



Chazon Yerushalayim

Jerusalem Vision

Prayer/Newsletter April 2012

"This is the bread of poverty which our forefathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry enter and eat; let all who are needy come to our Passover feast. "In every generation let each man look upon himself as if he came forth out of Egypt". (taken from the Passover Haggadah)

"The Pesach Edition 5772"

Dearest Family and Friends, Shalom from Jerusalem! For 3,500 years, the people of Israel have not forgotten that our ancestors were slaves in the land of Egypt. The passage from slavery into freedom became the chief event of Israelite history until that time. This Pesach 5772 commemorates the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt thousands of years ago. We remember how we were once Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt and how the Lord our God brought us out of bondage and slavery with a mighty outstretched arm, with great signs and wonders, on the night of the Passover in Egypt when the Lord passed through the land of Egypt and slew the firstborn of every Egyptian household but "passed over" the homes of the Jewish people.

Passover is called the "Feast of Redemption" when Israel remembers the time when the mighty hand of the Lord delivered us from Egyptian slavery. For those of us who are believers in Yeshua (Jesus), Passover speaks to us of our greater deliverance from sin and death which was he accomplished at Golgotha by His sacrificial death and resurrection during Passover week. May you, our beloved and dearest friends, have a blessed Passover/Resurrection Day season as we remember our Lord's Passover this year in Jerusalem. May you be blessed with a deep gratitude of who He is and what He has done for us!

It was 40 years ago during the preparations for the Passover that changed the course of my whole life when I had a personal encounter with Yeshua the Messiah. This prayer/newsletter is a personal testimony of my gratefulness and thanksgiving to our Lord whom I have had the privilege of serving in the Modern State of Israel and in His Holy City of Jerusalem. God truly works in mysterious ways. It was the well known painting of Leonardo DaVinci of the "Last Supper" (the Jewish Passover feast) that was the catalyst for my spiritual journey that caused me to read the New Testament for the first time in my entire life.

I began reading from the Gospel according to Matthew the text in chapter 1 and verse 1, "The record of the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham". The Son of David, the Son of Abraham? I was astonished! Growing up I was taught that Jesus Christ was a

“Christian” and the God of Christianity and that He had something to do with the Vatican, the Pope, Mary and Roman Catholic Church, but that he had nothing to do with the Jewish people. But when I read the Son of David, the Son of Abraham I realized for the first time in my life that Jesus (Yeshua) was a Jew!

I was taught that Jews didn’t believe in Jesus and that Jews didn’t read the Christian Bible. But as I began reading the Gospel according to Matthew I began reading about this Jesus of Nazareth, a Jewish Rabbi, who was preaching in the synagogues, villages, and cities in Galilee the Gospel of the Kingdom of the kingdom or "the good news" to His own people. I read about His life and ministry and how he healed the sick, caused the lame to walk, opened the eyes of the blind to see, casted out demons and even raised the dead! I was deeply moved by Jesus’ teachings and the great compassion that He had for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, for lost, broken and needy people. I remember wondering why Yeshua had been so removed from our Jewish history? What was the relationship between Yeshua and the Jewish people?

The description of the Last Supper given in Matthew was undoubtedly the record of the Seder on the eve of Passover. The commemoration of the Passover was by far the most special Jewish holiday for me my entire life. But who was this Jesus and why was he celebrating the Passover and making a New Covenant with His disciples? I didn’t know that through reading the account of the Crucifixion God would reveal to me who Yeshua was. I began reading from Matthew the twenty-seventh chapter, the description of the final moments of the life of the Lord, beginning with the thirty-fifth verse: “And they crucified Him.” Reading further I came to the place where He was crucified and the accusation that was nailed to the cross above His head said, "THIS IS YESHUA, THE KING OF THE JEWS" (Matt. 27:37).

When I read those words I was perplexed. Why did they write This is Yeshua, "THE KING OF THE JEWS", and not this is Yeshua "the False Messiah", or "the False Prophet" or "the blasphemer" or any of the accusations that had been brought against Him? Why THE KING OF THE JEWS ? I wondered and pondered who was this Yeshua of Nazareth? I thought about 1900 years of Christianity and 1900 years of Judaism...and I was struggling in my Jewish mind with the paradox of "How could the God of Christianity be THE KING OF THE JEWS"?

As I was struggling with this paradox, slowly God began lifting the veil of spiritual blindness from my mind and removing the blindness. As I was beholding Him nailed to the cross, suffering and bleeding, dying as the King of the Jews, suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon me and in a moment of time the veil of spiritual blindness was lifted and taken away and I recognized Him! Yeshua the King of the Jews! It is written in one account of the crucifixion that as Yeshua gave up His Spirit and the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom and the earth shook and the rocks split and the tombs were opened...it was as if the veil was torn away from my Jewish mind and the earth shook and the rocks split in my heart and in a moment of time I recognized Yeshua to be my King!

It was a life changing emotional moment for me as I was in the process of being born again. As I continued to read the Gospel according to Matthew I came to my unspeakable joy to the account of Yeshua's Resurrection from the dead! I knew nothing about it; it was completely new to me. I read how the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and said to Mary Magdalene at the tomb,” I know that you are looking for Yeshua who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen from the dead"! I was so ecstatic that I shouted for joy! He hadn't only died, but had risen from the dead! I could do nothing else but kneel down and surrender my whole life to Yeshua. There and then I became His disciple. Although I had given up on messianic hopes and expectations long ago, I had trusted in the Lord and found Yeshua as my promised Jewish Messiah. Thank You my dear Lord!

“The Jewish Attitude toward Yeshua”

Ever since the days of the Acts of the Apostles, when the gospel of the “Hope of Israel” was carried from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria and into the known Gentile world, there has been Jewish opposition to Yeshua. The Apostle Paul always went “to the Jew first” and entered into the town synagogue to bring the Good News to his own people before he would preach to the Gentile Greeks when the Jewish opposition grew too great. As the Church in the ancient world grew in number, so did opposition among the Jewish Rabbinical leadership. By the middle of the second century AD there was a significant split in the Jewish world during the Bar Kochva revolt against Rome in the land of Israel. Jewish believers in Yeshua refused to participate in the revolt, and so were categorically rejected from the synagogue. There was also an exclusivist attitude which developed among Greek Church leaders towards anything Jewish which led later on to negative decrees against Jewish practices in the first ecumenical councils. What developed was a growing anti-semitic attitude in the Church which ultimately alienated the Jewish people from their own gospel and Messiah-King.

Today we in Jerusalem as Messianic Jews are rebuilding trust with our non-believing Jewish brethren. We are establishing trust through daily living in the context where we have been placed by the Lord. We are living in a typical average Israeli neighborhood where most of the neighbors are secular and from oriental background and who are very patriotic...people have come to know us as we are, and they love and trust us.

Secondly we need to demonstrate through the Bible the inheritance that belongs to Israel in the covenants God has made with us. That is the basis by which we must build our gospel witness. The covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the covenant He made with King David are all important talking points we establish to explain what is true Biblical faith.

Thirdly we build our testimony of Yeshua by what are called “proof texts” or “testimonia” the same way the Apostles did in the beginning after the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out and Jews began to be saved in Jerusalem. The traditional “chains” of proof texts are found in every sermon recorded in Acts of the Apostles beginning with Peter’s famous sermon on the Day of Pentecost, Shavuot. These texts are the ones we use to speak about the Resurrection from the dead, “the King that will rule forever“...and a Kingdom that is coming to be restored to Israel according to the prophetic scriptures. (Acts1:6)

We also have the responsibility to explain that this coming Kingdom also includes Gentiles who also receive the promised Holy Spirit and are members of this Kingdom. It is a systematic approach that requires patience and time because each Israeli is different and requires first to be in a relationship. The fear of losing ones Israeli identity through “conversion to another religion“ is real and has a basis due to laws that have been passed to discourage turning away from Rabbinical Judaism.

As the time progresses and the situation in Israel becomes more difficult, more and more Israelis will seek as they are doing now, answers to perplexing questions. New Age beliefs and Kabala will not suffice to bring the answers that give peace to the soul, but only the “Hope of Israel”, the “King of Israel”; the Resurrected Yeshua will give that ultimate answer to the need of our Israeli brethren! There is coming a spiritual renaissance today in Israel after almost 2,000 years. Israel is moving toward the Second Coming of our Messianic King, Yeshua the Messiah!

“A few ministry Projects for 2012”

1. Jerusalem House (HaBayit HaYerushalmi) The Jerusalem House is the spiritual home and base for many of our cross-cultural adventures and activities. We are devoted to the Apostolic lifestyle described in the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 2:42-47 out of a home based ministry. Because of the significant religious and cultural differences within Israel today, the ministry focus is toward reaching the many different people groups. We believe the Lord has given us His vision and ideas and we believe He's going to help us turn Chazon Yerushalyim into a real hub and voice for awakening! We are planning on birthing a new media center through TV, Internet, and Facebook to reach the last generation. Pray for us as we are in transition forming a new team ministry. Jerusalem is waiting for the time of our redemption! Grace and Supplications!

2. Elijah Project is more than ever reaching Israelis and Arabs here in the Jerusalem and the territories. Distribution of bibles and especially the New Testament are given during the Jewish, Christian, Muslim holidays especially Chanukah/Christmas in Hebrew and Arabic. Prayer and the sharing of the Gospel is a daily event. Please prayerfully consider how we can partner with us in prayer and financially.

3. Benevolence Fund

As always, we continue to give financial support to the needy believers in Israel. We see this as a necessary element of the return of the gospel to Israel (as exemplified by the apostle Paul (Romans 15:25-27, Galatians 2:10)). Please consider making a financial contribution to Chazon Yerushalayim as we continue to provide food, clothing, and other humanitarian relief to the poor and needy.

4. Light to the Nations. We desire to encourage Christians to participate in praying for the redemption of Jerusalem and partnering with the Messianic Congregations and ministries that are serving the Lord in Jerusalem today. We are available to speak in your Churches. We also want to pray for your unsaved love ones and for those who desire prayer from Jerusalem for your families. Please send us your prayer requests this Passover/Resurrection season that you can have praying Messianic Jews standing with you for your personal needs and burdens. (James 5:17-18)

We want to thank the Lord for His faithfulness and goodness and thank each and every one of you for being who you are...our dear friends and partners in the Chazon Yerushalayim Ministry. God bless you our faithful friends. We are deeply grateful for your prayers and support. Shalom! Shalom from Jerusalem in Yeshua!

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