

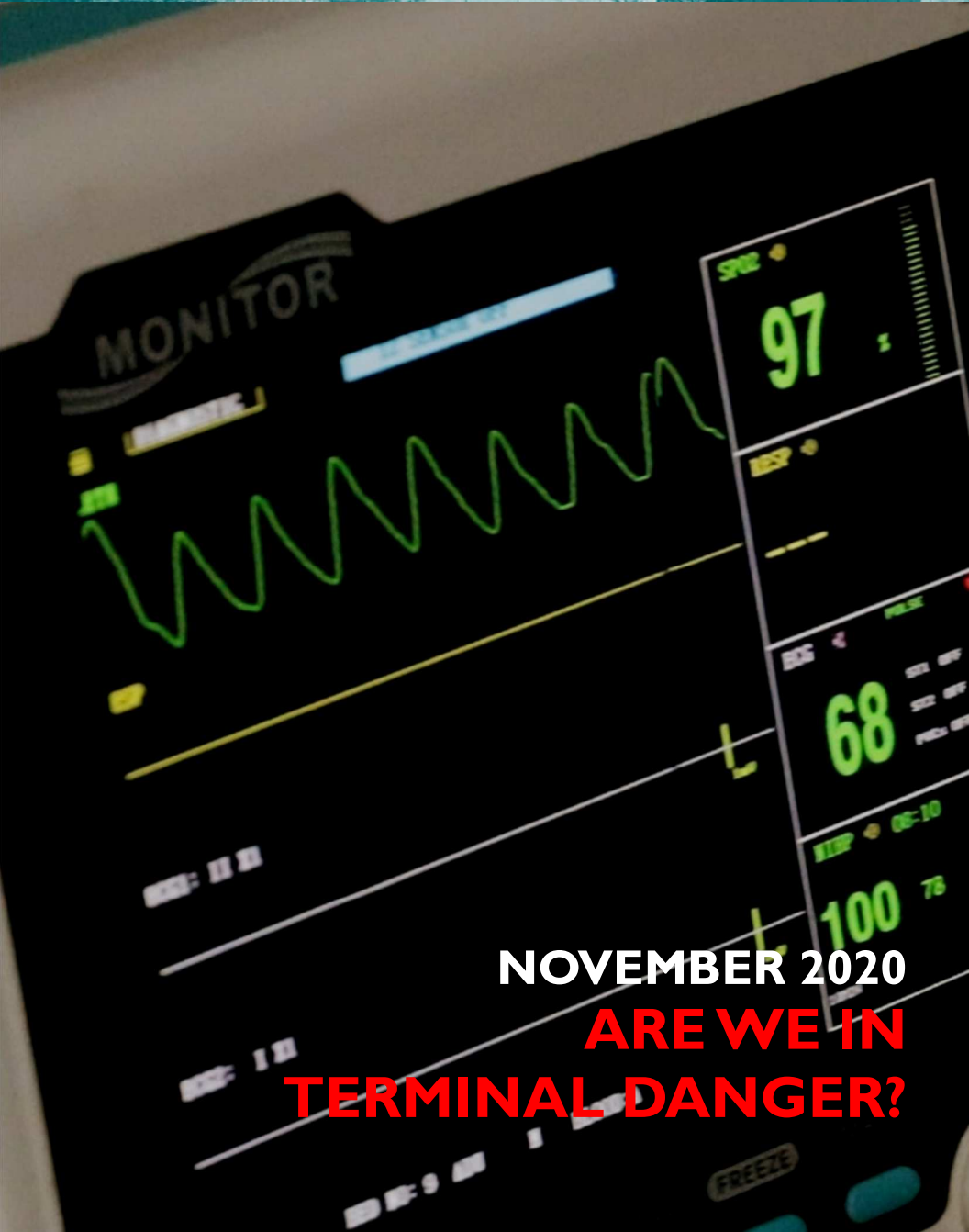
OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2020

ARE WE IN
TERMINAL DANGER?

OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH TEACH ENCOURAGE DISCIPLE

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STATEMENT OF BELIEF

*Outreach Israel Ministries
and Messianic Apologetics*

There is One Almighty Creator God of the Universe, who has revealed Himself to us in the manifestations of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came in fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies of the Scriptures and is fully God. It is mandatory for us to believe in a Divine Redeemer to be saved. Salvation is a free gift of God to all who receive Messiah Yeshua into their lives and confess of their sins. Those who reject Messiah will be consigned to eternal punishment.

The Holy Scriptures, Genesis-Revelation, are the inspired, infallible Word of God as revealed in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts.

Outreach Israel News is the monthly newsletter of Outreach Israel Ministries, a non-profit organization with an emphasis on reaching, teaching, and encouraging the Messianic community. Subscription to **Outreach Israel News** is without cost and supported only by donation.

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All Believers in Israel's Messiah are to be regarded as a part of the Commonwealth of Israel. Jewish and non-Jewish Believers are to respect one another in mutual love as brothers and sisters, and are to work together for the salvation of the Jewish people and return of Israel's Messiah.

The Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) is the foundation of all Scripture, was followed by our Messiah Yeshua, and is to still be studied and heeded by Believers today.

Yeshua the Messiah is coming to gather the Believers after the Tribulation period.

OIM is an *agapē* ministry, freely and benevolently giving the vast majority of its teachings and resources, without charge, to those who desire to be spiritually nourished.

For a fuller Statement of Faith, consult the OIM website

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OIM UPDATE

November 2020

In January of this year, many American people of faith had clear “2020 visions,” were outspokenly excited, and proclaimed the prospect of a revival and reaffirmation of faith—as the potential for sustained peace and prosperity for the United States loomed on the horizon. After all, employment was at an all time high, with unemployment at historical lows. The secession of endless wars in the Middle East was happening, with U.S. government support for Israel unparalleled since the 1948 recognition of the nascent State’s rebirth. Many “prophetic” voices were telling their adherents to “decree” this, that, and whatever—because of the misguided belief that Believers can simply decree or command something and it would occur. While this action might sound Scriptural to many, due in part to the justification that God’s children are joint heirs with the Messiah—it is presumptuous and misleading! In fact, because a substantial number of American Christians have been employing this tactic with undesirable results, a collective air of despondency and anxiety has descended upon many who are trying to coerce God into following and implementing human preferences.

Nevertheless, at Noon on the day after the recent American election, this passage of Scripture scrolled up in my heart and mind, to assuage my concern about the perplexing election results that were being reported:

“Rejoice in the Lord always—again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the shalom of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yeshua**” (Philippians 4:4-7, TLV).

Think about this: the Apostle Paul was writing this letter from a Roman prison to his friends in Philippi. When one considers the amount of genuine physical persecution Paul endured during his assignment to take the gospel to the nations, it is incredible that through it all, he exhorts followers of the Messiah to “rejoice” and not be anxious for anything. The key is to pray, petition with thanksgiving, and make requests to God—*not* carnal decrees. At this point in the election process, this would include illuminating and uncovering election results that have obviously been altered through a variety of nefarious means. How about asking God to bring righteousness and justice to the *entire* election system? Can one cling to the prospect that everything done in the darkness will be revealed by the light of truth?

“For there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, nor anything kept

secret except that it would come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mark 4:22-23, TLV).

But the enemies of nations founded upon and seeking to adhere to Judeo-Christian principles never rest. Instead the "spirit" of Amalek dwelling in the hearts of many godless souls, continues to seek the destruction of God's faithful people. Therefore, Moses directed this admonition and instruction to the Israelites, because he foresaw the consequences of Amalek's diabolical nature:

"Remember what Amalek did to you along the way as you came out from Egypt—**how he happened upon you along the way and attacked those among you in the rear, all the stragglers behind you, when you were tired and weary**—he did not fear God. Now when *ADONAI* your God grants you rest from all the enemies surrounding you in the land *ADONAI* your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, you are to blot out the memory of Amalek from under the heavens. Do not forget!" (Deuteronomy 25:17-19, TLV).

Note that the Amalekites, when Israel was in its infancy then—and the "spirit" of Amalek today—oppresses the weak, the depressed, the anxious, and those weary of the agelong fight to preserve liberty and the God given rights of humankind. Once again, the children of light are in a predicament of battling unseen spiritual forces, which are hellbent on destroying the vulnerable and undiscerning souls susceptible to the wiles of the Devil. Yet in another epistle written from prison, the Apostle Paul explains what was happening then, and indeed **now**, and how to overcome it!

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. **Put on the full armor of God, so that you are able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Therefore, take up the **full armor of God**, so that you may be able to resist when the times are evil, and after you have done everything, to stand firm. **Stand firm then!** Buckle the **belt of truth** around your waist, and put on the **breastplate of righteousness**. Strap up your feet in readiness with the Good News of shalom. Above all, take up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. **Pray in the Spirit on every occasion, with all kinds of prayers and requests.** With this in mind, keep alert with perseverance and supplication for all the Saints. And pray for me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the Good News, for which I am an **ambassador in chains**. Pray that I may speak boldly, the way I should" (Ephesians 6:10-20, TLV).

In this classic description of the "full armor of God," the exhortation to "pray in the Spirit" with all kinds of requests, mirrors what the Apostle told the

Philippians. However, while prayers and petitions are required to plea for guidance from the Spirit, it is also incumbent that Believers enter the fray so that the “mystery of the Good News” can be proclaimed to one and all. This cannot be done by spending every waking moment in the “prayer closet,” but rather when engaging others in the marketplace of ideas. After all, haven’t *all Believers* been commanded by the Messiah Yeshua to make disciples of the nations?

“And Yeshua came up to them and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the *Ruach ha-Kodesh*, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And remember! I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20, TLV).

Practically speaking, the ability to proclaim the gospel has been impeded by various means down through the ages by different governmental powers, under the influences of wicked spiritual forces. Nevertheless, God has always chosen human agents to motivate His sons and daughters to fight back against the oppressors. With that in mind, here are the opening remarks from an inspirational pamphlet written by Thomas Paine, an American patriot who wrote these words when the American colonies were in some of their darkest hours after the onset of the Revolutionary War on December 23, 1776:

THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. **Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated.**

As it was in the days of the Revolutionary War, or when Israel was being returned to the Promised Land being led by the pillar of fire and cloud of the Spirit—it is the same antimessiah “spirit” of Amalek attempting to thwart and destroy God’s people from their prophesied destiny. Pray that this will *not* happen because the all too obvious “conspicuous conspiracy” of election fraud against God’s children will be exposed and dealt with according to the God-ordained “**rule of law**” that the American Constitutional Republic was based upon. And as led by the Spirit of God, ask Him what your specific assignment is to be involved, as the battle rages on for the very destiny of the United States of America, and the world, in which we live.

Finally, in recent days I have been reminded of Rudyard Kipling’s poem “If”

that I memorized back in the sixth grade, which has become the script for an inspirational video that literally brought tears to my eyes. Let me conclude this update as we each reflect on what it means to be a man or woman of God at this critical juncture for America's and our planet's future, as we contemplate these insightful thoughts:

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you, if you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, or being lied about, don't deal in lies, or being hated, don't give way to hating, and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master; If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim; If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, and stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings and risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss, and lose, and start again at your beginnings and never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you except the will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch, If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—you'll be a man, my son!

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of our efforts, to fulfill the assignments given to Outreach Israel and Messianic Apologetics! We are striving to make a difference for the Holy One in these trying times! May God bless you and keep you and always give you His shalom!

Advancing God's Kingdom until the restoration of all things. . .
Mark Huey

ARE WE IN TERMINAL DANGER?

by J.K. McKee

If there is anything which can be assumed about what has taken place in 2020, it is that **no one could have predicted anything that has transpired**. Many of us entered into this year, barely even aware that we were entering into the third decade of the Twenty-First Century. I think that for many people, especially of the more charismatic variety, they saw 2020 as a year for *clarity of vision*. This makes perfect sense to somebody like me, who wears glasses! Yet as we prepare to close off 2020, I think that many of us, in retrospect, would not want the “clarity of vision” that we have witnessed! Many things have been exposed throughout this year, which not only make us uncomfortable, but even downright terrified! We are very concerned about the condition of the United States, the state of our world, and we are having to now more consciously consider the Messianic movement as the literal *end-time move of God*.

One year ago in November 2019, until February 2020, the three of us (Mark, Margaret, John) had the opportunity to attend four major Messianic Jewish conferences, and in the process be able to put our literal fingers on the pulse, and the future, of much of our faith community. I was genuinely pleased to be able to meet, in person, with a number of leaders and figures who I had definitely known about *and* they had known about me. But as frequently happens at these events, there is a lot of down time—and in my case as a single person, I have to use this down time to reflect and contemplate what I am witnessing.

The first event we attended, in November 2019, was the **Messianic Leadership Roundtable** or MLR, hosted by Jonathan Bernis and Jewish Voice Ministries. This was the widest encompassing of all of the events, as it brought in people from the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA), Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC), Jews for Jesus, Chosen People Ministries, various independents, and even a few Christian ministries supportive of Israel. Part of the conference was held in Orlando, FL, and the other part was held on a short 2 day cruise from Port Canaveral, FL to the Bahamas. The best part of the conference, to be sure, was to get to talk to various leaders and figures in an informal setting. Many have certain ideas and preconceptions about different leaders and their personalities, which can be quickly dissipated when you are in a vacation-oriented venue! It is

absolutely imperative for all of us to try to understand one another as ordinary people, who need a break, and who can let their guard down around others once in a while.

The second event we attended was the **MJAA Southeast Regional** conference in Orlando, FL, in late December 2019. In some ways, this was a continuation of the previous event, as many of the same people we saw were in attendance here. This was the third year that Outreach Israel Ministries had exhibited in Orlando. While we were able to continue some of the fellowship we had with different people from the MLR, we were also able to compare this conference to the previous years we had attended. In 2010, when living in the Orlando area, I had attended this event—and over 1,200 people were in attendance. By 2019, there were barely 300 in attendance. And, it was quite noticeable that a wide number of those in attendance were senior citizens.

A few weeks later, during the first week of January 2020, we were once again back in Orlando, this time to attend the **IAMCS Rabbis Conference**. We certainly saw a number of our friends and contacts for a third time, but as a leadership conference we were able to touch base with many more. I find it quite amusing when someone comes up to me and says that we are “friends,” not quite realizing that we really are contacts on social media! Many people know about me and my work that I am not quite aware of!

The Rabbis Conference, mainly intended for congregational and ministry leaders, did invoke the need for 20-20 vision among Messianic people this year. There was an emphasis on the need for new Messianic leaders to arise from the next generation, but also how the current generation of leaders was not departing from the scene anytime soon. Two significant Messianic Jewish Rabbis made the statements: “Moses did his best work after the age of 80,” and “You are going to have to pry this microphone from my cold dead hands!” As always, I simply make observations. . . . But, Mark Huey, wanting to always know a little more, did ask a number of the Messianic Jewish Rabbis if they were grooming any successors to take over, or at least if they had some kind of a backup plan in the event that they might have a future health issue or something. *Silence...*

The fourth and final event we attended was the **MJAA Southwest Regional** in Irvine, CA, the second week of February 2020. Our ministry had never exhibited at this conference before. On the whole it went well, but we were aware from a number of people we interacted with, that the attendance was definitely down from previous years. And, it was quite easy to recognize how most of those in attendance were seniors.

Immediately before going to Irvine, news reports had already come out

concerning some Coronavirus originating in China. At the hotel, we did see quite a few Asians wearing masks! When we returned back to Texas, I was not entirely feeling myself for around two weeks, as I had intermittent fever, a cough, and a scratchy throat. Yet, I can honestly say that because of going out to Irvine—the two day drive there *and* back—that as a direct result of spending all that time in the car, that we now have the weekly **Messianic Insider** podcast! Little did we know that within weeks of returning, COVID-19 would reach a point where lockdowns, social distancing, and masks would become mandatory.

Questions are going to continue to rage about where COVID-19 originated—but there is little doubt that the lockdowns, riots, and now Election 2020 drama are being used by the Lord to get our attention. Today's Messianic community believes itself to be *the end-time move of God*, meaning that at some future point that "end-time" part is going to start kicking in. And, while there are many people who are rightly concerned about what has been happening this year—there is a widescale silence from many of the Messianic rabbis and leaders I interacted with a year ago, about how we should be approaching our changing times. We don't even hear enough people simply noting the need for a review of end-time prophecies like Daniel, Matthew 24, or Revelation as a matter of Bible study.

Having spent some time, in the field, with a considerable bulk of the leadership of today's Messianic Jewish movement—the worst kept secret in the today's Messianic movement is that the average age of a Messianic Jewish rabbi is 65-75. It is a fact that many of these leaders will be incapacitated within the next 5-10 years. It is also a fact that many of them have no succession plan. They often have synagogues and congregations with no permanent building or offices, usually renting from a church or community center. If these people are removed in some way, mainly because of age, will the congregations many of them have planted *at all survive*? Some doubtlessly will, but others will steadily break apart into smaller groups.

I am definitely privy to a number of the things that are going on in today's Messianic movement, as it concerns the physical condition of its leaders. I know of a Messianic Jewish rabbi and his wife, who were probably not in the best of health before COVID-19, who have both been in the ICU because of it (as the virus probably just made their pre-conditions worse). One prominent Messianic Jewish rabbi, suffered a massive heart attack this past Summer. Another prominent Messianic Jewish leader, recently broke his neck in several places. **Yes, these people need prayer for their full recovery.** But their conditions—and probably the conditions of various others—is stark evidence as to how we cannot be a geriatric movement with

failing health. The Jewish community is astutely aware of how it is always one generation away from extinction, due to the threat of assimilation. **From what I see, today's Messianic Judaism, I fear, is in literal danger of dying of natural causes.**

In Luke 21:26 Yeshua warns how in the Last Days "Men's hearts [will be] failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (KJV). Some people are literally scared to death that COVID-19 is the Black Death or the Plague, when it is really just another strain of the flu. Yet, senior citizens and those with already poor health are those who have definitely been susceptible to it. This includes people in Messianic leadership!

None of us fully knows what the future beholds. If God told us absolutely everything that we needed to know, then we would not cry out to Him every day for strength, knowledge, assurance, and protection! We would somehow think that we were invisible and untouchable, when we are frail and limited mortals.

But we also know that the Lord has given each of us minds and reasoning abilities, to witness things taking place in our world and in the Body of Messiah, and to respond accordingly. *What is going to happen when the current generation of Messianic Jewish leadership is retired (in some way)?* What is the succeeding generation going to look like? Are various synagogues and congregations going to even be around? Or, are assemblies going to naturally break apart into smaller, unofficial home fellowships, as it may be required to take a lower profile given the rise of anti-Semitism and the impending end-time scenario? **These are not easy questions for us to be considering, but they do have to be asked.**

Prayer for many of the Messianic Jewish rabbis and leaders of long standing, that the Lord would give them a few more years of adequate health, is something that each one of us needs to take before the Throne every day! Greater clarity and realism for the future is also something that we must pray for every day as well! If we do not pray for these two things, then I do have a well-founded concern that our movement, as we know it, is in terminal danger of ending within the next decade or so.

As I write this, there is still no definite conclusion to the Election 2020 drama. Regardless of who enters into the White House in January 2021, things are irrevocably different. Surely, make the regular appeal, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9, NASU). Yet, also recognize that we are steadily approaching the Battle of Battles, **with the return of Yeshua in the near future!**