



# OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH    TEACH    ENCOURAGE    DISCIPLE

2001  
2002  
2003  
2004  
2005  
2006  
2007  
2008  
2009  
**2010**

**JANUARY 2010**  
**THE COMING DECADE**



# OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH    TEACH    ENCOURAGE    DISCIPLE

## 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 2010

Usually the commencement of a new year prompts many individuals, families, and organizations to make resolutions, plans, and projections for the coming twelve months. This is wise because as an old adage goes, "If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail!" It has always been our family and ministry practice to take some time during the end of the calendar year to assess not only where we are in terms of accomplishing our current goals and objectives, but also where we are headed for the coming year. This year is somewhat different, because in another far too short ten years, it will be the year 2020 C.E. **We are beseeching the Lord for a strong, clear, and normal 20/20 vision for our next decade of ministry as we seek to follow His leading!**

**20/20 Vision  
for the  
Coming  
Decade**

With the much anticipated new decade upon us, we are not only planning projects and activities for the coming year, but also plans far beyond for what will be an era of **significant spiritual maturation and growth for the Messianic community of faith** we joyfully serve. The Outreach Israel Ministries (OIM) mission statement continues to guide and focus our efforts to help others to grow in their faith and callings, that they might be about the Father's eternal business in their lives:

*Outreach Israel Ministries has been commissioned to reach, teach, encourage, and disciple the Israel of God to return wholly to Him in spirit, soul, and body in order to better serve in the work of His Kingdom.*

For over seven years, our ministry has principally used the Outreach Israel and TNN Online websites to efficiently and effectively reach out to the broad Messianic community scattered around the globe. This readily accessible venue has allowed us to teach loving, balanced, and scholarly Bible studies, Torah commentaries, and topical issues to subscribers and visitors without charge (both written and recorded). Additionally, we have stimulated thousands to study and participate in the Biblical Feasts and holidays through our Virtual series of exhortations sent freely at the appropriate season. Moreover, as opportunities present themselves, we have had the privilege of instructing Messianic Believers through more intimate contact, with personal visits, telephone calls, and simple e-mail correspondence.

It is our family's conviction and understanding that *if* people sincerely desire to walk with the Lord and live as Yeshua lived, then they need to be whole in spirit, soul, and body. This will enable them to be empowered, living vessels, for the Holy Spirit to use for all the work of service in God's Kingdom on Earth. **To help people achieve those goals and fulfill God's plan for their lives, we have**

dedicated our lives to ministry. We thank and praise the Holy One for the privilege to serve Him wholeheartedly!

But before informing you of some of our plans, it is prudent to remember some of the opening verses of Proverbs 16, which communicate two important principles that should be applied when contemplating or making any future plans. Foremost of these is, “**Commit your works to the LORD and your plans will be established**” (Proverbs 16:3). Then, contritely recognize that “**the mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps**” (Proverbs 16:9). Without reservation, we humbly and willfully choose to commit our works to the Lord, realizing that He alone can establish our plans as He directs our steps. **May His will be done in all that we endeavor to do in the coming year and decade to come!**

I have to admit that even if you might be blessed with 20/20 vision, it is challenging to look ahead ten years. Just think back ten years and consider all of the changes that have taken place in the world and in the Messianic community since Y2k. How easy or difficult would it have been to foresee the things that have occurred within the Messianic movement? Rather than go several years into the future, we will just look at this year, and some of the plans we have that will naturally expand our current ministry efforts into the 2010s.

**What we have already been doing will continue.** Our standard weekly routine of offering an almost daily regimen of various Bible teachings, Torah commentaries, the Wednesday Night Bible Study, and periodic FAQ postings and McHuey Blogs, will remain available. The seasonal Virtual series around the Biblical holidays is also going to move ahead. Of course, there is a great deal of work that goes into our providing these things for you. There is a daily discipline of preparing and writing these consistent studies, which have been produced to be available for not only the present, but also future audiences. Every year, we each have different writing projects in various stages of production. This year, John will make his current Acts 15 study on the Jerusalem Council available as a part of our Practical Messianic series, and the Wednesday Night Bible Study itself will be moving ahead later with a lengthy examination of the Pastoral Epistles (1&2 Timothy, Titus). I will be finishing up various writing projects associated with my TorahScope commentaries, including work on the Haftarah Exhortations and Apostolic Scripture Reflections. I have also gotten a head start on some TorahScope Daily Devotionals for the next cycle!

Our big, ongoing project is the TNN Press Book Printing endeavor, especially given all of the titles we have, needing to be delicately proofed and prepared for paperback production. It is our goal in 2010 to see between ten and twelve titles produced. Much of this will be contingent on having the proper amount of funding available, independent from our normal operating expenses. Something new, that we have just added to our regimen, is the start of our Outreach Israel and TNN Online Wednesday Night Study podcast links on iTunes. Those of you who have an Apple iPod or iPhone, or who use the iTunes application, can now receive our weekly studies automatically downloaded! There is no doubt that the technological progress in the coming decade will be extraordinary. We plan to utilize the hi-tech advances, so that as the ubiquitous broadcasting of information as knowledge increases (cf. Daniel 12:4), we can use the available tools to pro-

mote our balanced and fair-minded Messianic message.

As time moves ahead, especially with this new decade, we would like you to know just a little about some of the longer term plans for our ministry. Since the Spring of 2005, Margaret's (now) 91-year old mother was relocated to a retirement community up in Jacksonville. Throughout the year, we make many periodic visits up to see her, as well as Margaret's sister and brother-in-law in Orange Park. For the past few years, because of these frequent visits, we have had a distinct spiritual prompting to relocate closer to family. We have brought our requests before the Lord about moving, but recognized that the time would have to be right, especially with various goals in the interim that would need to be achieved. Most especially, there have been practical considerations regarding Maggie finishing up high school, and John finishing up his master's degree, that we have needed to make.

This past year, John finally completed his M.A. in Biblical Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary here in Orlando. This is no small degree, and at his graduation he even received the Zondervan Biblical Languages award for Greek. This year, Maggie will be graduating from Osceola High School, having been blessed as a leader of both the National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. We are all very excited that Maggie has been accepted into the University of Oklahoma on the Navy ROTC scholarship program! *Next year we will all have to salute her.* Even if it might seem that we have had to delay some of our ministry plans, **waiting on the Lord has definitely paid forth some great dividends.** We want to really be prepared for the next stage that He has for us, and that includes letting these two young people complete their educational goals.

We will have a busy year ahead as we get Maggie established in college. It is also our plan that within the next year, we will be placing our home on the market, praying that the right buyer will come at the right time for the right price. Within the next eighteen months or so, Outreach Israel Ministries should be relocated to the greater Jacksonville area. We will be much closer to our family, and we will be able to do some things that our current location in Kissimmee prevents us from doing.

We have known for the past four to five years that at the right time, our ministry will need to plant its own Messianic faith community, as a reflection of our distinct Messianic approach. As an educational ministry, we do need to be able to put into practice many of the things that we write about—with direct oversight and administration. We have also known that this is not something that we should do in the greater Orlando area, given some of the close ministry relationships we have developed. We want to be in an area far away from where we currently live, and where a new Messianic congregation is probably needed. We have some “experimental” ideas for a Messianic community that only we can see implemented. And while within the next decade our congregational plant may become the primary outreach venue of Outreach Israel Ministries, **there are no plans to discontinue doing what we have already been doing.** In fact, with the efficiency of technology, if you are not in the greater Jacksonville area, *you are still bound to benefit* by future live streaming services and congregational events.

As we consider just a few of these things up ahead on the not too distant

horizon, perhaps now you might better understand why our family is looking forward to the next year and coming decade with great joy and anticipation. The cloud appears to be lifting and the pillar of fire looks like it is flickering with new gusts of wind. Personally, I almost feel like Jacob must have felt when he knew that the seven years of labor were nearing completion, and his beloved Rachel would be his (Genesis 29:20), or when a Hebrew slave in his sixth year of work anticipates the seventh year release (Exodus 21:2), or when the debtor anxiously anticipates the year of Jubilee arriving (Leviticus 25:54).

Realistically, with 2010 already here, the year 2020 will arrive much sooner than any of us want it to come. As we each get older, the years go by even faster, and we will see the end of another decade. Nevertheless, with the benefit of wisdom acquired by aging, we are anticipating the next ten years to be filled with the normal challenges that are to be expected in the hard work of ministry. We expect our efforts to be approved by the Holy One of Israel, as we strive to see a mature and useful Messianic movement emerge for His service.

There will be times of joy and times of sorrow in the years ahead. Some of the people we know and love will not be with us in 2020. But the most important thing is that we choose to run the race of life with steady endurance, having our eyes—hopefully with 20/20 vision—constantly fixed upon Yeshua (Hebrews 12:1c-2a). Please join with us in prayer, so that our works will be honored, as the Lord establishes our plans and He directs our steps! We desire to proclaim a consistent message, so that all may come to know Messiah Yeshua as Savior, and grow into all of the things that they can be *in Him*.

Until the restoration of all things...

Mark Huey

## NEWSFEED TICKER

OUTREACH ISRAEL/TNN ONLINE NEWSFEED TICKER	
DON'T LET YOUR SPAM BLOCKER STOP YOU	
FRI JAN 15	<a href="#">TorahScope: V'eira</a>
WED JAN 13	<a href="#">Torah In the Balance Special Offer</a>
	<a href="#">Wednesday Night Bible Study: Implementation of the Apostolic Decree - Part 3</a>
TUES JAN 12	<a href="#">TNN Online January 2010 Editor's Update</a>
	<a href="#">Matthew 5:17-19: Has the Law Been Fulfilled?</a>

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# VISIONLESS PERISHIONERS

by Mark Huey

*For the lack of vision the people perish...*

The above statement is what many people think of, perhaps quoting from Hosea 4:6 off the top of their heads. It is what I used in a recent conversation with my ailing sister, who is battling breast cancer, in order to give her some hope for her future. Weaving in a Biblical concept was one way of pointing her not only to the Holy Scriptures, but also to the universal principle that an individual, family, organization, or even a people/nation—frequently needs some kind of vision for the future—or it may find that its long term survival is threatened. At the time, my sister did need some encouragement, as we discussed her physical deterioration, and all of the hard work that is required to press on with all of the unsettling medical procedures and disruptions in the normal flow of life.

Several years earlier my sister had founded and had been the motivating force behind a community organization named Parental Engagement Network, formed to help educate naïve parents about many of the challenges of parenting in modern times. I tried to give my sister a vision for expanding her concepts to a much broader level. My suggestion was to take the existing local template and make it regional, or perhaps even national in scope. Giving someone a reason for living—beyond just the normal human desire to live—can not only be therapeutic, but inspiring on many levels. So in additional conversations throughout my visit, I frequently pointed to the future of the enterprise she had birthed and nurtured along for over six years.

Contemporaneously, with these discussions over the last week of December, I was also reviewing some e-mails from a number of acquaintances within the Messianic community. These individuals were voicing some serious concerns about the spiritual challenges they were facing in their local areas. Not surprisingly, the issues of alarm were very much a repeat of bad teaching that our ministry had already directly addressed in the past. They included matters like people being encouraged to sell everything, take on a bunker mentality to prepare for the imminent rise of the New World Order, and be ready for the start of the Great Tribulation. Rehashed teachings that endorsed polygamous marriage relationships, which we thought were largely over, were present in an assembly. And, the ongoing challenge of the Divinity of Yeshua, a debate that does seem to be recycled over and over again, was mentioned. Injected also was: the calendar debate, whether the Torah is to be followed by all of God's people or only the Jews, and how today's Messianics can strive for more unity. *The list of blights just seems to go on and on*, without people really maturing and growing in their faith.

The more I received and responded to these e-mails, the more frustrated I became. After all, one would hope that over time, people who profess to be followers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, would not be susceptible

to aberrant teachings and opinions. Then, one morning in prayer and meditation, it dawned on me that **many of these people have either a distorted vision for their future—or do not have any clear vision at all and are therefore visionless.** The Hosea quote I shared with my sister came immediately to mind: those without a vision are doomed to perish. But a simple play on the word “perish” also reminded me of the religious term pronounced “parish,” which regards the field of activity within the scope of a church or location of worship.

Thinking about this a little more, the concept of a “visionless parishioner” surfaced. Satirically, the pun of changing the word parishioner to “perishioner” popped in my head. All of a sudden, I had another concept to further extend my conversations with my sister over breakfast. While the sincere explanation did not go very far with her because of her other challenges, I did not forget about it, and proceeded to share it with my wife upon returning home.

The beauty of having a godly spouse, like Margaret, is her ability to know the same Scriptures, and to point out aspects of them that you might not be considering. Immediately upon sharing my extended conversations, and what I thought was a quote of Hosea 4:6, and my play on words—she reminded me that the critical thing Hosea was communicating is that the reason people perish is because of their lack of knowledge of God’s Torah. (What I thought was Hosea 4:6 is actually the KJV rendering of Proverbs 29:19: “Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he,” which obviously has a similar thought in mind.) With this pointed out to me, I had to turn to the wider message of what Hosea had spoken, for a much needed refresher on the issues he had to address many centuries ago:

“Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, for the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. *There is* swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky, and also the fish of the sea disappear. Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; for your people are like those who contend with the priest. So you will stumble by day, and the prophet also will stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother. **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.** The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame” (Hosea 4:1-7).

The Prophet Hosea was called by God to demonstrate how Ancient Israel’s sin had caused it to be separated from Him, and how they were no longer the kingdom of priests and holy nation He had intended (Exodus 19:6). Lamentably, his pleadings fell on deaf ears. Hosea’s life, in very real terms, served as a literal manifestation of what God’s plans of judgment were to Israel: including his marriage to Gomer who became a prostitute, and the naming of his children (Hosea chs. 1-3). In many regards, the cyclical patterns of Israel falling

away, its judgment, and its return are noted. By the time one arrives at the opening verses of Hosea 4, Israel has very little, if any, knowledge of God. The lack of faithfulness and kindness, coupled with licentiousness (epitomized in swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery), has even the Promised Land itself “mourning” for righteousness to return. Hosea notes that the priests and prophets are without respect, and even insinuates that they are culpable with the general population.

The striking indictment that Ancient Israel will perish not just because of a lack of knowledge, but because they *willfully rejected* the knowledge of God (*da'at Elohim*, דַּעַת אֱלֹהִים), is very sobering. As a result, the Lord will reject them from being His priests because they have forgotten the instruction of His Torah. The added judgment is that He will also forget the progeny of Israel, because the lack of knowledge from His Torah has multiplied sin, and changed God's glory into utter shame.

Restudying this passage of Scripture can be somewhat alarming, given the context of the current struggles we have witnessed in the broad Messianic community of faith. After all, is not a simple return to studying the Torah on a frequent basis, gaining knowledge about and even embracing the laws of God, something that should be setting us apart from those who choose to ignore it (liberal Jews and Christians who falsely believe that Jesus abolished the Law)? If a renewed focus on God's commandments should aid His people in holiness, then what is the problem? Why are people still wallowing in deviant teaching, which continues to encumber undiscerning souls?

I would like to suggest that a serious problem with a lack of vision, or a conflict of interests among all the *competing Messianic visions* vying for supremacy, is what has manifested. This is an appalling reality, because as suggested in the play on words above, *the visionless will perish* because proper knowledge and application of the laws of God will be either neglected or misconstrued for the self-aggrandizing. Is there a solution to this dilemma? There is:

***What about first determining what the actual vision and mission of God is, and then working to accomplish His purposes and will?***

How many of us are really that consciously aware that humanity will eventually be returned to an idyllic state even better than that witnessed prior to the Fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden? Revelation chs. 21-22 depict a new Creation devoid of any death, suffering, war, or disease! However, because of the introduction of sin by Adam and Eve desiring to be like God (Genesis 3:5), the process of history has to move ahead so that all of the evil introduced since can be judged and rectified. This is no simplistic process!

For many thousands of years, humanity has struggled with a debilitating, innate sin problem, inherited in Adam. When the Second Adam, Yeshua, arrived, His redeeming sacrifice did pay for the penalties of human sin, making restored communion with the Father fully accessible through Him (John 3:16-

18). Now, we await the next major event in salvation history: **the return of the Messiah** to rule from Mount Zion for a thousand years, to then be followed by the inauguration of the eternal state (cf. Revelation 20:5-15ff). Born again Believers are to be stimulated from the Scriptures to be about the work of the Kingdom, spreading the good news of salvation and living a life that is pleasing to the Lord. The Apostolic Scriptures are replete with instructions on how to function as children of God (John 1:12-13; Acts 17:29; Romans 8:16-21; Philippians 2:1-15; 1 John 3:1-11; 5:2), so that we can be useful vessels for the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17; 15:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:15-16; Hebrews 6:4; 2 Timothy 1:14; 4:7; 2 Peter 1:21; Jude 20).

Nevertheless, as religious history often attests—a direct result of the influence of the world, the flesh, and the Devil (cf. 1 John 2:16; each entity a worthy adversary in its own right)—there has never been universal agreement about how the followers of the Creator God should function. Since the First Century, there has been a proliferation of different Jewish and Christian sects. Since the Enlightenment of the Eighteenth Century, there has been almost boundless multiplication of different religious groups appealing to the Holy Scriptures—so much so that today each individual person may make up his or her own “denomination” to some degree. Needless to say, many of the different visions from each of these groups and individuals have resulted in some disunity, strife, jealousy, envy, bitterness, and a testimony that is frequently not very attractive to outsiders witnessing these actions (cf. Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:20-21; Galatians 5:19-21; Philippians 1:15; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 3:9).

As we find ourselves now entering into the second decade of the Twenty-First Century, one would hope that with the increase in knowledge as prophesied (Daniel 12:4), things might be different. Now that people can almost instantly access Ancient Near Eastern texts, data on archaeological sites verifying the claims of the Scriptures, and consult research conducted in the relevant fields—you might think that the synergies inherent in those sincerely searching out the truth would tend to draw people together. Thinking about the relevance of the Scriptures for our time and our generation is something very exciting! Instead, access to increased knowledge appears to have had just the opposite effect.

I strongly believe that the emergence of the Messianic movement over the past forty years is a global spiritual move of God, both as Jewish people have come to faith in Yeshua, and non-Jewish Believers have embraced their Hebrew Roots. The return to the ancient paths as instructed millennia ago (Jeremiah 6:16), unfortunately, has not really resulted in unity **but rather a plethora of visions that bifurcate the Messianic world in multiple directions.** This should not be the case, but sadly it is. One would hope that as Hosea prophesied to Ancient Israel about how the lack of knowledge of God’s Torah would utterly ruin them and their children, that instead the restoration of knowledge and practice of God’s Torah would result in preparing a people for

the eventual return of the Messiah.

What is the problem? Is it possible that some are discarding the positive strides made down through the centuries, by men and women of God who were on the same path as us—and are resorting to old patterns of works righteousness—rather than living and walking by faith? Are we just suffering from some of old patterns of sinful humanity? Are we just not learning from those in the past who made mistakes *that we do not have to make*?

The Torah and Tanach form the foundation of understanding much of what we now experience in this post-resurrection era. In principally referring to the “Old Testament,” Paul wrote Timothy, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Tanach frequently depicts that new era where “the wolf will dwell with the lamb” (Isaiah 11:6) and where “Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war” (Isaiah 2:4; cf. Micah 4:3)—future realities of great peace that are to motivate us in the present era. Being people of the future age, born again Believers **are to recognize that such eschatological hopes can be realized and experienced in their lives today**. The crucified life provided by the salvation we possess in Yeshua (Galatians 2:20), with the Holy Spirit resident inside of us, is to have that future worldwide *shalom* already present in our own relationships with God and interactions with one another. Believers today possess the Holy Spirit as a pledge that more is to come, as we anticipate what is foretold in the Scriptures (Ephesians 1:13-14). Creation itself has been groaning, as we eagerly anticipate the consummation of our salvation from sins—the redemption of our bodies:

“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” (Romans 8:19-23).

How do we see this ultimate goal achieved, at least in some degree, in people today? **A practical vision for the Body of Messiah goes beyond seeing people redeemed from sin, but in seeing them discover what their unique and valued function is.** How are people to be encouraged in exercising the spiritual gift(s) that the Lord has given them? How are all individuals within the community of Believers to truly be helped to use all of their talents for God’s glory? *Do we have a Messianic movement that emphasizes these traits*, or is it more concerned with maintaining distinctions and separations? **How do we learn to really work together, and make sure that our agenda is God’s agenda?**

It is essential for people to not only determine what their individual vision is, but also their familial vision, and how their families can contribute to a larger congregational body. Just like my ailing sister who needs a goal or hope for

the future, so do Believers need a definite vision for what they have been called to do in their families and the greater Body of Messiah. Without determining what this vision is, a lack of direction can settle into the heart, and with it confusion can result. Eventually if this is not arrested and turned in a direction toward usefulness, then the person, family, or community will be headed—at the very least—toward ineffectiveness. The parishioner mutates toward becoming a “perishioner,” as the lack of knowledge and no clear vision compound into despair.

It is always the steadfast responsibility of Believers to point others to the Savior. We need to always be reminded that the Lord’s hand is not short (Isaiah 59:1), and that He desires that no one will perish: “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). If saving the lost is about as complicated as your vision gets, then your usefulness for God’s Kingdom cannot be understated!

Still, many of us have thoughts about the Body of Messiah that go beyond simply seeing people reconciled to God via the work of His Son. *We want to see Believers be all that they can be in Him.* Having a vision for your life is essential for you to not minimize your usefulness in God’s mission. **But you need to have a vision that will positively impact others,** and is not self-serving. It needs to help other people know that they are welcome and that they have a place of belonging in communities of Messiah followers. Your vision for your life as a Believer needs to be concerned with the needs of others (Philippians 2:3-4), contributing to the greater Body of Messiah, and in the process avoid some of the distorted visions and deviant teachings out there.

Perhaps the reciprocal of the Hosea quote is applicable:

*With the right knowledge God’s people can achieve everything He desires them to achieve!*

If you have a burden to see lost souls saved, young Believers mature in faith, or older Believers motivated to help younger Believers—then it is incumbent upon you to no longer keep quiet with the “visionless perishioners” you may encounter every week. *Other people need to know what the Lord has placed on your heart.* All of those who compose the “Israel of God” have to be about the work of service to the world at large, in order to share the eternal life He offers to those of blind eyes:

“I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a **light to the nations, to open blind eyes.** To bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison” (Isaiah 42:6-7)

May we be a people with a clear vision, so that we can save the lost from perishing, *and* save the visionless so that they can see and be used for useful purposes in the Kingdom!

Until the restoration of all things...

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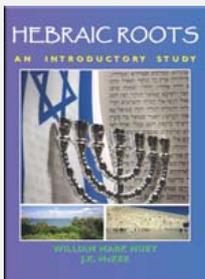


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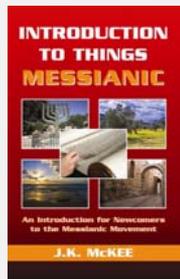
The TNN Press Book Fund is the most ambitious project ever embarked upon by our ministry. For over five years, we have been on the cutting edge preparing materials for the long-term future of the Messianic movement, ranging from introductory books to home study guides to commentaries on various books 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.

*Hebraic Roots: An Introductory Study*, *Introduction to Things Messianic*, the *Messianic Fall Holiday Helper*, *When Will the Messiah Return?*, and the *Messianic Winter Holiday Helper* are now available in paperback!

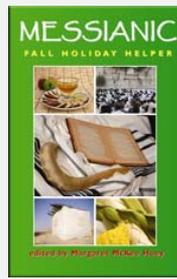
*Torah In the Balance, Volume I* is currently back from the printers, and the *Messianic Spring Holiday Helper* is being readied, along with *Colossians and Philemon for the Practical Messianic*.



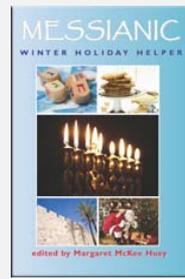
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# A Place Where Everyone Can Belong

by J.K. McKee

It is not every day (or month) when one gets to experience a change in decade. While each new calendar year can be approached with a sense of newness and anticipation, the completion of ten years, and looking ahead to another ten years, is definitely something to pause and reflect upon. This is especially true if you are a part of today's Messianic community, a relatively young and still-developing spiritual movement, which is still very much trying to figure out what it is to *become*.



The past two years have really been an important season for me, because I have not at all hidden the fact that much of what I have witnessed in the Messianic movement throughout the 2000s, I have often been displeased with. Sensationalism, fundamentalism, a sub-standard level of Biblical engagement, to just general fleecing of the flock have been present far too frequently. But these things are present in parts of the Christian Church as well (just turn on Christian television), so we should not be too surprised. Yet as the last two years of the 2000s took shape, I got to see what the real battle for our faith community is going to be about. It is not going to be about the latest (re)calculated date for the Second Coming, whether it is okay” for Believers to examine Jewish mysticism, or even how the Torah is relevant for all of God’s people. **The battle for the 2010s is going to be about how every Believer can be included in the Messianic movement.**

Our family has been in the Messianic community since 1995: fifteen years. In this period of time, we have always had to “do our own thing.” While we have been a part of different congregational fellowships, and in ministry have been a part of associations with other ministries at times—I know that I have not really found a place where I have truly felt that *my needs* have been met. When in Messianic Judaism, the emphasis was how non-Jewish Believers were there to serve the needs of the Jewish Believers. When being a part of different Two-House alliances, too much time was spent trying to squelch some of the false teachings circulating. When interacting with people labeling themselves as One Law, you encounter a high degree of Torah rigidity and legalism that makes you feel uncomfortable. After a while you wonder: Where can born again Believers, *both Jewish and non-Jewish*, find a place where Messiah followers can be properly ministered to? **Where is that Messianic movement where all can be encouraged in the Lord to use their gifts and talents to fullest extent, and be all they can be?**

If you would like to know where such a Messianic movement exists—*then you are not alone*. Each one of us who stayed Messianic throughout the 2000s, in spite of the various issues that have dragged us down, has exhibited a huge amount of faith. We have stayed in—regardless of some of the side show clowns out there—because we know that if our problems can be rectified, we possess the potential to make a concentrated, substantially positive difference for the Kingdom of God. We know the power of the Passover *seder*, in getting both Jews

and Christians to consider why Yeshua came into the world to be sacrificed, and even the multi-layered aspects of what the Exodus communicates to God's people about seeing the oppressed freed from bondage (in far more ways than just bondage from sin). We know that a consistent regimen of Torah study can really motivate people to greater holiness. We know that it is time to give all of the Bible its due, and not be selective in our readings. In our hearts, we see so much going in our favor, that we really are devastated when we see the sacred trust the Lord has given us trampled by many who claim to be "leaders."

I believe that the key to us getting beyond some of the negative issues of the 2000s will be found in what it really means for us to all be working together as the people of God. Nowhere does the Bible support the idea that there are to be assemblies of Jewish Messiah followers and assemblies of everyone else, and that we are all to just be extended relatives or cousins of one another. The community of Messiah followers is to be a mixed group of people—"brothers and sisters" in fact—where all can be ministered to. The modern Messianic movement is not supposed to just be a Jewish renewal movement, and neither is it to only be the completion of the Protestant Reformation. It will, in fact, develop into something where Jewish Believers can have their unique needs met—where believing in Yeshua does not mean giving up one's Jewish heritage. And, it will develop into something where evangelical Believers can embrace their Hebraic Roots, but can feel like they can have something to contribute to the well being of the *ekklēsia*.

One of the things that I found so appealing about the Two-House teaching in the early 2000s was not so much the emphasis on Israel's restoration, but that—on paper at least—it really did desire to see Jews and Christians come together as equals in a Messianic environment. Messianic non-Jews would not just have to sit in a congregation where a Messianic Jewish leader would berate some of the ills of historic Christianity. Messianic non-Jews could stand up and assertively say, "You are only describing one part of the Church..." and not take the abuse. When an insecure Messianic Jewish leader would accuse all Christians of putting his relatives into Hitler's death camps, that belief could now be directly challenged because it was by no means true. In fact, not only did many Christians—including German Christians—stand up against Hitler, but today's Messianic movement needed to recognize that it has a Christian spiritual and theological heritage from which it directly benefits. Sadly, much of the Two-House community of the 2000s became riddled with even more ungodly rhetoric against the Christian Church than I witnessed in the Messianic Judaism of the late 1990s (not to mention a variety of other urban legends).

So where is that place where any of us can belong and work together? A few people have thought that these negative trends are an indication that the Messianic movement really is not of God. ***I say perish the thought!*** We have so much potential—and the enemy knows it—that he has tried his best to get us off course. Those of us who know this need to be able to stick it out, and let time naturally take care of the problems. Yet in order for this to occur, those of us who want to see Messianic congregations and fellowships arise (as *safe places*) where all Believers are welcomed and engulfed by the love of Yeshua, need to be considering a few things.

I think it is all safe for us to agree that if sectors of the greater Messianic movement have been a bit off kilter, that it could very easily be a reflection of how individuals and families are a bit off kilter. Likewise, if a family is in proper order, then congregations and the greater Body of Messiah will be in proper order. And the Scriptures tell us what the proper order is: "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Messiah" (Ephesians 5:21, RSV). Both husbands and wives are to serve one another as co-leaders of the home, raising their children in the fear of God. On a wider scale, the diverse groups that make up the internal demographics of the local assembly are to subject themselves to one another—considering how the others' needs are more important than their own:

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

In all of my years in the Messianic movement, I have seldom heard either of these passages quoted from. The instruction of Ephesians 5:22-33 following is not read with Ephesians 5:21 as the controlling principle. I have never really heard a Messianic Jew say that his non-Jewish congregants' needs will be considered, and I have never seen a Two-House advocate (even though such a view is supposed to bring Jews and whoever scattered "Ephraim" is together) really emphasize the legitimate needs of Messianic Jews. More than anything else, I think the vast majority of our problems are rooted in the reverse of Philippians 2:3-4: "*I have been looking out for my own needs, ignoring the needs of others.*"

Every one of us has personal needs, but they should not override the requirement for us to consider those of our fellow brothers and sisters. The **mutual submission ideology**, of husbands and wives working together, and everyone within the local congregation working together—God's people living in subjection to one another—is something that almost every sector of the Messianic world does not speak about. In fact, when I have interjected it into conversations with various leaders, it has been frequently dismissed—and I have actually been accused of being a "liberal." Yet if a mutual submission ideology were dominant in the Messianic world, everyone would have a place of true belonging. Yes, congregations and groupings of Believers are supposed to have leaders and qualified teachers, but the voice of the people by no means is to be drowned out. Leaders are to be there to coordinate every person employing his *or* her spiritual gifts.

The Messianic movement of the 2010s is going to be much different than that of the 2000s—at least if I have anything to say about it! (*grin*) Outreach Israel Ministries and TNN Online may sit alone on the frontier for a little while, working toward that Messianic community where all—Jewish and non-Jewish Believers, and men *and* women—can all feel like their needs are being met. We recently added a section to our Statement of Faith on Human Equality, which includes a major guiding principle for this new decade before us:

**...We will promote a mutual submission ideology where our shared Jewish and Christian spiritual heritages are honored and respected, and we remember how the needs of others are more important than our own (Philippians 2:3-4)...**

May we all work toward seeing this goal reached!

# KOSHER YOUR PLATE

*edited by Margaret McKee Huey*

It is my intention to bring our Messianic cooks timely recipes of interest in each issue of the OIM News. In this issue, I have included a wonderful kosher recipe where all the ingredients can be found in your pantry and supplies!

## **Cheesy Potato Soup**

10 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed  
2-3 carrots sliced small  
2 stalks of celery chopped (use leaves too)  
1 medium onion finely chopped  
1-teaspoon butter  
Salt & pepper to taste

Cover the above ingredients with water and cook until tender. In 1 cup of milk, add a tablespoon of flour and mix until all lumps are removed. Pour this mixture into the soup. Add an additional cup of milk and simmer about 10 minutes. Add 1 pound of Velveeta Cheese that has been cubed and stir constantly, or it will scorch. This is wonderful soup and it even freezes well!

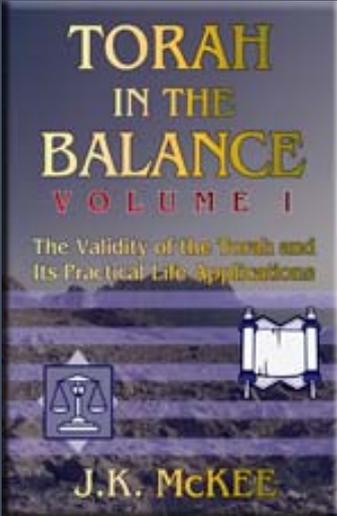
*This recipe is an easy Pantry ready meal that can be made at any time, and it is especially good for emergency situations.*

*Please submit your recipes to Margaret Huey at the OIM office for inclusion in this column and our upcoming cookbook "Kosher Your Plate."*

A new release from TNN Press:

# TORAH IN THE BALANCE

VOLUME I



paperback edition ©2009

The Messianic movement largely advocates that the Torah or Pentateuch is relevant instruction for Believers today, and that modern Christianity has too often ignored God's revelation in the Tanach or Old Testament—not benefiting from this dismissal. Yet the subject of "Torah observance" can often be a point of contention, not only between the Messianic and Christian communities, but even internally among Messianics. Why is this the case? *Do we have to be negative about this?* Is it possible that people claiming to be Torah observant do not often know why the Law of Moses is to instruct and teach today's Believers? Have some Messianics simply lacked an appropriate perspective on how the work of the Holy Spirit is to guide God's people into greater holiness and maturity, given the promises of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27)? How are we to balance how following the Torah includes outward practices, but also includes a greater manifestation of God's love and goodness to all we encounter?

*Torah In the Balance, Volume I* is a well needed resource for our time, as it addresses the main aspects of how to follow God's Torah. Subjects addressed include: why Believers need the Torah, the Acts 15 Jerusalem Council, the foundational importance of the Ten Commandments, the role of the appointed times, and the dietary laws. While Messianic positions on these aspects of faith can often clash with those of our Christian brothers and sisters, they are considered in a fair and reasonable way that encourages *positive solutions* between all people who have called out to Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) for salvation. A large amount of scholastic engagement and support is offered for the validity of these aspects of faith on the part of today's Believers.

This book is an important addition to any Messianic library, and should be read by those desiring not only a comprehensive understanding regarding what the Lord has started in this hour—but the *great responsibility* we have been endowed by Him. With everything we have been called to do, **the transforming power of God's love** is emphasized above all! This resource encourages growth and maturity on the part of *all* of His people.

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