



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH TEACH ENCOURAGE DISCIPLE



JUNE 2014

THE MESSIANIC MARATHON

revisited



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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 congregation 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

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OIM UPDATE

June 2014

The month of June commences as the believing followers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have celebrated the Feast of Weeks (*Shavuot*), with two critical Biblically relevant anniversaries commemorated and hopefully remembered, in praise and worship gatherings. These include the providential timing of the Law given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32), and the Holy Spirit received by the multitude gathered in Jerusalem (Acts 2). It is difficult to believe that recognizing the connection between these two events—categorically deduced from the Holy Scriptures and known for centuries by Biblical scholars—has been underemphasized in Christian circles until recent decades. Generally speaking, the overall focus among Christians is on the “birth of the Church” on Pentecost. If there are any connections made, then there is some nominal teaching about the significance of the fiftieth day representing the fulfillment of one of the “appointed time” ordinances found in Leviticus 23. Thankfully, the Spirit-led return to the Hebraic and the Jewish Roots of the faith, being witnessed today, has caused an explosive growth of the Messianic movement—making the significance of *Shavuot* much more evident to those pursuing the Holy One of Israel.

With the seasonal celebrations and the pursuit of the Lord in mind, the thought of an enduring walk of faith and the ability to persevere and patiently wait upon Him, resonated in my heart. As a result, I was led to share this month’s lead article, entitled “**Messianic Marathon Revisited,**” which revisits an article I wrote in 2008, entitled “**The Messianic Marathon: A History Lesson.**” It is hard to believe that six years have transpired since I wrote this article, but as I reread it a few times, I was reminded that what was written then, *still applies today*. Hopefully, what was stated several years ago, will reinvigorate many of you once again, *to persevere with patience* along the narrow path of the Messianic journey upon which we have all embarked.

Finally, let me remind you of our need for help with the **Prison Ministry—Free Book Outreach**, which continues to grow organically on its own. We can only conclude that the Father is using our written materials to help prepare a group of His children to become useful vessels in the work of the Kingdom, while they are incarcerated at this time. Please pray and consider partnering with us with your financial support, to equip these saints with our books and newsletters.

John’s **TNN Online Editor’s Update** for this month, keeps you informed about his progress in coordinating some different writing projects—which always seem to multiply, either before, during, or after, each one is completed!

“The LORD bless you, and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

Blessings in Him,
Mark Huey

THE MESSIANIC MARATHON

revisited

by Mark Huey

One of the major challenges, in an attempt to spiritually encourage the Messianic community of faith—week after week, month after month, and year after year—is the gnawing realization that the “patient” fruit (Galatians 5:22) of the Spirit is of paramount importance to the faithful. This is particularly needed to counterbalance the instant gratification mindset which increasingly thrives in modern cultures. Hence, from the onset of our ministerial efforts, our teachings have generally advocated a “**marathoner’s mentality**” rather than that of a “**spiritual sprinter**” in one’s walk of faith. This is especially true for the multitude of saints around the globe, like our own family, who were providentially led by the Holy Spirit to study and embrace the Hebraic and Jewish Roots of the faith in the mid-1990s.

It was originally back during the relative infancy of the World Wide Web (the now-ubiquitous Internet), when unfiltered information was commonly transmitted by a limited number of short wave radio stations. Some of those airborne transmissions, produced by human ingenuity, generated unanswerable questions and curious thoughts about the end-times and the start of the Great Tribulation. These prognostications flourished, despite the Scriptural declaration that only the Father knows when the End of the Age will come (Matthew 24:36). Nevertheless, many different voices conjectured numerous theories about astronomical signs in the sky, and what nefarious unseen forces were ostensibly implementing, or at the very least, conceptualizing to control humanity. (Does this at all sound familiar to current hot topics in, and even outside, of various faith-oriented groups? Remember, there is nothing new under the sun!)

However, beyond those mixed signals provoking convoluted interpretations, there was a verifiable, almost quantifiable, yet intangible move of the Holy Spirit, which literally enticed many people into a genuine pursuit of the Lord. The sure testimonies of countless thousands spread around the planet, who over the years through the convenience of the Internet, have shared how they were drawn into searching out the Hebraic Roots of their faith during those specific years (1994-1997), are much more than mere coincidence. Only a sovereign Creator God could orchestrate such a unique, widespread move of diverse people, to seek Him from a Messianic perspective. Thankfully, this has occurred despite the clever wiles of the Adversary to thwart the Father’s irreversible promises to His children, as noted through the many words of the Prophets, to eventually restore all things:

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Yeshua, the Messiah appointed for you, **whom heaven**

must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time” (Acts 3:19-21).

However, in light of *Shavuot*/Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, being commemorated this month—one can understand why the Devil, the father of lies (John 8:44), has been working overtime for the past two decades to prevent the Messianic community of faith from attaining the unity that the Holy One desires for His own (John chs. 14-17). For most assuredly, the Accuser of the brethren knows the foundational principle that unity engenders strength, while division brings destruction.

Nearly two thousand years ago, the deceiver witnessed the Day of Pentecost described in Acts ch. 2, when the dedicated followers of the Holy One of Israel gathered in Jerusalem to observe *Shavuot*, one of the three annual pilgrimage feasts to Jerusalem (Exodus 23:14-17; 34:18-22). At that time, those in attendance were faithfully obeying the commands to bring an offering to the place where God had placed His name (Deuteronomy 16:11). Then at the Father’s designated time after the Ascension of Yeshua, His promises to send the Helper (John 14:16-17, 26) took place. Some three thousand (Acts 2:41) in Jerusalem were born from above (John 3), and were empowered by the Holy Spirit to go forth and evangelize the known world. Needless to say, that first generation of seeking saints, who were knowledgeably obedient to the commandments and then filled with the Spirit of God, were supernaturally enabled with the proper combination of the Spirit and truth to worship the Holy One (John 4:23-24), but also to initiate the Great Commission:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, **even to the end of the age**” (Matthew 28:19-20).

In many regards, these First Century Believers “**turned the world upside down,**” with the spreading of the good news to the greater Mediterranean basin and east into Asia. Satan witnessed the relative success of these Messiah followers, who had a “salvation and filled with the Spirit” testimony of Yeshua, and obeyed the commandments of God (cf. Revelation 12:17; 14:12), with great displeasure and contempt. Consequently, he diligently strategized on how to divide the various followers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in an attempt to pervert the predetermined plans of God.

Lamentably, Church history is littered with tragic testimonies of what transpired down through the centuries to keep the Torah observant Jewish people separated from the Spirit-filled Jewish Believers, and those from the nations, who believed in the atonement provided by the blood of Yeshua. Suffice it to say, since the early post-resurrection era, the great majority of people influenced by Judaism and Christianity have not had the Divine combination of *both* the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God *and* the

truth found in God's Torah, in proper balance. Hence, divisions among the "Judeo-Christians," as it were, sincerely seeking the Almighty, morphed into a multitude of denominations, sects, and cults. Instead of the unity desired by the Holy One—strife, division, contention, and even mortal combat erupted at different times, and between strident groups, each proclaiming to have God or "the truth" on their side.

For almost two millennia, the sovereign Father allowed all of this confusion to prevail. However, in spite of the lack of unity, He was still accomplishing His will for the Creation. But as mere finite mortals, it is difficult to understand what the Creator God is doing because His ways and thoughts are incomprehensible to fallen humanity. Isaiah's succinct comparative analysis, helps a true seeker understand that God is in control, even if human people cannot fully comprehend what He is doing, through what He allows:

"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it'" (Isaiah 55:6-11).

With all of this being stated, I went back and reread an article I wrote in 2008, which summarizes why the Messianic oriented walk of faith needs to be approached like a marathon, rather than a sprint. Now, despite a number of changes in the world in which we currently occupy, what I wrote over six years ago still applies. Hopefully, revisiting the article will challenge everyone to remember to keep his or her eyes fixed on Yeshua (Hebrews 12:2), in order to finish the race by faith (2 Timothy 4:7)!

The Messianic Marathon: A History Lesson

September 2008 OIM News

History and the study of humanity's origin and progress through time are fascinating subjects that have stimulated my thoughts for most of my post-pubescent life. Curiosity about the past, why we are here, and where we all came from—was perhaps the primary motivation for my persistent questions to the unseen Creator about why I even existed. Thankfully, after crying out to Him for many years, He finally revealed Himself to me in the

person of His Son Yeshua and His accomplished work at Golgotha (Calvary) some thirty years ago.

In fact, as the Lord would have it, the providential reading of an historical analysis of world history written by Christian philosopher Francis Schaeffer, *How Should We Then Live?*, was dramatically used by Him to open my eyes to the reality that the history of the world is essentially “His story.” Thankfully, while under the conviction of this reality, the next book I was handed to read was the Holy Bible, which convicted me of my sin and my need for a Savior. Since being born again, my life in a continued pursuit of God’s truths, has never been the same. A life of hopelessness was converted into a life with hope for a future in the presence of the God of Creation. The very Bible that I earnestly studied not only gave me understanding about the past, but also insights into the present and glimpses about the future of mankind.

Knowing about the future destiny of the world is something that has surely intrigued me, as I am sure it has intrigued you as well. I have, with great eagerness, examined many prophetic Scriptures and have come to varied conclusions here and there during my walk of faith. *This was especially true when our family became Messianic in 1995!* Since that time, there is one thing I have concluded after embracing a Messianic perspective of things: **Waiting on the Lord and His timing for anticipated prophetic events is something that requires the patient approach of a marathoner (having personally run two marathons) rather than the relative impatience of a sprinter seeking quick results.**

Even though the prophecies contained in the Word of God are for our future as a planet, they are not words that are absolutely and correctly understood in all of their details by us living today. While we surely need to be aware of them, rather than getting too excited about them or over-emphasizing them, it is much wiser and more prudent for you to pursue a walk of faith as a long suffering marathoner—as opposed to an impetuous sprinter. If you can learn to do this, you will have a better opportunity to endure and complete the race of righteous living as exemplified by the Messiah Yeshua. The author of Hebrews admonished his audience to run the great race of life with endurance:

“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” (Hebrews 12:1-4).

After becoming a Believer in the Messiah of Israel, the study of the Bible as the world's most authoritative history book became a passion of mine. It is amazing to consider the fact that we can hold in our hands and consume with our eyes the words and thoughts of the Holy One, conveyed to us as human beings who are to be guided by its Divine instructions. Our great God, in His abundant mercy to His children, has uniquely seen that the Biblical manuscripts—both Hebrew and Greek—have been adequately preserved for us all the way into the Twenty-First Century. He has also seen to it that as a native speaker of English, I can access a variety of translations that might aid me as I seek to properly interpret the text.

Although the Bible is a wonderful gift that each of us can easily access, it is important to remember that down through the centuries, there has been a propensity for different individuals to come to conclusions about the Scriptures that can take people off on various tangents. These tangents take people away from the Bible's critical messages of holiness, righteousness, and demonstrating God's love—living a life pleasing to Him that can impact others. Frequently, these deviations from running the race with our eyes fixed upon Yeshua tend to result in a spiritual weariness, which can and does lead to losing a passion or heart for the work of the Kingdom.

One of the most repeated flaws typically deals with the return of the Messiah Yeshua to establish His Kingdom on Earth. While the Second Coming is certainly something to be expected by Believers, many theories have been concocted that have been tied to the number 666 and various world leaders, phenomena like "88 reasons why Jesus will return in 1988," or a tightly-packaged 6,000 year scenario that relies heavily upon various chronological presuppositions that may not be accurate. How many of these, and related things, have actually been used to call people to repentance and greater holiness? How many of these things have motivated people to go out and spread the gospel to all who will hear? Or, how many of these things have been used to promote various teachers *and* line their pockets with some quick cash? Be careful, fellow saints, because the Adversary has been able to use various prognostications about the End of the Age to minimize or negate the mandate that God's people have to both share the good news of Yeshua's salvation and disciple others in the truths of Scripture.

Enduring students of Biblical, ecclesiastical, and secular world history are often able to see old patterns repeating themselves in today's religious world. Much of the paranoia and hype and that we witness about the End of the Age were present in the year 1000, and not surprisingly, also the year 1666. The Radical Reformers thought they could march on the Vatican and depose the pope, then inaugurating their "Kingdom of God" on Earth. Today in 2008, we see some of the same old mistakes previously seen in human history repeating themselves. We have not taken seriously the word: **Those**

who do not study history are doomed to repeat it. Knowing what has come before us is a prudent way for us to avoid some of the pitfalls, and perhaps potholes, which encumber the narrow path of righteousness God's people are to pursue.

My Summer reading schedule has been spent examining two books that my daughter Maggie was required to read for her sophomore advanced placement history course. I read these two books so that I could discuss with her some of her thoughts. In order to give students in her class a balanced perspective on the historical significance surrounding the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, I re-read the classic work *The Jewish State* by Theodor Herzl (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1988), the founder of the Zionist movement, and *Mandate Days: British Lives in Palestine, 1918-1948* by A.J. Sherman (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997). Additionally, I was prompted to read a recently published book by Sir Martin Gilbert, *Churchill and the Jews: A Lifelong Friendship* (New York: Henry Holt, 2007), which piqued our collective interest in the unique relationship of Britain in Jewish history.

What has been a tremendous blessing to me in reading these books and other related materials, is that I have been able to see some of the nuances of the history of Zionism and the migration of the Jewish people into (then-)Palestine. It is fascinating to note how events in the past few hundred years ultimately led to the formation of the State of Israel. How Great Britain, and in particular how Winston Churchill handled his responsibilities as prime minister and a significant benefactor of the Zionist cause, was quite enlightening. In reading about these realities in relatively recent times, I was much more sympathetic to how and even why the United States, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush have handled the delicate Middle East situation during the past few decades of my specific interest.

When you compliment what these countries and leaders have been doing, in conjunction with what has been going on in the Land of Israel and around the globe, you can perceive that the hand of the Almighty is definitely behind the scenes orchestrating circumstances from His Throne—regarding the return of the Jewish people to the Promised Land and the timing of when certain prophecies will take place. Things have only taken place when the political and social situations have been ripe to allow them to take place. Yet to much of our analysis today, specifically the Messianic movement does not always look to the politics or social structures to consider what will happen next as God's plan unfolds. Instead, we often believe that we can subject God to some kind of calendar or timetable of our own choosing, and as a clear result it is most probable that many get the sprinter mentality about the end-times—rather than the more prudent approach of waiting on the Lord for His timing regarding His return.

Let us never forget that Yeshua Himself gave His Disciples this stern

warning—appealing to a marathoner’s approach—when they were questioning Him about the Messianic Age that they were anticipating:

“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. **But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*. Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, *assigning* to each one his task, also commanded the door-keeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. **What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’**” (Mark 13:28-37).**

Yeshua’s admonition is for His followers to simply “Be on the alert!” Regardless of when the End of the Age comes, we are to be faithful in the tasks that He has given us. We are to be diligent students not only of the Scriptures, but also of history, so we can properly anticipate the time of Yeshua’s return to rule and reign from Mount Zion. Many Scriptures come to my mind that point to the restoration process for all of Israel—many of which we have not studied or examined thoroughly enough. The one passage that in many respects summarizes *some* of what we may be currently witnessing, is seen near the end of Deuteronomy where Moses prophesies a future return of Israel to the Promised Land—one which concerns the future End of the Age:

“So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, **then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live**” (Deuteronomy 30:1-6).

Moses describes a future time when the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy would be brought to mind by the people of Israel in all the nations where they had been banished because of their sin. This remembrance would result in a return to the Lord, resulting in obedience to Him by the heart and soul of His children. Eventually, this would trigger not only a restoration from captivity with compassion, but also a gathering back from ends of the Earth to the Promised Land. At that time, the Lord will bring His people back to possess such land, prosper on it, and multiply upon it. They will have circumcised hearts that will be sensitive to Him as their God. Deuteronomy 30:1-6 in many ways is the ultimate culmination of the “restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21) as foreseen by the Prophets. *Yet it is clear that many things must take place in order for this ultimate culmination to be realized!*

When you look at passages such as Deuteronomy 30:1-6, and take into account the actual history that has taken place with the Zionist movement of the past century—you should recognize that the principal proponents of Zionism were more interested in establishing a homeland for the Jewish people rather than in obeying the Lord with all their hearts and souls. Are those currently returning to Israel today a group that is returning because of their innate love of the Lord, and a desire to obey Him and His statutes? Or, is returning to Israel simply a way for one to find sanctuary from the evil intentions of those who would want to destroy, or at the very least harass, the Jewish people? Certainly our Heavenly Father can use the evil intentions of men to initiate the fulfillment of prophetic Scriptures. *The Jewish return to the Promised Land is certainly a good thing!* But for those of us who claim to be diligent followers of the Most High, we have a responsibility to pause for a moment—and consider the wider implications *with many more prophecies* than just Deuteronomy 30:1-6. And perhaps most importantly, we need to consider the maturity level of our own Messianic movement, which is surely to be used in the future to accomplish some great tasks for the Lord.

Many people, often not tempered by a marathoner approach to faith in God, draw hasty conclusions without a larger consideration of the facts. Because people studying Bible prophecy often subject the Almighty to a date calendar of their own choosing, they are able to generate support for their activities, which proponents just claim are simply Biblical prophecies becoming a modern-day reality. *Little facts here and there from the past are conveniently left out of their discussions.* For those who lack a degree of historical context, or those who do not study history be warned: **You need to remember that being persuaded by those who speak with conviction, as if they have authority from on High, can happen without you noticing.** Always keep in mind that it is difficult to discern whether Moses' prophecies (among many in Scripture) will be accomplished prior to the return of Ye-

shua, during the season of His immediate return, or after His return when He rules and reigns from Jerusalem.

It is critical that we as God's people spend time in the study of His Word, seeking enlightenment and knowledge about our relationship with Him, and desiring discernment so that we will have a fuller picture of what He is doing. **We need to have a more comprehensive understanding about not only current events, but also historical precedents and how they are to be interpreted given the overall context of where we currently are as things move forward.** Discerning, if those promoting various activities are encumbered by any prejudice or presuppositions that influence their conclusions, is crucial to avoid the mistake of supporting and unequally yoking yourself to something that is just another human enterprise of fleshly intentions. We need to be able to run the marathon race of life well, remembering to "strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress" (Hebrews 12:1, NLT). Too many of us have "spiritual fat" (The Message) that keeps us from being the things He wants us to be!

As we run the marathon of faith, we also must be aware of a significant warning issued by the Apostle John, who understood that the spirit of antimesiah or antichrist was already at work in his era—especially if you are considering aligning yourself with those who do not place Yeshua at the center of their work. If people or organizations place their emphasis or focus on anything other than the gospel of salvation, or somehow forbid Believers to share the hope that is within them about His work atoning for our sin, then perhaps we should be very weary of them. As we are instructed,

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Yeshua the Messiah has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Yeshua is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (1 John 4:1-6).

Do not yoke yourself with those who cannot discern the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of error.

Our journey with the Messiah is a marathon, and it requires that each of us possess great endurance. Learn from history so that you do not have to repeat its negative patterns, or become a victim of those who twist history to serve their purposes. Be those who can heed its message, finishing the marathon of faith with great rewards at the end!

TNN ONLINE EDITOR'S UPDATE

June 2014

Dear Friends:

This is the first Summer which begins, in perhaps three to four years, where I do not enter into



the warmer months of the American South experiencing some level of **exhaustion!** Last Summer, I was still new to having moved back to North Texas, and was in the process of finishing up a variety of projects which were all “hold-overs” from Central Florida. I cannot tell you how much stress is relieved when everything that you are working on is quantitatively “new”... *Rather than “catching up”...everything is an opportunity to make progress...*

The two ongoing projects which have dominated a great deal of my time and attention this past year have been **the Romans Bible study**, and the forthcoming **Messianic Kosher Helper** volume. The Romans study represents the culmination of two seminary exegesis classes. I have just finished the notes on Romans ch. 11, which means that we are now approximately two-thirds finished with the examination of this letter in our Wednesday Night Study, and on steady course for completion in the Fall. The publication on *kashrut* represents a need to process onto paper a huge amount of information that we have been carrying around as a family, since our transition into *going kosher* eighteen years ago in 1996. Do be paying attention to the different e-mail update and Facebook posts this month and into July, as there will be some preview excerpts from the *Kosher Helper!*

Of course, one of the things that I find, is that there is never a dull moment, even with two ongoing assignments in front of me! This past May, I did finally take a look *beyond* the present Romans and kosher projects, and open up the files for the forthcoming *Messianic Sabbath Helper* and *Torah In the Balance, Volume II*. Much of the approach that you will see in the *Kosher Helper* is the same that we will be trying to replicate in the *Sabbath Helper*, as the quantity of issues and sub-issues to be considered surrounding *Shabbat* is quite similar. *Torah In the Balance, Volume II* has a file that was originally started back in 2005—so with 2015 a solid six months in front of us, it is something which is finally on my radar, as a second volume of *Torah In the Balance* was always planned from the beginning. A few of the subjects to be addressed, with which I was once a little uncomfortable, I now see no issue in addressing...

I wish each of you, wherever you live and in whatever climate you may find yourself, a blessed Summer!

Until next month...

J.K. McKee

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all items can be purchased online at www.outreachisrael.net

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