

OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS



January 2007



A PIVOTAL
YEAR AHEAD

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STATEMENT OF BELIEF

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.

There is only one assembly of chosen ones/elect, the people of Israel, of which all Believers in Messiah are a part. God does not have two groups of elect: Israel and "the Church."

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

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

For more specific information, consult O I M ' s h o m e p a g e a t <outreachisrael.net>

OIM Update

January 2007

by Mark Huey

The beginning of another calendar year typically allows us to look forward and make our plans as we seek the Father's will for Outreach Israel Ministries. The Proverbs remind us that "the mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9). Additionally, we are admonished to "commit our works to the LORD and our plans will be established" (Proverbs 16:3). With just these two wise directives from the Holy One, we humbly submit the following plans for your consideration and continued prayers and support, as we commit them to His service.

Over the past four years as this ministry has grown, the combined effort of our family has been totally incorporated. This has been a blessing to us both individually and corporately. By His grace, we have sought to freely encourage and teach our newsletter and e-mail subscribers with sound, balanced, scholastic, and loving instruction about the Messianic lifestyle we have embraced. As noted in previous updates, "freely you have received, so freely you give" (Matthew 10:8). By employing this Biblical admonition, our faith in God and His provision through those who are prompted to support our efforts, has grown steadily. Before listing our plans for the coming year, we would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your intercessory prayers and financial investment in His Kingdom's work.

The coming year appears to be loaded with ongoing ministry efforts, new book offerings, and even some anticipated travel. Our free e-mail ministry outreach already includes weekly TorahScope written and audio commentaries, podcasted Wednesday and Friday night audio studies, the editor's featured monthly article with appropriate FAQs throughout the month from TNN Online, and occasional Hue and Cry commentaries. Additionally, due to the favorable feedback from our subscribers, we will be expanding our Virtual Holiday series to include the principle appointed times and holidays for the year. This will include: Virtual Purim, Virtual Passover, Virtual Shavuot, Virtual Sukkot and Virtual Chanukah. Finally, during the

seven-week Omer Counting, new daily devotionals based on selections from the Mishnah tractate *Pirkei Avot* will be transmitted.

As a result of all of this teaching, we are planning to release several new publications this year that are currently in various stages of completion. I am presently working on: *Your Appointed Times: Reflections for the Holidays* and *The Pirkei Avot: A Messianic Perspective*. Margaret Huey is in the process of completing the *Kosher Your Plate* cookbook. J.K. McKee is presently working on the commentary *Philippians for the Practical Messianic*, and will be working on the second edition of *Galatians for the Practical Messianic* this year. We have several other writing projects under consideration and would appreciate your prayers that the Lord would show us what He wants us to focus on next.

As you can imagine, we will be very busy throughout the coming year with these plans, but are also considering a few teaching engagements during the Summer months of June, July, and August, when our direct e-mailing projects are less intense. We are currently in the planning stages for these travels and will certainly keep everyone informed as they are confirmed and scheduled. It is going to be our joy to once again engage with many of you who we have not seen for a while or even met in person.

Every week, you have the opportunity to plug into the various ways that God has given us to minister to His people. We are all slowly, but surely, returning to the walk of faith established by the Patriarchs, affirmed by Messiah Yeshua, and exercised by our Apostolic forefathers during the First Century. Currently, utilizing the various technological tools (computers, Internet websites, e-mail, telephone) available to us today has been a tremendous advantage to both Outreach Israel and TNN Online, both practically and cost-effectively. We all praise the Lord for these efficient communication vehicles and once again thank you for your prayers and support, **as we each wait upon the Lord to not only direct, but establish our plans.** To Him be the glory!

Until the restoration of all things...

William Mark Huey

A Pivotal Year Ahead

by Mark Huey

As one surveys the landscape of the world we currently occupy, there are many reasons to be concerned about the apparent direction of the human race in the time remaining until the Messiah returns in all His glory. Let's face it: mankind is not evolving—but rather devolving—right before our very eyes. While this can be quite disturbing if one focuses on the problems, the fact remains that those who believe in the atoning work of Yeshua are **each called to be a part of the only solution available** to the wicked and perverse generation that surrounds us. If you have been born from above (John 3:3) with the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (John 14:17), occupying your heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26) inscribed with the Law of God (Jeremiah 31:33), you have a **personal responsibility** to be an active witness for the Creator God. The challenge we each have to consider—and hopefully embrace—is just how our testimony and service will manifest itself in this pivotal year of 2007.

I am labeling the year 2007 “pivotal” because predictably there have been, and will be, a variety of prognostications voiced and written that will direct our collective attentions to the **possibility of the Messiah's imminent return**. Already, many people of different persuasions are linking the liberation of Jerusalem during the Six Day War of 1967 and its forthcoming fortieth anniversary to other forty-year or forty-day spans in the history of Israel. Some people enhance and/or self-confirm their end-time theories by emphasizing the ten forty-year periods that total 400 years since the founding of the first permanent English settlement in America on May 14, 1607. While these conjectures are intriguing at times to ponder, have you ever considered the motivation of those who are inclined to make or vaguely suggest certain predictions? Perhaps their time would be better utilized if they followed the command of Yeshua to make disciples (Matthew 28:19), rather than generating disabling fear among their adherents—or worse—disparaging reactions from those who just might be considering some of the eternal truth that is being dispensed.

Let's remember that Yeshua understood our inherent trait to want to know the future. After all, the human condition we have inherited from Adam is certainly predisposed to self-preservation. As a result, there is naturally an insatiable desire to attempt to know the future in order to prepare for potential problems. While there is certainly wisdom in preparing for unknowable contingencies, Yeshua addressed these concerns when He compared the matter of serving two masters in His Sermon on the Mount:

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:24-34).

As you recollect this familiar passage, are you noting the repeated thematic admonition to not worry? Understand that the natural man has a propensity to overly concern or worry about food, clothing, shelter, and his health. Consequently, most of humanity has a tendency to focus their daily priorities on the acquisition of resources or wealth that they believe will procure them more personal security and perceived joy. Even our governmental system places an emphasis on purported gifts of God that are sum-

marized as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. However, Yeshua warns His followers that by dividing our loyalties between God and mammon, we will inevitably hate or despise one and love and be devoted to the other. Clearly He concludes, "You cannot serve God and wealth."

The solution comes at the close of this passage when Yeshua declares, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." These summary statements are easy to read, but not necessarily straightforward to follow. After all, there are a plethora of opinions about just what His Kingdom and His righteousness consist of by a wide variety of expositors. Without attempting to do a comparative analysis of the different interpretations, suffice it to say without the Holy Spirit to supernaturally enable understanding, many have a propensity to follow the dictates of others that they subconsciously or consciously esteem as spiritually superior. However, the Scriptures indicate that it is once again a Believer's personal responsibility to appraise all things because ultimately, those with the indwelling Spirit of God have the mind of Yeshua the Messiah:

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Messiah" (1 Corinthians 2:12-16).

This Scripture reminds me of another admonition, in this pivotal year of 2007, when I believe that the Messianic community should not be operating in a spirit of end-time induced fear. In a time when we should be endowed with the mind of the Messiah, we are further enlightened by the Apostle Paul, as he explains it to his disciple Timothy, the following:

"[F]or God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7,

NRSV)

In these last two Scriptures, did you notice that Paul, a Hebrew of Hebrews (Philippians 3:5), wrote the Greeks in Corinth and his half-Greek disciple Timothy, that they did not need to have a so-called “Hebrew mindset” in order to overcome their so-called “Greek mindsets”? Rather, as many other Scriptures declare as a result of our adoption into the family of God (Romans 8:15-17), we have inherited the mind of Yeshua the Messiah that is supernaturally empowered with great reasoning ability, *agape* love, and self-disciplined soundness. This is not to say that having knowledge of the historical, cultural, social, and idiomatic expressions of the Biblical languages is not unimportant. However, when it supersedes having the mind of the Messiah, those that we are witnessing to and who are listening and observing our actions are understandably confused. Where is the love? Where are the works that testify of our faith?

In many regards, it is probably not too very different from the observations Yeshua made of the Pharisaical leaders, commenting on minutia in tithing among other things, in lieu of the weightier provisions of the Torah. His admonition cut to the quick:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: **justice and mercy and faithfulness**; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others” (Matthew 23:23).

In 2007, the Messianic community of faith does not want to become known for its focus on superfluous teachings that overlook the critical elements of our walk and relationship with the Lord. Obviously, if we are not exhibiting the love, justice, mercy, faithfulness, and sound minds that should be innate as a byproduct of our personal redemption, then we become nothing more than a band of clanging cymbals among a cacophony of religious sycophants.

Instead, I believe we have a wonderful opportunity in this coming pivotal year, as problems continue to percolate in Israel and the Middle East—as more and more people are searching out the Hebraic Roots of our faith and—to be powerful witnesses to those seeking God for answers. As Messianic Believers, people will

ask us questions and want to know what we think about what is going on. Our challenge is to lovingly point them to Yeshua and His completed work at Golgotha (Calvary). If belief in the atonement is already received and embraced, then we each have an opportunity to share more about the Messianic lifestyle that we are all attempting to walk, and how God has brought us into a greater intimacy with Him.

We each have a great privilege with this timely opportunity to serve the Most High, as we first seek His Kingdom and His righteousness. This is certainly not a time to worry, but rather an occasion to make ourselves available for His service in whatever capacity He deems fit. Being conformed to the image of His Son, recognizing that we have been supernaturally endowed with a mind focused on God, will hopefully allow this year to be a pivotal year for many, regardless of what takes place. For we are forever reminded that God is for us who believe:

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become conformed to the image of His Son*, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?**” (Romans 8:28-31).

Thank you Lord for foreknowing, calling, justifying, and further conforming us to Your character in this pivotal year of 2007! As far as the glorifying goes, we will patiently wait for Your timing, whether it is upon Your return—or we are returned to You!

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM OIM:

- A replacement vehicle for John's 20-year old Jeep Cherokee
- Audio-visual equipment for DVD production

NEW FAQ ADDITIONS

from TNN Online

Sensationalism, Messianic: It seems to me as though many Messianic Bible teachers rely on sensationalism. Can you explain why this might be the case?

In all candor, we cannot be responsible for other Messianic Bible teachers. Simply because one might call himself or herself “Messianic,” does not automatically mean that all Messianic Bible teachers are in agreement on various doctrinal issues, or for that same matter have the same kind of attitude or teaching style.

It is very true that there is sensationalism employed by various teachers in the Messianic community today. Such teachers often rely on “one-liners” or incomplete statements that are designed to manipulate a crowd, as opposed to delving into the Scriptures in a fair-minded and scholarly way. Sadly, there are those whose ministries are focused more on what “sounds good,” then on what helps people grow spiritually. These ministries focus too much on the ills of mainstream Christianity and use insulting and degrading techniques to get their points across, rather than being constructive and spiritually edifying with a firm Biblical foundation.

TNN Online abhors sensationalism and the techniques employed by a few. The message of Torah observance and one being a part of the Commonwealth of Israel is controversial enough, and fuel does not need to be added to an already hot fire. We purposefully choose to distance ourselves from sensationalistic methods, and instead rely on the Scriptures for our answers and let appropriate Biblical scholarship persuade others of our positions. Insulting people or trying to come across as so-called “prophets” or “men of insight” is not something we believe is appropriate for the growth and development of the Messianic community.

Dreams and Visions: What is your position on dreams and visions?

Joel 2:28 clearly tells us that in the Last Days the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon “all flesh/mankind,” but yet we also know that there will be intense deception and apostasy. Many have claimed to see visions, dreams, give prophecies, etc. of the Last Days outside that of the Biblical canon. Unfortunately for such individuals, most extra-Biblical prophecies of the end-times statistically do not come to pass and many espoused “dreams or visions from God” are not Scripturally sound.

While we do believe that God will pour out His Spirit or His people, we question many of those who claim to have prophetic dreams or visions. When someone's dream or vision does not come to pass as a person predicts, that person may claim to have had another vision in which the Lord “showed

them” that predicted events would occur on another date on which nothing happens.

Many get into the pattern of believing that every dream that they have at night is prophetic, which we highly question. We have serious reservations when dealing with those who claim to have dreams or visions, as many regard their prophecies to be at the level or above the Bible, which is highly dangerous.

We as Believers have enough Bible prophecy to concern ourselves with; we do not need additional “revelation.” Most dreams are simply mental digestion and have nothing to do with prophecy.

Uniformity: Do you believe that the Messianic movement should be uniform in its theology?

Messiah Yeshua prayed in John 17:22, “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one.” Our Lord and Savior prayed that His followers might be one, or more specifically be of one accord, just as the Father and Son are of one accord and do not disagree. The Father and Son agreed on everything, so one of the ultimate desires of God is that we as His children likewise walk in agreement.

Uniformity is a controversial issue in today’s Messianic community because of the broad scope of where we presently are, and the fact that there are many Messianic groups out there who are independent and unwilling to submit to any kind of accountability. Theologically speaking, there are a few Messianic teachers who are just “throwing stuff up against a wall to see what sticks.” There are those who are coming up with their own conclusions regarding what they think the Scriptures say, because they can seemingly do it and get away with it. There are those who think that “truth” can be found in anything. These kinds of attitudes are problematic. Many of the internal issues that we face today in the Messianic movement are no different than those faced by the early Believers in the Book of Acts, and addressed in both the General Epistles and Pauline Epistles.

We believe that given time, it will be absolutely necessary for the credibility and survival of the Messianic movement for there to be more theological uniformity than presently exists. We will have to be in agreement on critical issues such as the nature of God, Divinity of Yeshua, authority of Scripture, salvation, eternal punishment, and the end-times. More theological uniformity will bring stability to the Messianic movement and help it to grow. This is different from practical uniformity, whereby different Messianic groups might have different interpretations of Torah commandments and apply them differently. But, in the end, we will all have to agree on much more than we presently do in order to make a long term impact on future generations.

NEW AUDIO CD TEACHINGS!



HEBREW OR GREEK: LANGUAGES SPEAK

In this hour of development for the Messianic community, the enemy of our souls is trying to desperately deter or discredit the restoration of the Hebraic Roots of our faith. One way that this has been accomplished is through the subtle tendency of some teachers to discount the importance of the Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament). The claim is made that the Holy One of Israel will only communicate His message to mankind in Hebrew, and not in any other language. Is this valid and can it be supported by the Scriptures? What is some of the spiritual fruit of these ideas that we need to be aware of?

\$7.00 + U.S. shipping and handling

BEWARE OF HIGHER CRITICISM IN THE MESSIANIC MOVEMENT

Over the centuries, many scholars have attempted to discredit the historicity of the Bible, namely the Tanach or Old Testament. Many believe that Moses had no part to play in the composition of the Torah, and advocate that much of the Bible is nothing more than pure myth. Today in the Messianic community there are those who are trying to discredit the inspiration of the Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament) following the same techniques and philosophy of German higher criticism from the 1800's--and do not even know it! Margaret McKee Huey directly addresses some of the errant claims being made--and traps being placed--that we need to be aware of.

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CAN WE TRUST THE GREEK SCRIPTURES?

Many people in today's Messianic community advocate an opinion that the Apostolic Scriptures were originally written in Hebrew. They furthermore advocate that any Scriptural texts in Greek are subject to distrust, and may even be discredited as the Word of God. This has caused many to question critical doctrines such as the Divinity and Messiahship of Yeshua. Can we trust the Greek Scriptures? Is God capable of inspiring His Word in languages other than Hebrew?

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COMING SOON: KOSHER YOUR PLATE

This installment of the Messianic Helper Series will explore the validity of the kosher laws of the Torah and how Messianic Believers can keep kashrut in their homes and daily lives. Also included will be an extensive cookbook of kosher recipes for all occasions: including Shabbat meals, the appointed times, and family dinners at home.

Coming Winter 2007

