



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH TEACH ENCOURAGE DISCIPLE



JANUARY 2009
CHANGE HAPPENS



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STATEMENT OF BELIEF

Outreach Israel Ministries and TNN Online

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.

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

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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OIM UPDATE

January 2009

As we look forward to the New Year, the theme of hopeful change, resident in the transitional air as powers and principalities jockey for position, comes to mind. Certainly, the annual change or perceived adjustment, as the Gregorian calendar shifts from December to January, is often accompanied with heartfelt resolutions as the imaginary clean slate of a person entices the will with the opportunity to start anew. Many in the world will change their eating habits and begin new exercise regimens, or pledge increased diligence in the marketplace in order to secure more income. But most importantly from a spiritual growth perspective, **now is an excellent time for Believers to commit themselves to positive habits centered on the Word of God and approaching Him on a regular basis.**

Over the years of our faith-based ministry, our family has been highly motivated to assist those seeking spiritual maturity and a closer walk with the Lord so **that they can personally fulfill the calling that is upon their lives.** This has prompted us to freely send out the bulk of our teachings, exhortations, and opinions utilizing a variety of venues. These largely include: weekly TorahScope commentaries, occasional Hue and Cry editorials, weekly TNN Online Bible studies, our Virtual holiday series, monthly health and nutrition updates, frequent opinions on the McHuey Blog, and now weekly Haftarah Exhortations. In so doing, it has always been our Spirit-led desire to challenge our subscribers to be loving, balanced, and Scripturally knowledgeable disciples of our Messiah Yeshua.

Annually, we re-examine Outreach Israel Ministries' mission to reach, teach, encourage, and disciple followers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in their pursuit of Him. We typically take the relatively quiet time around the Winter holidays to analyze where we have been effective in achieving our ministry goals. We always consider new, cost effective ways to expand our outreach to the scattered people of God pursuing a Messianic lifestyle. This year, with all of the turmoil generated by the global financial crisis, we are confident that many will be appealing to God for answers to their personal dilemmas. **We view this as a great opportunity to make our materials more visible and readily available in the marketplace of ideas.**

We are always mindful of the proverbial admonitions as we venture into new areas of ministry. We humbly recognize that anything we accomplish which has any eternal value, is ultimately the Spirit of God simply using us as willing vessels. This advice found in Proverbs 16 is closely adhered to and applied, as we launch any new endeavors:

“Commit your works to the LORD and your plans will be established...By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil. When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness than great income with injustice. The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:3, 6-9).

The key to understanding this wise counsel is first recognizing how our minds generally conceive of plans for extending our ministry efforts. We are required to approach the Holy One with a humble heart, asking Him to confirm our decisions. Once receiving His peace and affirmation from trusted counselors, then committing to the work of the Lord and looking to Him to establish it, follows. Over the years of ministry, we have followed this formula with different plans for reaching people with a balanced message of Messianic faith. Confidently in pleasing Him, **we do not intend to stop any of our ongoing ministry objectives.**

We have always appreciated the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of primarily utilizing the Internet to minister to the Body of Messiah. We continue to raise funds for the publication of our main books in softcover format, which we pray this year will finally be available through some mainline booksellers. Within the first quarter of 2009, we will also be setting up our own store on E-Bay, reaching out to a very large, and as of yet, untapped market of searchers. Also to be launched will be our own channel on YouTube, with video podcast presentations from TNN Productions. We hope that these new areas of outreach will allow those seeking a Messianic perspective to their walk of faith be presented with a point of view that we believe is one of the most spiritually edifying and constructive for our faith community!

This month, in lieu of the transitory nature of Creation and our roles in it, I was led to write an article entitled **“Change Happens.”** It is my prayer that you will learn from reviewing some of the examples which I cite, that change is just something that we should all expect—and as maturing Believers, handle with increasing wisdom and grace. Additionally in our continuing efforts to encourage health and nutrition, we exhort our readers to take a look at some **“Do’s and Don’ts”** to maintain their health. We have also reproduced a recent blog post by J.K. McKee on the MGM-United Artists film, *Valkyrie*, which depicts a Nazi plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, and how it challenges some of today’s current Messianic opinions.

I would like to once again thank you for your faithful support of our efforts in 2008, especially as we venture forward in 2009 with the plans we have laid before the Lord. We know that through your generosity toward us, He continues to allow us to serve Him and those we have the privilege of reaching. We are told in the Scriptures that His plans for us will come to pass *only* when we diligently search for Him with all of our hearts:

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart’” (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

May we continue to search and serve together this coming year!

Until the restoration of all things....
William Mark Huey

CHANGE HAPPENS

by Mark Huey

Perhaps one of the many benefits of the physical maturation process is the blessing that over time, we gain some wisdom and perspective on what is happening in the dynamic world that humanity dominates. This sagacious understanding is particularly useful when dramatic, seemingly unrelated changes, are occupying an increasing amount of thoughts, conversations, and especially the prayers of those who call upon the God of Creation. Thankfully for the faithful, there are abundant examples of previous sojourners who have left their musings to and about our Creator, which can encourage Believers as contemporary issues arise. After all, despite the fact that change is inevitable and literally embedded in His Creation, the Almighty One who does not change resides and reigns beyond the influence of the time, space, and matter that He created.

The Apostle Paul understood and related the changes transpiring in his First Century world. He said “that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose” (Romans 8:28). This axiom applied two millennia ago still applies today, as Paul was simply reiterating principles about God’s sovereign hand upon the affairs of mankind, which were communicated by his predecessors in the Tanakh. Historically speaking, Paul’s era shortly after the ministry and sacrificial work of Messiah Yeshua, was when the good news of the risen Redeemer was first proclaimed. The opposition to this revelation brought forth persecution, trials, and tribulation that most modern-day Believers in the Western world can hardly imagine. Knowing about crucifixions, people burning at the stake or being fed to lions, beheadings, and mass murders for refusing to bow to Caesar—seem somewhat foreign to most of us, even if those accounts have been read and studied.

Within the larger scope of Paul’s words, we see that he not only understood the failings of the created order caused by human sin, but also that God had providentially ordained all that was happening—and by extension because He does not change (Malachi 3:6), all that will happen in the future:

“For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*. 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” (Romans 8:19-30).

Reflecting upon this passage of Scripture after nearly two millennia of human activity, reminds Believers that the corrupted Creation, even today, continues to anxiously await the fuller revelation of the sons and daughters of God. For those born from above with the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, who Himself confirms these truths revealed in the Bible, the recognition is that heartfelt groans not only plead for the resurrected hope that is within us (Colossians 1:27)—but also for knowledge and peace during tumultuous times of change. This passage concludes that *every Believer* is called by the Lord for a specific, ordained purpose by Him. **Not a single one of us who loves God gets a simple pass on being one of His children—without the responsibility of living out His call to be justified and glorified.** Hopefully, as one has matured in his or her walk with the Messiah, this reality has become evident. If it has not yet been seen in your life, *it is suggested that groaning supplication be initiated!*

Down through the ages since Paul's admonition to the Romans was penned, there have been millions of manifestations of God's glory evidenced through the saints who have lived prior to our own time. Classic works like *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* have recorded for posterity's sake, the testimonies of faithful followers of the Messiah who have willingly perished for the sake of the gospel. Reading these kinds of testimonies, or returning to the Scriptures to re-read various accounts about the faithful who are recorded in places like the Hebrews 11 “Hall of Faith,” can be very helpful and sobering. We need to do this when confronting current change, and the potential turmoil that can ensue. Obviously, these are in many cases some extreme examples of change and how various people have faithfully handled it in their eras. **I do not propose that we are at a point where extreme circumstances are occurring or even imminent,** but in lieu of the current changes taking place in the created order, reflecting on how our predecessors in the faith dealt with change can be instructional and beneficial.

Another forerunner in the faith who lived through some chaotic times of change, and left us with a legacy to benefit from, is the Prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah who prophesied from approximately 625-586 B.C.E. It was during this time that he warned the Jewish people about God's impending judgment by the Babylonians. Having knowledge of how the Assyrians had been used to previously judge the Northern Kingdom of Israel, brings comparative analysis and context into many of his declarations.

For our future edification and meditation, Jeremiah was not only able to prophesy about the Babylonian captivity, but he also lived long enough to reflect back on the traumatic judgments after they occurred. The Book of Lamentations, composed by either him or his scribe Baruch, describes in graphic detail many of the sufferings and afflictions that befell Jerusalem during the siege and destruction. However, in light of the grander design laid out by the Father, the wisdom

acquired by the aging process allowed Jeremiah to better comprehend and accept change in his lifetime. There is one passage in Lamentations 3 that describes, despite the sometimes tragic consequences of change in the human condition and circumstances, the unchanging nature of God and our need to keep our hope in Him:

“Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. Surely my soul remembers and is bowed down within me. **This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The LORD's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion,**’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I have hope in Him. The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. *It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man that he should bear the yoke in his youth*” (Lamentations 3:19-27).

Here we see a declaration that the mercy and compassion of God never fail. Just like His faithfulness to us, they are new each and every morning. We are exhorted to wait upon the Lord, and reminded that He is good to those who seek Him, while waiting silently for His salvation. What an awesome perspective left by an eyewitness to the destruction of Jerusalem! Declarations about God's unmerited goodness toward His people can *still* be made. Like the saints in Paul's era, we know that Jeremiah was called for a specific task to perform, and he accomplished what he was called to do. Thankfully, his prophecies and actions have been recorded for posterity, so that almost three millennia later, we can be reminded that no matter what changes occur, it is our responsibility to maintain our hope in the Holy One of Israel.

Within the annals of Israel's history, we also see the testimony of the faithful Moses. Moses lived through a period of one of the most dramatic changes in the Bible: the Exodus. Moses was called to lead the Ancient Israelites into Egypt, as God formed them as a nation, giving them His Torah. Gratefully, one psalm attributed to Moses, gives us today a unique peak into how the aged Moses (nearly 120 years) obviously gained wisdom and understanding about how God interacts with man. Notice that Moses, just as we see in Lamentations, has wondrous thoughts about God's unchanging ways and consistency:

“A Prayer of Moses, the man of God. Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. You turn man back into dust and say, ‘Return, O children of men.’ For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or *as a watch in the night*. You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; in the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew. In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew; toward evening it fades and withers away. For we have been consumed by Your anger and by Your wrath we have been dismayed. You have placed our iniquities before You, our secret *sins* in the light of Your presence. For all our days have declined in Your fury; we have finished our years like a sigh. As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away. Who understands the power of Your anger and Your fury, according to the fear that is due You? So

teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom. Do return, O LORD; how long *will it be?* And be sorry for Your servants. O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. **Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us, and the years we have seen evil.** Let Your work appear to Your servants and Your majesty to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:1-17).

Moses takes a much more corporate approach than Paul or Jeremiah, by reviewing the changes that took place with the Ancient Israelites during his time as their shepherd. Moses certainly knows about God's eternal nature and sovereign rule over Creation. He also acknowledges the iniquities of his generation before God. However, there is still the ancient reminder that God's immutable attributes of lovingkindness and mercy still prevail. The final plea from Moses to God is that he simply asks for not only His continued favor, but that the works of the Israelites would be confirmed. Now looking at these words many millennia later, we can have confirmation that God allowed all which transpired upon Israel to take place for a sovereign purpose.

While there are countless examples of God's faithfulness and providence to His chosen people—beyond the testimonies of Moses, Jeremiah, and Paul—in times of extreme change, it is critical for us today, entering another period of intense change, to not lose hope. Each of these examples remind us **that our hope intends to always rest upon the Holy One who does not change!** As the Prophet Isaiah stated it to his generation:

"The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, *we have* an everlasting Rock" (Isaiah 26: 3-4).

While Yeshua Himself promised to send us the Holy Spirit after His departure (John 14:26; 15:26), it would be a mistake for us to think that the Holy Spirit is the *only thing* Yeshua has given us. Yeshua left behind a significant example of what it means to serve, as He left His exalted glory in Heaven, living among us as a human, only to be exalted to the Father's right hand as LORD (Philippians 2:5-11; cf. Isaiah 45:23). The Apostle Paul said, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Messiah Yeshua" (Philippians 2:5). What Yeshua has done for us is what Believers today should be focusing upon, as change increasingly becomes the mantra of the age and we are called to function as His people via self-sacrifice. The author of Hebrews further describes,

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **fixing our eyes on Yeshua, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, 'MY SON, DO NOT REGARD

LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES' [Proverbs 3:11-12]" (Hebrews 12:1-6).

The author of Hebrews foresaw that some difficult times were in store for the First Century Believers. Simply because we live in the Twenty-First Century, does not mean that we are immune to similar problems. We have the testimony of faithful saints given to us in the Scriptures, to cause us to realize that we are not alone in our struggles. Yeshua Himself gave up everything so that we might have eternal salvation! So as we consider what may lie ahead, ask yourself some of these questions:

- How am I handling these changing times?
- Will I be able to look back upon my individual walk of faith, and corporate walk of faith with other Believers, giving thanks for God's faithfulness to me—despite whatever changes have taken place during my life?
- Am I maturing by consistently staying in the Word, allowing the groaning of the Holy Spirit to not only plead for grace and understanding, but also to teach me in all His ways (John 14:26)?
- Am I faithfully confessing my sins and keeping my accounts minimal before the Holy One of Israel (1 John 1:8)?
- Do I recognize and embrace the call that is upon my life, to be a representative for the Almighty in this generation (Romans 8)?
- Am I ready, willing, and able to aptly declare the hope that is within me (Colossians 1:24-29)?
- As a Messianic Believer, am I learning and incorporating more of what it means to be a Spirit-led, Torah obedient follower of Messiah Yeshua?
- Am I convinced that as I mature and age, that I am being conformed more into the image of the Messiah (Romans 8:29)?

As you have read through the above list, these are probing questions—which hopefully have caused you to ask more questions about your personal and corporate walk with God. They should cause you to wonder where you stand before Him. No matter when in time you are called to exist in His created order, change is just a part of what is to be expected. How one handles change is asked by Him of every generation, yet it is **critical to always acknowledge and understand that the Lord does not change**. Malachi, the last recognized prophet of the Tanakh, confesses this truth as he admonished his generation to turn back to the Lord from their errant ways:

“Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me,' says the LORD of hosts. **'For I, the LORD, do not change, therefore you, O sons of Jacob,**

are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept *them*. Return to Me, and I will return to you,' says the LORD of hosts. 'But you say, "How shall we return?"' (Malachi 3:5-7).

In Malachi's day, just like in every generation, God's judgment is often a result of oppressive changes in the culture. But God does not change and He promises to preserve those of His people who faithfully serve Him. In Malachi we see that as some turned away from walking in the ways of the Lord, many began to cry out, "How shall we return?" This was God's answer to Malachi's generation:

"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, "How have we robbed You?" In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of *you!* Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,' says the LORD of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes!*' says the LORD of hosts. 'All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,' says the LORD of hosts. 'Your words have been arrogant against Me,' says the LORD. 'Yet you say, "What have we spoken against You?" You have said, "It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts? So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.'" **Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.** 'They will be Mine,' says the LORD of hosts, 'on the day that I prepare *My* own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.' So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him" (Malachi 3:7-18).

The Prophet Malachi, speaking the words of the Lord, rebuked his generation for not following in the ways of the Lord. Perhaps one of the most condemning statements in this prophecy is seen when the people speak about the vanity of serving God. Their view was that the arrogant and wicked are blessed and prosperous, because they have not been judged by God. *How short sighted can this perspective actually be?* Those who truly feared the Lord were given a book of remembrance to recall to their attention that they would be spared from His judgment. It should make us consider the Book of Life seen in Revelation, which ultimately recalls who will enter into eternity with Him, and who will not (Revelation 20:15). Our reaction to the inevitable changes that come to our world should cause us to draw closer to Him, and not farther away.

The testimonies of dealing with the inevitability of change for humanity, versus the consistency of our God, are replete in the Holy Writ. As each of us ages and continues to review various passages from Scripture, comparing them with what is happening in the here and now, **we should be encouraged** and not discouraged when change happens. His mercies are new each morning! His lovingkindness for the people who serve Him is consistent! The Lord continues to confirm the work of our hands and hearts, as we step out in faith to walk in the

good works He has prepared for us (Ephesians 2:10). He has called us for a time such as this, in this generation, with all of the changes that are about to take place! *Take advantage of the opportunities He has provided for us.*

Let us joyfully serve Him in spite of any of the changes our world may experience, recognizing that He can use the circumstances of today's world to draw people to Himself. Regardless of what happens, it is still His Creation and it is still His plan for the ages. Any unwillingness to serve God in what He is doing can result in His people being ineffective and not fulfilling the call that He has placed upon us. We must keep our hearts and minds stayed upon the Rock, and place our eyes firmly upon Yeshua in all our endeavors!

In each one of your lives, I pray that our Heavenly Father has already orchestrated the most important change that any of us can ever experience: that is the change of a heart of stone into a heart of flesh, empowered by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26). **This is a change that will remain beyond all of the other changes that God just might use to bring about this ultimate saving change.** If you have not experienced this change, then make sure that you have. And if you have already experienced this change, then commit yourself to being a useful vessel in His work—as some plant and some water, but it is always God who causes the growth *or change* (1 Corinthians 3:7).

Thankfully, redeeming change happens to hearts of stone!

JOIN THE TNN PRESS BOOK FUND



Would you like to see high quality, scholastic, and loving Messianic books like *Hebraic Roots*, *Introduction to Things Messianic*, *Torah In the Balance*, and *When Will the Messiah Return?* available from major booksellers? Do you want your friends to be able to purchase these books without the “fear” of having to contact a Messianic ministry? Join the ongoing **TNN Press Book Fund** today and make this a reality!

The TNN Press Book Fund is the most ambitious project ever embarked upon by our ministry. For over five years, we have been on the cutting edge preparing materials for the long-term future of the Messianic movement, ranging from introductory books to home study guides to commentaries on various books of the Bible. These publications *now* need to be able to have a wider distribution than *just* our ministry. They need to be out there to counterbalance some of the unfair and unloving materials that bring discredit to the Messianic community. They need to promote a Messianic movement that is going to be an influence of positive change in the world. TNN Press offers some of the most well-researched and theologically stable Messianic materials on the market, and it is time to see that our publications are professionally printed.

We are currently preparing our first two books for publication and need your help!

Why You Need to See Valkyrie

by J.K. McKee

Even though it ended over sixty years ago, World War II significantly changed the face of Planet Earth. While initially starting out as a conflict between the Axis powers of Germany and Italy, against the Allied powers of Britain and France—the conflict would grow to include the Soviet Union, Japan, and the United States, and many other countries of the world. This sustained, total war—a conflict where economies were solely concerned at building the war machine—would kill over 70 million people. Its aftermath would see the decline of the British Empire as a major global power, and the rise of the United States and Soviet Union as superpowers. World War II was responsible for the creation of the atomic bomb, and the founding of the United Nations. New advances in technology, and later space exploration, would come as a direct result of one of the world's worst ever conflicts.



Almost all of us have been affected by World War II, likely having family members who participated in some way. My paternal grandfather, who had served in the Army as a young man, was actually too old for active military service (having been born in 1903), but his engineering degree and patents instead allowed him to help manage a Douglas aircraft plant. My maternal grandfather had just finished his Ph.D prior to the war, and had taken a teaching position at Ole Miss. When the war began, he received a commission in the Navy and was sent to Annapolis to teach midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy. Suffice it to say, knowing about World War II, and all of those who were affected by it, has always been an important part of my family, because it so dramatically changed my grandparents' lives.

As Messianic Believers, there are two significant parts of World War II that we pay close attention to: the Holocaust and the later creation of the State of Israel. We take the phenomenon of Hitler's so-called Final Solution very seriously, and the fact that the Nazi party really did try to exterminate all of the Jews in Europe. Every year, during seasons such as *Purim* or on *Yom HaShoah*, we pledge ourselves to never let such a tragedy happen again! We rightly consider the causes of anti-Semitism that had grown throughout Germany, and that allowed many—who should have known better—to conspire with a tyrannical Nazi regime.

There are many intriguing aspects of World War II that each of us can explore. When I visited London this past Summer, I made it a point to visit both the Imperial War Museum and the underground Churchill Cabinet Rooms. Many of us are familiar with the resilience of the British against the Nazis, and how the City of London itself was affected by the Blitz. When I was an undergraduate in college in 2001, I had the opportunity to hear Sir Martin Gilbert, Winston Churchill's official biographer, give a lecture on "Churchill and the Jews" (now a book by the same title). The single man who can be credited with saving the Western

world from the Nazi regime, Churchill, was very pro-Jewish, Zionist, and saw the dangers of Hitler long before anyone else did.

But these are some of the more obvious aspects of World War II that we should already be discussing. The issue of the Germans themselves is much more complicated, and when *Purim* or *Yom HaShoah* occur in various Messianic circles, I find that the Germans are often not treated very fairly. Attitudes that are not becoming of born again Believers can manifest themselves—attitudes that would not even be found in a Jewish community that has tried to dialogue with Germany and reconcile since the end of the war. Basically, any attempt made by any German to oppose Hitler because of his tyranny and dictatorialism is quickly forgotten, or even just summarily dismissed.

The need for us as Messianic Believers to be a bit more fair to the German people is not only because here in the United States Germans make up the single largest European ancestry (even larger than the British ancestries of English, Irish, and Scottish). We need to be more fair because *many Germans did actually oppose Hitler*. The recent MGM-United Artists film, *Valkyrie*, is a dramatic portrayal of the July 20, 1944 assassination attempt of Adolf Hitler and coup to overthrow his government and the SS. Many in the German political and military hierarchy had realized that Hitler was an utter madman, that his policies regarding state control were tyrannical, and that the world would never forgive Germany for what it did to the Jews unless good men stood up and opposed him. In 1944, it became apparent that Germany would not be able to win the war with the Allied invasion of France having succeeded, and with the Soviets gaining ground on the Eastern Front. A peace would have to be negotiated with the Allies if Germany were to survive at all.

Because of the sheer control that Hitler was able to command over his military, staging a coup against him would have to be done very carefully, lest his replacement end up being worse (i.e., someone like Heinrich Himmler). A plan called Operation Valkyrie had already been drawn up in the event of an emergency effecting Hitler's government, where a reserve army would take control of Berlin, and then subsequent orders would be issued to the rest of the Reich. The plotters against Hitler augmented the plan so that once he was assassinated, his death could be made to look like radicals from the SS had taken over. The legitimate military sworn to die for Hitler would then inaugurate Operation Valkyrie and consolidate the chaos that would ensue following the Führer's death. A plan actually meant to salvage Hitler's Third Reich would be used to destroy it! Once he was out of the way, a more moderate German government could come to power that would stop Hitler's aggressive and dictatorial policies, hopefully negotiating a peace with the Allies.

We know that none of this succeeded, and that the assassination attempt on Hitler that July 20 failed. The conspirators were identified and summarily shot as traitors against the Reich. Their attempts at saving what they saw as "Holy and Sacred Germany"—something stolen by the Nazis—are noted by the filmmakers as many Germans did stand up and oppose the regime of Adolf Hitler. Unlike other films or documentaries that try to demonize Germany and the German people, *Valkyrie* tries to show another side. It demonstrates to those, often used

to seeing movies about Hitler being an evil madman blindly followed by all Germans—that many of his own did oppose him.

Many of us are aware of Germans such as the Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer who opposed the Nazis. We are aware of people like Corrie Ten Boom who opposed the Nazis, and others here and there. Theologians such as Gerhard Von Rad were drafted into military service (to die on the front lines) because they were favorable to the “Jewish Scriptures” and demonstrated some affection for the Jews. But a film like Valkyrie makes us also consider those in politics and the military who opposed the Nazis. And yes, the July 20, 1944 attempt on Hitler was not the only one. In fact, there were some twenty attempts to assassinate Hitler from within!

The travesty of the Holocaust is not that of genocide, as genocide has happened from earliest human history. **The travesty is that one of the most advanced countries on Earth was directly responsible for genocide.** The Jews were an easy target, and the Nazi propaganda machine took negative stereotypes about the Jews and used it to their advantage. Many people in Germany saw the evil embodied by Hitler and stood up for it. My own Aunt Renate’s mother left Germany in the late 1930s to come to New York City—escaping Hitler’s Germany—for goodness’ sake!

I would urge you to go out and see the film Valkyrie. See how there were some good Germans who stood up to Hitler. Do not allow yourself to fall for the idea that all Germans during World War II went along with Hitler, or that they were all anti-Semitic. The German people will forever have to carry the scars of Nazism and the Holocaust. Yet as Believers we have the awesome responsibility to let their pleas for forgiveness, restitution, and reconciliation be heard. It is my prayer that in the days to come, the cordial and constructive relationship that is today seen in secular Jewish-German and Israeli-German relations, can also be seen in Messianic approaches toward Germany and Germans. See Valkyrie, and see how many Germans did indeed try to save their own “Holy and Sacred Germany.”

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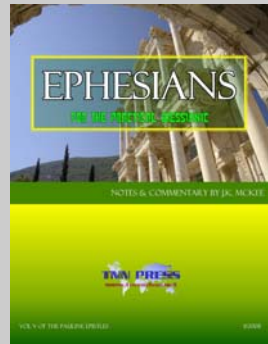
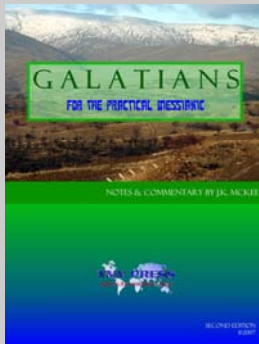
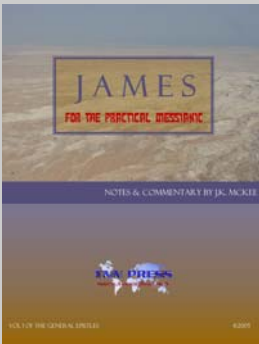
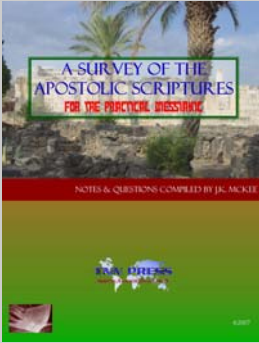
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January 2009 Health Update

Do's and Don'ts

by Mark and Margaret Huey

Every New Year it seems that a number of people make resolutions about their health and nutrition. *This year is no different.* Once again as we put out new calendars or date books, the resolve to stay fit and healthy comes into focus—especially if you have had a tendency to overindulge during the holiday season. With that in mind, a list of “do’s and do not’s” came across our paths in our ongoing search for recommendations about health and nutrition. So rather than come up with a complimentary list, we simply pass on the following list from nutritionist Allan Spreen, M.D:

- Eat all the fresh fruits & veggies you want. Go for organic or unsprayed. And get lots of different colors.
- Drink lots of water, including herbal teas (you can sweeten teas with 100 percent fruit juice or the herb stevia).
- Eat fish weekly (strive for 3 times a week). Got to get those omega fatty acids that benefit everything from brain function to your skin.
- Beef and chicken are okay too (organic if possible)
- Go ahead and enjoy eggs for breakfast! But go for organic, free-range, of course. And keep the yolk intact while cooking as it retains more nutrients this way.
- Breads that say 100 percent stone ground wheat (or other whole grains like brown rice, whole wheat, barley, oats) are all good sources of fiber. This will help clear out unwanted toxins from your system.
- Pasta is fine (go for spinach, artichoke, or 100% whole wheat). Again, a diet high in fiber will help keep your system clear of any toxins or preservatives that may have snuck into your diet.
- Extra virgin olive oil is great for cooking.
- For a sweet treat, try frozen fruit juice popsicles. Make your own! Natural popcorn also makes a great snack.

Now—on to the things you’ll want to avoid.

- Soy products (it’s hardly a ‘health’ food and can be especially bad for children)
- Toss all the margarine products and go for the butter instead. Margarine and partially hydrogenated foods (such as baked goods, cookies, candy, chips, etc.) change into chemicals in the body. This contributes to the formation of free radicals.

- Caffeine, alcohol, and nicotine (this one's obvious)
- Fried foods or processed lunch meat (or any nitrate product) as these foods also allow more free radicals to roam in your body.
- Artificial sweeteners (like aspartame and splenda) because no matter how much you dress them up, they're still chemicals and don't belong in your body.
- Milk (it contains trace antibiotics. It's tough to digest. And it's linked to a whole slew of diseases). Rice, soy, almond, or oat milk are healthier alternatives if you can find them.
- Canned foods (especially aluminum...it leaches into your food!)
- Chlorinated water (Go for natural spring water instead.)

As a general note, avoid mixing proteins with sugars, fruit or starches in the same meal. This is tough to do all the time. But it helps aid in your digestion and you'll absorb more nutrients from your food (Allan Spreen, M.D).

As you have read, the maintenance of good health is a series of conscious decisions to watch what you eat and what you avoid ingesting. We also know from our research that if you are doing all of the above, you still need to find some nutritional supplements to make up for the lack of vitamins, minerals, and nutrients in the typical diet. We also highly recommend regular exercise that includes strength, flexibility, and cardio-vascular activities.

Being in good physical condition allows each of us to be more useful vessels in the work of the Kingdom. We all need to be reminded that we are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

May our usefulness to Him prosper in healthy bodies in 2009!
Choosing Health,

**If you would like to sign up for our
Special Health Updates, please contact
us via phone at (407) 933-2002
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