



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

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SEPTEMBER 2020
TURN IN REPENTANCE

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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.

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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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

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OIM UPDATE

September 2020

Turn In Repentance

The month of *Elul* on the Hebrew calendar moves into the Ten Days of Awe on *Yom Teruah/Rosh HaShanah* to *Yom Kippur* this month. Those forty days of reflection, self-examination, prayer, and

repentance are critically important! This is primarily because, beyond a shadow of doubt, America, Israel, and the nations of the world have not experienced this extraordinary amount of global challenges and crises since World War II. Hence, from approximately August 21 to September 28, the overall religious Jewish and Messianic Jewish communities of faith will be focusing their prayers and intercession upon imploring the Holy One of Israel for mercy, compassion, and protection from the spiritual and tangibly activated forces which are collaboratively aligned to reset the global world order.

Ironically, one of the providential consequences, of the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the planet, has been a postponement of the scheduled World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, from January to early Summer. There, the economic and political power players are scheduled to introduce what has been labeled, the "Great Reset," to remodel the world economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Perhaps according to His will, the Almighty One has a different outcome, which could possibly include a spiritual revival and economic jubilee of sorts... Now, these are potential results, which concentrated prayer and supplication have helped grant to different people groups down through the millennia.

Consider, for example, the people of Nineveh, when Jonah, a wayward prophet from Israel—initially reluctant to proclaim the judgment God rightfully intended for that evil society—finally obeyed a second command from the Lord. He preached to the people of Nineveh that judgment from the Almighty was coming:

"Now the word of *ADONAI* came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Rise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out to it the procla-

mation that I am telling you.’ So Jonah rose and went to Nineveh according to the word of *ADONAI*. Now Nineveh was a great city to God—the length of a three day journey. **So Jonah began to come into the city for one day’s journey, and he cried out saying: ‘Another forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown!’** Then the people of Nineveh believed God and called for a fast and wore sackcloth—from the greatest of them to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his robe, covered himself in sackcloth, and sat in the ashes. **He made a proclamation saying: ‘In Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, herd or flock, may taste anything. They must not graze nor drink water. But cover man and beast with sackcloth. Let them cry out to God with urgency. Let each one turn from his evil way and from the violence in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent, and turn back from his burning anger, so that we may not perish.’** When God saw their deeds—that they turned from their wicked ways—God relented from the calamity that He said He would do to them, and did not do it” (Jonah 3:1-10, TLV).

From Jonah’s account (which incidentally is often studied and meditated upon during the Ten Days of Awe, and read as part of the liturgy on *Yom Kippur*), it is essential to note that it was **the people of Nineveh** who first received and believed the warnings proclaimed by Jonah. It was the common folk who called for a fast and wore sackcloth “from the greatest of them to the least of them.” Then, upon hearing their cries and noting their actions, the king of Nineveh joined in the supplication and made a proclamation for the entire city including the livestock. Three actions were decreed: (1) cry out to God urgently (or mightily with force), (2) turn from **evil ways**, and (3) turn from any **violence**. Interestingly, the Hebrew word *ra*, is the same first found in Genesis 2:9, about the “tree of knowledge of good and **evil**.” Then, the first reference to the Hebrew word for “**violence**” (*chamas*) is found in Genesis 6:11, before the Flood when God was surveying what had become of humanity:

“Now the earth was ruined before God, and the earth was filled with **violence**. God saw the earth, and behold it was ruined because

all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth” (Genesis 6:11-12, TLV).

Clearly from this proclamation, the king of Nineveh understood that his subjects were inherently **evil** and perpetuated **violence** under his rule. The only known solution to avoid God’s judgment, was to **“turn and repent”** of their wicked ways, and perhaps God would “turn back from His burning anger” and would not decimate Nineveh. It is recorded how God did “change His mind” in response:

“When God saw their deeds—that they turned from their wicked ways—God relented from the calamity that He said He would do to them, and did not do it” (Jonah 3:10, TLV).

The recorded events in Nineveh are great reminders that **God does hear** from Heaven, took note of the heartfelt pleas of people regardless of ethnicity, and altered justifiable judgment due to the wicked and perverted actions of people. If this humbling cry for mercy and forgiveness by the people **and** leader of Nineveh worked in ancient times, can it prevent calamity to a nation or our world today?

Certainly, it can and has down through the centuries, as the Holy One of Israel has answered the prayers of His people and followers in countless circumstances. This general pattern for God’s interactions with humanity is further described in more detail when it comes specifically to those who are called by His Name. This is most vividly recorded in 2 Chronicles chs. 5-7, when Solomon’s Temple had been completed and was dedicated during the Feast of Tabernacles. At this critical time in the history of Ancient Israel after the forty days from the first of Elul, through the Ten Days of Awe and the Day of Atonement on the 10th of Tishri, the priests of Israel placed the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy of Holies in the Temple, and after much celebration and worship, the presence of the Lord appeared:

“Then it came to pass that when the trumpeters and singers joined as one to extol and praise *ADONAI*, and when the sound of the trumpets, cymbals and musical instruments and the praise of *ADONAI*—‘For He is good, for His mercy endures forever’—grew louder, the Temple, the House of *ADONAI*, was filled with a cloud. **The *kohanim* [priests] could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of *ADONAI* filled the House of God”** (2 Chronicles

5:13-14, TLV).

What an awesome event for the entire congregation of Israel gathered to witness! At this point, King Solomon began the dedication ceremony, and declared to the standing congregation **that Jerusalem would be the place on the planet where God would place His Name**, and in this House or Temple, He would dwell among His people. Then, in front of the great altar, Solomon offered up an incredible prayer, as **he humbly knelt** before God and the congregation of Israel in earnest praise and supplication:

"Then he stood before the altar of *ADONAI* in front of the entire congregation of Israel and spread forth his hands. For Solomon had made a bronze platform, five cubits long, five cubits wide and three cubits high and placed it in the midst of the court. **He stood on it and knelt down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven and he said, 'ADONAI, God of Israel, there is no God like You in the heavens or in the earth, keeping covenant and showing mercy to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart'**" (2 Chronicles 6:12-14, TLV).

When one reads through Solomon's prayer, it moved from praise to mercy for those who walk before God with all their heart, to remembering that God keeps His promises to David and his progeny. Solomon pleaded with God that not only will his prayers be heard—but that the prayers of *all* who pray **toward** this unique dwelling place will also be heard. Prayers of confession of sin against God and neighbor, and designated prayers for relief from drought, famine, sickness, and plague were offered with the specific request that God will hear from Heaven above. This section of the prayer below dealt with multiple challenges, but also gave great comfort to those **foreigners from the nations**:

"**When there is famine in the land, when there is pestilence, blight, mildew, locust or grasshopper, when their enemies besiege them in the land by their gates, whatever plague or sickness may come, and any prayer or plea is offered by any individual or by all Your people Israel—each acknowledging his own afflictions and pain, even spreading his hands toward this House—**

then may You hear from heaven, Your dwelling place and forgive. **May You give to every man according to all his ways, as You know his heart—for You alone know the hearts of the children of men—so that they will fear You and walk in Your ways all the days that they live in the land that You gave to our fathers. Moreover, concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel but comes from a distant land for the sake of Your great Name and Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm, when they come and pray toward this House, then may You hear from heaven, Your dwelling place and do whatever the foreigner asks of You. Then all the peoples of the earth will acknowledge Your Name and revere You, as Your people Israel do, and they will know that this House which I have built is called by Your Name”** (2 Chronicles 6:28-33, TLV).

Next, the penultimate focus of the prayer dealt with the inevitable battles and wars which will occur in the future—with the assurance that those far away **can pray toward** this special place, knowing that their prayers will be heard, **if they repent, seek the Lord, and return to Him with all their heart:**

“When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, wherever You send them, **and they pray to You toward this city that You have chosen and the House that I have built for Your Name, then hear from heaven their prayer and their petition, and uphold their cause.** When they sin against You—for there is no man that does not sin—and You become angry with them and hand them over to the enemy who takes them captive to a land far off or near, **when they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and they repent and seek You in the land of their captivity saying, ‘We have sinned, we have committed iniquity, we have acted wickedly,’ and they return to You with all their heart and soul in the land of their captivity where they were taken captive, and they pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers and the city which You have chosen and toward the House which I have built for Your Name, then may You hear from heaven, Your dwelling place, their prayer and their petitions and uphold their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned**

against You” (2 Chronicles 6:34-39, TLV).

The closing of the prayer implored for the Lord to have His eyes open (or face shining upon) and ears attentive to prayers made in this special place. It also had a very distinct reference to the Messiah or Anointed One, who will eventually be a unique descendant of King David at some point in the future:

“Now my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open, and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place. Now arise, *ADONAI Elohim*, to Your resting place, You and the Ark of Your might. May Your *kohanim*, *ADONAI Elohim*, be clothed with salvation, and may Your godly ones rejoice in goodness. *ADONAI Elohim*, **do not reject Your anointed one.** Remember the loyalty of Your servant David” (2 Chronicles 6:40-42, TLV).

As the prayer concluded, the glory of the Lord came down again. But this time it came accompanied with a fire which consumed the burnt offerings and sacrifices, in a dramatic display of God’s power and pleasure at what had transpired during the dedication proceedings:

“Now when Solomon finished praying the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of ADONAI filled the House. The *kohanim* could not even enter into the House of *ADONAI* **because the glory of ADONAI filled the House of ADONAI.** When all *Bnei-Yisrael* saw the fire come down and the glory of *ADONAI* above the House, **they bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, prostrating themselves and praising ADONAI, ‘For He is good and His mercy endures forever’”** (2 Chronicles 7:1-3, TLV).

Once again, the presence of the glory of the Lord was so intense that the attendees bowed down with their faces to the ground in a prostrate position, with praises ushering forth from their voices. This was followed by more sacrifices and the sound of shofars, as the celebration continued for the seven days of *Sukkot*. Then on the eighth day or *Shemini Atzeret* (Leviticus 23:39) another solemn assembly concluded the gathering, and the people returned to their dwellings. This season of joy was over for the year, after the successful completion of the dedication:

“On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for they had celebrated the dedication of the altar for seven days and the feast for seven days. On the 23rd day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the goodness that *ADONAI* had done for David, Solomon and Israel His people. **Thus Solomon finished the House of *ADONAI* and the king’s palace. Indeed, all that Solomon had on his heart to accomplish in the House of *ADONAI* and in his own palace, he successfully completed”** (2 Chronicles 7:9-11, TLV).

Obviously, the consecration and dedication of the Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem pleased the Holy One of Israel, because He simply wanted to dwell among His people in the place where He had placed His Name. But shortly thereafter, the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him these profound words, which have become specific guidelines for how God’s faithful people are to approach Him when the undesirable droughts, plagues, and pestilences come:

“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, 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” (2 Chronicles 7:13-14, TLV).

Increasingly, 2 Chronicles 7:14 has become a preferred spoken verse during prayer, when people are specifically praying for deliverance from drought, famine, or disease, with a request **to heal the land** of whatever the affliction might be. Today this widely includes pandemic, economic upheaval, and civil unrest. **But notice to whom the prayer is directed and how they are to respond.**

First, the Lord is talking about **His people** to whom He shut up the Heaven, or commanded the locust, or sent the pestilence. In other words, the Lord Himself would volitionally allow the natural circumstances of the Creation to get the undivided attention of **His people, over whom His Holy Name is called.** Secondly, once He has their awareness due to the consequences of the problematic afflictions, He offers up a Divinely ordained solution to the challenges and/or troubles at hand. This includes: (1) humbling oneself before

the Almighty (fasting and prayer), (2) praying to Him (with all the heart confessing personal sin), (3) seeking His face (appealing for His countenance to be revealed), and (4) **turning from whatever evil ways are being committed**. Clearly, one can understand why **"Solomon's Scriptural formula"** of sorts has been employed by faithful followers of the Holy One of Israel throughout the ages. Certainly, all who call upon the Name of the Lord can pray that their heartfelt pleas and petitions will result in: (1) God hearing from Heaven, (2) God forgiving the sin of people, and most assuredly, (3) the healing of one's land.

But what happens when the people of God do not necessarily know what or which **evil ways** need to be turned away from, which have perhaps caused the affliction?

This can be a serious problem, because there is a Biblical example found in Jeremiah 7 where the people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, were warned about many of their wicked ways, but in particular, the sin of sacrificing their children to Molech at Tophet (do read the entire chapter). The following verses from Jeremiah 7 indicate that even those in Jerusalem, where Solomon's Temple was erected, had disobeyed the Lord to the point of offering their own infants to the gods of Canaan, with tragic consequences. Here as the chapter opens, notice that Jeremiah was specifically declaring this warning to those who were trusting in proximity to the Temple of the Lord and proclaiming that they were "saved," despite their obvious disobedience to the Omniscient One, who knows and looks upon **the intentions of every heart**:

"The word that came to Jeremiah from *ADONAI*, saying: Stand in the gate of *ADONAI*'s house and proclaim there this word and say: 'Hear the word of *ADONAI*, all you of Judah that come through these gates to worship *ADONAI*. Thus says *ADONAI-Tzva'ot*, the God of Israel; mend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say **"The Temple of *ADONAI*, the Temple of *ADONAI*, the Temple of *ADONAI*!"** No, if you truly mend your ways and your deeds—if you are doing justice between a man and his neighbor, **not oppressing the sojourner, orphan and widow nor shedding innocent blood in this place**, nor

going after other gods to your own ruin—then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. Look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are empty. **Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and perjury, and offer incense to Baal and walk after other gods whom you have not known—and then come and stand before Me in this house that bears My Name, saying, ‘We are saved!’—so that you may keep doing all these abominations?** Has this House, which bears My Name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? **Look, even I have seen it!** It is a declaration of *ADONAI*” (Jeremiah 7:1-11, TLV).

After a significant reference to compare what happened to Shiloh, where the Ark of the Covenant resided for an estimated 369 years, more evidence of debauchery and admonitions was cited. The primary problem was an unwillingness to obey the voice of the Lord, and walk in His ways. Instead, despite many warnings, the people followed their own counsel and the stubbornness of their evil hearts:

“For on the day that I brought your fathers out of the land of Egypt I did not speak to them nor did I command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices, but I explicitly commanded them: ‘Obey My voice and I will be your God to you and you will be My people. Walk in all the ways that I command you that it may go well with you.’ But they did not listen or pay attention. Instead they followed their own counsel, in the stubbornness of their evil heart. They have gone backward and not forward, from the day your fathers left the land of Egypt until today. Although I sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily and persistently, they did not listen to Me or pay attention. **Rather, they stiffened their neck, doing more evil than their fathers”** (Jeremiah 7:22-26, TLV).

What did Jeremiah’s exceptionally stiff-necked generation do? which was **more evil** than their ancestors? Apparently, it was an abomination when they sacrificed their children to Molech outside the gates of Jerusalem on the high places of Topheth (2 Chronicles 28:3; 33:6). As a result, this sin of child sacrifice, the Lord eventually altered the name of Ben Hinnom (Gehenna) at the valley border of Judah and Benjamin. Ever since, it has been widely known the Valley of Slaughter for the murders committed there, and became a site

where refuse was burned continually. Thus, it became metaphorically associated with Hell:

“The children of Judah have done what is evil in My sight’— it is a declaration of *ADONAI*—‘They have set their detestable things in the House that bears My Name to defile it. **They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire—which I did not command, nor did it even enter My mind.** Therefore, the days are soon coming,’ declares *ADONAI*, ‘when it will no longer be called Topheth, nor the Valley of Ben-Hinnom, **but the Valley of Slaughter. For they will bury in Topheth until there is no room.** The carcasses of this people will be food for the birds of the sky and for the beasts of the earth, and no one will frighten them away. **Then I will bring an end, from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem, to the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. For the land will be desolate”** (Jeremiah 7:30-34, TLV).

In the case of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, the punishment for child sacrifice was so devastating that joy and gladness were eliminated, and the land became utterly desolate after the Babylonians conquered and destroyed Solomon’s Temple. Certainly, the wickedness of child sacrifice required just punishment by the Holy One Israel, and it was administered by the God-less forces of Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C.E. on the Ninth of Av.

Fast forward now to the present day, and consider God’s current followers who also: **(1) proclaim that they are saved, (2) pray toward Jerusalem where the Temple resided, and (3) recite the very words of Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:14 with almost elegant cadence rote.** Is it possible that these modern-day people are not properly understanding and applying **“Solomon’s Scriptural formula”** for healing their land? While it is evident that people are humbling themselves, praying to God and seeking His face, **what about turning from their evil ways?** Do people truly comprehend how utterly wicked child sacrifice—or elective abortion for the sake of convenience—is in the eyes of the Almighty? Clearly it is murder of an innocent unborn child, something that God told Judah through

Jeremiah, “**never entered His mind!**” But because it became commonplace just outside the walls of Jerusalem, judgment was required. This sinful behavior was absolutely an evil or wicked way, and the tragic consequences were totally justified from God’s perspective.

In comparison, consider the number of children that have been “legally” aborted in America over the past fifty years, beginning in New York in 1970, followed by the Supreme Court ruling of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. Some estimates exceed 60 million, but it could very easily approach 100 million. For the sake of argument, assume the number is 75 million. *What does that mean?* Between the mothers and fathers involved, there could be up to 150 million guilty Americans with blood on their hands. When one adds in the abortion doctors and nurses, and perhaps some potential grandparents as accomplices, the number could balloon considerably. Regardless, the number of culpable people could be almost half the population of the nation. What a frightening thought, especially since the Creator God has recorded every single conception since the beginning of time! His displeasure was meted out on Ancient Judah because **they did not alter their wicked ways** which had been going on for many years, as attested by 2 Chronicles 28:3; 33:6. God showed restraint and was patiently waiting for Judah to recognize their evil ways, but when they did not turn away from child sacrifice, the judgment came. What makes modern-day America any different than Ancient Judah?

Nothing makes America different. It is possible, though, that the American, “God fearing” public, is much better informed about this atrocious behavior. There is absolutely *no excuse* why those who believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, through the teachings of Judaism or Christianity, know about the magnitude of abortion and its potential consequences. It is extremely critical for faithful Americans to turn from this wicked way, through heartfelt confession of this vile sin followed by repentance (or turning away), and corporately praying for God’s mercy. After all, God relented for the people of Nineveh when He witnessed their contrition, even though they were not necessarily open followers of Him. So perhaps for us, He will hear from Heaven, show compassion, and heal our land!

Coincidentally, the Fall High Holidays arrive this month, there

will be some gatherings which are going to produce a possible clash of epic proportions in Washington, D.C. On the 17th of September (two days before *Rosh HaShanah*), the followers of Antifa and BLM will begin a **"Siege on the White House"** which will protest and generate considerable media attention until the U.S. elections on the 3rd of November. Then, during the Ten Days of Awe on the 26th of September (which is *Shabbat Shuvah* on the Hebrew calendar), **The Return** will be a day long convocation of Jewish and non-Jewish Believers on the Washington Monument Mall. Additionally, on that same day, a **Prayer March** from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capital , led by Franklin Graham, will be held.

The contrast between the God-less protesters and those seeking the face of the Creator God will be stark! It will be reminiscent of the spiritual battle that took place on Mount Carmel between the prophets of Baal and Elijah (1 Kings 18:20-39). With these events in mind, please be interceding for God's will to be done, and that there will be a heartfelt "turning" on *Shabbat Shuvah*, when the Scripture readings at Jewish and Messianic Jewish congregations are Deuteronomy 32, Hosea 14:2-10, Joel 2:11-27, and Micah 7:18-20. Pray that these remorseful actions receive His approval, as He sees the intents of individual hearts, hears the pleas, and brings healing to the nation.

In conclusion, Outreach Israel and Messianic Apologetics are extremely grateful for your prayers and financial support of our efforts! We have many assignments to complete, and your partnership with us is vital to finish the tasks.

Advancing God's Kingdom, until the restoration of all things...

Blessings and shalom,
Mark Huey