a repudiation of the yearly sacrifice that was still practiced on Yom Kippur. God did put an emphatic end to this practice when the Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.

2. Jewish tradition says that there was a crimson colored strap attached to the scapegoat as well as one to the horns of the altar. When God accepted the scapegoat offering for the people the crimson strap turned white (read Isaiah 1:18 where it says in part *“though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”*) But, for the last 40 years of the 2nd Temple, it never turned white. Certainly, this would attest to the One who alone could bring us forgiveness of sins and make us righteous in God’s sight – Jesus the Messiah.

3. The western-most light was understood to be the central light of the 7 branch menorah in the Holy Place. The command was that this light should always be lit – Leviticus 24:1-4. According to the passage in Yoma 39b, this light would not stay lit for the 40 years from 30 A.D. to 70 A.D. When Jesus, in the Temple area, emphatically declared to Israel, *“...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life,”* John 8:12, there should be no confusion that the True light, Jesus, was now present and the Holy Place light was no longer needed. No wonder it would not stay lit.

4. The final comment of Yoma 39b was the that doors of the Temple could not stay closed. These were huge doors and according to Jewish sources would require many men to open and close them. Why would they not stay closed according to Yoma 39b? When Jesus died we are told, *“And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent,”* Matthew 27:51. The very thick veil, it is believed to be from 4 – 6 inches thick, separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place in the Temple, was torn in two! The doors staying opened enabled people to see that the way into the presence of


God is now available to all. *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh,”* Hebrews 10:19-20.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Once again, it matters not whether the statement of Yoma 39b is historically accurate. The infallible accuracy of Leviticus 16, Isaiah 53, and Hebrews 9 and 10 establishes that Jesus is the “Day of Atonement” that God provided for Jew and Gentile.

Your sins can be forgiven. They can be made *“white as snow.”* But, it only comes through recognizing that Jesus is your blood sacrifice and scapegoat. He died, unjustly, taking your penalty of sin upon Himself, that you might be forgiven your sins.

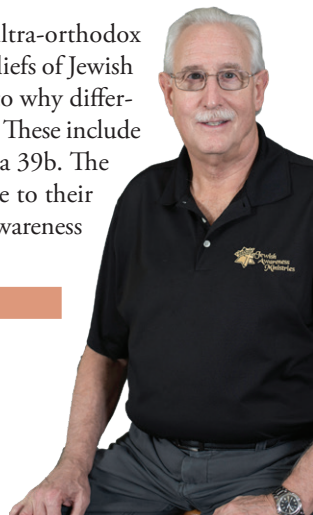
This is done simply by faith, believing (calling) on the Lord Jesus, and acknowledging His dying for your sins, rising from the grave, and being your “Day of Atonement.”

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* Romans 10:9-13 

### A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

There is an extremely small number of ultra-orthodox Jewish people who attempt to refute the beliefs of Jewish believers in Jesus by providing answers as to why different passages don’t speak of Jesus as Messiah. These include Messianic prophecy and texts such as Yoma 39b. The author of this article has written a response to their comments on Yoma 39b. Contact Jewish Awareness Ministries and we will send it to you.

BY REV. MARK ROBINSON  
Executive Director  
Jewish Awareness Ministries





# SHADOWS OF THE TRIBULATION

REV. MARK ROBINSON

W

hen President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel on December 6, 2017, the reaction of the world was, to understate the obvious, way over the top. France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Sweden to name a few European countries, all the Muslim countries, the Palestinian Authority led by the anti-Semite Mahmoud Abbas, the U.N. Security council, most liberal/progressive groups and politicians in the U.S., and leftist Jewish groups like Union of Reform Judaism and J Street, an extreme left, anti-Israel Jewish group, condemned Trump's decision. The anti-Israel bias of the U.N. can be seen in the Dec. 21, 2017 vote where 128 nations voted for a resolution condemning President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital with only 9 supporting it.

Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel for 3,000 years. The sovereign nation of Israel recognizes Jerusalem as its capital. In response to the U.N. vote, Prime Minister Netanyahu proclaimed, "Israel completely rejects this preposterous resolution. Jerusalem is our capital. Always was, always will be."

In fact, there are numbers of Islamic scholars who recognize the unique place Jerusalem has in Israel's history and heart.

*"Jerusalem is a religious symbol for the Jews, [which] is just as holy for them as Mecca and Medina are for Muslims," declared Abdulhameed Hakeem, a Saudi academic. Hakeem defended the US decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and called on Arabs to "accept" Israel's historic roots in the holy city, a move he says can ultimately bring peace to the region.*

*Mobarak Haidar, a renowned Pakistani historian and author of multiple books, recently declared to the "Muslims of the world" that they "have no religious basis to rule Jerusalem." Following Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Haidar posted comments on his Facebook page entitled "Jerusalem and Muslim Claims," debunking various myths surrounding the city, which has been the capital of the Jewish people for the last 3,000 years, long before Islam was conceived.*

*Renowned Egyptian scholar and novelist Youssef Ziedan conceded in an interview in December 2015 that the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem is not the Al-Aqsa Mosque referred to in the Quran, and that the Temple Mount complex in the heart of Israel's capital is not sacred to the Muslims. Citing ancient scholars, Ziedan said that the Al-Haram Mosque and Al-Aqsa Mosque were "on the road from Mecca to Ta'if."*

Yehudah Glick, Knesset member and a long-time advocate for the rebuilding of the Temple, commented:

*"President Trump's move is a high-water mark, on par with the Balfour Declaration, a public statement issued by the British government during World War I announcing support for the establishment of a 'national home for the Jewish people' in Palestine, then an Ottoman region with a minority Jewish population.*


*We read in Psalm 72 of the desire for the king or ruler to bring peace, prosperity and Godliness to the world. And so it is happening! The world is awakening to the fact that Jerusalem is the eternal and holy capital of Israel, a city of Godliness, coexistence, and ultimately peace."*

Many rabbis have seen this recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as the fulfillment of prophecy. They believe God is using President Trump to bring about the end of days when Jerusalem will be the capital of Israel and the world.

But why this extreme reaction on the overwhelming majority of nations and people? After all, this was just a statement of historical fact and present reality. For those attuned to Bible prophecy, it is easy to see and understand this irrational response. The prophet Zechariah foretold well over 2,000 years ago what we see happening in our lifetime.

*"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." Zechariah 12:3*

The irrational "burden" that the nations have concerning Jerusalem will be their "Waterloo." They are fighting against God and His plan. When God states, "This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her," Ezekiel 5:5, it is a comment that is as much spiritually centered as geographically centered.

Keep your eye on Jerusalem. The battle is just beginning. It will culminate in the return of Jesus! 

## END NOTES

1. All the quotes from Islamic scholars are from *United with Israel's* Dec. 18, 2017 article "Saudi Academic: Arabs Should Accept Israel's Historic Right to Jerusalem."



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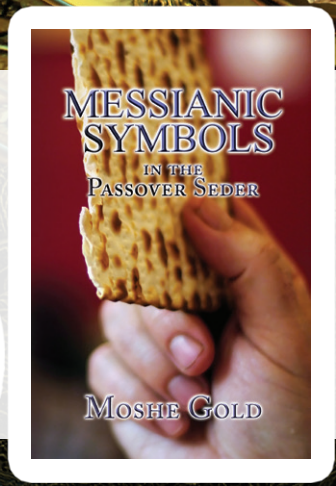
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