



# The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.  
PO Box 1486 Bristol, TN 37620  
www.forzionsake.org

Phone: 276-644-1678 \* Fax: 276-644-1689 \* Email: 4znsake@earthlink.net \* www.forzionsake.org

## Sharing Jesus With Our Jewish Friends—Part 3

**W**hen I finally set my heart to search for God and actually read the Bible (both the Old and New Testaments), I found Jesus the Messiah. I must confess, I wasn't looking for Jesus when I began my search for God, but Jesus was the result of my search. When I found Him (He had already found me a long time ago...), it was like stepping into C.S. Lewis' wardrobe in his book, *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. For those non-Jesus people out there, you might liken it to stepping through Alice's Looking Glass in the tale of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Discovering the wonders of Jesus, the vast world of the Church, and subsequently the Messianic Jewish community, opened a whole new world for me that I never even knew existed. That world was hidden from me until I came to the point where I had begun to read the "forbidden" New Testament and a Christian friend invited me to Church. The Pastor was teaching on the Beatitudes in Matthew chapter five, exactly what I was studying at the time! I remember crying because I was so happy to have found the God of Israel in Jesus, but confused that He was in a Church full of non-Jews! I asked myself, if I believe in this Jesus, am I still a Jew? Am I a Gentile, a Christian? What am I? So I filled out a visitor's card prompting a Pastor to call me and invite me to breakfast early one morning. I began to meet weekly with this pastor to discuss the scriptures, until one day he told me, "Joe, just because you believe in Jesus doesn't mean you have to stop being Jewish." "Really?" I replied, "Tell me more!" He then told me about the local Messianic Jewish synagogue where Jews and non-Jews worshiped Jesus together in a Jewish way! That next week, I attended Ruach Israel Messianic Synagogue for the first time, which happened to be very near my house. When I walked in and saw men wearing Yar-

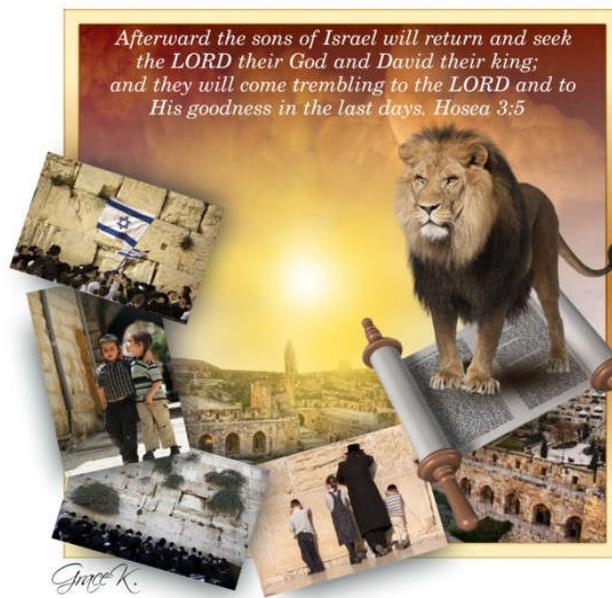
mulkes (skull caps) and tallit (prayer shawls), and heard the familiar but spirit-filled Jewish music & dance, I began to weep. A woman quickly came over and greeted me and helped me find a seat. At that moment, God revealed to me and I knew deep in my spirit that I was a Messianic Jew! What a blessing to meet so many other Jewish believers who nurtured me and helped me walk out my newfound life in Jesus the Jewish Messiah. Some of those precious Jewish brothers and sisters Dawn and I are still friends with to this day... that was 1996.

### The Bottom Line:

When I searched for God with my whole heart and read the Bible, I couldn't deny that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and ultimately I saw clearly that He is God, the living God among a pantheon of dead ones... Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Deuteronomy 4:30 says, "When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him." Hosea 3:5 says, "Afterward the sons of Israel

will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness in the last days."

One thing all these verses have in common is that they speak of the Jewish people returning to the God of Abraham in "The Last Days!" This would indicate a couple things to me: 1. Since tens of thousands of Jewish people around the world are coming to faith in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah, it would seem that we are in the last days. 2. The fact that the Hebrew Scriptures tell us that most Jewish people will not find God until the end of days, is a strong indication that up until recent times, most Jewish people did not truly know Adonai their God. The modern Jewish revival didn't begin



until the Jesus movement of the 1960's when thousands of teenage and twenty-something Jewish kids came to Jesus! The Messianic Jewish Movement followed soon after.

### **The Jewish Dilemma:**

Traditional Judaism teaches that you can't be "Jewish" and believe in Jesus. In Jewish culture it is acceptable for Jews to believe in Buddha, live with the Hare Krishnas, or even have a Christmas tree and drink eggnog, yet still be considered Jewish. Nevertheless, the Rabbis love to emphasize that if a Jew accepts Jesus as the Messiah, he or she is not to be considered a Jew anymore. The Rabbis teach their "sheep" that we Jews are under Moses and the Mosaic Covenant (or the Old Covenant). They tell us that Jesus is for Gentiles, but not Jews. Why? According to the Rabbis, we Jews are God's "chosen people", and through Moses, we have a pre-existing covenant with God referred to as "The Old Covenant" by Christians, which negates any need for another covenant.

What most Jewish people don't know is that the prophet Jeremiah wrote about a "New Covenant" that would replace the "Old Covenant." Why do the Rabbis never teach us about this?

Here's what the Jewish prophet Jeremiah wrote in the sixth century B.C., "Behold, days are coming declares Adonai (the Lord) when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. Not like the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they broke My covenant, though I was a husband to them. But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days. I will put my Torah (Law) within them and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be My people. No longer will each teach his neighbor or each his brother saying, know Adonai, for they will all know Me from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more." Jeremiah 31:31-33. We can learn a few things from this passage: 1. The Jewish people can't be under some "Old" or "Mosaic" covenant, because God says we broke it! 2. God promises to replace the "Old Covenant" with this "New Covenant!" 3. In the New Covenant, God promises that He will forgive the Jew's sins and that we will all know Him!

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### **The New Covenant Established:**

In the New Covenant book of Luke, Jesus celebrates His last earthly Passover with His Talmidim (Disciples) in Jerusalem. During the Seder meal, it is written, "And when he had taken matzah and offered the bracha (blessing), He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body, given for you.

Do this in memory of Me." In the same way, He took the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you," Luke 22:14-20. Every fairly religious Jew knows that at a Passover Seder meal, a special piece of matzo (unleavened bread) known as the "Afikomen", has been hidden and is brought back to the host after the meal is eaten. It is then broken and distributed in small pieces to each person. Each piece of Afikomen is eaten together with the third cup of wine, the cup taken after the meal called "The cup of Redemption." The Cup of Redemption in the Jewish seder is the same cup Jesus spoke of in Luke 22.

In essence, Jesus was teaching His disciples that he was going to die, shed his blood not only for the sins of the Jewish people, but also for the entire world! He used a piece of Passover matzo and the third cup of wine to explain it to us. The Hebrew word for covenant is "brit", and it also means "circumcision." In Jeremiah 31 God promised that this New Covenant would involve a circumcision of the heart (a new

circumcision) unlike the old circumcision of the flesh. Try circumcising your heart. You can't. God has to do it for you just as a Jewish child on the 8th day requires a doctor or a moel (a person who performs circumcisions) to do it for them. The New Covenant, or the New Circumcision is a circumcision of the heart!

### **Conclusion:**

In the New Covenant, promised by the Jewish prophet Jeremiah and instituted by the Jewish Messiah Yeshua through His sacrificial death on the Cross, God promises not only to circumcise our hearts, but also to put His Torah (Law) within us and write it on

our hearts. He promises to forgive our sins and that through this covenant we will all know the Lord! That is why Christians and Messianic Jews believe that Jesus is both Messiah and Adonai/Lord. Romans 10:8 says, "The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" – that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." The New Covenant is not a covenant of works to earn righteousness, it is a covenant of faith! Only by confessing with our mouths that Yeshua is Lord and believing in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead can anyone be saved and receive the free gift of eternal life: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life," John 3:16. If your Jewish friends don't happen to believe God has a Son, refer them to Psalm 2:7-12, Isaiah 9:5-6 (Hebrew Bible), Isaiah 9:6-7, and Proverbs 30:4. Also a great scripture to share with them is Isaiah 53.

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We often overlook a person right before us who needs to know about God's amazing grace. No excuse is acceptable; Jesus said, "Do it!"

(Continued from page 2)

Sharing the Gospel with your Jewish friends and family is the most loving thing you can do. Many Christians tell me they don't want to offend their Jewish friend or in-law. What I tell them is, "if you want to be with them in heaven, you need to risk offending them with the Gospel in this life." Moses' covenant saves no one, but the New Covenant is different. Unlike the Old Covenant written on tablets of stone, the New Covenant is written on our hearts so we will not forget Him. *2 Corinthians 3:2* says "You show that you are a letter from the Messiah, the result of our ministry, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ... v.7-8 "But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?"

**Friends, everyone needs the New Covenant which brings temporal and eternal blessings, to both Jew and Gentile!**



#### August 2016 Ministry Update – Joe Bell

Shalom Beloved,

This February I was diagnosed with a relapse of Hairy Cell Leukemia. Since going into remission in 2012, the doctors continued to test my blood every few months. This year, they noticed a change in the blood counts related to the cancer; the counts were going down below normal range. So they took another (my sixth) bone marrow biopsy and found that the cancer in my bone marrow was back again. This wasn't supposed to happen. When I first had chemotherapy and was declared to be "in remission", the doctors said the cancer shouldn't come back for fifteen to twenty years! So much for that prediction.

It was about the same time that I wrote the Daniel 8 message entitled "The Last President of the United States," predicting that Donald Trump would likely be the next President since he best fit the pattern of Daniel 8 as the "male goat from the west." There were still many Republican candidates in the race back then, and to be honest, Trump wasn't my first choice, but prophetically he fit the mold. If you haven't read the article, you can find it on our web site at [www.forzionsake.org](http://www.forzionsake.org) Click on the "Newsletter" button, and you will see all the archived newsletters. Then open the May 2016's article to read about this.

Essentially in this election, most people are focused on race, immigration, the economy, homeland security, and jobs. While God cares about all those things, I believe His focus is on stopping Iran's nuclear program and ISIS (two things that I believe the Daniel 8 passage addresses). Why is Iran and ISIS so im-

portant to God? Because Iran has consistently threatened to destroy Israel, and nowhere in the prophetic scriptures of the Bible do we see this scenario actually coming to pass. Israel is invaded by foreign armies in Ezekiel 38-39 and Armageddon in the Book of Revelation, but nowhere do we see any indication of Israel being blown off the map. In fact, we are told that the Lord will RETURN to Jerusalem and set foot on the Mount of Olives, and the Lord will be King over all the earth! (See Zechariah 14:1-9). Only America is capable of stopping both Iran's nuclear plans and ISIS. Furthermore, since the Bible indicates that a male leader from the west will defeat these middle eastern enemies, that pretty much leaves Donald Trump in the driver's seat. This article is not a political endorsement, because I was actually for Cruz when I began teaching about it, but after studying Daniel 8 for a year, I believe God gave me a revelation about this! Time will tell if I'm right or if I have to "swallow goldfish" LOL, but I don't think I am. I encourage you to read the article.

So in the midst of perhaps one of the greatest revelations I have received from the Lord detailing events for the next 8 or so years, I have been going from one doctor to another, getting my blood tested every two weeks, and avoiding crowds due to immune deficiency while waiting upon the Lord to heal me. Since Dawn and I are leading a full tour to Israel in November, I've been trusting God to accomplish a healing. All the while I have been running the ministry and the Manna Bagel Co. while being a husband and father to two terrific boys. To top it off, the IRS decided to audit our personal taxes for 2013 and 2014 (random audit they say). Needless to say, Dawn is pushing herself as well, and I have been very tired, fighting the disease and continuing to work. We appreciate your prayers for healing, renewed strength and victory in all areas! I believe that I am supposed to write a book about the next 8 years for America, but I can't do it without some quality, uninterrupted time and freedom.

We feel a change in the wind from God is upon us. Just being able to have some time to heal and to focus solely on ministry would be wonderful after 14 years of working three jobs to sustain our family and keep our ministry going. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." Thank you for your prayers, your continued support of this ministry and your love.

In His unfathomable love,  
Joe and Dawn

PS We hope you will join us for the Fall Feast Season this year. Check out the service schedule on the back page. L'Shanah Tova.

# 2016 Fall Feast Schedule



## Rosh Hashanah Services:

- ♦ Friday September 30th / 7:00 pm
- ♦ Sunday October 2nd / 6:30 pm

## Yom Kippur Services:

- ♦ Tues October 11th / 7:00pm  
Kol Nidre\* Service *[fasting begins]*
- ♦ Wed. October 12th / 6:00pm  
Neila Service: *followed by covered dish [breaking the fast]*

## Sukkot Services:

- ♦ Sun October 16th / 6:30pm Erev Sukkot Service
- ♦ Wed. October 19th/ 6:00pm Campfire Fellowship Evening
- ♦ Sunday Oct. 23rd/6:30pm Hoshanah Rabbah Service

### Location for all Services:

The Tri- Cities Messianic Center  
1128 New Hampshire Ave  
Bristol, VA 24201

*\*Kol Nidre (all vows) is both the opening prayer and the name for the evening service that begins Yom Kippur.*