



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

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JUNE 2020
SALT AND LIGHT

OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

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STATEMENT OF BELIEF

*Outreach Israel Ministries
and Messianic Apologetics*

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.

All Believers in Israel's Messiah are to be regarded as a part of the Commonwealth of Israel. Jewish and non-Jewish Believers are to respect one another in mutual love as brothers and sisters, and are to work together for the salvation of the Jewish people and return of Israel's Messiah.

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

Yeshua the Messiah is coming to gather the Believers 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

June 2020

Now that the Feast of Weeks has been commemorated, the *Shavuot* and Pentecost celebrations have faded away **without** the prayerfully anticipated visible and tangible “outpouring of the Holy Spirit” as dramatically experienced and recorded in the Book of Acts. Instead, people of faith continue to contend with the perpetual culture war for the very soul of America, and ultimately the world. Almost by reflex lacking little alternatives, prayer vigils have proliferated, as thousands of Believers memorize and chant almost by rote 2 Chronicles 7:14, **“when My people, over whom My Name is called, humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”** (TLV). But rather than a noticeable national healing, people of all persuasions are being ripped asunder by some of the same age-old schemes of the Devil to rob, steal, and destroy people and their possessions. As always, division, strife, and acrimony are the Adversary’s handiwork, that have lamentably propelled the Body of Messiah into an apoplectic state of mind dominated by fear and confusion. This should not be, but sadly is the case.

Given the milieu of a viral disease, and a brutal death captured on video—resulting in legitimate protests that have spiraled into riots, mayhem, looting, and violence—one might wonder if the verses which precede the readily recited one above, have any connection to what is occurring in America, to get the undivided attention of those who call upon the Name of the Most High Creator God:

“Then ADONAI appeared to Solomon at night and said to him: ‘I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself for a House of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people’” (2 Chronicles 7:12-13, TLV).

Notice that when Solomon received an answer to his prayers, the Holy One of Israel wanted to bless the structure where His Name would reside forever as a House of sacrifice. However, the Lord also stated that He alone would initiate and send droughts, plagues, and pestilence to chastise His people for disobeying His commands. The conclusion of the chapter specifies Solomon’s potential blessings or curses resulting from obedience or disobedience, but note the final verse that describes the nation (Israel) which has chosen to worship and serve other gods:

“Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this House so that My Name may be there forever. My eyes and My heart shall be there perpetually. As for you [Solomon], if you walk before Me as your father David walked, doing all that

I have commanded you, keeping My statutes and My ordinances, then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David saying, 'You shall not lack a man to be ruler in Israel.' **But if you [Solomon] turn away and forsake My decrees and My mitzvot that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot them from My land which I gave them,** and this House which I have consecrated for My Name I will cast out of My sight. I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. As for this House, which is so exalted, every one passing by it shall be appalled and say, 'Why has *ADONAI* done this to this land and to this House?' **And they will answer, 'Because they [Israel] have forsaken *ADONAI*, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and clung to other gods, worshipping and serving them. Therefore, He has brought all this misery upon them'** (2 Chronicles 7:15-22, TLV).

Is it possible, given these Scriptures from Ancient Israel, that a distinct pattern of how the Holy One deals with His chosen ones—whether they are the Jewish people at the height of Israel's regional power, or modern-day Believers currently living in the most powerful country on the planet? **Is it possible that the Body of Messiah is unknowingly clinging to other gods? Or worse, worshipping and serving them?** For most assuredly, the Sovereign Creator of all things is certainly allowing, *if not* sending a virus to confound the worshippers of science and medicine, allowing an economic upheaval to disrupt the worshippers of money, and releasing spirits of murder and destruction that are devouring businesses with riotous looting and arson.

In fact, an almost dystopian vernacular in this season of discontent has infiltrated the nomenclature of civil discourse. Terms and phrases like: Antifa, Black Lives Matter, Anarchists, Defund the Police, No Justice/No Peace, Rules for Radicals, White Privilege, Systemic Racism, Decolonize Bookshelves, Counter Insurgency, Mob Rule, Qanon, Chaz/Chop, social distancing, shelter-in-place, face-masks, lawlessness **and countless others** have been introduced to the body politic through social media and the purveyors of mass communication. The upheaval in the American culture has not been this close to demise since the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the confluence of anti-Vietnam war demonstrations, SDS student uprisings, Black Panther violence, Chicano Movement, Weather Underground, Women's Rights, and a bevy of antagonistic groups began putting together a coalition of anti-imperialist/capitalist entities to displace the American government with Socialist/Communist rule. However, because these disparate groups realized that they could not physically defeat the U.S. Government by forceful violent insurrection, they concluded that infiltration from within would in a matter of time, achieve their nefarious goals to dominate American governmental systems within the constitutional republic framework that utilizes democratic principles. In other words, they needed to get the majority of votes to elect leaders with their mindset. Hence, they turned to academia and began to

teach in the colleges and universities of America their anti-capitalist and God-less perspectives to naïve and gullible youth who were ripe to learn and eventually over time, ready to implement their revolutionary means to a “utopian” end. Today, in this season of chaos and confusion, the American landscape is littered with the rotten fruit of these perverted efforts.

One might ask, is this judgment on America or is this because those chosen to be salt and light with knowledge of the Holy One have not done what the Almighty has commanded enlightened Believers to do? This is a difficult question to answer without writing a book, but hopefully this personal testimony will give some insight into what is transpiring in the ongoing culture war that is flaring up and raging in America today.

Back on December 27, 2015, I was asked to drive a prominent Messianic Jewish rabbi to a hastily called political meeting in Cisco, Texas. The gathering was conceived and hosted by a wealthy Christian businessman to have major evangelical ministries and ministers pray for (lay hands upon), lending their vocal support, and endorse then-candidate for the Republican nomination for President, Ted Cruz. Since a freak freezing cold front plummeted the temperatures into the teens, I was permitted to participate in the meeting primarily as an observer. Interestingly, I happened to know some of those gathered from years in ministry, and certainly recognized many who were Christian televangelists, authors, notable ministry leaders, and even evangelical political leaders. Suffice it to say, this gathering of about 200 people was a virtual “who’s who” of national, if not worldwide ministries located in the United States, that most Believers would readily recognize.

The palatial home was surrounded by a ten-foot high stone wall, but because the air was frigid outside where some tables were arranged to eat the meal, everyone was forced to cramp themselves inside the main structure, which could handle it, but required a lot of eating while standing. After the meal was served, the meeting began with a pedestal located in the corner of the great room, as different ministers took the opportunity to stand up and give their 3-5 minute praise and endorsement of the potential candidacy of Ted Cruz.

As I stood on the perimeter listening to each of these laudatory remarks, there was one theme beyond the expected platitudes that was emphasized by most of the speakers. This was the comparison of what had happened thirty-five years earlier, when conservative Christian Republicans, the Far Right “Silent Majority,” had finally coalesced its voting support around Ronald Reagan to defeat the peanut farmer, “born again” (Baptist) President Jimmy Carter. Multiple references to how the liberal policies of the Carter administration, the economic malaise of the late 1970s, and the humiliating Iranian hostage circumstances, peppered the comments. Tremendous praise for the “Reagan Revolution” was noted because of the 1980s era which followed, with economic “boom like” prosperity and the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union. Now just like thirty-five

years earlier, it was time to replicate that victory and usher in another period when strong conservative and religious principles could again rule the country.

For some reason, the more I listened to these mellifluous plaudits from the famous religious personages gathered, the more I was disturbed in my spirit. In fact, I got so upset, I began going outside to the back courtyard area surrounded by these magnificent walls, and in the freezing night air with the sky crystal clear, I began to pray and intercede for those gathered. I could not help myself from almost crying. Here I was in the presence of these prominent Christian leaders, many of whom benefitted financially from the prosperity of the Reagan years and beyond, building their international ministries, and now they were wanting to reboot the “good old days” with another run at leading the country with someone who claimed to be a Christian conservative, constitutionalist politician.

Many of these evangelical leaders had flown to the meeting in their private jets, from one of their many homes scattered around the country. In the thirty-five years since Reagan’s 1980 victory, these ministers had accumulated major resources and built up tremendous ministries, of course helping many, but for the most part, becoming extremely wealthy on a personal level. Some were even traveling with a security guard detail. The third time I went outside to pray, one of the security guards asked me what I was doing. And I flippantly said in a fit of righteous anger, **“I am praying for those in the house, because despite their lofty religious positions, they have presided over the sad loss of the culture war for America!”** The curious security detail then kept a close eye on me, until I was able to talk my way into a photograph with Senator Cruz and his wife, and deemed harmless. After the five hour meeting concluded, I returned the rabbi to the airport hotel an hour-and-a-half away without much conversation, and drove home and was in bed by 1:00 A.M. I had a lot to process, given the near catastrophe of being escorted from the premises by the security guards. I wondered what that was all about and prayed for understanding as sleep fell over me.

The next morning as I was waking up, I had a very vivid dream that I believe was an answer to my prayer about the previous day’s experience. In the dream, I was in a hotel ballroom in Atlanta, Georgia in the year 1900, at what was a reunion of Confederate Army generals and officers, thirty-five years after the end of the Civil War. Most of the figures in the dream, were in their sixties to eighties, like those at the meeting the previous day. They were standing and talking about the “good old days” of the War from its inception in 1861 through the early years prior to July 4, 1863, when the South lost the Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg—which literally turned the tide of war over to the eventual Union victory. But nothing was being spoken about the results of the war or postwar troubles in the South. The only things being remembered were the early victories when the South was winning a great majority of the battles. The ap-

plause, revelry, and even some pounding on the backs of former comrades was odd given the war's conclusion. But after another bearded survivor spoke, I finally woke up and wondered what that was all about.

As I sought an interpretation of the dream, I began to weep. In many regards, what I had witnessed the previous day with the evangelical leaders was tantamount to what the Confederate officers were doing at their reunion. The defeated Civil War soldiers were looking back at their battle victories, but unable to contend with the reality of what had occurred during their failed attempt to secede from the Union. They had lost the Civil War, but did not want to think about or even reminisce about it. In many regards, this is what I had witnessed the previous evening. All the verbal back slapping, and **not one** significant statement about losing the Culture War that has been underway in America for our entire lifetimes. Things like abortion, homosexual marriage, pornography, gambling run amok, legalization of marijuana and other drugs, worship of sports, Hollywood, corruption in high places in the government, and on and on were not even commented upon. In other words, during their tenure as the "leaders" of the Christian Right, America had morally devolved from its Norman Rockwell past to the debauched "Pottersville" U.S.A. depicted in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" starring Jimmy Stewart. These renowned evangelical "generals" were trying to rekindle a movement that seemingly had been substantially defeated by the world, the flesh, and the Devil. The hidden lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the boastful pride of life—coupled with the gods of mammon, comfort, self-promotion, and susceptibility to flattery—had apparently prevailed in the American culture war. "Were we defeated?" I asked.

Yet from my very limited perspective, even nearly five years ago, it was obvious to me that the Biblical worldview that I have been seeking to adhere to for the past forty plus years, had **not** become the predominant lifestyle perspective in the United States by 2015. Perhaps it was not supposed to, for whatever reasons beyond my understanding. Or perhaps the Eternal One is simply being consistent with His Word, and He is allowing the things that confound Believers today to bring us back to Him. That was the pattern He told Solomon years ago in the passage referenced above. I just do not know, because His ways and thoughts are so beyond human abilities—that one can by grace simply confess, repent, and continue to intercede for family, friends, acquaintances, neighbors, and people one interacts with in the marketplace. Perhaps He will have mercy on us because He desires that no one should perish.

Despite the problems and issues of the day which are legion and compounding, followers of the Messiah Yeshua have simply been called to be "**salt and light**" in whatever generation time and place where they live. During the Sermon on the Mount after the Beatitudes are delivered, Yeshua makes these categorical statements that succinctly define our roles as His ambassadors on earth:

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt should lose its flavor,

how shall it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. **You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. **Instead, they put it on a lampstand so it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven**” (Matthew 5:13-16, TLV).

Salt is a preservative and seasoning element, but not a main course. In other words, there is every possibility that the called out “salty” ones, chosen from eternity past, are on Earth to keep the world from imploding and destroying itself, until everyone destined for eternal life in the presence of God has come to Him through His Son, Yeshua. This is done by sharing the light of truth about the Messiah, and being the light to others, casting the light where the shadows and darkness incarcerate souls.

Lest we think too highly of ourselves, let us continue to maintain our prayer vigils, humble ourselves, confess our own iniquities, turn from our evil ways, and seek the face of the Almighty so that He might hear from heaven, forgive our sin and heal our land. Quite frankly, Believers have no better options than to follow His directives, as we plead for mercy and intercede for this fallen world. After all, the “South” will not rise again, but if America continues the current trajectory toward unabated licentiousness, lasciviousness, and debauchery, the suffering of saints for the sake of the Messiah will come. And if Scriptural patterns are consistent, in God’s perfect time, His righteous judgment will begin in His household, principally among those who have exploited the Body of Messiah with selfish ambition for personal aggrandizement, but also among those who simply follow the Messiah, according to God’s will:

“But if anyone suffers for following Messiah, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the house of God. If judgment begins with us first, what will be the end for those who disobey the Good News of God? **Now, ‘if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what shall become of the ungodly and the sinner?’ So then, those who suffer according to God’s will—let them trust their souls to a faithful Creator while continuing to do good**” (1 Peter 4:16-19, TLV).

May God have mercy on all our souls. . .

Finally, we thank you for your prayers and financial support of Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics! Without you, our desire to minister to the Body of Messiah would be lessened, but never our hearts to continue sharing through various mediums, the blessings, wisdom, and knowledge we have received. For freely we have received, so freely we give!

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

Mark Huey