



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH TEACH ENCOURAGE DISCIPLE



MAY 2013
OUR MESSIANIC JOURNEY
an historical perspective



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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

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

May 2013

In March before commemorating Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and entering into the current season of Counting the Omer for the fifty days in anticipation of *Shavuot*, our family returned to Florida to attend a family wedding. In what we affectionately labeled our “epilogue journey,” the long drives back and forth gave each of us some time to reflect upon our family’s spiritual journey of following the proverbial “cloud” of walking by faith, and how the Lord has blessed us in so many ways, since embarking into the Messianic movement back in 1995.

So with this trip in mind, combined with this edition of Outreach Israel News being delivered via U.S. bulk mailing privileges to a number of people who may have not heard from us for quite some time, I was led to write this month’s lead article entitled, “**Our Messianic Journey: An Historical Perspective.**” As the dust has settled from our last excursion, the next chapter of our lives in service to the Holy One of Israel is commencing with gratifying anticipation. Knowing that after fourteen years of being led by the Spirit of God to leave Dallas and serve Him, He has returned us to the same zip code area where we lived when first married, for His purposes and not our own. This familial restoration reminds me of a verse that Margaret clung to years ago after the untimely death of her first husband, when she was widowed with an eleven year old son, nine year old and five month old daughters. To comfort her in her grief, the Lord gave her a verse from Jeremiah, which let her know that He had a plan for her and that she still had a future and hope:

“**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. I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile”** (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

In this passage Jeremiah was obviously speaking to the Southern Kingdom exiles, who would be captive in Babylon for seventy years—and I would not want to equate our fourteen year sojourn to an exile, because our family always retained a hope for a future. But I do know that during our journey from Honduras to Norman, OK, and then to Kissimmee, FL, we were compelled to call upon and pray incessantly to the Lord, while we sought Him with all of our hearts. As a result, He allowed us, in some isolation, to focus upon producing numerous articles and over thirty written publications, primarily intended to help others comprehend similar journeys that they have individually or collectively been led to pursue, as they have also embraced a Messianic lifestyle.

Margaret, John, Jane, Maggie, and I all agree that if we had never left the

relative comforts of Dallas in 1998, I would probably still be in the commercial real estate business, and our family would most likely not be in the ministry field the Lord has chosen for us. This is a sobering conclusion, given the joy derived by simply being obedient to the Spirit-led prompting to step out in faith, and do whatever is required to fulfill the call that He has placed upon our family. We each can reflect upon the many challenges of ministry, which include the relative deprivations of denying oneself of the human wants and desires that naturally develop in the heart. However, the difficult task of learning how to patiently wait upon and trust the Lord to provide, while we diligently work unto Him, has been a blessing that has affirmed to each of us that the walk of faith is much more than a trite expression. In fact, as I contemplate the path the Lord has challenged Margaret and me to pursue—simply modeling for our children the ability to be led by the Spirit, while clinging to Yeshua the Messiah—is so much more meaningful than repeating those expressions without actually experiencing the walk of faith. With great comfort, we can see that they have not only put Yeshua first in their lives, but they are also patiently waiting upon Him for His will to be done, and not their own. As you can imagine, witnessing their faithful fruit for the Kingdom of God has made each of the insignificant inconveniences pale in comparison. Thankfully, the Lord has rewarded our obedience with His blessings, because it is He “who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us” (Ephesians 3:20).

We invite you to support our ongoing **Theological Defense Trust** (described later in the newsletter) and the **Prison Ministry—Free Book Fund**. Your generous contributions will help continue the labor that Outreach Israel and TNN Online are committed to do, by producing Scripturally sound and coherently written publications, which help to validate how the Messianic restoration of all things is a genuine move of the Lord. We have committed our life work to this endeavor, and gratefully appreciate everyone who has already been supportive of our efforts with intercessory prayers and financial gifts.

Finally this month, as the Omer Count to *Shavuot* comes to a close, we have a few seasonal publications that are available for your edification. The *Messianic Spring Holiday Helper*, *Counting the Omer: A Daily Devotional Toward Shavuot*, and *Sayings of the Fathers: A Messianic Perspective on Pirkei Avot* have each been compiled to help Messianic Believers understand more about the blessings of this special season. They are all available in paperback or eBook for Amazon Kindle.

Advancing His Kingdom, until the restoration of all things...

Mark Huey

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OUR MESSIANIC JOURNEY

an historical perspective

by Mark Huey

As a lifelong student of general world history and Biblical history for over thirty-five years, I have discovered that reviewing both histories at times is beneficial for understanding the here and now, with the possibility of discerning what the future can become. After all, it was the persistent questions in my mind to want to know why I even existed, where I came from, and who my forefathers were—that ultimately led me to the gospel understanding which totally transformed my life! Asking those questions, seeking somewhat unknowable answers, and knocking on seemingly impenetrable doors, finally resulted in the door to my soul being opened (Matthew 7:7-8). The spiritual revelation that I was forgiven of my iniquities by absolute belief in the atonement provided by the sacrifice of God's only begotten Son, Yeshua the Messiah (John 3:16), finally took root, and my life has never been the same since. But unlike some of my Christian peers, who early in my walk insisted that my enthusiasm and zeal for knowing the Messiah would fade over time, it never has, and I pray, it never will!

Along the journey of faith, as a born again Believer who understands that living by faith is the model first exemplified by Abraham (Romans 4), the twists and turns of life have been interesting to say the least. Thankfully, the Lord in His timing ultimately blessed me with a wonderful, Spirit-filled wife, who also appreciates history (after being raised by a college history professor)—and who joyfully embraces the real world challenges of living by faith, so that the Lord could bestow His favor upon our family. As Proverbs 18:22 so aptly says, “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.”

Needless to say, it was this union of two non-Jewish seekers of the Most High God, totally in love with Yeshua, who were led to take a tour to Israel with a Messianic Jewish ministry—which is what catapulted our family into the Messianic community of faith back in 1995, and into ministry by 1997. Provisionally, as we have concluded by God's design, Margaret's Wesleyan-Arminian background and my Calvinistic-leaning beliefs were then, and continue today, to be solid places for understanding much of salvation history, as it has progressed down through the ages. The balance of these two interpretive perspectives has been instrumental in helping us sort through much of what we see transpiring today in the sectors influenced by the Judeo-Christian worldview. After all, it is clearly discernible that the **Reformation Age** of the past five centuries or so, is increasingly yielding to the **Restoration Age** which is currently proceeding. At the very least, a notable interest in the Hebraic and Jewish Roots of our faith, by increasing numbers in Christianity, has been conclusively illustrated by the accelerated growth of the Messianic movement and perspective over the past several decades.

In 2003, we were blessed when our son, John McKee, a Biblical apologist, and who has an under-graduate degree in political science and a post-graduate degree in Biblical Studies, joined our ministerial efforts. When it comes to under-

standing what the Holy One is allowing to occur in the Messianic community of faith, we as a ministry are constantly **triangulating** our Spirit-led assessments and conclusions. Having the Holy Spirit teach us in all things (John 14:26), coupled with significant study of the Scriptures in the ancient languages, along with detailed research from contemporary Bible scholars and commentators—instill a relative confidence that what we publish has a collaborative level of scrutiny. By respecting each others' unique giftings, we each individually take the Biblical admonition by James the Just very seriously, noting that handling the Word of God without a high level of solemnity has inherent eternal consequences. As he says, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment" (James 3:1).

With this being stated, I must remind the reader that our thoughts and conclusions that have been widely committed to writing, about where the Messianic world is currently, and where we believe it is going—have all been influenced by what we have witnessed over the past eighteen years. We sincerely believe in our hearts that the Messianic restoration of all things is a verifiable, end-time move of the Holy Spirit, preparing the faithful remnant for the return of Yeshua the Messiah.

There are a few, basic questions, which we have asked ourselves multiple times over the years. These include: (1) What in the world are Spirit-filled, non-Jewish Believers doing in the Messianic movement? Is this not something only for Jews? And, (2) Why are we compelled to reach, teach, encourage, and disciple the Body of Messiah with our ministerial efforts? Has there not already been a sufficient amount of work done to uphold the Messianic point of view?

Perhaps the basic answer to these questions can be summed up with a foundational understanding that everyday we are one day closer to the return of Yeshua. Since we have been commanded by the Messiah in His parting words, to go and proclaim the good news, and make disciples by teaching people all that He has commanded—then we are simply obeying what is commonly referred to as "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).

It has not just been our desire to be obedient to these instructions, which originally launched us into the ministry. There has also been the additional, eschatological understanding and conviction that the end-time saints are going to have the undesirable challenge of participating in what is referred to as the Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:7) or the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:14). Knowing that difficult times are on the horizon, does not give us a seemingly lackadaisical comfort, which many of our Christian peers have about the end times—because of their thought that they will simply be "raptured out" and removed from all of the turmoil associated with the Tribulation period. Being of a post-tribulational position surrounding the return of the Lord has helped us become very serious and focused about our walk with the Messiah, and has fostered a sense of urgency to know Him and His ways more fully. This belief has led us

to a heart-stirred responsibility to personally prepare and help our children, grandchildren, and others become equipped to be like those saints mentioned who will eventually be at war with the beast system that arises at the End of the Age.

Early in our Messianic journey, it was brought to our attention at two significant places in the Book of Revelation, where the Tribulation period is more fully described, and how there were two common denominators which defined what characterized the end-time saints. These two common denominators were having a testimony of salvation in Yeshua, and keeping the commandments of God:

“So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Yeshua” (Revelation 12:17).

“Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Yeshua” (Revelation 14:12).

Upon being led to a Messianic Jewish congregation, we found that there was a sincere attempt to more fully obey the commandments of God found in the entire Bible, while acknowledging a faith in Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel. In relatively short order, our family began to understand the blessings associated with remembering the seventh-day Sabbath or *Shabbat*, celebrating the feasts of the Lord, and even eating Biblically kosher. While these lifestyle changes were causing some concerns with our Christian family and friends, we were convinced that God was revealing to us simply more about what He was doing to prepare a sector of His people to endure the trials and tribulations of the End of the Age that was approaching. Over the course of just a few months, it became abundantly clear that the long prophesied “restoration of all things” spoken of in the Book of Acts was in process, and our family was simply being prepared to witness and participate in what the Holy Spirit was doing around the world:

“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).

Moreover, in every Messianic congregation and gathering we attended around the country, there was the additional confirmation that those being led into the Messianic community of faith were definitely from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. This verified that the ultimate kingdom of priests would be multi-cultured, and eventually represent every people group just as the Scriptures indicate:

“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth’” (Revelation 5:9-10).

In our new religious environment, it did not take long for the Holy Spirit to

reveal what the Lord was doing around the world. With the advent of the Internet facilitating the increase of knowledge (Daniel 12:4) and flow of communication and information, the Almighty was transitioning His faithful ones from the **Reformation Age** to the **Restoration Age**. From an historical perspective, we noted the providentially-timed similarity of the introduction of the Gutenberg Press in the mid 1400s that had accelerated the publication of the Holy Scriptures into other languages and the dissemination thereof from the 1500s onward. Once the World Wide Web started to become more ubiquitous in the mid-to-late 1990s, we began to communicate with people from around the globe, who were likewise being drawn into the Messianic movement in various Spirit-led ways.

Clearly from the multitude of testimonies discovered, there was a unique worldwide move of the Holy Spirit in 1995-1997 that many Jewish and non-Jewish people in the Messianic community today recall as their personal embarkation point to enter into a fuller Messianic perspective or concentration. Needless to say, for our family, we were encouraged with what was transpiring in our hearts and the significant change for us from evangelical Christianity to a Torah obedient Messianic lifestyle. At first, we excitedly concluded that it was just a matter of a comparatively short time, when *any* true Believer who hears what we were hearing, would sweep Christianity toward the fulfillment of the prophecies found in the Book of Revelation. Well, as the Lord would have it—and *not* our finite thoughts regarding His timing for the promised restoration—the consummation of the age is proceeding at His speed, and not ours. So along the winding way that we have labeled our “**spiritual scavenger hunt**,” we have been faithfully doing our part to try and help others through our ministerial efforts to see what the Spirit of God has shown us, so that His blessings can be passed on to others.

Along our spiritual journey, it has been apparent that the Adversary, an astute and knowledgeable student of the Holy Scriptures as well (James 2:9), is certainly aware of what is occurring in the Messianic community. While the enemy has always been about his nefarious ways since the beginning to try and disrupt, distort, and delay God’s plans for humanity—he has certainly begun to feverishly work overtime, to do as much internal damage to the Messianic community of faith as he is allowed to do. Over the past several years, this has led to division, strife, contention, and downright unloving nastiness by many in the Messianic faith community, who actually claim to be followers of the Messiah Yeshua (Galatians 5:20; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Titus 3:9). Controversies over pedigree, calendar systems, protestations about the Divine Name of God, disparagement of entire books of the Apostolic Writings, false predictions about the start of the Great Tribulation, and other problems far too many to mention—have merely been an affirmation of what was foretold in the letters of Jude and John. After all, the appearance of “antichrists” among the brethren in what John concluded was the “last hour,” was written to warn Believers then—and every follower of the Messiah since—that the “world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life” are worthy opponents that everyone has to individually and collectively contend with:

“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world, the lust of**

the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. **Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.** They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Yeshua is the Messiah? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. **These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.** Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him” (1 John 2:15-29).

For far too many years, we have concluded that the schemes of the Devil (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11) that have done so much harm to the Messianic movement, were more or less conclusive evidences that the enemy of our souls was doing everything possible to discredit the Messianic community of faith. And, if you take some time to think about it, just consider all of the ecclesiastical institutions that have been developed down through the centuries. If you were the Devil, with the intention to disrupt God’s will for the Creation, where would you place your deceivers in order to do the most damage?

The conclusion, from even a cursory study of Church history, would be to infiltrate these institutions with people—whether they wittingly knew it or not—who through their misguided influence can, or at the very least, would seek to alter the trajectory of salvation history. *And yet through it all, God continues to work all things together for good, for those who love Him and are called according to His purposes (Romans 8:28).* Through all the controversies, the Holy One is still accomplishing His will, despite the challenges associated with the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Also, let us never forget that the Apostolic Writings were merely giving future readers more details about what Yeshua had already warned His Disciples about concerning the coming of the end. Here, the sobering comment by Yeshua that “if possible” the very elect might be misled, should encourage one and all to be discerning when it comes to listening to the teachings of false messiahs and false prophets—who seem to be spread here and there throughout not only just the Messianic ranks, but in every conceivable religious establishment:

“For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There *He is*,’ do not believe *him*. For false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, *or*, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe *them*. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other” (Matthew 24:21-31; cf. Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15).

One key elaboration on the Last Days comes from the Apostle Paul, in his final letter to Timothy, where the “difficult times” will be saturated with people operating in the power of their flesh rather than the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:16-26). Note that the warning indicates that these people will be holding to a “form of godliness” although they have denied its power:

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Note the strong admonition to avoid people claiming God, but actually denying Him. Lamentably, from our experience, we have found far too many in the Messianic community who are susceptible to those who, for lack of a better term, are consumed with “selfish ambition,” a term used pointedly by Paul (Philippians 1:17) and James (James 3:14, 16), to describe one of the prime motivations that is not always discernible to the unsuspecting. Nevertheless, the Father continues to accomplish His will despite all of the deviations, which are in many ways simply His “tests” for those who call upon Him. These “tests” are not too dissimilar to what the Lord did when He used false prophets/dreamers/teachers/relatives to test the hearts of His people in ancient times (Deuteronomy 13).

Without dwelling too much on a negative side of things—which should simply serve as a warning to us all—what are some of the positive aspects which are readily apparent in the Messianic community of faith at this hour in the restoration process? Perhaps the most encouraging reality is the simple proliferation of the number of people worldwide who, despite the listed challenges, are over-

coming the obstacles and are sincerely pursuing a Messianic lifestyle. Incredibly, because this is definitely from our perspective a significant end-time move of the Holy Spirit, the Lord is preparing a people to endure through the Great Tribulation with the positive common denominator attributes noted above. Hence, many people from different tongues, tribes, and nations, are being supernaturally led into the Messianic movement. Just understanding what is required for a true born again seeker of the Most High to come from a Christian background, or for a Jewish person to leave the relative comfort of many of his or her traditions—and proclaim faith in the Messiah Yeshua, and fidelity to God's Torah—are both in and of themselves, indicative that the fingerprints of the Spirit of God are upon the Messianic movement. Thankfully, the Lord has been preparing various individuals with the spiritual gifts that are critical for not only the establishment and nurturing of this move, but more importantly, the maturation process that is sorely needed.

One of the final requests that Yeshua made to His Disciples at the Last Supper, was that they exemplify a love for the brethren, which was best represented by the unity that He had with the Father (John 14-17). Of course, in order to accomplish such a goal, we can turn to some of the significant instruction given by the Apostle Paul to the Believers in Asia Minor:

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Messiah's gift. Therefore it says, ‘WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN’* [Psalm 68:18]. (Now this *expression*, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Messiah; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Messiah, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:1-16).

As is generally the case, the emphasis on unconditional love (*agapē*) is always the default mode every Believer should resort to, when it comes to being part of any move of the Holy Spirit. This is critical for this hour, because as the expres-

sion goes, "United we stand, divided we fall!" Division over some of the items mentioned above is not what should characterize a genuine move of the Holy Spirit, but sadly it seems to be the case for too much at present. This is a terrible disservice to what the Father is doing—and brings much skepticism not only from without—but increasingly from within. But we now understand that it is when the Holy Spirit resolves these internal strivings, it will be at His appointed time, with whatever is required.

We actually have a considerable amount to be thankful for given the prospect that at this extended hour, nearly two thousand years since the apostles lived, the Last Days are rapidly approaching. We are grateful that the ability of all to freely communicate to the world (via the Internet, etc.) has not been impeded, so that the gospel can go forth to change and enlighten hearts—just like it did years ago for Margaret, John, and me, *and* that the Messianic understanding is in the process of being fortified. We are pleased, just like Yeshua was when He mentioned to His Disciples, that despite the fact that there were some using His name for ministry without being within their inner circle, He let it continue with the comment, "For he who is not against us is for us" (Mark 9:40). As long as Yeshua is being proclaimed, the Holy One will sort out what needs to be accomplished in the hearts of those who are hearing. Similarly, this same attitude was also elucidated by Paul in his letter to the Philippians, when despite some concerns, he wrote while rejoicing:

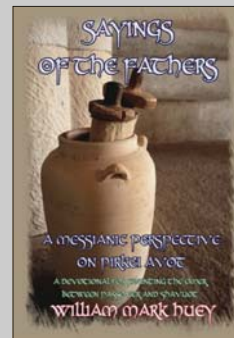
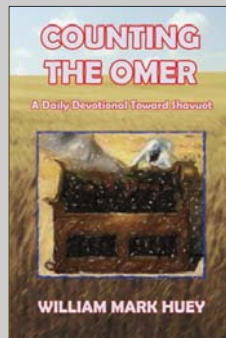
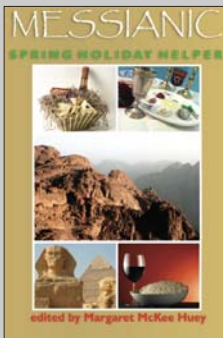
"Some, to be sure, are preaching Messiah even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Messiah out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. What then? **Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Messiah is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice" (Philippians 1:15-18).**

We are also delighted that despite the motivations of various individuals, the Lord through so many different men and women—from all walks of life, nations, and backgrounds—are being gifted with the supernatural enablement to establish Torah studies, Messianic-oriented home groups, fellowships, and congregations which will be used in various ways by the Lord to mature His kingdom of priests. We recommend that you seek out like-minded Believers who understand what it means to be Messianic. The walk of faith to be conformed to the image of the Messiah Yeshua is, and will always be, a work in progress for each of us, until Yeshua returns and begins to reign and teach from Mount Zion.

It is our fervent prayer that the Lord would *now* pour out upon His people, the distinct and required ability to discern what is of Him and what is not of Him! After all, having a testimony of faith in Yeshua and obeying God's commandments can be taught and understood in so many different ways, depending on what is truly in the heart of the message deliverer or the teaching recipient. But regardless of what the intentions of the heart truly are—given that it is solely up to the ultimate Judge to make that determination—we along with Yeshua and Paul will rejoice that despite whatever the enemy may try to do, nothing can prevent or stop the explicit will of the Eternal God from being accomplished!

Let me conclude by saying how wonderful it is to have the opportunity to reflect on a bit of personal history (our testimonies), in conjunction with understanding Biblical history and world history in general. But I would be remiss to not note that the Holy One of Israel—who was, and is, and is to come (Revelation 1:4; 4:8)—is most assuredly the God of the here and now, and that He wants to accomplish His will through each and every one of us each moment of the day. *We joyfully continue to offer up praise to Him and His Son Yeshua, who rightfully receives all honor, power, and glory. We dedicate our lives to serve the Holy One, in order to advance His Kingdom on Earth, until the restoration of all things...*

IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE TO GET THESE BOOKS FOR THE SPRING HOLIDAYS



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REQUIRED RESOURCES FOR YOUR MESSIANIC LIBRARY



TNN Press is the official publishing arm of TNN Online, and its parent organization, Outreach Israel Ministries. TNN Press is dedicated to producing high quality, doctrinally sound, challenging, and fair-minded Messianic materials and resources for the Twenty First Century. TNN Press offers and will be offering new and exciting books and resources for the truth seeker.

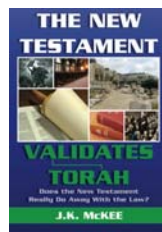
The following are some TNN Press titles of extreme importance, which are required reading for every home Messianic library! All of these titles are available in both paperback and eBook for Amazon Kindle.

THE NEW TESTAMENT VALIDATES TORAH **Does the New Testament Really Do Away With the Law?**

The New Testament Validates Torah is a study that all Messianic Believers need, especially in the current season of considerable growth and expansion in which our broad faith community finds itself. On the whole, today's Messianic movement holds that the Torah or the Law of Moses remains valid instruction for God's people, and that Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) did not come to abolish or do away with it (Matthew 5:17-19). Yet throughout much of Christian history, many theologians have argued that the Law has been rendered inoperative, and/or that it was only to be followed by those in the pre-resurrection era. Many Messianics are incapable of responding to the common arguments delivered by their Christian family members, friends, acquaintances, or even various pastors and teachers that they know, who quote verses to them from the Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament) which supposedly prove that the Law has been "done away."

Has Moses' Teaching been abolished? This publication is a lengthy study that analyzes and critically examines, in detail, a wide number of New Testament passages that are commonly offered as proof texts to claim that the Torah is not to be followed by those in the post-resurrection era. Statements such as not being "under the Law" (Romans 6:14-15), "Christ is the end of the Law" (Romans 10:4), "All things are lawful" (1 Corinthians 6:12), "abolishing...the Law of commandments contained in ordinances" (Ephesians 2:15), "having nailed it to the cross" (Colossians 2:14), and many more, are considered. Considerable attention is given to the Greek source text of the Apostolic Scriptures, and where translation errors into English appear to have been made by various modern versions. Cross-examination and discussion with a wide number of commentators have also been offered, as well as an exploration of important subjects present within today's Biblical Studies.

The New Testament Validates Torah is an important apologetic study that will benefit Messianic Believers and evangelical Christians alike. There is literally nothing in today's Messianic movement that has compiled as much information on Torah relevance for God's people into a single book.

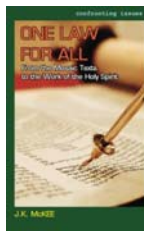


ONE LAW FOR ALL

From the Mosaic Texts to the Work of the Holy Spirit

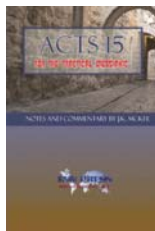
There are Messianic Jewish leaders and teachers who do not believe that non-Jewish Believers are to follow the Torah, there are others who are more open to it, and then again there are others who believe that all of God's people should be striving to adhere to Moses' Teaching. At much of the center of the discussion is what a statement like Numbers 15:29 means: "You shall have one law for him who does *anything* unintentionally, for him who is native among the sons of Israel and for the alien who sojourns among them." This statement regards the atonement of unintentional sin, and how the native of Israel and the sojourner who enters into the community of Israel, will be held accountable for following the same basic Instruction. The One Law or One Torah sub-movement, within today's Messianic community, has a widespread emphasis upon different Torah passages, which in some way emphasized "one law" to be adhered to by Ancient Israel. These include, but are not limited to: Exodus 12:48-49; Leviticus 7:7; 24:22; Numbers 9:14; 15:15-16, 29-30.

In this volume of the *Confronting Issues* series, *One Law for All: From the Mosaic Texts to the Work of the Holy Spirit*, TNN Online editor J.K. McKee fairly considers the trajectory of God's plan and salvation history, from: the original giving of the Torah to Ancient Israel, to the expectations of the Prophets, to the arrival of Yeshua the Messiah and inauguration of the New Covenant. How do Torah passages emphasizing "one law" or "one statute" affect the theology of the broad Messianic movement? How do we fairly understand them in their Ancient Near Eastern context, and what the Lord is doing in this hour?



ACTS 15 FOR THE PRACTICAL MESSIANIC

Too many of today's Messianics refer to Acts 15 without a great deal of consideration for the context of the events as they took place in the First Century C.E. We often assume things that we should not assume, and we overlook things that we should not be overlooking. This study critically examines Acts 15 in detail, is engaged with current Acts scholarship, and tries to properly compare and contrast the ancient setting of the Jerusalem Council with some of what we see going on in the emerging Messianic movement today. What can we learn from all of this? What important lessons have we avoided for far too long?



GALATIANS FOR THE PRACTICAL MESSIANIC

Understanding Galatians in its original context, for its original audience, and for the original issues that it addressed, can be a severe challenge. Was the issue that the Galatians faced forced circumcision, followed by salvation—or was the issue ritual proselyte conversion for inclusion among God's people? Likewise, who were the people errantly influencing the Galatians? Were they authorized members of the assembly, or misguided outsiders with a definitive agenda?

In the commentary *Galatians for the Practical Messianic*, TNN Online editor J.K. McKee takes a direct look at the issues of Paul's letter as he rebukes the Galatians for errors that have crept into their midst. Engaging with contemporary Christian scholarship on Galatians, critical questions regarding common conclusions of Paul's words are asked. Are Paul and Yeshua truly at odds when it comes to the Torah? Were the Jerusalem leaders and Paul at constant odds with one another? How do Paul's Pharisaical background and views affect the composition of this letter? What were the spiritual dynamics present in Galatia? What does the term "works of law" really mean? These are only a few of the questions that are considered. Likewise, some of the proposals from the New Perspective of Paul in theological studies are also analyzed.





The theological pressure upon Outreach Israel Ministries and TNN Online is growing considerably by the day! While we surely appreciate the prayers and moral support that many of you have offered, we need you to join with us as a committed monthly contributor, to help alleviate the financial stress that accompanies the dedicated, full-time service to fight the spiritual battles that seem to perpetually rage. Not enough people, in today's Messianic world, are going to be able to have well reasoned responses to the attacks that are coming, unless a ministry like ours can continue to produce the studies required. As the stress increases upon us, we need to see that any other pressure is considerably relieved.

We have established the **Theological Defense Trust** (TDT) to elicit monthly, quarterly, and annual financial support, for our ongoing, long-term efforts in helping to contribute to a Messianic theology that is faithful to the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation. Via the emergence of the Messianic movement, we believe that the Holy One has inaugurated a distinct move that will ultimately culminate in the return of Yeshua the Messiah, *and* is something that will involve a multitude of saints who have a testimony of salvation in Him and who obey the Torah's commandments (Revelation 12:17; 14:12). We know that properly researched and scholastically engaged *written publications*, are critical for advocating and reinforcing this conviction. This includes detailed analyses of the different aspects of Torah observance, the critical issues and sensationalistic trends that confuse and upset many Messianic Believers, as well as steadily producing written commentaries on all books of the Bible (at least those of the Apostolic Scriptures), however long this may take.

The **Theological Defense Trust** has been conceived to give those in the Messianic community of faith, the opportunity to participate and co-labor in this imperative work by financially supporting the efforts of Outreach Israel Ministries, TNN Online, and TNN Press on a consistent basis. By becoming faithfully invested in our endeavors financially, you will be recognized as a valued trustee, and we will endeavor to keep you informed via e-mail and telephone conversations when spoken dialogue is appropriate, about any critical theological issues that will be erupting in the months and years to come. Additionally as a trustee, we will mail you a volume of any new titles for your personal theological library, so that you will be equipped with credible resources to combat the complex challenges which will be facing the Messianic movement. For more information, please go to: www.outreachisrael.net

TNN ONLINE EDITOR'S UPDATE

May 2013

Dear Friends:



I enter into the month of May with a great sense of optimism *and* growing relief. As we begin to approach the Summer, I am in the process of finally completing a number of projects which have remained uncompleted since we began converting all of our TNN Press titles to paperback and eBook for Amazon Kindle in December 2011. Within the next six weeks or so, I will be completing two book chapters for the forthcoming volume *Confronting Critical Issues*, and the written part of our James Bible study should be completed. What this means—more than anything else—is that starting in the Summer, everything that I will be researching, writing, and/or coordinating will be quantitatively new! Yes, there have been titles in the planning stages for years...but to get to them...*finally*...is going to give me a great sense of relief and accomplishment in moving forward.

This month, at the request of a friend, I wrote a short 4-5 page article entitled, **“A Messianic Spiritual Inventory.”** The contents of this piece coincide with the end of my tenth year of working full-time in Messianic ministry, and my tenth year after graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a B.A. in political science. This article covers a few of my personal experiences in becoming Messianic, my encounters at Asbury Theological Seminary from 2005-2009, and the current season we have entered into as a Messianic faith community for the 2010s. As the article title suggests, we are in a time of a retaking of Messianic spiritual inventory, and where each of us has to reconsider some things and make some likely alterations to how we approach the issues of the day. Yet, in spite of some of the anticipated changes to come to the Messianic movement—a mutual respect and honor expressed to Jewish and non-Jewish Believers, seeing that all are encouraged in the Lord to grow and mature, and to see us employ everyone’s gifts and talents and skills are *not* the things that we will have to give up *but* instead have to emphasize more and more.

I would like to thank the many of you who have answered our requests to join in on the Theological Defense Trust—Amazon.com Review front. We still have some goals to reach in seeing reviews written for various TNN Press titles listed on Amazon.com. *I know some of you have now been piqued to read some of our books for the first time*, and that your reviews are coming! This is a place where our ministry perspective is going to be able to make a significant difference, and be able to be seen by people who may not find us any other way.

Until next month...

J.K. McKee

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

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