



מור יאל

"MORIEL"

GOD IS MY TEACHER

# Moriel Quarterly

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No. 39

## — ABRAHAM'S — JOURNEY







## From the Office of the Administrator

Dear Friends:

Greetings in Jesus Name. I can't thank you all enough for your prayers and support.

## Upcoming Winter Tour For Jacob and new messages

We have Jacob already booked for some upcoming conferences in the new year, and we look forward to hearing from him, so check out his itinerary either in this Quarterly or stay updated on the website. If you can't make one of the conferences, please look for them on the internet or when we get them produced for distribution.

He is working on 5 new messages (how does he do 5 at one time; I can barely do one at a time?) and will continue praying and reading the Scriptures to see what the Lord will give him on these. We have for the first time included some "previews" of these messages in our resource section. The message "The 7 Woes" (from Isaiah 65, 66 & Matthew 23) is over two hours long. The other message "Uzziah" is included on this MP3. Also, we have it available in our resource section.

## Prayer Support

Jacob's health is still a concern and we do seek prayer for him. While he is under medication and everything is better, there are future medical decisions he will have to make dealing with his anemia.

## Another Ministry Moriel Supports in Israel

This Quarterly introduces another ministry Moriel supports financially. It is only by your gifts that we are privileged to support a number of different ministries in Israel. Some we have not gotten around to writing about in the Quarterly as space is limited. But issue by issue we will try to introduce these ministries to you. This issue introduces Be'ad Chaim Association for the protection of women and the unborn. Again, space is limited in the Quarterly, but with the Internet we can expand the articles and give you complete information. Jacob has known Sandy, who heads the organization for more than 20 years.

## Renewal Time

It's that time again! If you want to continue to receive the Moriel Quarterly you need to renew. It is so easy: just send in your renewal slip in the provided envelope. If we don't get a renewal slip we remove you from our list. We don't want to cut off anyone, but in order to be good stewards of what the Lord has given us, and so we can continue to give this away free to those who want it, we ask you to let us know you want to receive it for another year. Remember, even if this is your first issue, you need to renew your subscription. All subscriptions run from January to December.

In Peace,  
David

## Credits

Paintings by: Alexander Louis Leloir (1865) Jacob wrestling the Angel  
Jozsef Molnar : Abrahams Journey from Ur to Canaan (1850)

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# — ABRAHAM'S — JOURNEY



Open with me, please, to Genesis 12. In Hebrew we call the book of Genesis “B’reshit” – “in the beginning.” This is about 2,166 years before Jesus was born.

Now the LORD said to Abram...

(This time “Abram” – not yet “Abraham.”)

*“Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”*

*So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took Sarai...*

...which means “my princess” in Hebrew...

*...his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.*

*Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. Then he proceeded from there to the mountain*

*on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.*

*Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. Please say that you are my sister...*

*...and in fact she was his half-sister...*

*...so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.” It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beauti-*



*ful. Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels. But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go." Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.*

*So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him. Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together. And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.*

*So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left." Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar. So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.*

## IT BEGAN BEFORE HARAN

There were things known by the ancient Jews that were not written down in the Old Testament but were later recorded in the New. In Stephen's apology before his martyrdom (Acts 7) he tells us something about

Abraham's journey that Genesis doesn't:

*... The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, "Leave your country and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you." Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After Abraham's father died God had him move to the land that the children of Israel would inherit.*

The book of Acts tells us that God called Abraham in Mesopotamia – Ur of the Chaldees. Genesis picks up the story in Haran much later.

Abraham is the father of all who believe – Jews, Arabs, even Muslims look to Abraham. Arabs call him "Ibrahim," Jews call him "Abba Abraham" – "father Abraham." The "father of all who believe" means, theologically, that he is the prototype. His experiences prefigure what would happen to his progeny, his descendants.

## THE TYPOLOGY OF EGYPT

Understand "coming out of Egypt." In a famine Abraham goes into Egypt; he dwells there. Later God judges Pharaoh, and Abraham comes out of Egypt and goes into Israel. Still later, during a famine his descendants, the sons of Jacob, go into Egypt. Again God's judgment comes on Pharaoh – a wicked Pharaoh – and Abraham's descendants do what Abraham did: they come out of Egypt taking the treasures of Egypt with them into Israel. So what happens to Abraham happens to his biological descendants the Jews.

But then we're told by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians that it happens to us. Egypt is a figure of the world; the Promised Land is a figure of Heaven. And as Moses made a covenant of blood and sprinkled it on the people, bringing them through the Red Sea into the Promised Land, so Jesus brings us out of the world through baptism into Heaven (1 Cor. 10). **We** came out of "Egypt." Pharaoh, of course, is a figure of the devil, the god of the world, but he's also a major type of the Antichrist who is to come. So Abraham comes out of Egypt, his descendants the Jews come out of Egypt, and because he's the father of all who believe – **we** come out of Egypt through the salvation provided by Jesus Christ.

Now a lot of people, particularly liberal theologians, would have a problem with Matthew 2:15 where, after king Herod dies, Matthew quotes from the prophet Hosea 11:1: "**OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.**"

Hosea was addressing the exodus of the Jews. How does Matthew take something that in its context applies to the Jews

in the exodus and say it's about Jesus?

He does so because the Hebrew understanding of prophecy is "pattern." Abraham comes out of Egypt, the Jews come out of Egypt, we come out of Egypt, and Jesus, who is the seed of Abraham, must therefore also come out of Egypt. He fits the pattern: God again judges a wicked king – Herod – and in the character of Abraham and the seed of Abraham, Jesus comes out of Egypt.

Hebrew prophecy is a pattern. Ultimately the coming out of Egypt is the Rapture and resurrection of the Body of Christ. Those judgments on Egypt in the Book of Exodus are replayed in the Book of Revelation: the darkness, the blood, etc. And the way that Pharaoh's magicians counterfeited the miracles of Moses and Aaron is the way the Antichrist and false prophet will counterfeit the miracles of Jesus and his witnesses.

They brought Joseph's bones with them out of Egypt into the Promised Land because the dead in Christ rise first; we come out together. It's a picture of the resurrection. That's the **ultimate** coming out of Egypt. Hebrew prophecy is always a pattern foretelling multiple fulfillments. But each fulfillment is a "type" or a foreshadowing of the final fulfillment. That's Abraham. His experiences are replayed by the Jews and by believers: we come out of Egypt.

## PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

God gave Abraham five promises:

- That He'd make Abraham's name great (and that's certainly happened);
- That he would inherit the land (that happened);
- That he would become a great nation (that happened);
- That God would bless those who bless Abraham (this is then conveyed to Jacob and Abraham's descendants through the patriarchs)
- That God would curse those who curse Abraham and his descendants (and that has **always** happened).

God's judgment would have fallen on the United States of America a long time ago except for two reasons: three out of every five dollars spent on missions, evangelism, and charitable causes come from the United States; the other reason is that America has treated the Jews better than all other nations.

Holland would be the same. The immorality in Holland is unbelievable, but they protected the Jews in the Holocaust. I'm convinced that is the only thing that has stayed God's hand. If you've ever been to Amsterdam you wouldn't believe it.

God will bless those who bless the Jews and He'll curse those who curse the Jews. When the Nazis took over Germany they built walls around the Jewish shtetls, the

ghettos. And any Jew climbing over the wall would be machine gunned. Then what happened? Once the Third Reich collapsed, a wall was built around East Berlin, the great capital of the Reich, and any German climbing over that wall was machine gunned.

My grandparents were from Britain. Britannia ruled the waves. If you told my grandparents a time would come when the sun would set every 24 hours on the British Empire they would have laughed at you. But Britain revoked the Balfour Declaration after promising the Jews the right to return to their land and Jews went to detention camps. Even after the war when the holocaust was known to have occurred, the British put the Jews back into detention camps in Cypress to prevent them from going to Israel lest they offend the Muslims. Now the sun sets on the British Empire every 24 hours. I know because I live there.

Before all this there was the Spanish Inquisition. Spain was the great world power; they were the preeminent ones in the New World. Until the Inquisition. In 1492 Columbus discovered America. Right after that, under Ferdinand and Isabella at the behest of the Roman Catholic Church, the inquisitions began. It didn't take long before Francis Drake sank the Armada. Then Britannia ruled the waves.

"I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee."

### ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN

This is also true for the Body of Christ, because believers in Jesus are also Abraham's children. Nations that have blessed the Body of Christ have been blessed and prospered, while nations that have persecuted believers in Christ have come under God's judgment. Just look what happened to Eastern Europe.

There's an almost hypostatic relationship between anti-Semitism and persecution of Christians because born again believers and Jews are the only two kinds of people the Bible calls "God's chosen." (Ps. 105:6; 2 Th. 2:13) In Genesis 3:15 we read:

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.*

The "woman" is Israel, but by extension and cooperation she is also the Body of Christ. The people that Satan has always hated the most are Jews and born again Christians because they're the two people who are descendants of Abraham and who are called "God's people."

Who did the Communists hate the most in Russia before the Iron Curtain came down? Jews and born again Christians. Who do the Roman Catholic Church persecute the most? Jews and born again

Christians. Who do Muslims hate the most? Jews and born again Christians. The Eastern Orthodox Church is the same.

God will bless those who bless Abraham's descendants – both his biological descendants and his descendants by faith. And He will curse those who curse Abraham's descendants. Those who curse the Jews or who curse the true Body of Christ touch the apple of God's eye. (Zech. 2:8) But there's more to it.

### A JOURNEY LIKE OURS

Abraham's journey is a journey like ours. The text of Genesis tells us the journey began in Haran when his father died. That's when he responded to God's call. But the New Testament tells us that this is not when God's call began. God's call began in Ur of the Chaldees, approximately where the tower of Babel had been built. It is where the Babylonian Empire would later rise.

We're told in Jewish tradition, in the Talmudic literature, that Abraham's father was an idol-monger. And there's a story in the Talmud – it's only a story, that Abraham took a hammer (a "*pattiysh*") and smashed all of his father's idols except for one, and he put the hammer into the hand of the one remaining idol. When his father Terah came in he said, "Who killed all of these gods?"

Abraham said, "That god did, the one holding the hammer."

And his father said, "That's impossible! It's only a piece of stone with no life or breath in it!"

And Abraham said, "Exactly, father – exactly."

That's just a story from the Talmud. But it rings true.

Not until his father died, and at a crisis point in his life, did Abraham respond to the call God gave him in his youth at a much earlier time in Ur of the Chaldees.

That happens to people so often. God is drawing them; God is calling them. But not until a crisis point occurs in their life will they respond to His grace and His call. Sometimes it is bereavement; other times it is financial calamity, or a crisis in health. It could be a combination of things. God calls and calls and calls, but when people don't respond He's out to save people. He'll even use calamity for them to be saved.

Those whom He foreknew (Ro. 8:29). I'm not a Calvinist, but God *did* know us before the creation of the world and He begins drawing us from conception, from childhood. When somebody is born again, when somebody comes to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus, when you're first saved, not only does your future make sense, not only does your present make sense, but even your past. It all clicks. Once you come to know the Lord you realize

why your life was the way it was. Things you can't really quantify, perhaps the kind of thoughts that went through your head in bed before you fell asleep at night, perhaps experiences you had, or just impressions, none of it made sense. It had some kind of a metaphysical aspect to it, perhaps, but you couldn't quantify it. Yet when you get saved you realize, "That was God drawing me all along to this point and this time when I came to know Him through His Son." When somebody is born again not only does the *future* make sense, not only does the *present* make sense, but even the *past* makes sense.

God is drawing us all along. But just like our father Abraham, so often it takes a crisis for us to respond to His grace, His call. But then the *real* journey begins.

Leaving family is a difficult thing, but so often that's what the Gospel requires. This is certainly true among Jewish people. It's also true among Muslim people. But I've known Roman Catholic people, I've known people from Communist families, I've known people from Greek and Russian Orthodox families – it's the same principle. Paul says in 2 Thessalonians that even the Gentiles have the same kind of rejection from their own families as the Jews did. Jesus came to bring division (Lk. 12:51). It's wonderful when families get saved but the fact is that death separates, and the only way you can be with your family is if they get saved, too.

So Abraham began his journey, and the first stop after meeting the Lord is Shechem – "Shakem." "Shakem" is a word for "shoulder" in Hebrew. Not an anatomical shoulder but the idea of carrying a burden. It's near the city of Nablus today. And at Shechem Abraham dwells under an oak called, "the oak of Moreh." *Moreh* is the modern Hebrew word for "teacher," but in ancient Hebrew it meant "knowledge," particularly knowledge of God.

### THE TYPOLOGY OF TREES

You have to understand something from Jewish midrash about dwelling under a tree.

If a Jewish Christian of the first century were reading John's gospel – John 1, 2, and 3 – he would have said that John's gospel is a midrash on the creation in Genesis. The new creation in John 1, 2, and 3 is a midrash on the creation in Genesis 1, 2, and 3:

He would have said that God walked the earth in the creation. (Remember Adam heard God walking in the Garden? That was Jesus.) Now God walks the earth in the new creation; the Word becomes flesh. (Jn. 1:1)

He would have said that God comes to separate the light from the dark in creation in Genesis, but now God comes to separate the light from dark in the new creation in John.

He would have said the Spirit moves on the water and brings forth the creation in Genesis. Born of water and of Spirit, God brings new life from the water in the new creation.

He would have said that in the creation in Genesis you have the small light and the great light, but in the new creation you have “*Johannan Hamadvil*” – John the Baptist the little light and “*Yeshua HaMashiach*” – Jesus the great light. The first bore witness of the second, reflecting His light.

He would have said that on the third day in the creation in Genesis God did a miracle with water. Lo and behold, in John 2:1, the wedding at Cana (it says it was the third day), God did a miracle with water.

He would have said that God began His plan for the creation of man with a wedding, a marital union between Adam and Eve. Then God began His plan for the new creation for man with a wedding at Cana. Jesus’ first public ministry is at a wedding.

That’s how a believer in the first century would have looked at it. The new creation is a midrash on the creation.

But then in John 1 Nathanael asked Jesus, “How did you know about me?”

And Jesus said, “I saw you under the fig tree” (Jn. 1:48).

Whatever literal fig tree Jesus saw Nathanael under, that fig tree in midrash is known as the “*peshit*” – “the simple meaning.” (This is not Gnosticism. Gnosticism uses symbolism as a *basis* for doctrine; in midrash you use symbolism to *illustrate* doctrine.)

The peshit was, “I saw you under the fig tree.” But the “*pesshur*” – “the deeper meaning” – was “I saw you from the Garden, from the creation of the world.”

In Judaism the Tree of Life, the “*Ets Chayim*,” is represented by a fig tree. So Jesus was saying to him, “Creation or new creation, I know you because I knew you from the Garden, from the foundation of the world. I saw you under the Tree of Life” – the Ets Chayim, the fig tree.

So, again, Abraham is under an oak tree. “Oak” in Hebrew is “*elon*.” It’s a very hard wood; it’s a wood that possesses great strength. Whenever you see someone dwelling under a tree in the Bible, typologically it means something in Jewish midrash. Before King Saul was killed he was under the Tamarisk tree (1 Sa. 22:6). When Elisha was in a state of despondency he was under the juniper tree (1 Ki. 19:4). But here Abraham is under the oak of Moreh – he’s in a place of strength due to the knowledge of God. (“Shechem” is where one lays down one’s burden and comes to the first knowledge of God.) And there Abraham builds an altar and makes sacrifices.

At any turning point in our relationship

with God He will require us to build an altar. In Hebrew we call an altar “*mizbeach*” and it has only one purpose, to sacrifice something. No sacrifice, no progress.

## FROM SHECHEM TO BETHEL

So far so good – he comes to Shechem. But then he moves on to his next stop. His next stop is called Bethel, in Hebrew “*Beyth El*” – “the house of God.” After somebody comes to know the Lord the first thing they should normally do is come into fellowship with other believers. We are all the temple or house of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Now Bethel is on the west; a place called Ai is on the east. “Ai” in Hebrew meant “a heap of ruins.” Abraham builds another altar at Bethel and he turns his back to the east where he came from – where the tower of Babel was; where Babylon was. His past becomes a heap of ruins, and he faces the house of God. It is the same pattern upon which the high priests in Israel would have to sacrifice. He’d have to turn from the east, away from Babylon, and face the west. There he builds another altar. Once more, sacrifice.

When you come into the assembly of believers it costs you something. It means you turn your back on your past. Your old friends become acquaintances, and your only interest in having any dealings with them is to witness to them. Maybe some of your old interests are things you have to give up, at least for awhile.

For me, I couldn’t listen to any kind of music except traditional hymns because I associated music, especially rock music and classical music, with taking drugs. I used to listen to the stuff when I was stoned. After coming to Christ I couldn’t listen to that music for a couple of years. A few years later as I grew in my faith it didn’t bother me anymore; it didn’t disturb my focus anymore. But it had to go on the altar for awhile because it took my eyes off Jesus. After I grew in my faith it didn’t matter so much. To me now, it’s just music. I grew and now it doesn’t matter; it’s just music. But at one time it would have caused me a problem. It’s not the same things that have to go on the altar for everybody, but *something* will have to go on the altar. We turn our back on the past. Now obviously this means turning from sin, but it costs us something.

So far so good. But you know, there are people who never make it to Bethel. I call them “Shechem Dwellers.” They understood the Gospel and maybe made a profession of faith, but that’s as far as they went. They got no further.

I knew one “Shechem Dweller” in London, England, in Speaker’s Corner where I

will sometimes still preach the Gospel on a Sunday afternoon (and get heckled by the Muslims, etc.). This one guy’s name was Robert – a nice guy, he has a big board front and back they call a “sandwich board” in England. And it says, “Christ died for our sins” on both the front and the back.

I said to him, “I have to go now, Robert, it’s time for the evening service in my church.”

He asked me what church I went to and I told him – it was a Baptist church in London at the time. Then I asked him, “What church do you go to?”

He said, “I go to a High Anglo-Catholic church.”

I said, “Why don’t you go to an Evangelical church?”

He said, “Well, I went to an Evangelical church once but everybody was already born again. There was nobody to preach to.”

He was totally sincere; he meant it. He knew the Gospel, but that’s about all he seemed to know. He never came to Bethel.

Well, Abraham makes it to Bethel and he builds that altar and he turns his back on his past. But then something goes wrong.

## GOING TO EGYPT

In Matthew 13 Jesus tells about the seeds falling on different kinds of soil. If the devil cannot get somebody to backslide or fall away with the passions of the flesh or the lusts of youth or something like that -- if he can’t get you to fall away for those reasons he’ll try something else: crisis – calamity. When things become difficult he’ll cause you to think you have to take your destiny into your own hands, or that God has somehow abandoned you, so you have to begin making your own decisions. And it’s easy for a young Christian to be dissuaded.

You see, when people are first saved they have their first love and they think they’re going to be Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John the first day, and go out and do miracles. They think they can do everything. They have their first love, they have a lot of zeal, but they don’t have any experience or sufficient knowledge. Although they know nothing, they think they know everything. But after they’ve had their first trials a few months later they realize they know very little. They have their first love – we have to give them that, that’s something we tend to lose, but they don’t have any wisdom or experience or knowledge. And that’s when they get in trouble.

So what does Abraham do? He goes to Egypt. What is Egypt a picture of? The world.

Look at Isaiah 30, what Isaiah says about going to Egypt. King Hezekiah was a good king but he was being badly advised. He was in a strategic crisis. He had



the Assyrians infringing on one side on his east and he had Egypt on the other. He was caught in the middle between two super-powers. And he was being advised to go to Egypt for help. But the prophet Isaiah warned against those people who were telling him to do that, to act in a crisis by his own wisdom by going to Egypt. Look at Isaiah 30:1:

*“Woe to the rebellious children,” declares the LORD, “Who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit,*

When you see people into ecumenism, they’re making alliances that are not of God’s Spirit. They’re going to Egypt, the religions of the world.

*In order to add sin to sin; who proceed down to Egypt without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!*

Notice it’s not that they go to Egypt but they **go** without consulting the Lord. Whenever you get involved with the world you must have the Lord’s wisdom and guidance. Do you get involved in the world’s legal system? You must have the Lord’s guidance. Do you get involved with the world’s financial system, the world’s health system, it’s school system – whenever you get involved with the world you need to consult the Lord. I wouldn’t advise so much as swallowing an aspirin without praying first. Whenever you get involved with the world you need to consult the Lord. In a crisis the flesh will tend to gravitate to what the flesh considers strong: the world.

*Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation.*

Whenever somebody goes to the world they wind up in a state of humiliation. Backsliders always do. They wind up in a state of ultimate humiliation. Look what happened to Abraham. He went so low he was actually willing to give his wife over sexually to another man because he was in fear for his own life.

### YOU CAN NEVER REMAIN THE SAME

You see, you can never meet Jesus and remain the same. Once you’ve come to know Him, you’re either going to be better or you’re going to be worse, but you can’t remain the same. If you go back to the world you will sink to a level of moral depravity that was worse than anything you did before you were first saved. You can’t meet Christ and be the same; you’re either going to be better or you’re going to be worse. If you go back to the world you’ll become more depraved than you

were before you first came to know Him. You’ll sink to a lower level.

Not only that, but you’ll wind up in a state of humiliation. Look at Isaiah 31:1:

*Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help And rely on horses, And trust in chariots because they are many And in horsemen because they are very strong, But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD! Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster And does not retract His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers And against the help of the workers of iniquity. Now the Egyptians are men and not God, And their horses are flesh and not spirit; So the LORD will stretch out His hand, And he who helps will stumble And he who is helped will fall, And all of them will come to an end together.*

There is no help in Egypt! The strength of horses was flesh not Spirit. The old creation will always look to the flesh; it will always look to the things the world considers strong: money, political power, influence, prestige. If God is going to use the things of the world, it will be on His terms, never on the world’s terms. Whenever you get involved with the world you need the mind of the Lord. But the flesh wants to trust the things of the world; the flesh wants to trust what the world considers strong.

Abraham finds out the hard way that it doesn’t work. He goes all the way into what in ancient times was known as the Wilderness of Shur. The Wilderness of Shur, roughly speaking, was the eastern area of the Sinai Desert and the western area of the Negev. It is a long, hot journey all the way down to “*Mitstrayim*” (In Hebrew we call Egypt “*Mistrayim*”). And then he goes all the way back to Bethel in Genesis 13:1.

### RESUMING THE ORIGINAL JOURNEY

You see, you pick up where you leave off. He could have been further on his journey to where God wanted him to be but instead he wasted his time. Backsliders waste their time, they waste their life. Compared to eternity what’s 10 years or 20 years? Nothing. But compared to the 80 or 90 years at the most you might have in this world, 10-20 years is a long time to waste. Backsliders are wasting their time; they’re certainly wasting their youth. And it will all come to nothing. They’ll wind up in a state of humiliation. They’ll either get out of Egypt or they’ll die there. And even if you pick up where you left off, all that time will have been wasted for nothing.

Abraham resumes the journey he should have remained on to begin with.

From Bethel he proceeds further south. He goes from the mountains of Samaria to the hills of Judah. It is a long, arduous journey from Bethel to Hebron, but not nearly as difficult as going all the way to Egypt and all the way back. He comes to Hebron. “Hebron” derives from the Hebrew word for “fellowship” – “*heet ha brut*.” The Hebrew word “*heet ha brut*” for fellowship means “bricks held together.” Now Peter draws on this in 1 Peter 2:5: we are the stones of the temple, the Body of Christ being the temple. We’re the “living stones.”

When Jesus came into the Temple Mount from the East Gate and the people sang the *Hallel Rabbah* to Him (Ps. 113-118) – “Hosannah to the Son of David” – the Sanhedrin said to Him, “Tell the people to be quiet.”

But Jesus says, “If these remain silent the stones will cry out” (Lk. 19:40). What He was saying in Jewish midrash is that if the Jews don’t proclaim Me as Messiah the Gentiles will. John the Baptist said God could raise up children to Abraham from out of the stones (Mt. 3:9). Christians are also the children of Abraham.

Hebron is the place of fellowship – stones cemented together.

Suppose I came into a building and I said to the pastor, “This is a nice church you have – quite a building, but there are a lot of bricks missing in the wall. Where are all these missing bricks?”

He might say, “Well there they are – they’re stacked up in the middle of the floor.”

What good are the bricks stacked up in the middle of the floor? For the bricks to be any good they have to be placed into the wall, fastened to the other bricks. It is **one** thing to come to “church”; it is **another** thing to come to fellowship.

Hebron was a long, arduous journey through the mountains, and upon getting to Hebron Abraham had to build an altar. If you want to come to fellowship it’s going to cost you something. Anybody can come to church, sing the hymns, pay a tithe, bring their offerings, greet one another with, “Hello, brother, how are you? See you next week.” **Anybody** can do that.

Now it’s not wrong to do that. When you’re a new Christian you come to Bethel. But it’s wrong to **stay** in Bethel. You have to come to Hebron; you have to come to fellowship. Because at the place of fellowship Abraham dwells under some other oaks, the oaks of Mamre. (This is near the place today called Kirath-Arba on the West Bank, a very troubled area. It has the cave of Machpela where the Patriarchs are buried.)

*Mamre* in Hebrew means “firmness” or “vigor.” The “oaks of strength.” And it’s only when he gets to Hebron, dwelling under the oaks of Mamre, that he’s in a stra-

tegitically strong position to rescue his kinsman Lot. He couldn't rescue his kinsman Lot while he's up in Bethel, he had to be down in Hebron close to where Lot was.

## FROM A CHURCH TO A FELLOWSHIP

You see, we want our families saved, our neighbors saved, our friends saved, we want to see our countrymen saved from the pagans – the Canaanite in the land. From New Age, from Islam, from occultism, from false Christianity, but you're never going to do that by going to church.

I was a missionary in the Middle East for years – listen to me. There is not a church in the world – I don't mean in the Greek sense of “*ekklesia*” but in the sense of “congregation” – there's not a church in the world that can take on a mosque and win. You hear what I said? There is not a church in the world that can take on a mosque and win. If you want to take on a mosque you better be a fellowship. If you're going to take on Islam you better be in the place of firmness, vigor, real strength.

There's not a church in the world that can take on the Mormons or the Jehovah's Witnesses – they're too committed. They're more zealous for a lie than most Christians are for the truth. No church can take on a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall or a Mormon temple. None. Not a church in the world can take on those places. But a fellowship can.

## BETHEL WILL COME TO TROUBLE

Do you dwell in Bethel or do you dwell in Hebron? Well if you're dwelling in Bethel you're going to have a problem. Turn to Amos 4:4:

*“Enter Bethel and transgress; In Gilgal multiply transgression! Bring your sacrifices every morning, Your tithes every three days. Offer a thank offering also from that which is leavened,*

*...(sin, false doctrine)...*

*And proclaim freewill offerings, make them known.*

Enter Bethel and transgress? Oh, you bring your tithe and your offerings, but you bring a sin offering from that which is leavened.

*For so you love to do, you sons of Israel,” Declares the Lord GOD.*

For so you love to do, you Plymouth Brethren! For so you love to do, you Pentecostals! For so you love to do, you Presbyterians! For so you love to do, you Baptists!

“Oh, I come to church! I pay my tithe!”

It is leavened with spiritual pride, sin, false doctrine.

“Oh, I come to church! I do my bit! I

pay my tithe! I'm alright!”

The flesh loves religion. The old creation will always try to justify itself by rule-keeping, by going back under the Law. Look at Amos 5:5:

*“But do not resort to Bethel And do not come to Gilgal, Nor cross over to Beersheba;*

(All these things mean things in Hebrew.)

*For Gilgal will certainly go into captivity And Bethel will come to trouble.*

You see that? “Bethel will come to trouble.” The church will let you down. If it hasn't happened already, sooner or later I absolutely guarantee – I promise you – the church will let you down. The reason the church will let you down is because the church is made up of people who are just like you and just like me. The church will let you down. A church can't stand. “Bethel will come to trouble.” It's a fellowship that will stand.

We have some believers here who were Christians under the Communists in Romania. Churches meant nothing. The Communist police would get rid of any church; it's fellowship that stood. People who have a sense of commitment, community, family; people willing to stick their neck out for each other, those are the things that stood under the persecution. And persecution *will* return before Jesus comes, even to countries we consider to be democracies. “Bethel will come to trouble.”

There's no security in the churches; there's security in Hebron – that's where the strength is. That's where the oaks of Mamre grow.

## BETHEL DWELLERS

What are “Bethel Dwellers”? There are a lot of ways to pick them out. One way, of course, is people who come to church Sunday morning but they won't come to the evening service. Not for any good reason like work or sick children or something like that. Just because they'd rather watch the football instead of video recording it and watching it when they get home. That's the “Bethel Dweller.” Today you can video tape the game if you like sports, but those people have a problem. Or people who will come on Sunday and do their bit but they won't come to the mid-week meetings, people who consistently do that. Not for valid reasons like sick children or responsibilities of work or things like that, I just mean people who make excuses not to be there. Those people have a problem. Their priorities are wrong.

But there's a *sure* way to tell a “Bethel Dweller.” I'll tell you how to pick out a “Bethel Dweller”: they've been saved 5 years, they've been saved 10 years, they've

been saved 60 years or more and they don't know if they are an “eye,” a “foot,” or a “hand.” They don't know what their gifts are, they don't know what their ministry is, they don't know if they have the gift of teaching, they don't know if they have the gift of evangelism, if they have the gift of helps – they don't know what their gifts are. They don't know where they fit into the wall so they just stay a brick on the floor. They come to church, they pay the tithe, they sing the hymn, and say, “I'll see you next week.” *That* is a “Bethel Dweller.”

Most Christians in the Western world are “Bethel Dwellers.” In most of the churches I go to in the Western world it is 15% of the people who do 85% of the praying. Call a prayer meeting, see how many people come. It is 15% of the people who do 85% of the ministry. It is 15% of the people who do 85% of the giving. I don't mean in terms of the amounts, I mean in terms of ability – portion. It's 15% of the people who are in fellowship; the others go to church.

“Bethel will come to trouble.” The church will let you down. And in the Last Days it will let us all down.

You never get anything just coming to church. A young Christian? Fine, come to church, but then you have to come to fellowship and build that altar. It will cost you something to come to fellowship. It costs: time, finance, spiritual attack – there will be a price. No altar, no sacrifice; no sacrifice, no progress.

## WE'RE ALL SOMEWHERE ON THIS MAP

Take a look at a map of Abraham's journey. Everyone is somewhere on that map. Even those little children out there in the nursery or Sunday School – they don't know it yet but they're in Ur of the Chaldees. Through the faith of believing parents they are already being drawn by the Lord to the way of salvation. God is already calling them. We don't baptize babies but God does see the children of Christians differently than He sees the children of the world.

Maybe you're in Haran; you're at that crisis point. If you're reading this and you have not been born again and have not accepted Jesus, you're reading this for a reason. Not your own reasons, God's reasons. Your life doesn't make sense, but if you turn to Jesus it will, because becoming a Christian is very easy. Perhaps the things you've read today are complicated, but when he is born a baby doesn't know too much – he learns. When you're born again it's the same thing: you learn more as you go on. But being born is easy and so is being born again.

I'm not talking about the hype or nonsense with the con artistry like you see in the



preachers from America or on TV. That's not born again; that's con artistry. I'm talking about the Gospel. The Gospel is simple. The same kind of love you have for your own baby, if you have a baby, God created that kind of love to teach how much He loves you. And the same as you would give your life willingly to save the life of your baby, that's what Jesus did when He went to the cross for your sins. That's what He did.

You see, we've all rebelled against God's love and rejected His authority. We've gone under the influence of someone called the devil, the god of this world. That's why none of man's political or economic systems will ever work; that's why we destroy the environment; that's why marriages fail; that's why we want to be good and do good, but we all do things we know are wrong. That's because we have a fallen nature and the whole world lies in the power of the wicked one.

To God **one** man without sin is worth more than **all** the men with sin. That's how Jesus could die for everybody. God became a man and He took away our sins. All the wrong things I did, all the wrong things you did, God puts them on Jesus. And then God takes His righteousness and gives it to us. And as He rose from the dead He will raise us from the dead unto eternal life. That's the Gospel.

You have to turn from sin. Ask God for the power to turn from sin and He will give you that power. He delivered me from cocaine addiction when I was at university, a terrible addiction. The devil had a grip on my life but Jesus was more powerful than the devil; He was more powerful than the cocaine. What He did for me He can do for anybody. He'll do it for you. He'll give you the power to turn from sin if you ask Him. He'll take your sin and give you His life.

If you don't know Him you're in Haran, you're at the point of crisis. You can go from death to life today. You don't have to go to hell, you don't have to go to judgment. You can become a child of Abraham today.

Perhaps you are in Bethel where you come to church. The devil comes to church every Sunday. He's **very** religious. The devil gets more people into hell with religion than he does with all the dope, all the substance abuse, all the compulsive gambling put together. Religion is a drug.

You know, the two most influential people in history were both Jews: Karl Marx and Jesus Christ. There's one thing they agreed on: religion is the biggest fraud ever perpetrated on humanity. Religion will get you nowhere; it's Jesus Christ that will get you someplace. Religion is not the solution to the world's problem. Look at Northern Ireland – that's religion. Religion is not the solution to the world's problem, religion is

the world's problem. Jesus is the solution.

But perhaps things went wrong. Perhaps it was the law of the world, the things the old nature liked, passions of the flesh, sexual immorality, ungodly relationships, drugs – whatever it is – love of money, or perhaps things just went wrong. You felt God abandoned you. He didn't, but you felt like He did and you began to wander and assume the management of your own existence no longer as the junior partner but as the senior one and you went to Egypt. You're back in the world.

There's no hope for you there; you're only going to wind up in a state of humiliation. You're either going to come out of there or you're going to die in there. There's no such thing as a "successful" backslider. It's a theological impossibility. You are wasting your life; you are wasting your youth – just **wasting** it. You've got to come back to Bethel, come back to the Lord and His house and pick up where you left off.

That's where most people are – Bethel, but that's not the final place where God wants us to be. He wants us to be in Hebron. He does not want us to be bricks on the floor; He wants us to be bricks cemented into the wall. He wants you to know your place in the body; He wants you to be in the place of firmness and vigor so you can rescue your kinsmen from the king of darkness. That's where He wants you.

Where are you? The little kids are in Ur of the Chaldees – that we can agree on. But are you in Haran where you've never accepted Jesus? Are you at that crisis point? You could begin your journey today. The Bible says, "Boast not about tomorrow for you know not what tomorrow may bring" (Pr. 27:1). Now is the appointed time, **today** is the day of salvation. If you don't know the Lord, contact us. Don't continue without coming to know Him.

Maybe you're in Egypt. Please – God doesn't love you any less, this life is too short, stop wasting it. Youth flees; don't waste it. We're told in Ecclesiastes, "Youth flees. (Ecc. 12:1). Don't waste it.

But most of you are where most Christians are – at least in the West. Most of you are in church. Most Christians are in Bethel. I have one hope and one prayer for your church. This is my hope and my prayer for your church: that soon it will no longer be a church. My prayer for you is that your church will become a fellowship.



This article may can be read or shared online by going to, [http://www.moriel.org/Teaching/Online/Metatrone/01\\_Introduction.html](http://www.moriel.org/Teaching/Online/Metatrone/01_Introduction.html)

## Father-Son Disharmony

by Jackie Alnor of *Apostasy Alert*

I observed a very sad scene on TBN last week, August 20, 2009, on the Praise the Lord program originating from TBN's new studio in New York City. The night's hosts were Matthew and Laurie Crouch and their first guests were TBN's founder Paul Crouch Sr. and his best friend Benny Hinn. Hinn was there to promote his new book, *Blood in the Sand*, a book on the subject of the Middle East in Bible prophecy. Very little time was spent on the book. Host Matt Crouch took this segment as an opportunity to confront his elderly father about his belief in the soon return of the Lord, a hope that the younger Crouch obviously does not share with his dad.

The disrespect Matt showed in confronting his dad on world-wide television — on the network his dad built — was astonishing. Paul Sr. has had a divided family on this issue of Dispensationalism as his wife Jan bought into the Kingdom-Now heresy of the late Earl Paulk decades ago and even won her husband over to it, at least for a short time. But now as he is facing the declining years of his life, he is taking a strong stand on his pre-mil/pre-trib heritage resulting in the scorn of his son who seems to despise his eschatology.

Below is a partial transcript of the conversation that had Crouch Sr. visibly shaken at times, prompting co-guest Benny Hinn to put a comforting arm around him several times to calm him down. While Matt is correct that date-setting on TBN has indeed occurred over the years, he errs in deducing that we are no longer to be looking for the rapture and living in anticipation of the Lord's coming. This attitude was foreseen by the Apostle Peter when he wrote:

*'Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.'* - 2 Peter 3:3-4

To continue reading go to this link for rest of article, [http://www.apostasyalert.org/REFLECTIONS/crouch\\_family\\_feud.htm](http://www.apostasyalert.org/REFLECTIONS/crouch_family_feud.htm)



## INTRODUCTION

*"Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the dawn is breaking.' But he said, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' He said, 'Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him and said, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And he blessed him there. So Jacob named the place Pen-*

*iel, for he said, 'I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved.' Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Peniel, and he was limping on his thigh" (Genesis 32:24-31).*

The femur is the strongest bone in the human body, and in a healthy adult male it will not break under the weight of a Volkswagen. God dealt with Jacob's human strength by dislocating his femur. This has a double meaning. It illustrates the "dark night of the soul" experience, which happened to Jacob, and happens to every believer at some point in his life, but it also foreshadows the Great Tribulation, the "Time of Jacob's Trouble." This was the patriarch Jacob's trouble, when he went through this dark period to the end of the night. Similarly, the true Body

of Christ will be taken out of the Tribulation while the unsaved Jews go through it. He sees God face-to-face at Peniel, which means "come out" in Hebrew. On our Holy Land tours we take people to the particular brook where this occurred -- the brook of Jabbok, Peniel, where Jacob wrestled with the Angel of the Lord.

There are many angels of the Lord, but there is only one called "*the* Angel of the Lord," *HaMelach Adonai*, with a definite article. The rabbis identify this man as the angel, although he appears as a man. Repeatedly, angels have been known to take human form, such as at the tomb of Jesus where angels appeared as men. And in fact, fallen angels known as the *Nephilim* actually procreated with human beings as is recorded at the beginning of the book of



Genesis, and is also cited in Jude, as well as in the apocryphal *Book of Enoch*.

## OLD TESTAMENT INCARNATIONS

The Angel of the Lord is an enfleshment of someone whom Jacob says has the face of God. In no way does that diminish the uniqueness of the incarnation of Jesus in the womb of the virgin handmaiden that fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah 7:14. God took on humanity and became a man such as we are. Though He was without sin He came in the likeness of sinful flesh. There was something very special and unique about the Incarnation of Jesus. However, the Incarnation was not the first time God became a man, even though it was the first time He came via an embryonic conception. There have been other enfleshments of God in the Old Testament.

I am convinced from Proverbs 8 and John 1 that when Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden of Eden, it was Jesus. And when Abraham saw three men, he was not looking at the Trinity; it was more likely Jesus and two created angels that accompanied Him, just as angels appeared at the garden tomb. That does not diminish the significance of the Incarnation inside Mary's womb. That is when God became a man, as we are, but it is not when God first "became" a man.

In witnessing to Jews or Arabs, there are two problems: tri-unity and incarnation; one God in three, three-in-one, and the idea of God becoming a man. When witnessing to Muslims, it is never a good idea to start by telling them that Jesus is the Son of God. To them that means God had relations with an evil woman, and it is blasphemous to them. It is seen as a pagan concept, like Hercules being the offspring of a relationship between Zeus and a human female. Sonship has to be explained in other terms when witnessing to a Muslim. When talking to Jews, successfully defending the Trinity and the deity of Jesus is a bit different. Sometimes the rabbis do our work for us, and they can be quoted to get across the idea of God becoming a man.

When Rabbi Menachem Schneerson was alive, the rabbis used to say of Jesus, "What, he rose from the dead? What, are you crazy?"

Rabbi Menachem Schneerson was the rabbi of the Lubavitch branch of the main Hasidic movement. One day I spoke to the Hasidim at their display cabinet at the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. They were handing out information and forms to fill out if you wanted to become a Hasid. All over Israel there are portraits of the now deceased Jewish Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, also known as *Melech Meshiach* – "King Messiah" they call him. The Ha-

sidim believe their rabbi, called the *tsadek* or the *rebbe*, is the reincarnated spirit son of the founder of the Hasidic movement, Rabbi Yosef Yitschok Schneerson. And it passes from father to son. Menachem Schneerson is said to only have the spirit of "*The Besch*." This is all Gnosticism and reincarnation. Hasidic Jews are very occultic. He was not a direct descendant of Debeshk himself, but was someone married to a descendant of Debeshk, and he had no son or daughter, and therefore no heir.

So I said to them in Hebrew, "You have a problem. No one can be the rabbi instead of him."

And they replied, "*Hu Yakum M'hametim*" – "He's going to rise from the dead."

"You mean you are telling me that you believe a Jewish Messiah will rise from the dead? That's all I wanted to know!"

This idea of God coming in human form is also seen regarding Melchizedek who received a tithe from Abraham, and is said to have had neither father nor mother. This is certainly a type of Jesus, more like a Christophony, the Old Testament manifestation of God in some human form. In mystical Judaism's Kabbalah, its primary work is known as the Zohar and it can be quoted to demonstrate the belief that God can take on human form.

But what do you do with Orthodox Jews? How do you convince them that the idea of God becoming a man is not just a Christian concept but a Jewish one? You can say that the resurrection of the Messiah who has to die and come to life is not just a Christian invention because many Jews believe it themselves.

Start in the book of Malachi, whose name can be translated "My messenger" or "My angel." The Greek word *anglios* simply comes from the Hebrew idea of angel. All "angel" means in Hebrew is "messenger". But the Messiah would be a unique messenger. Malachi says:

*"Behold I will send my messenger [My Malachi], and he shall prepare the way before me and the LORD whom you seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the angel of the covenant whom you delight in. He shall come sayeth the LORD of Hosts" (Malachi 3:1).*

This "angel of the covenant" is the Lord, who is at the temple and being worshipped therein. In Judaism there is a concept called *duval*. Its Aramaic equivalent was *mamre*, and its Greek equivalent was *logos*. In John's Gospel, written in Greek, it is "*en archae* (in the beginning) *kai ho logos* (was the Word)."

The beginning was the Word, the Word was Theon: God. That is *mamre*, *duval* –

both the Greeks and the Jews understood this idea of God's Word and God's incarnation being identical. The Hebrews understood the *duval* or the *mamre* – the incarnate Word as being God's agent of creation and God's agent of salvation. The Greeks might have gone along with that as well, but in verse 14 of John, "*and the Word became flesh*" (*sarx* in Greek, *besor* in Hebrew), they would have had a problem because they thought God was impassible.

## MIDDLE OF THE THRONE

The Word of the Lord is not only called "*melech habrit*" (the Angel of the covenant), but also the *Metatrone*, from Greek *meta* – "middle of the throne".

There are two Greek concepts for the throne: the throne of judgment and the throne of reward. Unsaved people appear before the throne or the seat of judgment. God's people appear before the bema, which is the same word used for the judges of the Greeks when they were enthroned to give out the rewards for those who successfully competed in the Olympics.

Rabbi Simeon Ben Yochai taught that according to the Zohar, volume 3, page 227 of the Amsterdam edition, the middle pillar in the Godhead is the Metatrone, who has accomplished peace above according to the glorious state there. They identify this Angel, with whom Jacob wrestled and who appears in Malachi, as God Himself. They say it is through Him that God shall bring peace on earth as He has brought it in Heaven, and that God would answer prayers offered in the name of the Metatrone.

Kabbalah teaches that God is plural, one God in three persons, or as we say in Hebrew "*Shma Israel Adonai Elohenu Adonai echad, baruch haShem kvodo u malchuto la'olam v'ed amen*."

When the Jews asked Yeshua what was the greatest command, He said "*Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is One; ye shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength*" (Mk. 12:29-30).

*Shema Israel Adonai Elohenu*. Now we see *Adonai*, the Hebrew is *Yahweh*, they consider the name of God to be ineffable. The Lord our God, not *Elohyim*, there is no Hebrew word for God, only gods. There is an abbreviated form *El*, but there is no Hebrew word for God in the singular. We have *El - Eliyon* or *El-Shaddai*, but there is no Hebrew word for God; only gods. *Shema Israel Adonai Elohenu Adonai echad*."

A heretical rabbi, an Aristotelian in the Middle Ages around the year 1100, called Rambam Moshe ben Maimonides, changed the meaning of the Hebrew word *Echad* and *Yahid*. *Yahid* is the Hebrew digit numeral one in biblical Hebrew. In modern

Hebrew, the number one is echad. Rabbi Moshe ben Maimonides, the Rambam, changed it because he wanted to point away from the deity of Jesus.

If I were to transliterate the *Shema* instead of translate it, I would say “Hear O Israel, the Lord our gods is one in unity.”

That word *echad* is the same one used for Adam and Eve, the husband and wife shall become one flesh – achad, cling to, is “*devik*.” It is the same word *echad*, a plural oneness.

In the Psalms, “How good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity,” (Ps. 133:1) “*Hine Ma Tov U’Manaim Shevet Achim Gam Yachad*,” is the same idea. It is not the number one; it is a plural oneness, like becoming one flesh, like unity; as in “*achdut*.” The *Shema* not only allows for, but supports, the plurality of the Godhead, and Judaism itself teaches that God is one God who is plural in nature.

So the rabbinic arguments that Christian belief in Jesus the Messiah being God is a Gentile belief of pagan origin can be refuted. It does not pervert the Jewish Scripture; nor are these ideas alien to Jewish thought – contrary to what the rabbis want people, Jew and Gentile alike, to believe. They may still reject the Messiahship of Jesus, but they cannot reject His deity based upon the idea being alien to Jewish thought. To do so would be a rejection of their own Jewish sages.

Some rabbis have been influenced by writers like Rabbi Samuel Levene who wrote, “You take Jesus, I’ll take God.” However, scholarly rabbis and Jewish professors in universities who have investigated the New Testament from a Jewish perspective do not dismiss it as goyisha, a Gentile distortion of Jewish thought or Jewish Scriptures. Men such as Professor Pinkus Lepede, the late Professor David Fluesler in Israel, or Jacob Neusner from the United States, or even Jewish scholar Gesev Remnesh from the Dead Sea Scrolls Commission at Oxford, all accept the Jewishness of it. In fact, Jacob Moisa argues that it is pivotal Jewish literature that provides the crucial link between the Intertestamental literature, like the books of Maccabees, with the Apocrypha and the early Midrashim. Some rabbis even say it is crucial Jewish literature. They have no problem dealing with this.

Orthodox Rabbi Pinkus Lepede, professor of Hebrew at Hebrew University, admits that the resurrection of Jesus is undeniable from a Jewish perspective when speaking academically. But when it comes to personal faith, even the Jewish scholars have a problem. They get around it by saying that Jesus was the Messiah for the Gentiles but not for the Jews. Yet if they reject

Christianity as non-Jewish, then they would have to reject Judaism as non-Jewish.

God is worshipped in his plurality according to the Zohar. The Kabbalah talks about the tree of life; prayers are answered in the name of the Metatrone; and it is the Metatrone who will bring peace. In Exodus 24:1 it says:

“*And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD.*”

Rabbi Verchai taught the following:

“God said to Moses, come up unto the Lord. This is Metatrone. He is called by his name Metatrone because in this name are implied two significant things which indicates his character. He is both Lord and messenger. There is also a third idea implied in the name Metatrone. It signifies a keeper. For in the Chaldee (which is Aramaic), a keeper or watchman is called ‘Matherot’ and because he is the keeper or preserver of the world he is so called the keeper of Israel.”

The significance of his name is shown in Psalm 121:4 where we learn that He is Lord over all the world because all of the hosts of Heaven and the things of the earth are put under His power and might. This Metatrone, the Angel of the Lord, who becomes human according to Judaism, who brings peace on earth as He does in Heaven, in whose name we pray, will have all power and authority in Heaven and on earth. “He who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps” (Ps. 121:4). That’s the Metatrone, say the rabbis; “*Hine Lo Yahun Veh Lo Yshon Shomer Israel*” - “*He who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.*” Who keeps Israel? The Metatrone.

So we see that in Exodus 24:1, the God who is exalted is the God who is speaking to Moses, “sayeth unto him that he should come up to Jehovah, Adonai, Yahweh,” which is Metatrone.

So the Metatrone, the Messenger of Yahweh, the Angel of the Lord, is Yahweh who is oftentimes connected to the name of God, alluding to the *Shekinah*, the glory of the Lord. Hence God is in the *Shekinah*, the Holy Spirit, *Ruach HaKodesh*.

Somehow the Metatrone God and *Shekinah* are the same. They are all Jehovah, but they are nonetheless separate persons. The *Shekinah*, the Metatrone, and God are all Yahweh. They are all one, *echad*; not *yachid*, but *echad*, yet they are **separate**. Is that Christianity? That is Judaism!

## THE REDEEMER

When He said, “Come up,” it is as if He said, “Ascend to the place of glory” where there is the Angel, the Redeemer. Remember, no one can come to the great God, for

it is written in Exodus 33:20: “*There shall no man see me, and live.*”

We Jews believe Moses was instructed in all divine knowledge by none other than the Metatrone (*Haraba Dalet* from the *Mentuah* edition). And the Metatrone is not only God, but the Redeemer. Jacob sees this Metatrone and lives because the Metatrone comes in a human form, the only way you can see God and live to tell about it.

Think of the New Testament. John the Apostle was a physical relative of Jesus. He knew Jesus, followed Jesus, walked with Jesus. He was disciplined by Jesus and knew Him personally. But when he saw Jesus in His manifest glory on Patmos he was terrified. You can’t look upon that. Then God says, “Come up here” and I’ll show you the place (Rev. 4:1). He had to be translated; he had to be raptured, taken up and shown. He couldn’t see it in his human form and live. He could see Jesus, God who became a man, but he couldn’t see Jesus as God without undergoing some supernatural transformation to make it possible.

In the Metatrone is the *goyel*, the Redeemer. A “*goel*” in Hebrew means literally one who “buys back.” Reading from the Zohar,

“Rabbi Simeon Ben Zoccai took me into the inner chambers of mystery, mystical Judaism. This is of the saving marriage of God, and instructed me that Metatrone existed from eternity. He took me to the chamber of mystery. Not just ordinary mystery, but mystery of the saving knowledge of God, God’s salvation, the mystery of salvation and he showed me that the Metatrone is the Redeemer but more than that, he pre-existed.”

So according to the *Zohar Breshiet* (page 126) *Midrash K’olam*, the Metatrone existed from eternity In Micah 5:2 we read:

“*but as for you Bethlehem [house of bread] Ephratah, though little among the clans of Judah, you will go forth from me to be ruler of Israel.*”

Notice that his goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, and He would be a pre-existent being. “Well that’s just the Christian interpretation or a Christian distortion of our Hebrew Scriptures,” some may argue. No, that is Rabbi Simeon Ben Zoccai who wrote the Zohar. Christians did not write the Zohar!

Informed Jews must reject Judaism in order to reject Christianity. To reject Jesus is to reject Torah. The problem for unsaved Jews is not that they reject Jesus; the rejection of Jesus is a consequence of their



problem. The problem is that they reject Moses and the Torah.

Jesus said, “If you believe Moses, you would believe me also” (Jn. 5:46).

Their problem is a rejection of Judaism, **real** Judaism, and Torah. They believe another Judaism that was invented by the rabbis after the destruction of the second temple, beginning at the Council of Yagmin, by Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai. That is what they believe; they do not believe the Torah.

## A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

In Genesis 24:2, we read:

*“And Abram said unto the oldest servant of his house...”*

Who is the servant referred to in this verse? Rabbi Nehori said that it is in no other sense to be understood than expressed by the word “*avdo*,” from Hebrew meaning “servant”: His servant, the servant of God, the nearest to His service – Metatrone. He is appointed to glorify the bodies that are in the graves. This is the meaning of the words Abraham said to his servant, to the servant of God. This servant is Metatrone, the eldest of God’s house. He, who is the ruler of all, is the only-begotten of God. He is the ruler of all that God has because God has committed to Him the government over all of his *savaot* – that is, over his “hosts.” This is what Judaism teaches about this Metatrone. He is appointed to glorify the bodies that are in the graves.

What does Job say? “*Though my flesh decay, even with my own eyes shall I see God*” (Job 19:26). Judaism teaches that the only way that Job could see God with his own eyes, and not another after his flesh decays in the grave, was that he shall see the Metatrone.

So, we have this unique messenger of God, who was the middle pillar of the Godhead, who preexisted from eternity. Prayer is answered in His name, and He will bring peace to earth as He has in Heaven. He is the Redeemer. He is in the Shekinah, and the Shekinah is in Him. He is God’s agent of salvation. He is identified with the *Dev-ar* (also known as “*Mamre*”). And now he will somehow glorify the bodies that were dead in the graves.

Judaism teaches that after the time of the Maccabees during the second temple period, a deeper knowledge of the Word of God came to be understood by the ancient sages. With this the New Testament agrees. There was a growing awareness of things already in Scripture such as the resurrection, eternal judgment, and salvation of the Gentiles. Jesus came along and developed these concepts even further. In other words, the discovery of these deeper

things in Scripture paved the way for the Messiah to come. Hence, the idea that all nations shall believe in the Jewish God became popular and widely known. Also, the concept of the coming of a Messiah is seen in the Old Testament but never in the way the New Testament speaks of the Christ. It is something that is there, but not fully understood at the time of Jesus.

Christianity teaches that this awareness was passed onto the Apostles. Jesus said that the keys would be taken from the Jewish leaders and given to another – the apostles – *Ha Schlechim*.

What Zohar does, Kabbalah does, mystical Judaism does – they try to take the lost knowledge of the ancient rabbis and give it back through mysticism and the occult. So the rabbis admit they lost their keys.

Remember that Jesus told them the keys would be taken from them and given to another. In Judaism the rabbis admit they lost a deep understanding of the Bible and the way to interpret it. In spite of the *madrashim*, they admit they lost it. We know that Jesus gave it to His apostles who were also Jews. What Kabbalah seeks to do is to restore those lost mysteries. But Kabbalah has a lot of occult myths and practices – lots of crazy stuff like astrology and numerology. It is more Hellenistic than Hebraic.

But to the extent that the rabbis have tried to rediscover the lost knowledge that disappeared when the temple was destroyed, they arrive at the conclusion that everything depends on the Metatrone – the pre-existence of God, who is the redeemer, who brings peace, the government will be on his shoulders, and God will answer prayers in His name. Always learning, but never coming to knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 3:7).

## KING OF KINGS

In *Mennachi*, page 37, column 2, Rabbi Akiva, a very early and a very important rabbi – after Rambam the most important rabbi in the history of Judaism – tells us about the Matatrone’s title, which reveals His nature. He says the Metatrone is the angel of the prince of God’s countenance; The Angel, the Prince of the Law, The Angel of The Prince of Life, the Angel of the Prince of Glory, the Angel of the Prince of the Temple, the Angel of the Prince of Kings, the Angel of the Prince of Lords, The Angel of the Prince of the High exalted mighty princes in the heavens and the earth.

It says that Metatrone is a ruler over all rulers, over all kings ruling with power. Therefore the Kabbalah, the chasidic Kabbalah, and Zohar, call him Metatrone, “*Mer Yasis*.” It signifies ruling and governing with might and dominion because he is the beginning of the ways of God, citing Proverbs 8:22:

*“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his way before the works of old. From everlasting I was established; from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. When there were no depths, I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water, before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth. While he had not yet made the earth and the fields or the first dust of the world. When he established the heavens I was there, when he ascribed the circles on the face of the deep. When he made firm the skies above, when the springs of the deep became fixed. When he set to the sea its boundaries, so that the waters should not transgress his command. When he marked out the foundations of the earth. There I was next to him, a master workman and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; rejoicing in the world, his earth and having my delight in the sons of men. Now therefore sons listen to me, for blessed are they who keep my ways. Heed instruction and be wise and do not neglect it. Blessed is the man that listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts. He who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD. He who sins against me injures himself and all those who hate me love death.”*

The rabbis teach that this is the Metatrone. What does it say? What does the New Testament say? “In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God.” All things were made through Him, without Him not anything was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men (Jn. 1:1-4).

“He who finds Me, finds life” – finds the Metatrone. You have to **find** the Metatrone, say the rabbis, if you want to have life. And if you sin against the Metatrone and curse the Metatrone by calling Him nasty names like “Yeshua” instead of His real name, you will find death. But then Exodus 20:19 could read:

*“they said to Moshe Rabbeinu speak to us yourself and we will listen, but let not God speak lest we die. Speak with us and we will hear, but not God, we will burn.”*

Reading this passage and knowing that my nation, the children of Israel, never approached God without the mediation of a priest or a high priest, I went to Rabbi Simeon Ben Voccai to enquire whether any mortal and sinful man dare approach God without a mediator. I received the following instruction: This is an extract from the Kabbalah, the Zohar volume 2 on Exodus page 51 of the Amsterdam edition.

*“To keep the way of the tree of life, there is but one mediator between God and man and that is Metatrone.”*

Yet the high priest is a mediator, but somehow he is not a good enough mediator. What does it say in the book of Hebrews? We have a more perfect high priest from a different order. It was Melchizedek (i.e., the Metatrone) – the only mediator between God and man; the middle pillar of the Godhead who preexisted, through whom God made the world and sustained it. God would answer prayers made in His name only; the government would be on His shoulders; the mystery of salvation is in Him. He is the Redeemer and the only mediator between God and man. And Jews ask where do we Christians get this? The Zohar!

### THE TREE OF LIFE

Central to Kabbalah is the tree of life. A Jewish Christian, a Messianic Jew, or a Jewish believer in Jesus reading the Gospel of John at the end of the first century would have recognized it as a Midrash on the creation in Genesis, or *“Berashith.”* John 1, 2 and 3 is the Midrash on Genesis 1, 2 and 3.

He would have said God walked the earth in the creation in Genesis; now God walks the earth in the new creation in John. The Spirit moves on the water and brings forth the creation in Genesis; the Spirit moves on the water and brings forth the new creation in John – one of water and Spirit.

There is the small light and the great light in the creation in Genesis. And in the Gospel John the Baptist is the little light and Jesus the Messiah is the great light in the new creation. He would say God separated the light from dark in the creation, and He separated the light from dark in the new creation. Born of water and of spirit, God became a man. Then he would have seen the same Midrash in the wedding at Cana. Jesus spoke the miracle with the water at the wedding supper in Cana on the third day and on the third day of creation God did the miracle with the water.

In the 47th chapter of the book of Ezekiel, the tree of life is mentioned in a millennial context, as it is in the book of Revelation. It is in the Garden of Eden to begin with in Genesis. The rabbis tell us that the tree of life is represented by a fig tree. So when Jesus tells Nathaniel that “I saw you under the fig tree” (Jn. 1:48) He was referring to a lot more than a literal fig tree. Midrashically, in Jewish metaphor, Jesus was telling him “I saw you from the garden, from the creation, from the foundation of the world.”

Midrash only brings out what is in the text that wouldn’t be seen without an understanding of the Hebraic perspective. The Bible clearly teaches that those who

are predestined are born anew before the foundation of the world. The Midrash illustrates doctrine that is already taught directly in Scripture.

The tree of life is also spoken of by the rabbis of the Kabbalah. It tells us the following: “Who is the way to the tree of life? It is the great Metatrone. He is the way to the great tree of life.”

It also is written in Exodus chapter 14:9: *“The Angel of God which went before the camp of Israel removed and went after them.”* The Metatrone is another name for the Angel of God.

So Jewish Kabbalists are saying that in order to eat of the tree of life you have to go by way of the Metatrone? The same revelation was spoken by Jesus who said, “he who comes to Me, I will give to him the right to eat of the tree of life.” (Rev. 2:7)

“Come and see,” said Rabbi Simeon, “the holy one, blessed be he who hath prepared for himself a holy temple, above in the heavens, a holy city, a city in the heavens, a heavenly Jerusalem, the holy city where every petition to the king must be sent through the Metatrone. You can’t go that holy city, that heavenly Jerusalem unless the Metatrone brings you there. Every message of petition must first go the Metatrone and from thence to the king. Metatrone is the mediator of all that cometh from heaven down to the earth or from the earth up to heaven.”

If it doesn’t go through the Metatrone, say the rabbis, you’re wasting your breath; it doesn’t go. And because he’s the mediator of all, it is written in Exodus 14:19, *“And the Angel of God which went before the camp removed that is before Israel which is above.”* This Angel of God is the same of whom it is written in Exodus 13:21, *“Jehovah went before them to go before them, to go by day and night as the ancients have expounded.”*

What does it say? God Himself is in the Shekinah, going before them. But how was God in the Shekinah? The Metatrone! God, Metatrone, Shekinah. Is there one God or three? The idea of the Trinity is not just a Christian concept exclusive to New Testament Christianity. It is seen in the Old Testament and elaborated upon in the mystical Jewish writings in the Kabbalah; a truth that rabbis today would rather not have to reckon with.

It is written in Psalm 121:4. The Almighty has revealed Himself in none other than the Metatrone. God is going to reveal Himself to Israel and mankind through only one, the Metatrone. However, The Metatrone is also the uncreated self-existing *mamre* in Aramaic, which is also called the *Melech Habrit*, who is the Metatrone. That is Almighty *El Shaddai* who has re-

vealed himself in Metatrone. Not two Metatrones, but God – *El Shaddai* – has revealed himself in the Metatrone who is the uncreated and self-existing Word, who was there from the beginning.

In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. The garment of the Almighty is the Metatrone. That is seen in 2 Corinthians and also in 1 Timothy 3:16. I guess the writers of the Kabbalah must have read the New Testament since the New Testament is older than the Kabbalah, at least in its written form.

The Kabbalah teaches that the Metatrone is the Son of God. “I could not mention many secrets respecting Metatrone into which my teachers have led me.”

You see, Kabbalah is based on secrecy, somewhat like its “Christian” counterpart: Freemasonry. There are secret initiation rites to understand this stuff, and it takes years before Yeshiva boys are taught these secrets – probably just about a week before they die in some cases because they don’t want to tell anybody else that the Almighty has revealed Himself in the Metatrone.

In the commentary of the Rabbi Moses Moishe Butalari on the book of *Sefra Yitzirah* are these words:

“The Cabbalists call the second Sephira Metatrone, the keeper, which is the inferior name of his name, the Son of God. When Joshua said ‘art thou for us or for our adversaries’ he said ‘nah as a prince of the Host of the Lord, I am come.’”

### SOMEONE TO BE WORSHIPED

The Metatron appeared to Joshua:

*“Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked and he saw a man, and behold the man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand and Joshua went up to him said ‘are you for us or for our adversaries?’ And he said ‘No, rather I indeed come now as captain of the Hosts of the LORD’ (...shevaot...)”*

*And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and bowed down.”*

Now when the Hebrews would worship (*histachavot*) they would bow down in an act of worship. The Roman Catholic practice of bowing down before statues is idolatrous, it is exactly what we were told not to do.

*“What has my lord to say to his servant?” And the captain of the Lord of Host said “remove your sandals from your feet for the place you are standing is holy. And Joshua did so.”*

This was the Metatrone that Joshua bowed



down before.

*“The middle pillar in the Godhead has revealed himself as the Son of God, having penetrated thus far the mystery of the nature of God and seeing what the faith of my fathers had been at the time when the candlestick was burning, in all of its essence and glory in the sanctuary, I look to the second psalm which speaks of no other than the Metatrone, the Son of God.”*

Consider the 7th and 12th verses of Psalm 2:

*I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD. He said to me, Thou art my Son, Today I have begotten thee... Do homage to the son, lest he become angry and you perish in the way. For his wrath may soon be kindled But blessed are they who take refuge in the son.”*

Jews today say that God has no son? Yet the Psalms say He does, and the **rabbis** tell us that the Psalms tell us He does. More than that, the rabbis tell us that God's son is also the Metatrone. We read in the book of Proverbs:

*“Who has ascended into heaven and descended, Who has gathered the wind in his fist?*

(“Ruach” in Hebrew, “Spirit”).

*Who has wrapped the waters in his garment, Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name and what is his son's name?”*

Metatrone!

*“I will declare My decree, The LORD has said unto Me, Thou art my Son; This day have I begotten Thee.*

*Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and ye perish from the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their truth in him.”*

In who? In the Metatrone.

## IN CONCLUSION

I searched the matter in which the word “hayom” (“this day”) is used by the sacred writers and found that sometimes it expresses eternity, as in Isaiah 43:

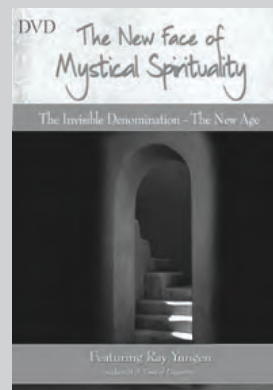
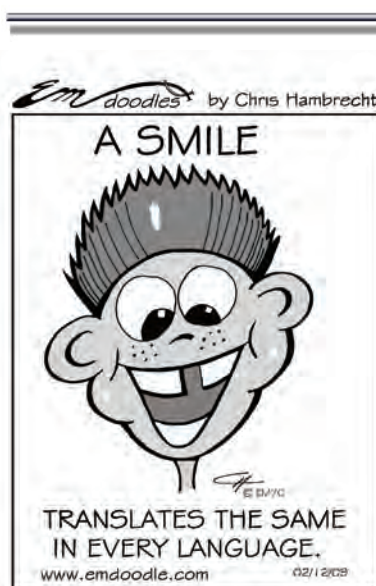
*“Yea, before the day was, I am he”.*

That is from eternity as Yonatan Ben Uziel translates. “I am also from eternity”, thus hayom used from the second psalm in the sense of day of eternity. The Greek word here is *hemera aniones* – “day of eternity” so that he who is here called by God “My Son” must be from eternity. That is Metatrone.

- Jacob wrestled with the Metatrone, God in a human form.
- Joshua fell down before Him upon entering the Promised Land - the Metatrone.

- The Metatrone is the middle pillar of the Godhead.
- The Metatrone is Jehovah.
- The Metatrone is in the Shekinah; the Shekinah is in the Metatrone. Jehovah God, Metatrone, Shekinah, three-in-one, one-in-three.
- The Metatrone is the Redeemer; the Metatrone is the only way to God.
- The Metatrone is the only one in whose name He will answer our prayers.
- The Metatrone is the only one to whom God has committed the future of Israel into His hands.
- The Metatrone is the only agent of God's salvation.
- The Metatrone is the only one who has the right to give the way to the tree of life.
- The Metatrone is the only one in whom, if you take refuge, you will be saved.
- Who is the Metatrone? *Yeshua HaMashiach*, “Jesus the Messiah”.  
The New Testament? Yes!  
Is that what I think? It is what I **know**.  
If you don't want to believe me, believe your own rabbis.
- My dear Jewish friends, if you are reading this, the Metatrone is the Messiah; the Metatrone is God who became a man; the Metatrone is the only one who can give you salvation; the Metatrone is the only one who can bring you to the Jerusalem above that your rabbis teach you about; the Metatrone is the only one, the only way, the only future you have. Embrace the Son, blessed are all those who take refuge in the Metatrone. *Yeshua HaMaschiach*, Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. †††

This article may can be read or shared online by going to, [http://www.moriel.org/Teaching/Online/Metratrone/01\\_Introduction.html](http://www.moriel.org/Teaching/Online/Metratrone/01_Introduction.html)



## Invisible Denomination, the New Age

**Description:** The New Age movement can be likened to “an old melody played by a new band.” What makes this new band significant for our times is that over forty million people, in the US alone, are now dancing to its melody. In this talk, Ray Yungen examines the source and nature of this modern spiritual movement and gives credible evidence to its widespread influence in our culture. If you only have a limited understanding of what things like Reiki, chakras, and metaphysical self-help are, this lecture will be of great importance because these once obscure practices are now poised to touch every family in the Western world. Yungen refers to this as the invisible denomination because it is found in business, health and fitness, education, and religion but yet is not readily identifiable by the average person as actual denomination or spiritual body.

**Author Bio:** Ray Yungen, author, speaker and research analyst has studied religious movements for the last twenty years. He is the author of *A Time of Departing* and *For Many Shall Come In My Name*. He is available for radio and television interviews and for seminars, conferences and college assemblies. His exuberance for life and his love for Jesus Christ and for people are evident in his writing. His website is, <http://www.atimeofdeparting.com>.

\*Avaliable through Moriel Ministries, see resource page.



# HOW TO READ God's WORD

by Danny Isom

I WILL MEDITATE ON  
YOUR PRECEPTS  
AND REGARD YOUR WAYS.  
I SHALL DELIGHT IN YOUR STATUTES;  
I SHALL NOT FORGET YOUR WORD.  
PSALM 119:15-16

Probably within minutes of your decision to accept Christ as your personal Savior, someone explained that as a Christian you needed to how do three things: Pray, go to church, and read the Bible. This is not bad advice, but it actually falls a little short of what is truly needed in order to grow in one's personal walk.

The truth is that "reading" the Bible is never enough. In fact, the Bible itself never advocates that anyone simply "read" it; we're supposed to put it into practice. And the word the Scripture most often uses to explain how to approach God's Word is "meditate"—something that goes simply beyond mere "reading." In other words, we're supposed to intensely study God's Word, pursuing the goal of how to apply it to our own behavior.

Meditating is not staring at the words on the page with some sort of force of will that invokes secret meanings to leap out at us. It means prayerfully seeking the Holy Spirit's insight to expose to us what we need to do on our part to put the Word into practice. One of the things I've learned by running a Web site dedicated to encouraging the personal application of God's Word is that many Christians really don't fully comprehend this. And it's usually betrayed when they express how difficult it is for them to "read" the Bible regularly. "Where do I start?" "What are the most important books?" "Can I do this on my own without a commentary?"

Well, the two-fold short answer is that ALL of Scripture is important (don't ever let anyone tell you the New Testament is more important than the Old), and you can't accomplish the purposes of God's Word by reading it—you're going to have to put some effort into it, both in terms of prayer and study. And you're going to have to recognize that, when you begin to delve more deeply into His Word, what you're going to be confronted with is the very voice of God convicting your heart, mind, and soul

whenever even the seemingly smallest of things is out of alignment with His Word and ways. In other words, the proof that your Bible-reading approach is working properly is the degree to which your own behavior begins to change. Just getting smarter won't cut it. If you are not becoming a more loving person, if the quality of your personal relationships isn't changing, if you are not becoming conformed to the image of Christ in your very behavior, I'm sorry to inform you that your approach to Bible study is failing you.

So if you're the kind of Christian who has elevated his involvement in God's Word from merely reading it to truly consuming it for the purpose of being transformed by it, the question still lingers as to what are the most important parts of the Bible to focus on. Yes, we eventually want to get to everything, but realistically time is limited.

It seems the New Testament always gets priority because, obviously, it contains Christ's teachings. But never forget that Christ IS the Word. In other words, He IS both the Old and New Testaments. He may have revealed different things at different times, but it's all Him nonetheless. We can't say, "Oh, those are just history books," or "Those are just prophesy books," and write them off as less relevant; they're ALL Christ Himself. And having taught through every book of the Bible many times now in concert with the Walk With the Word reading plan, I can most assuredly testify that the Spirit speaks to and reaches us just as effectively through Lamentations as through the Gospel of John. It ALL points to Christ and it ALL convicts us to ease our grip on whatever we're still clinging to from the old life.

With that in mind, I would like to offer a Bible study suggestion to this particular audience, since it's been my experience that the average subscriber to the Moriel Quarterly and those who follow Jacob Prasch's teachings appear to be far above average when it comes to Bible study. This is just a personal observation of what I have found to be almost universally lacking in the Bible reading habits of more mature believers. In a nutshell, I find it fascinating that there is an almost universal reaction to ignore the writings of Solomon, that Prov-

erbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are most often the least studied, least read books of the Bible even by many mature believers.

Now I know that chronological Bibles order the reading according to history's timeline, but what if instead we lined them up by which ones God published first? Have you ever thought about this?

First, we'd have to start with nothing. Yes, God spoke with many men such as Adam and Noah, but He never told them to formally preserve anything in writing. It was to be transmitted person-to-person. I think this in itself is a teaching that God's original design is that all things work by faith.

The very first book in such a Bible would actually be Job. This teaching originated from Abraham's time and was preserved and passed down orally for many centuries before being published on paper. But long before Moses penned the Pentateuch, Job was the first canonical work available. This is quite illuminating when you consider that all the Israelites knew of God from the standpoint of His Word were the oral traditions passed down and Job, a book that can be summarized as teaching, "I am God, and you are not." The first revelation of God's Word is a teaching about His sovereignty affirming the need to live by faith.

Of course, we would then arrive at the Pentateuch, which fills in a lot of gaps as far as all the years since creation, but it's interesting to note that these five books are most often characterized by the label "The Law."

Now if our chronological Bible is ordering the books according to when they were published, we need to understand that the very next book to appear after "The Law" would probably be Psalms followed by Solomon's Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. The content of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 & 2 Samuel were most certainly known, but there's a lot of evidence that they weren't actually published as we now have them until later. They, along with the history books, would come AFTER Solomon's writings. And then, of course, we would order the books of each of the prophets as they came about to finish out the Old Testament.

So consider this overall sequence: God doesn't publish His Word at first, instead



preferring that it be passed from person to person by faith. When He first speaks to address the growing unfaithfulness toward what He has spoken, He provides Job. After many more centuries and man's continued unfaithfulness, God provides "The Law." And what does He do when He sees that His Law is not being properly kept? He first provides Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon, all books which are essentially commentaries explaining the true application of "The Law." THEN, when further unfaithfulness persists—and only then—does He introduce His prophets to warn and convict of the consequences of continued unfaithfulness leading to judgment. It's a very interesting sequence of events, isn't it?

If you truly want to understand how to apply "The Law," what the true intentions of God's Word are, there is a wealth of answers in those four books, particularly Solomon's. There are many Psalms which illuminate not only "The Law," but the historical events that came before, as well as providing personal examples of applying God's Word. Proverbs establishes the internal struggle between personal faithfulness and spiritual seduction; Ecclesiastes is the practical life application of God's Word in everyday living; Song of Solomon reveals in dramatic detail that the author of "The Law" is actually motivated from the most intense desire of love. They all combine to provide what God was stating, at that time in history, as the proper application of His Word to the believer's life.

My encouragement to you is to take the plunge. Read them through WITHOUT any commentaries or outside opinions. Just read them through for yourself. It is startling to hear all that God is speaking to us through these books when we stop merely "reading" them and take them seriously as equal with the rest of His Word. And I think this is why many of us are awestruck by Jacob's sermons from these books. Since we have largely ignored them, and in many cases given up, believing they're too hard to understand, it's a bit humbling to be confronted with the rich treasures this portion of Scripture affords.

I truly believe that one of the marks of a mature faith and deepening knowledge of His Word is revealed in those who seriously undertake to hear what God originally spoke to explain how His Law was supposed to be put into practice.

In His Love,  
Danny Isom



Servant@WalkWithTheWord.org

# PERTINENT "FACTOID"

## JEWISH BRIGADE GROUP

Beginning in 1920, Great Britain ruled Palestine under a mandate created by the League of Nations. The British were to facilitate the establishment of a modern Jewish homeland. Due to Arab opposition to the proposed Jewish homeland in Palestine, the British initially refused to establish a separate fighting unit of Jewish volunteers from Palestine. However, wartime manpower requirements and the strategic need to defend the Middle East induced the British to permit the formation of 15 Palestinian Jewish battalions. These units were incorporated into the British army in September 1940.

Jewish units fought with the Allies in Greece in 1941; 100 Palestinian Jews were killed there and 1,700 captured by the Germans. On August 6, 1942, the British army formed a Palestine Regiment out of three Jewish and one Palestinian Arab battalion. The regiment fought in Egypt and in the battles of North Africa.

The Jewish Brigade Group of the British army, which fought under the Zionist flag, was formally established in September 1944. It included more than 5,000 Jewish volunteers from Palestine organized into three infantry battalions and several supporting units. Under the command of Brigadier Ernest Benjamin, the Jewish Brigade fought against the Germans in Italy from March 1945 until the end of the war in May 1945.

After the German surrender, the Jewish Brigade was stationed along the Italian border with Austria and Yugoslavia, and later in Belgium and the Netherlands. Some soldiers from the Brigade helped create displaced persons camps for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. Brigade members also became involved in organizing the flight of Jewish refugees from eastern Europe and their clandestine entry into Palestine. Individual soldiers acquired arms for the Hagana, the major Jewish underground defense organization in Palestine.

Britain disbanded the Jewish Brigade Group in the summer of 1946. Some 30,000 Jewish volunteers from Palestine served with the British forces during World War II. More than 700 were killed during active duty.

Copyright © United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.  
Encyclopedia Last Updated: May 4, 2009



National Archives - Film, Jewish Brigade



Members of the Jewish Brigade, an all-Jewish unit formed within the British army, in Tel Aviv, Palestine, 1944. — Central Zionist Archive

# PT.3-THE COMING PERSECUTION *of* CHRISTIANS IN THE COMING ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT

by Paul McGuire

**A**s I wrote in earlier articles, there is coming an onslaught of persecution against Christians, specifically in Western nations like the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Australia, and many other nations. It is a persecution for which the churches and their leadership are completely unprepared. The level and intensity of persecution against true Bible believing Christians will exceed the level of that which has occurred against Christians in Communist China. And most Christians in America and Europe do not yet comprehend what is coming.

According to a Washington Times report, Pastor David Jones and his wife were holding small Bible studies in their home in Bonita, California. Only about 15 people attended these Bible studies and they were doing this for five years. On Good Friday morning, 2009, a San Diego County Code Enforcement officer went to the Jones' residence and began taking photographs. The officer rudely asked Mrs. Jones, if they sing at their meetings, if they say, "Amen," and "Praise the Lord."

When Mrs. Jones said, "Yes," the officer declared that these were illegal religious gatherings which must stop immediately! The Joneses received a citation warning them to "cease/stop religious assembly on their parcel or obtain a major use permit." Getting a permit could cost tens of thousands of dollars, and failure to do so would result in fines starting at \$100 and escalating to \$1,000. Than the county official reportedly had warned, "it will get ugly."

Due to the national outcry, the County of San Diego backed down, at least for the time being. But for Christians in America there is much more to come. Leaders in the Christian pro-family movement are warning about "hate crime legislation" that has been called "The Pedophile Protection Act," passed by the House of Representatives and waiting to be signed by President Obama. The bill protects 547 different kinds of sexual orientations and criminalizes Christianity. Europe and Canada have already passed similar legislation, and it means that if pastors or Christians truly speak from the Bible they can be fined, arrested and/or imprisoned.

For many Evangelical churches in America who have moved into the "Emerging Church" or "Seeker Friendly" model this will not present a problem because they will become state-approved churches like the ones that exist in China and that formerly existed in Nazi Germany. These churches present no challenge to the state or the world system because they are preaching the same humanistic message as that of the state with a few "Jesus words" thrown in for good measure.

What many Christians in America, Europe, Australia and other nations do not understand, because they are no longer taught Bible prophecy in their churches, is that the world is shifting very quickly into a global government. The plans for this global government were laid out years ago by such groups as the Fabian socialists in England. The Fabian socialists consisted of British intellectuals like the science fiction writer H.G. Wells, the philosopher Bertrand Russell, and others who believed that all of mankind's problems could be solved with the establishment of a world socialist government. The United Nations and the Council on Foreign Relations were created to achieve the goal of global government. When you read the actual writings of the men who planned and financed one world government, it is obvious that they intend to employ totalitarianism and police-state measures to accomplish their goal. Since they believe that men and women are simply evolved animals they are actively implementing global social, economic and political policies in what can only be described as "social Darwinism."

Most contemporary Christian leaders are incapable of grasping the full implications of exactly what that means to Christians in the 21st Century because their theology is not Biblically based. It is a non-biblical theology concocted in hot tubs at the Esalen Institute.

In Nazi Germany many of the Jews kept saying, "It can't happen here." And yet it happened. As they stood in line at the concentration camps, they told each other that they were going to get a shower. History tells us that they were gassed to death.

Christians are saying the exact same thing in the U.S. and Europe, while a total-

itarian state rises all around them. In 1946, Julian Huxley, the founder of UNESCO, created a global plan to destroy Christianity, the family, and the nation state, and his proponents have been actively doing that for years. Since their world socialist government excludes God, and specifically Jesus Christ, it is antichrist in nature. Thus we should not be surprised at the global frontal assault on both Christians and Jews.

This global government cannot tolerate any resistance to its dictums. In Germany today, when speaking of German home-schoolers, the German government states it cannot tolerate the existence of "parallel societies," which means it cannot tolerate the teaching of Christianity in their schools. But in different words, these same edicts exist in the U.S., Great Britain and other nations. Intolerance toward true Christianity is immersed in the International Law of the United Nations, of which American Supreme Court Justices now look for legal precedent. It is written into things like UNESCO and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and will soon become the law of the land in the US.

United Nations law is now extending its authority over independent nation states like Great Britain. In Britain, under the U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child, local authorities may soon have the legal right of access to the home and the right to speak to the children of a family apart from their parents in order to make certain that homeschooling families are teaching what the U.N. wants. Under the U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child, the U.N. becomes the parent of the child. Parents no longer have the legal right to teach a particular religion or restrict any kind of sexual activity a child may choose to participate in, including watching pornography.

According to a Moriel article on June 16th entitled, "Video: Police Attempt To Silence Street Preacher" from the Christian Institute, "Police officers told an open-air preacher in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, it is a criminal offence to identify homosexuality as a 'sin'. They said this to Andy Robertson, an evangelist with the Open Air Mission, even though he had never mentioned homosexuality in his preaching." This is not just happening in Great Britain,



it is happening across the U.S. with increasing frequency.

According to a WorldNetDaily article entitled, "U.S. military teaches 'protesters' are 'low-level terrorists,'" by Bob Unruh on July 1, 2009, the ALCU sent a letter to the Pentagon which included this statement; "Peaceful protest is not terrorist activity, it is protected by the First Amendment and is one of the cornerstones of our democratic society." The ACLU added, "The fact that the views espoused may be unpopular or may be critical of the government is hardly a reason to treat engaging in dissent as a suspect activity."

The Department of Homeland Security is profiling as "low level terrorists, people who protest peacefully. This means that if you exercise your constitutional rights such as "freedom of religion," "freedom of speech," freedom of assembly," and "freedom of the press," you are classified as a low level terrorist. If Christians peacefully gather to demonstrate in support of Israel, conduct a pro-life march, protest Sacramento, California, for attempting to legalize homosexual marriage after the vote of the people clearly defined marriage as an institution between a man and woman, or choose to pray in front of the Supreme Court, they are now classified as "low level terrorists" by the DHS. In fact, the street preacher I heard on Times Square telling the crowds to repent because the judgment of God was near, three weeks before the Twin Trade Towers collapsed would have been classified as a terrorist and possibly prosecuted under a federal hate crime's law because he told the people, "It is only through Christ that you can be saved from your sins!"

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued a very peculiar document shortly after President Obama was elected. This document is entitled, "Right-wing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment." Dated April 7, it states that "threats from white supremacist and violent anti-government groups during 2009 have been largely rhetorical and have not indicated plans to carry out violent acts."

Now the DHS definition of "right-wing extremism" is an odd grab-bag of groups. The report from DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis defines right-wing extremism in the U.S. as "divided into those groups, movements and adherents that are primarily hate-oriented (based on hatred of particular religious, racial or ethnic groups) and those that are mainly anti-government, rejecting federal authority in favor of state or local authority, or rejecting government authority entirely. It may include groups and individuals

that are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration

The report also classifies people who believe in "end times prophecies" as right-wing extremists and terrorists. Another government report mysteriously surfaced about a week earlier from the Missouri State Highway Patrol or the Department of Public Safety.

Both of these government reports identify Christians who are "pro-life," pro-traditional marriage" and who believe in teaching or preaching Bible prophecy, such as the return of Jesus Christ, as being dangerous "right-wing" extremists. What is ironic is that many of President Barack Obama's friends, such as former members of the violent and anti-government Weather Underground, or the inflammatory Rev. Wright, were not even on the list.

The Report said, "Rightwing extremism in the United States can be broadly divided into those groups, movements, and adherents that are primarily hate-oriented (based on hatred of particular religious, racial or ethnic groups), and those that are mainly anti-government, rejecting federal authority in favor of state or local authority, or rejecting government authority entirely."

But, here is where it gets very tricky. Strangely, weeks after these reports were issued there were two high profile media stories of a madman who fit the DHS profile of an extremist. The Huffington Post of June 10, 2009 summed it up very nicely with an article entitled, "DHS Report Warned Against Anti-Semitic Violence."

In the article, the writer appeared to compliment the Department of Homeland Security for being so accurate in its warnings of "right-wing" extremists. It cited the "violent anti-Semitic activity that occurred at the Holocaust Memorial in Washington D.C. by a "white supremacist" James W. Von Brunn. The article in the Huffington Post said, "It's been several months now since that DHS report was issued and, sadly, the study is proving increasingly prescient. In addition to the Von Brunn shootings, there has been the killing of abortion provider George Tiller, another type of ideologically-driven killing that Napolitano warned against.

"But, what the Huffington Post and the other media conveniently left out is that Von Brunn was more of a left-wing extremist than a "right-wing" extremist." James von Brunn, the man who allegedly shot and killed a guard at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. was a militant believer in Darwinian evolution and hated Christians and the Bible. These were facts ignored by a media eager to portray him as a "Christian right-wing extremist." Politically, James Von Brunn was a socialist.

It is clear that there exists in both the U.S., Europe and Islamic nations individuals and groups that are violent and anti-Semitic. The rise of the neo-Nazi movement in Europe and across the world is alarming, and these groups exist in the U.S. No one in their right mind would defend the insane and immoral actions of Von Brunn or the man who shot George Tiller. But, here is where we enter the slippery slope of totalitarian law which will lead to the persecution of Bible-believing Christians.

First, the largest group of Evangelical Christian supporters of the Jews and Israel are Bible-believing Christians who believe and teach "End Time Prophecy" and who are "pro-life." Yet the UN laws and the DHS make no important distinction between the "right wing extremist" and the peaceful and loving Christians who believe in Bible prophecy, who are pro-life and who are the greatest supporters of Israel in the United States. According to the DHS they are all "terrorists" and "right wing extremists." So the assumption has to be made that sooner or later all Christians will be treated as terrorists because that is what the law implies.

Secondly, the DHS Report is heavily one sided on the side of the left. You can be a Weather Underground member, brag about blowing up buildings and killing policemen and that is okay! The DHS has no problem with you, and you can be best friends of the President of the United States. You can preach hatred and intolerance for over 20 years and if you are Rev. Jeremiah Wright (a friend of the President) that's okay by the Department of Homeland Security. What we have here is one ideological group in power essentially labeling anyone who disagrees with them as a dangerous extremist.

Miss California was fired from her job because she dared to say that she believed marriage is between a man and a woman. She was publicly harassed and fired! All across America and Europe corporations and government agencies are giving their employees sensitivity training so they do not commit a "hate crime" against anybody of any sexual orientation.

And that means not only homosexuals, but transgender, pedophiles, people who are into S&M, necrophilia, or of any other sexual orientation will now receive special legal status. That means that, potentially, if a man in California simply perceives himself to be a woman, then he is legally allowed to enter the shower room or restroom with little girls present. If a mother got upset and slapped the man for looking at her young daughter, she would be arrested and prosecuted for a hate crime and he, under the law would have done nothing.

In addition, this persecution of Chris-

tians will coincide with persecution against Jews who are either Messianic or Orthodox or conservative in their faith. What are the forces that are going to be responsible for this persecution?

First and foremost, there is the spiritual dimension. As we get closer to the return of Jesus Christ persecution is going to increase against the true church. We are told, “All who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

As the world grows farther and farther from God, wickedness and lawlessness will increase. Jesus Christ told us, “As it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so it will be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man.” The characteristics of those days were a quantum increase in wickedness, violence and perversion on the earth. We are seeing that in our time.

Secondly, even the Bible-believing churches have difficulty grasping the concept of just how evil, evil is. Jesus Christ did not get crucified by the world system because the world system was good. The world system has always been in terrific rebellion against God. As people who call themselves believers in the Bible, we tend to diminish the reality of Satan’s existence and that we are in a world with a titanic spiritual struggle going on—a struggle that centers on the souls of men and women.

Although Christians have suffered terrific persecution in Communist and Muslim countries, most western nations have had relatively little persecution. All of that is about to change. As the world system prepares for the coming of Antichrist we see the spirit of Antichrist moving aggressively in our world. There is an earthly and demonic organizational structure to the emerging one world economic system and one world government.

The European Union is a regional global government. Soon there will be a North American Union which will be a mirror of the EU and will merger Canada, Mexico and the United States along with a new NAU Constitution minus the Bill of Rights. It is very important for ordinary Christians, and specifically Christian leaders, to understand that a global totalitarian state is now emerging before us. A new world currency is an essential step in this process. But make no mistake about it, as Dr. Francis Schaeffer thundered thirty years ago, “As the Evangelical Church accommodates to the culture, totalitarianism either from the right or the left will rise to manage the chaos.”

I believe that at some point this totalitarianism will become the “Fourth Beast” in Daniel Chapter 9. Israel is God’s prophetic time piece, and the time of His return is almost at hand. But, until then there is coming

a firestorm of persecution against believers in Jesus. Tragically, I have witnessed in my lifetime the Evangelical churches slide from accommodation to apostasy. The so-called prophets “prophecy out of their own spirit” as they did in Ezekiel’s time.

Judgment is coming, and judgment begins in the house of the Lord. I tremble as I write these words.

Paul McGuire is a conference speaker and the author of 16 books. He can be reached at <http://www.paulmcguire.com> [2]

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URLs in this post:

[1] DHS report reads: <http://www.gordonunleashed.com/HSA%20-%20Rightwing%20Extremism%20-%202009%2004%2007.pdf>

[2] <http://www.paulmcguire.com>: <http://www.paulmcguire.com/>

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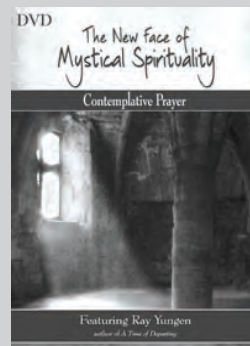


**www.moriel.org**  
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**GOD IS MY TEACHER**

- **MORIEL** is an evangelistic ministry to people of other faiths, beginning with the Jews and nominal (non-evangelical) Christians, such as Roman Catholics and liberal Protestants. We also hold seminars on Messianic apologetics, and on Islamic evangelism, and cult evangelism
- **MORIEL** seeks to plant Messianic fellowships where none exist. These are “fellowships” and not congregations, designed to evangelize Jews and to provide a practical way for Jewish believers and those called to the Jews to preserve and express their identity in Yeshua as Messiah
- **MORIEL** helps believers to plant churches in situations where bible-based congregations do not exist. We call this Misgav Ladach; a Hebrew term meaning “shelter for the oppressed”.
- **MORIEL** will stand against serious doctrinal error where it threatens the credibility of the gospel or undermines the authority of scripture. This will be particularly true concerning areas likely to prove detrimental to Jewish evangelism - such as “Dual Covenant Theology” and “Christian Anti-Semitic”, and “Anti-Zionism”

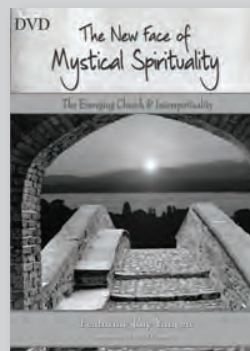


## Contemplative Prayer

**Description:** In his clear and understandable style, Ray Yungen explains the dynamics of contemplative prayer. Unlike biblical prayer, this “new” form of prayer halts the normal flow of thought processes and takes the participant into a mystical state. Yungen not only explains how this is done, but he takes us to the ancient roots of this prayer practice that derives in eastern mysticism.

This vital teaching will equip you with not only an understanding of this practice but of its increasing popularity within Christian churches, colleges, and ministries. Although promising much in the realm of intimacy with God, you will learn how this practice delivers a package of seducing spirits and a pantheistic view that is characteristic of the New Age.

**\*Available through Moriel Ministries, see resource page.**



## The Emerging Church & Interspirituality

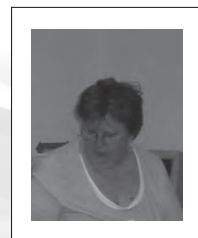
**Description:** Though some think the emerging church movement is a passing fad that consists primarily of dissatisfied, unfulfilled young people, it is actually a rapidly growing “new Christianity” that continues to build momentum.

In this talk, Ray Yungen unmasks the spirituality behind this movement—its roots and its teachings. He explains the role that various popular figures have played in bringing about a spirituality that has direct ties to the New Age movement.



# AUSTRALIAN *news*

Australian Report – September 2009



Greetings Dear Family in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

It has been an extremely hectic time since our last report in June. First, we had Jacob's illness and his inability to attend the Australian Conference in July. My instinct was to cancel the tour and then I thought, no we had so much invested – so I rang dear Calvin and he very kindly offered to do all the sessions – talk about a baptism by fire!

Of course everyone missed Jacob and were very concerned for his health, but by the Grace of God and the generosity of Calvin we had a wonderful conference.

Cal taught at each of the sessions except on the Saturday evening when we gave him the evening off and instead played the television program that Jacob did in the UK in May where he debated Dr. Alex Awad (which was incredible and is available on DVD) but one could see just how unwell Jacob was rapidly becoming.

It was great to see so many of the Moriel family. I feel such a joy in my spirit when I look up and see another one of them approaching. It must be a little like Elizabeth (Luke 1:41) when she saw Mary approaching in the distance (but thankfully I am not pregnant) I am sure you know what I mean.

We had two people from New Zealand, a busload from South Australia, people from North Queensland and Sydney – opps I nearly forgot Tasmania! Not only did we have a weekend of incredible teaching but also we had tremendous fellowship.

The Lord graciously met many prayer requests, forged new friendships, and all in all we enjoyed some wonderful fellowship.

All of Calvin's sessions we recorded and now are available in DVD, CD & MP3 (see the resource page for details).

Calvin & myself headed off to Queensland. As the guest of Pst Peter Danzey, he preached up the coast line from Rockhampton to the Sunshine Coast (Caloundra) and then for two evenings at CWM at Eight Mile Plains.

That was followed by a weekend where Pam flew up to look after him. Then all too soon he was winging his way home to Kay and the family in Kent (UK) and he agreed to come back in 2010.

Now we have a little bit of quiet time as we won't have any more conference until

Dave Royle comes in May next year. I am sure I can speak for Pam & Vic when I say we are really looking forward to a wee rest.

Just before I close I will include a report from Calvin and his thoughts on his Aussie trip.

## CALVIN'S REPORT

### MY RECENT VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Last year I visited Australia for the first time, courtesy of Moriel Australia and Marg Goodwin, who had invited me over to speak in September 2008. During that trip Marg asked if I would be interested in coming over again this year to join Jacob Prash as a speaker at the 2009 Moriel (Australia) Bible Teaching Conference. Of course, having been treated so regally during my last visit and having met such a great bunch of Christians I readily agreed.

As most of you probably know by now, Jacob took unexpectedly ill while in South Africa with heart problems and had to cancel his visit to Australia. (We thank God) that he is well and in good spirits, and that all is going well. Please continue to pray with us for his speedy recovery and return to his much-needed teaching.) Despite this unexpected turn of events, the conference went ahead as planned, though I must admit it was a little hectic having to prepare to take on all the sessions. A busy exam period at King's Evangelical Divinity School (where I teach). Immediately prior to going to Oz, meant some of the sessions were hastily thrown together right before they were delivered (sometimes literally minutes before!). This aside, the conference was a great time of fellowship and biblical/theological debate. It was truly a pleasure to meet so many friendly, lovely people from the Moriel Australia family. I was made to feel most welcome, while the ensuing questions and debates were thoughtful and useful. I thank God for such people who love to study the Word of God and stand for truth. The Moriel people I met were great, while Marg and her colleagues did an absolutely superb job putting together a great conference in a lovely location and looking after everyone so well. I was honoured and humbled to speak at a conference attended by so many

of God's people, some of whom had travelled long distances to be there (including some Kiwis, a nation I now have a real soft spot and respect for, having seen how you Aussies rib them nearly as much as us!).

The rest of the two-week visit was also a great experience. I was privileged to see even more of your lovely country. Last year I flew in to Perth and spoke at churches and fellowships in Melbourne, Sydney, Tasmania, Adelaide and Port McQuarie. This year I added the Sunshine Coast, which I really liked, together with a ride up the coast to a place called Bundaberg and also Brisbane. Australians are some of the friendliest people I've met ('cept when we beat you at cricket, which admittedly isn't very often). It was great to meet new brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as catch up with friends from last year. I feel I have made some great friendships in the ministry and really look forward to coming back next year, when I hope to be in Oz during July or August for a little longer than this last trip. We are also looking at the possibility of including New Zealand in the next speaking tour.

I want to thank Marg for all she has done to make it possible for me to come and meet such fine Christians in Australia. She is a superb organiser, and she also knows just what kind of food I like! The food was absolutely superb wherever I went. And to top it all, this last trip ended on a perfect note (in fact, couldn't have been better... It was almost as if it was planned from on high). As I sat in a motel near Melbourne Airport, ready to fly back to the UK early the next morning, I was privileged to watch the Poms win the test match against Australia. Great stuff! Just what I needed, to be – of all places – on Aussie soil as we beat you. Having said that, I am also a realist and am pretty certain that by the time you read this you will have retained the Ashes in the forthcoming last Test Match (though I hasten to add this is not a prophetic declaration – I will gladly admit to being wrong if, by some miracle, we win the last one).

Blessings  
Calvin

God bless each and everyone of you,  
In Christ  
Marg



# King's Evangelical Divinity School



## KING'S EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL

Online study courses in biblical and theological studies offered at all levels, from beginner short-courses through to accredited Bachelor and Master degrees and doctoral supervision

Founded in 1990, King's Evangelical Divinity School (formerly Midlands Bible College) is a nondenominational institution providing innovative and competitively-priced theological studies by open and distance learning. Working in partnership with the University of Wales the college specialises in Hermeneutics (biblical interpretation) and offers accredited Bachelor of Theology and Master of Theology degrees, together with doctoral supervision. We also offer a less demanding course called Knowing Your Bible for those leading busy lives, together with beginners' and short courses in Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek.

Whatever your reason for wanting to study the Bible and Theology, whether to make you more effective in existing Christian ministry, to equip you for future full or part-time ministry, to permit you to become a more active and effective Christian in your local church, or simply because you desire a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Bible to enable you to stand for truth, our courses will provide you with the knowledge, understanding, skills and tools you require.

As a visiting lecturer at King's, Jacob Prasch recommends the school as a place of study for those wishing a more in-depth understanding of God's Word.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Our eCampus (among the first by a UK theological institution) ensures the delivery of a high quality, exciting and rewarding distance-learning experience. Each module consists of MP3 recorded lectures and study notes, while our innovative eCampus provides students with an interactive, resource-laden and exciting learning experience. Students also have regular and free access to tutors by telephone and e-mail, support via the eCampus, and access to fellow students through the various student forums. Our aim is to ensure your distance-learning experience is as productive, interactive and enjoyable as possible.

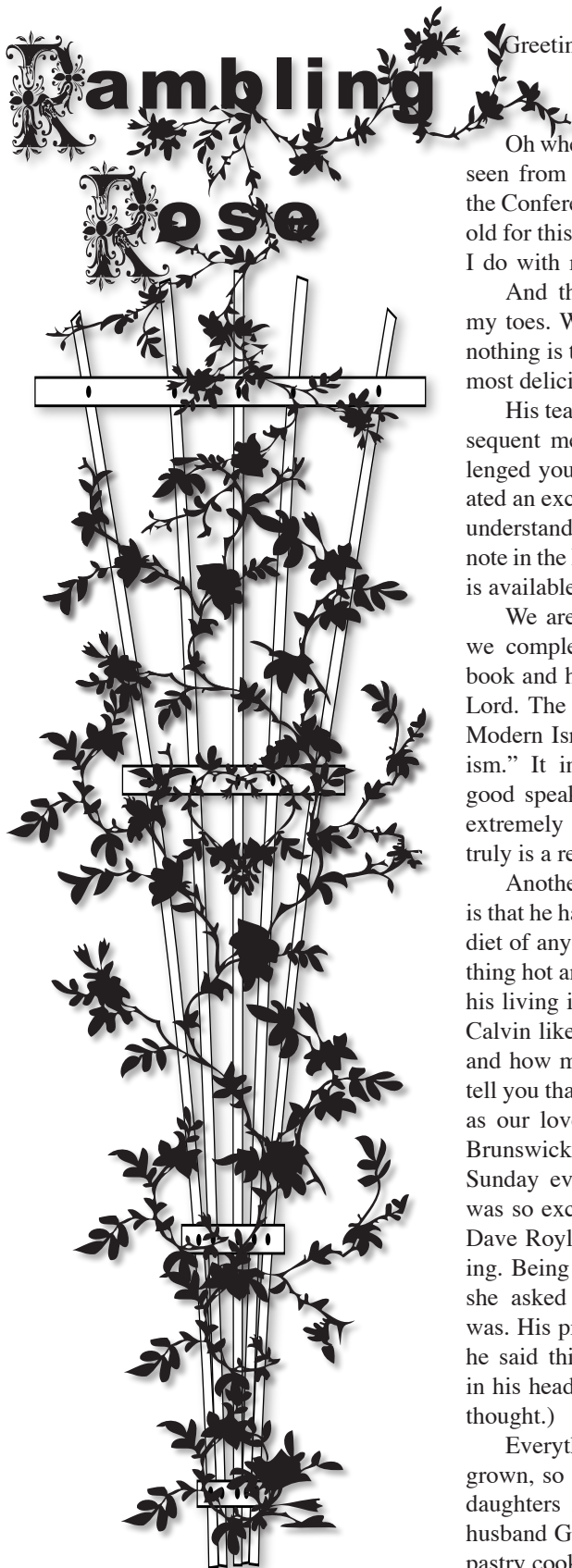
### WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Visit our website (see below) for full details of all our courses and an application form. Meanwhile, if you are wondering whether Divinity or Theological studies are for you? Then read Dean of Students Stephen Vantassel's comments on the practical benefits of attending Bible College ("<http://www.midbible.ac.uk/content/view/48/>"). Also, if you are thinking of studying Theology or attending Bible College, make sure it has the correct balance between academic, biblical and church theology, as discussed by King's Principal Calvin Smith at "<http://collegeblog.midbible.ac.uk/2007/04/applicable-versus-academic-theology/>".

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Greetings Dear Family

Oh where to start! Well as you will have seen from the Aussie report, we survived the Conference – just! Boy I am getting too old for this stuff but then again what would I do with myself? Or would Pam or Vic?

And that rascally Calvin kept me on my toes. Well, no, he is really wonderful; nothing is too much trouble, and he has the most delicious sense of humor.

His teaching at the conference and subsequent meetings certainly not only challenged you to get into the Word but it created an excitement as you came to a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. You will note in the Resource pages that the teaching is available on DVD, CD and MP3.

We are thrilled to share with you that we completely sold out of Calvin's new book and had to order a reprint. Praise the Lord. The title of the book is "The Jew's Modern Israel and the New Supersessionism." It includes contributions by many good speakers including Jacob, and is an extremely good and worthwhile read. It truly is a resource for Christians.

Another incredible thing about Calvin is that he has the largest and most extensive diet of anyone I know, and he loves everything hot and spicy. I think that's a result of his living in Spain for so many years. Our Calvin likes to brag somewhat about what and how much he can eat. Well, I have to tell you that he had to surrender while here, as our lovely Maisano family from West Brunswick had invited us to dinner on the Sunday evening after the conference. He was so excited because he has heard from Dave Royle and Jacob about Mila's cooking. Being the gracious person that she is, she asked Calvin what his favorite dish was. His prompt response was gnocchi (as he said this his eyes were rolling around in his head in absolute delirium just at the thought.)

Everything is home made and home grown, so with Pastor John, his wife Mar, daughters Mila (the cook), Aghi and her husband Giovanni (who I might add was a pastry cook in Italy) we sat down to all the beautiful preambles of salamis, olives, and the home made rolls. Then it was onto the gnocchi – it was exquisite – and our dear Calvin oohed and aahed.

"Would you like some more Cal dear?"

"Oh I shouldn't! Well, maybe a little."

So on we went, salad to follow, and there was more to come. But all too soon our hero let us down; he could go no further. I never thought I would live to see the day!

Then we were off to Brisbane. I recalled that when I was there last year (with Jacob) there was a fantastic Chinese res-

taurant next door to the motel. I mentioned that to Cal, so next evening we were off to dine before the meeting. His love of hot dishes came to the fore and he ordered from memory a curry dish, and asked for a very hot sauce to go with it. The young waitress brought out a tiny dish, and although he thought it was nice it was only "warm." So the next evening she bought out a different sauce and told him what it was. Again he considered it only warm, but then as he tasted it he went pale, said very little and left nearly all of it in the dish. Nary another word was said.

Pam took over the next leg to Sydney. Cal was rather quiet in his report from there. Although he did ask if I had ever seen Pam do a U-turn on a priority road!!!

Another wonderful thing that happened at the conference was the attendance by five young men from Sydney (New South Wales). I have been concerned for quite a time about the age of the men out there such as Dave Hunt, Roger Oakland, etc., and the very few good pastors in our very few good churches.

Well, these five young men in their twenties made my spirit soar as I spoke with them. They are such fine young men and they are so deeply committed and in love with Jesus and the truth of His Word. I could not help but think that Jesus, when preaching to the crowds, wanted to feed them but all that was available was the little lad who had the 5 fish. And right in front of me were five young men who I am sure will go on to be fishers of men. Praise the Lord.

Don't these stories and testimonies encourage you? They certainly encourage me.

We had another lovely thing happen in our little fellowship. A young man named Ethan (age 12) joined our musicians, and plays guitar every Sunday with them. He can't wait to get there, and he concentrates so deeply as he plays along with the adults.



Well my dears, I must be on my way as dear Carrie (our typesetter) has been extremely patient in waiting for my contribution to the quarterly.

God bless you all!

In Christ,  
Marg



Justin, David, Stephen, Andrew & Adam

## SALVADOR AND DIANNE'S

# MSINDISI MONTHLY



*Msindisi = (Zulu for saviour) Jesus is the Saviour of the world and it is He that we are trying to serve. He saves from Sin and the consequences of sin. He saves us from ourselves. He saves us from eternal death and despair. He came to give eternal life and died to satisfy the justice of God so that we can come into relationship with the Creator that we have been estranged from.*

After returning from Springs it was a nice surprise to see most of the hut finished from the builders' point of view. We set about getting the windows in, doors hung, walls painted, curtains hung, and floor polished. It was a busy couple of weeks but eventually we moved the furniture in. It is the time of year when the long grass gets cut for thatching, and many ladies were walking past with huge piles of grass on their heads. Several popped their heads in for a look.

There are still many jobs that need to be done, such as getting the guttering up, staining the doors, waterproofing the roof, and plastering the outside. We have had a few days of rain, and the plastering on the outside will be our first priority.

We have set up a wall planner with our schedules for the week; this is proving helpful in letting us know which areas are getting covered when Salvi goes out to share the Gospel. Di usually goes with him when she is able. At the moment Di is concentrating on her Zulu, kids club, and general running of the home.

At the beginning of last month we had Salvi's friend Joe Rumley come to stay with us as he is visiting the country. He is engaged to a South African girl whose father has just accepted a pastorate in a Baptist Church in Bedfordview, near Johannesburg. Unfortunately, at this time they were hijacked and the mother had a gun cocked at her head. Her brother was hit in the nose. Please keep the Duncan family in your prayers. Understandably Joe didn't want to be away from his family there for too long, but it was good that he could come out and do evangelism as we started to reach out to the communities around us. Salvi continues to evangelize four afternoons a week, prepare Bible studies and sermons, and crack on with his studies. He has set time aside on Saturday mornings to do jobs with the hut while the afternoon is taken up with a Bible study. He is very happy to be focused on the work of the Lord and getting out into the communities.

He is visiting most Kraals in the three

different areas. If there is a Kraal standing by himself he will visit him personally, but if there are a few Kraals together he will preach open air. It is amazing how many people appear from nowhere and sit in the grass and listen. Many questions have been answered and many old unbiblical cultural beliefs challenged.

We attended the funeral of a young lady called Nomusa. She had attended the Bible study group that Caleb and Salvi had started in 2002. She had been coming to a few that we had started up again. It was a huge funeral; many people attended, and Salvi managed to catch up with some people he hadn't seen since he had left the area.

We also had a lovely meal with an Afrikaans couple and their family—local farmers who we are just getting to know. Salvi went out with Johnny on his run where he sells milk and chickens to the surrounding areas. They are a lovely family and they would do anything to help us. They are believers in Christ and with a heart for Israel, but they have been mixed up in word of faith and other false teachings. We are trying to encourage them to get into the Word. It is lovely to know that there are other believers in the area though.

We continue to meet every Wednesday night with the Bible study group in Vryheid. We attended a meeting on a Monday evening as Salvi had a dentist appointment that day in Vryheid. This night we got to meet Mike and Norma Geel from Newcastle. He takes a small group with him into other African countries for mission trips; we had a lovely evening of sharing and teaching.

The Mondri outreach has branched out into two outreaches. One Sunday afternoon we were asked by some workers who live in a place called Misty Valley to start preaching there also. So the following Sunday Salvi dropped Phumulani off at Misty Valley and continued preaching at Mondri. Salvi shared his testimony and someone asked him many questions about ancestral spirits. But Phumulani was in his element at Misty Valley. After preaching, he had

someone ask him, "Why doesn't God send a Christian with a cure for AIDS?"

Phumulani answered that God hadn't done so because most HIV transmission is spread because of promiscuous sexual practice. The Scripture say, "You shall not commit adultery." If people would wait for marriage and be faithful to their marriage partners then the spread of AIDS would dramatically change in this country. The person who asked the question walked off. Another person asked if we can't fornicate then how can we fulfill God's commandment to be fruitful and multiply. Phumulani said that we should get married. He came back from preaching elated.

Please keep us and the work in your prayers, that God may pave the way, open the doors, and speak to the hearts of those who hear the message. For if they don't hear His voice what we are doing will be futile.

## DEVOTIONAL 11 EXODUS 5: 22 – 23

Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

Moses had been sent from the burning bush by God to tell Pharaoh to let His people go. He was given signs to show the elders of Israel, and then he was to speak to Pharaoh. When he showed the signs to the people of Israel, the Israelites believed and worshipped God (5:31). There was optimism and hope of deliverance. However, when Moses approached Pharaoh to command the release of God's people, Pharaoh was hard. He refused to let the people go and instead punished the Israelites by ordering them to make the same amount of bricks, but with no straw; they had to fetch the straw themselves. The Hebrew foremen were beaten by their taskmasters for failing to make the quota. When they asked Pharaoh why he was being this unreasonable, Pharaoh replied it was because



# Hebrew Lesson

The water of life is the Word from GOD

they were lazy, and that is why they had sent Moses to command their release. The optimism that the Israelites had of deliverance was dashed and they desired that God would judge Moses for making it harder for them. Instead of deliverance, Moses had intensified their suffering. In no uncertain terms they told Moses what they thought of him! For Moses this must have seemed the greatest failure of his life. Pharaoh had refused to obey God's words and now the people of God had turned against him. Everything was going wrong and nothing was going right. He and Aaron were alone without any human backing. It must have been a far cry from the blessed experience of showing God's signs to Israel and seeing them worshipping God.

When God calls us, when we have the mountain top experience of hearing God's voice, we are then led to carry that vision into details and the actualities of this-worldly experience that does not seem to fit in with what God has told us. We are to live in the temporal reality in the light of the eternal one. Jesus has told us to preach His Gospel among all the nations, to make disciples from out of all the nations, and to teach them. When we receive the revelation of that commission over our specific corporate and individual lives we may walk out, excited to see what God is going to do through us. But how do we fare when the people to whom we are sent don't respond to the message? How do we fare when things start to go wrong? Maybe we will be tempted to think that the whole thing was a mistake and that we were only following a whisper of a dream. That was not how Moses responded. Moses spilled out his heart to the Lord but he never said that he was mistaken about going to Pharaoh, because he knew something that some of us don't, and that many of us forget: God had sent him. When we know that God has sent us then we may still balk at the problems that challenge us in the ministry, but we cannot simply shrug it off because we know that God has sent us.

*"I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision"* – Apostle Paul (Acts 26: 19)

Bible Texts taken from 'English Standard Version'



## QUOTES OF THE QUARTER !

**First chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Jay, wrote:**

*"Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty... of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."* (1816)

***"Once I really am in power, my first and foremost task will be the annihilation of the Jews"***

### Did Hitler Know?

Adolf Hitler has become the symbol of despotism and tyranny in the 20th century, and the man, Hitler is lost in the portrayal of the epitome of evil. While he was certainly that and perpetrated the greatest genocide of history, one often loses sight of the fact that before the events occurred, he was viewed not as the monster he became, but as just another political figure, although one with a grandiose nationalistic view.

Studies of the holocaust have revealed and continued to reveal, the massive plan and operation of the killing of the Jews and other disfavored groups in Europe. Even 60 years later, new killing and atrocity centers are still being discovered, new mass graves opened. Still, a popular plank of Historical Revisionists, or those who downplay or deny the events of the Shoah is that Hitler was a great soldier, the leader of a Nation at war, and that these atrocities were either not known to him, or not known in severity. One holocaust-denier even offered a huge sum of money to whoever could prove that Hitler actually knew about the massive effort of the killing centers. Hitler however did know, and nothing took place without his knowledge or permission. While a few of those in his inner circle may have veiled a few things for their own benefit, the numbers killed was not veiled, and was taken as a sign of triumph over the enemies of Germany.

### THE FUHRERPRINZIP AND HITLER

The *Fuhrerprinzip* is described elsewhere as a principle employed by the Nazis in the military, party and social order, in which organization was hierarchal, with a small group, a leader, a greater leader, and so on from the smallest person in the organization up to Hitler. The word "*fuhrer*" means 'leader' but has more the connotation of 'lord'. The German expression *Fuhrerprinzip* means literally, the 'Fuhrer' or Leader Principle: it was the guiding principle in Germany in WWII. In sum, it means that personal responsibility for an action was removed, and was held by the commander or leader who gave the command. (see Nazi Organization). This principle was so inculcated in German youth and young men in the service, that it made possible the radical cruelty and obedience to genocidal acts and atrocities committed by the Nazis. The training for the principle began in the *Hitlerjugend*. Ultimately, the principle was carried to such extremes, that it meant that Hitler bore the utter responsibility for every act. The paradox and hypocrisy of the principle, was that those at the top blamed their subordinates, and claimed that 'they could not know' what was going on everywhere. Hence, Germany managed a colossal pseudo-atonement for all the sins of genocide.

In answering the questions about whether Hitler knew about the actions of atrocities and the killing centers, the answer can only be an unqualified 'Yes' due in part to the *Fuhrerprinzip*, the issue of leadership, and *Befehlnotstand* the blind obedience to authority which went hand in hand. It would have been virtually unthinkable, a capital offense, for information of that magnitude not to have been carefully detailed to Hitler. Even Himmler and Goering had to abide by the principle. The head of the *Einsatzgruppen*, responsible for 1.5 million deaths, Heydrich, reported directly to Himmler. Himmler gave the orders for the actions. Himmler reported directly to Hitler. Communiques regarding instructions from the actions were from Berlin. The notion that Hitler did not know, given the line of authority and principle of authority would have been ludicrous.

### DIRECT EVIDENCE

Direct evidence that Hitler knew about the atrocities comes from several directions.

1. The first is the **pre-war intentions** of Hitler and his followers found in speeches and writings, particularly "Mein Kampf". As the quote at the beginning of this writing indicates, there can be no doubt that it was Hitler's early intentions to eradicate the Jews, making Germany and then Europe "Judenrein".

2. The second round of evidence is in the **documents and records during the time of the war** and his regime. These are somewhat problematic because while there were extensive plans and efforts to eradicate the Jews and others, they were seldom made public or put in writing. When put in writing, they were cautiously worded such that those involved understood directions, but those in the general public would not. The Nazis while keeping copious records on their own actions, also kept them diligently hidden: they meant to exact their plans fully before the radical end of their plans was known. This second issue is the reason many scholars disagree: the scholars who say Hitler and others never mentioned the atrocities are usually referring to war time documents available at the federal level: there were reasons there was little or no mention of "Endlosung", or the "Final Solution" and what that actually meant.

3. The third grouping is that of subsequent finds of historical documents and other information which has been made known since. During Hitler's administration, few knew of the extent of the killings and atrocities until after the war. Even today, there are new finds of killing centers and sub-camps---just a year or two ago, another mass grave near Belzec was uncovered. There is also now far more knowledge of what the Nazi's planned to do, and what they believed. (see Nazi Beliefs)

REFERENCES: 11) Josef Hell, "Aufzeichnung," 1922, ZS 640, p. 5, Institut für Zeitgeschichte. Der Gerade Weg. © 1997, 2003 Elizabeth K. Best, PhD; Shoah Education Project (Web) FOOTNOTES, 1Torah & KJV: The Book of Exodus, Websie -<http://www.shoaheducation.com/hitlerKNOW.html>

# Southern Africa Moriel Missions

## NEW VEHICLE FOR EBYOWN

Dear Friends we have been praying for a long time for a larger vehicle for Ebyown since our old Combi went the way of all flesh, and died on us.

For the last 18 months or so we have relied on our small Fiesta, a great little car for all those short errands, but not practical for taking 7 children at a time for bloods at the HIV clinic.

The larger vehicle will also mean that we will be able to take the children on trips to the Bokkie park or even just an ice cream treat. Shopping can now be done in one trip rather than three. In fact with the visit of Marikes family, Pete, Caroline and Samuel her brother, we took the explorer out for a real test around our local game park at Suikerbos Rand near Heidleburg. The vehicle handled 10 kids in the back plus two adults up front and managed all the hills brilliantly. We will also be testing it in September when we have Dave Lister and his team visit us from USA. So thank you very much to all our supporters within Moriel who have given generously and provided us with a Ford Explorer 4x4.



## PITTSBURGH INVADES AFRICA

On September the 18<sup>th</sup> Moriel Board member and USA administrator, David Lister, who also pastors a church in Pittsburgh is visiting with three other people. Married couple Jeff, Judy and Judy's-sister Brenda, who is a nurse. There will be

a special Sunday service on the 19<sup>th</sup> and a Bible study Tuesday night the 21<sup>st</sup>. David is seen here on his last day with Baden who was very ill.



## EBYOWN

You never really miss someone till they disappear for a while. That was true with me at Ebyown when Lyn went to the UK for 26 days to visit her Dad who has dementia and also our children and grand children. But with a good team of people we managed to pull through, I just hope Lyn doesn't go away again too soon.

It has been amazing to see how Sibisisu has come along in such a short time. As you may know Sibi was left on the admissions ward of a government hospital for a year before we were contacted by social workers to take him. Sibi could not talk and his walking with the assistance of a frame was very poor. However we thank the Lord that Sibi said his first word a few days ago at speech therapy, it was mama and it really made us choke. He now no longer walks at a snails pace (took us 20 minutes to get him from the hospital ward to the car) but now you can see him running with the other children even playing football. Sibi has a great sense of humor and his character is coming alive. Why is this? Because God placed the lonely in families.

We, also as you have read had a terrific time at our local game reserve. This was a real highlight for the kids and thanks for donations from sponsors we hope to make another trip soon. We also praise the Lord that apart from the usual coughs and colds, all the children are well.

## NEW KIDS AT EBYOWN

Please may we introduce to you Mouse and Simi. Two children who really needed love of a family. Both children have brain damage and a type of autism that causes

one to self harm. Pray for mouse in particular who has had to go into hospital for a short stay due to a digestive blockage. Both children will at first spend odd weeks with us and return to the hospital as we sort out their paper work. Your the prayers and support are needed.

... Mouse, below is Simi



## WE HAVE A NEW COOK (FOR NOW)

Since Lyn went to visit the UK, Dave has been in charge of the kitchen along with his faithful assistant Lorraine. Every day, 7 days a week and on Sunday, cooking for extra people at our love feast at church, Dave and Lorraine have been dishing out masterpieces, including Chicken in Dijon sauce and Bangers and Mash.

Dave is enjoying it but longs for someone with the right experience to come along so he can spend more time in Bible study.

So if the Lord is burdening you with this, PLEASE, contact Dave immediately at, [moriel david@gmail.com](mailto:moriel david@gmail.com).



... Dave and assistant Lorraine



## HAVING A SERVANTS NATURE

Having a servants nature does not come naturally to me. I prefer to be served rather than serve and this point came to light while my wife Lyn was away visiting family in the UK recently. She had left me running the place with the job of getting 8 kids ready in the morning, cooking for 24 people and doing my usual duties. Being a Dad and a Mum at the same time was a shock to the system as I quickly realized what a true trooper Lyn is.

However if we read John 13v1-16 we have an example of what true servanthood really is. Here we see the king of Kings humbly taking the place of the least and washing His disciples feet. Then he asks a question *"Do you know what I have done to you?"*. It's a question that has bugged me ever since because even though Jesus goes on to give the answer, the 21<sup>st</sup> century church does not know what to make of the question. You see verse three says *"Jesus, knowing that the father had given all things into His hands and that he had come forth from God and was going back to God rose from supper and Said aside his garments and taking a towel he girded Himself about"*. He took on the servants nature. The term servant in the Old testament is very common. Mentioned over 800 times with the most common term being *Ebed*. In the New Testament the term is used over 150 times and most commonly Dodos. Meaning to be in servitude either by force or voluntarily. Yet here we have the Creator Himself with all things placed under Him, taking up the basin and the towel-astounding.

In Matthew 20~20-28 we have another demonstration of our human capacity not to serve and to place ourselves and our ambitions above everyone else. A cursory reading will show us that what we have here is parental ambition in v21 where the Mother of Zebedee ask Jesus if their sons could sit at Jesus right and left in the coming Kingdom. And when Jesus asks them could they drink the cup He would have to drink they say "yes" not realizing what was ahead. Jesus then makes a comparison between the rulers of the Gentiles who Lord it over them and the paradoxical Kingdom where the greatest is the servant and slave to all. He goes on in verse 28 *"Even the son of man did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many"* You see we have been conditioned to think worldly. Its me me me. My rights, my desires. Yet here we see God manifest in the flesh bending the knee with the basin and the towel.

Philippians 2v5-11 is another demonstration of the servants nature. God Himself *"Emptied Himself taking the form of a bond servant and being made in the likeness of men, and being found in the appearance of a man humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death"*. The term for deity becoming man is kenosis Jesus became vulnerable and served. So this is our example so now do we understand the question? "What has he done to us"? Well I believe he as the example leads the way to a body with a servants nature and scripture shows us how to do this.

- First of all are we prepared to give up our rights to serve one another? Jesus did.
- Secondly like Joshua we choose this day who we will serve. After all Luke 16v13 tells us we cannot serve God and mammon" In other words God or things-including self
- Thirdly Galatians 5:11-15 shows us that we serve out of love. Not compulsion but the Love of the brethren.
- Finally Philippians 2v1-4 tells us that we esteem and regard the other person as being better than ourselves

When we follow the Jesus model it transforms our lives, communities, marriages, families and churches. It causes us to take up the basin and the towel, it means chairs at church get stacked and not just left to the few. It means that fellowship is oiled and transformed by a servants attitude. Now then; do we really understand the question? If so lets demonstrate the answer.



## PRAYER AND PRACTICAL HELP

- Dave would love to come to your church and share about missions and also teach. If you would like him to come then please contact us.
- Please pray for the children and their health problems.
- Please pray for Lina, Marijke, Chris, Victoria, Julia, Lorraine, Patiance, Jan, the two Piets, Moses and Zak who make up our team.
- We thank the Lord that he has answered our prayer for a bigger vehicle.
- Please pray for Jacon and Danny Isom with their health issues. We have also heard that Roger Oakland has had a brain bleed after his fall which broke his ribs and punctured his lung.
- Please pray for the visit of Dave Lister along with Jeff, Judy and Brenda who will be arriving September the 18th.
- Pray for Alistair as hi work situation is changing and he becomes a little less busy (we hope)
- We praise the Lord for a new cook (Dave) and also praise the Lord for the provision of a new vehicle.
- Please continue to pray for Salvi and Dianne as they pioneer in Kwazulu

## BEZALEEL

The owners want to sell the house that they currently use. Bezaleel would love to purchase and has first option as this is a large family home with room for all the kids plus further development. The cost is estimated at R750.000.

If the Lord burdens you to help with this then please contact a Moriel office near you.

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.... Prayer time at Ebyown

# THE BEZALEEL

N E W S L E T T E R  
<mailto:bezaleel@saol.com>

September 2009

Dear friends,

Spring at last. What joy! We've had what seems like a long, cold winter especially at night and the early mornings, with heavy frost. Even though it is not my favourite season, winter is necessary and teaches us many things. Psalm 147 reminds us that God created the seasons and this gives us pause to worship Him.

HE SENDS FORTH HIS COMMAND TO THE EARTH;  
HIS WORD RUNS VERY SWIFTLY.  
HE GIVES SNOW LIKE WOOL; HE SCATTERS THE FROST LIKE ASHES.  
HE CASTS FORTH HIS ICE AS FRAGMENTS;  
WHO CAN STAND BEFORE HIS COLD?  
HE SENDS FORTH HIS WORD AND MELTS THEM;  
HE CAUSES HIS WIND TO BLOW AND THE WATERS TO FLOW. VS. 15-18 NASB

*Psalm 147:15-18*

A few weeks ago Rosie became very ill with what was suspected to be swine flu. She had a 39+ fever for over a week. She was weak, had stomach pain, loss of appetite, body aches, headache and a bad cough. She spent a week in bed and another week to recover after our paed prescribed cortisone for her cough. During that time Ruth and I fell ill and we spent two days in bed. We are thankful to the Lord for keeping us well and for those of us who were ill, full recovery, during the winter months.

The moment by moment, day by day life of a busy household with twelve children and the care of our two month old granddaughter during the day in our one room schoolhouse (the dining room) has been peaceful with not much to report on, so I will share some anecdotes from their lives with you.

The other day I went to pick up our three month supply of ARV's and took Benjamin (six years old) and Ruth (nine years old) with me. The two of them were talking in the backseat or to rephrase that, Ben was talking and Ruth was grunting in reply. He can go on, leaving the listener little opportunity to give an intelligent response. He was telling Ruth that Dad was going to put lasers around the house to prevent robbers from coming in to steal at night. (Dad knew nothing of this) According to Ben when the robbers touched the lasers an alarm would go off at the police station and then the police would come and catch the robbers because, as he proceeded to tell Ruth, the police never sleep. Armed robbery of vehicle and home is a constant reality in South Africa and we are not always aware of how it affects the children. As I listened to Ben tell Ruth his solution to the problem, I was reminded that our God and Father who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. Psalm 121 continues to tell us that the Lord will protect us from evil and keep our soul. What peace we have in knowing we are His children.

With the advent of spring and the children older and more capable, I allocated a piece of ground to each of them and an old tyre filled with sand to the younger ones to prepare for planting. We had been reading from Matt 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8 about the parable of the sower and applied what we were doing to the lesson taught in these passages. We spoke of the necessity to prepare the ground for planting and the need to prepare the seedbed of our hearts (honest and good) to receive (hold it fast) the word of God and bear much fruit with perseverance for Him. We spoke of our need to persevere by watering and protecting the plants from their enemies, like weeds and insects and being patient to bring the harvest in. We have planted cabbage, spinach, lettuce, cherry and normal tomatoes, spring onion, bush beans, chilli, green pepper, jalapeno, paprika and parsley. Needless to say the children are very excited to see the fruit of their labour.

Among other things I have been rereading, *For The Family's Sake* by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay and would like to share a quote with you from the book. "That everyday, ordinary life lived faithfully is where the glory of God is best reflected- in our homes, communities, jobs, our art, charitable enterprises, and so on. Of course, truth is told and believed first (truth has content), but after that comes the actual living, being, and doing. Ordinary home life matters for everyone. How we arrange for children's lives matters terribly."

Whether you are single, married, young or old, with or without children, may your life be filled with joy and your homes a testimony to His goodness. Thank you for the love, prayer and kindness you demonstrate to us.

We deeply appreciate you all and may the Lord bless you.

Allen and Sue Wells.



*Jacob at Besaleel.....*







*supports . . .* **LifeNEWS**

For more details about this ministry go to,  
[www.beadchaim.org.il](http://www.beadchaim.org.il)

# Li fe NEWS



*From the Be'ad Chaim Association For the Protection of the Woman and Unborn Child*

September 2009

## A note from *Sandy's* Desk:

It is now the month of the Days of Awe, including the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. It is a time to consider our sins and to repent personally and on a national level. As praying people, let us consider God's charge to us to intercede for mercy for the nation of Israel and for all of the nations.

From the beginning of mankind, God created man for abundance and to bring forth life. His first charge to us was: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Gen. 1). Yet, rather than receiving the blessing, many have chosen the curse of death by allowing selfish ambitions, lies, and the deceptions of the world to turn our eyes from the beauty of new life. We have exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshipped the created rather than the Creator. (Romans 1:25)

Genesis tells the saga of the waywardness of man and the grief of God. Cain spills the innocent blood of his brother Abel (chapter 4). God's response: "The voice of your brother's blood cries out to ME from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth." This same blood is crying out from the Land of Israel today. We have approximately 20,000 abortions yearly that are paid for by our public health services. Another 20 to 30 thousand abortions are done privately and illegally. Statistics indicate that half of these abortions are done by married couples. Pregnant soldiers are encouraged to abort and are entitled to two free, government-funded abortions

*Continued on page 2*

## "Ladies in Waiting"

### *Ahuva's* Story:

Ahuva has been living in one of the central beach cities of Israel. Her mother passed away several years ago and her father was not supportive. Ahuva, feeling alone and rejected, chose to make a living entertaining men at nightclubs.

When we met her, at the beginning of her pregnancy, she was brazen, yet deeply needy. Ahuva had already had many abortions and seemed to have very little self-respect. Our prayer teams have prayed for her often. We have seen God do amazing things.

First, she chose to keep her child, then she slowly left various aspects of her work and has now entirely abandoned her old lifestyle and is living with her father in another city.

She is slowly opening her heart to God's love – it is as though we can see the "ice melting". Please pray that her life will be entirely transformed and that she will find true freedom.

Her baby is due in the winter of 2010.

*(photo for illustrative purposes only)*



**FROM THE BE'AD CHAIM ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WOMEN AND UNBORN CHILDREN**

*For the Protection of the Woman and Unborn Child*  
Non-Profit Association No. 58-010-486-7  
P.O. Box 7974, Jerusalem 91078, Israel

Phone: 972-2-6242516  
Fax: 972-2-6251777  
E-mail: [prolife@netvision.net.il](mailto:prolife@netvision.net.il)  
Website: [www.beadchaim.org.il](http://www.beadchaim.org.il)



# Immanuel Church

## BOOKSHOP HAIFA, ISREAL

### WALKING ON THE BEACH

Last night after the service, Najeeb and I, and some of our congregation, decided to go for a walk along the beach. As it turned out, we came across a group of Koreans who had come for three weeks to meet university students and give them the Word of God. Most spoke English, and the leader even spoke some Arabic. We asked them where they were going to sleep that night, and they told us they sleep in tents and have humus and pita bread to eat, so we offered to take them to our congregation, where they could sleep and wash.

Some of the girls began to cry, and when we asked them why, they told us that they were very tired and had not showered for days. They were so grateful for this invitation. Soon they found themselves under the safe care of Immanuel Church, where they were fed and housed for the night, and would stay for one more night and have a barbeque. The next day, they were already fixed up to go to Beersheba, as Najeeb was able to phone ahead and make arrangements. God knew in advance what they needed. He saw their tiredness and provided for us to pass by at that moment. After breakfast, which we provided, they came to the shop. And after a time of fellowship and prayer, they went off to evangelize in the neighborhood. They have promised to continue to remember us and pray when they get back to Korea.

Our daughter Kareen graduated from school one month ago, and we're very proud to say that her next step is to go to Capernwray Bible School in the UK. We believe that God is beginning to work miracles of salvation in this land, and we need as many trained people as possible. We are delighted that she is going to be one of those people. We threw a family party for her graduation, and she told us about her memories and experiences growing up in a poor situation. One of the things she related to us at length was that when she started school, she needed a school bag and books, nothing of which is provided by the schools. We were totally without money then, and did not know what to do. Kareen remembered how one of her aunts then very kindly bought her what she needed, and she was able to start school as any other child.

Perhaps you could make a great memory for another child like Kareen? We estimate that 500 shekels (about \$125) would cover all they need for the school year. Then maybe they will graduate and tell their family about the time that someone gave them the materials they so badly needed for school! Whether you would be able to sponsor a child for the full amount, or perhaps gather together with one or two other people to be God's blessing and provision for one of these children, we would love to hear from you.

We would like to do this for a number of poor families that we know, who are not believers, and give them also the Gospel and a Bible. This would be a wonderful opportunity to show the love of Jesus to these people.

Warm greetings in the name of Yeshua,  
Pastor Najeeb & Elizabeth Atteih  
Immanuel Church bookshop Haifa

If you would be interested in helping to give one of these packages, please send your donations to: Moriel Ministries, P.O. Box 100223, Pittsburgh, Pa 15233, and notate where you would like it to be designated.



*"Gal. 2:10a They only asked us to remember  
the poor..."*



Our daughter Kareen (from the left) with her best friend Katreen





# NESSIM'S

## Muse from ISRAEL

CJFM Report August 2009

Tel: +972 4 9826932 • Cell: +972 544 914 017 from Israel 0544 914 017 • P.O.Box 269, 22102 Nahariya, Israel

Mid-summertime greetings to you all, except the folks in Australia, New Zealand and Scotland! We would dearly love to send you some of our sunshine, and receive a lot of your rain! We are now well into August, which is supposed to be the hottest month of the year, but from experience September is not much different, and we often languish until mid-October! So book your flights, you sun-lovers, Israel needs a lot of tourists! And Avi and Esther still have room!

It has been, as usual, a busy month with summer attendance at the meetings higher than usual. We are enjoying excellent ministry both on Shabbat mornings and Wednesday evenings, and the Shabbat service is always followed by a fellowship lunch where people can sit around, chat, exchange news and views, and share their joys and problems.

We also have many opportunities within the home itself to share the Gospel and talk about Yeshua with visitors. One such person has a very sensitive job about which we may not talk. He sat down opposite me at the table and asked me why we believe in the deity of Messiah! How could Jesus be God?

I started to answer by reminding him about a certain section of the Lubavitch sect who believe that their Messiah, Men-del Schneerson is God, and pray to him. I suggested that they have the right idea, but the wrong person.

We then discussed the Hebrew word Elohim (God) which is a plural noun meaning gods, and the fact that God is spoken of as "Echad" (One), a unity. He went to a rabbi who is also involved in his work, and the rabbi could give him no answer!

He wants to come and ask more questions. He knows all about our various contacts, friends and "enemies" alike, and has many questions to ask. He has visited a number of times over the past months, and we expect to see more of him. Pray for Israelis like this in high places, that God's Spirit will work in their hearts.

Some of you may have been ac-

quainted with the Rabbi Joseph, who came to faith in Yehsua at Nahariya many years ago. His dear wife passed into the presence of the Lord just four weeks ago and was buried locally. He has served the Lord abroad for many years, and now returns to an empty home. I am sure he would value your prayers. Also, for some of you who visited and knew Elana and Tali, two very unbelieving sisters, Elana also died about two weeks ago, and Tali is left alone and devastated. There were few people at the funeral, and it was a very sad affair as both have no hope.

In my last two letters I mentioned a couple from Bethlehem, one registered as a Muslim. I do want to thank those who have written (one from America and one from New Zealand) and offered shelter to this couple. I will let you both know the end result, but after my last letter two friends passed me on to an organization that helps the sons of Ishmael, and I have been able to put them in touch with this organization run by Arab believers. Thanks also to those who suggested this to me, and forwarded my information to them! The young man here in Israel whose fiancée is in Bethlehem was absolutely thrilled, so a big thank-you to all of you who have written or prayed. We will keep you all informed of upcoming events.

In light of this we are encouraged to ask again if anyone can help Najeeb's daughter Kareen, who is going to Capernwray Bible School in September. We have half of the £6000 needed to send her, maybe a little more. And we in Nahariya have undertaken to see this through. God is faithful! We need to be preparing the future generation of leaders and young people for service!

Here is news that we should have been able to give you a long time ago, but only after a great struggle have we been able to finally come through. We are now a legal entity, a non-profit company, registered with the Israeli Government, so that we can legally give help to those in need, locally and in various parts of the country, assist a number of other minis-

tries, and run our congregation. Those of you who are sending checks to help this work can continue to do so as before, and they will be put into the new account. Everything will now be receipted, so we will need your address!

Bank transfers are expensive, but quick and sure, and for those who prefer this method our details are as follows:

For Monies Intended For The Poor, Or For The Ministries That Will Help, please send To: Moriel Ministries, P.O. Box 100223, Pittsburgh, Pa 15233, and designate it to go for, *The Nahariya Congregation*.

Please Do NOT Send PERSONAL GIFTS For Ruth, Avi and Esther, or Members of Ruth's Family To The Company Account. Because they are on the Board of the Company, for legal reasons they cannot receive personal gifts through the company. We want to thank all those who have helped us till now, EBENEZER. God bless you all.

Avi and Esther join me in wishing you all God's richest blessing, and warm greetings in Yeshua.

On behalf of the congregation,  
Ruth

**PS.** For those in the British Isles only, once more my itinerary:

From Wednesday 9th – Friday 18th September, Pastor Najeeb and Elisabeth and I plan to go to Romania. We have been asked to speak there about Arab-Jewish reconciliation.

From November 4-27th, God willing, I plan to be in England. I am invited to speak at a CFI day conference in Torquay on Saturday, 7th November, plus Brixham Baptist Church on the following day.

After this I shall be available for visiting some friends or meetings, but please contact Tom and Esme Lori at: "mailto:EsmeLori@aol.com" EsmeLori@aol.com, Tel: 0118958752



# Your Letters and Comments



## AMERICAN LETTERS

Hi, I need help understanding the meaning of this text. Does this text meant that literally a spirit will return once rebuked from a friend or loved one, or does it have a deeper meaning? Please explain.

Much thanks,  
Alicia

“Preach the Gospel; if necessary, use words.” Saint Francis of Assisi

### Reply:

Dear Alicia:

We must connect these verses with Matt.12:24-2. Satan’s “house” is the body of the person who is possessed by the demon. It appears that the demons are restless and seek bodies in which to reside (Matt. 8:28-31). When the demon left, this man’s life was changed for the better; but his life was still empty. When the demon returned, he brought others with him; and the man’s life ended in tragedy.

The primary application is to the nation of Israel, especially that generation present when Jesus ministered on earth. The nation had been purged of the demon of idolatry which had plagued them in the Old Testament. But reformation was not enough. Reformation could cleanse, but it could not fill. The nation should have received the Savior and been filled with spiritual life. Instead, the people rejected Him and the end was destruction.

There is a personal application. It is not enough to clean house; we must also invite in the right tenant. The Pharisees were proud of their “clean houses,” but their hearts were empty! Mere religion, or reformation, will not save. There must be regeneration, the receiving of Christ into the heart (see Rev. 3:20). We cannot be neutral about Jesus Christ.

In Peace,  
David

Hello,

My name is Lonny Ruda and I have a question that I would really appreciate your input on. To get to the point I currently am reading out of the nasb updated bible translation and I have a friend that just went to the Esv bible translation. He and I have been trying to figure out which

one is the better translation into the english language. It may seem dumb but when you don’t know greek and hebrew and only have “Strong’s” to rely on it becomes a big issue as to which is the most accurate to the original in relation to the english language.

Any input would be much appreciated, and we are only asking Moriel Ministries because we greatly respect and trust your insight into the hebrew and greek languages.

On a different note, I ( and I know I speak for more than myself ) have been drastically changed by what the Lord has done through this ministry, mainly due to the fact that truth is being taught according to the Word of God so that the Holy Spirit can work, and not according to a man and his opinions. It is amazing how much opinion was rooted in my life. I praise God for His mercy and faithfulness in our lives to bring us to the knowledge of the truth-Jesus Christ. Thank you for your time.

In Christ,  
Lonny

### Reply:

Dear Lonny:

Thank you for your kind comments. Jacob and I both use the NASB. But we both understand there are some weaknesses in every translation. We consider the NASB a very solid translation, but while it is a translation, we consider it a good one. To supplement my study I use various tools to help me that are available on the Internet such as Biblegateway.com or Biblos.com. Sometimes I may look at 20 or more translations using these websites to help me understand a passage. Their linking and crosslinking are most helpful. Also, I have bought a few Interliner Bibles over the years.

I can tell you after this, that we are called to study to show thy self an approved workman. Also, it is hard to mine and dig for the understanding, wisdom, knowledge, etc. of His Word. It sounds like your efforts in study have being rewarded. God, the vinedresser is cutting away your opinions and replacing it with His mind and conforming you into the image of His Son. That is the payoff! Keep up the good work. In Peace,

David

Hello, my name is Chrissie, I have recently been introduced to some of Jacobs teach-

ing tapes and have listened to materials on the net. I would like to say thank you for these teachings which are missing from most sermons in churches today, I thank God for His truth. I became a Christian 17 years ago it wasn’t till last year that I was at last able to approach the Father, I have always been afraid of Him, I believe He spoke to me with these words, “DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU?”, these were the words I heard and I believe it was Father speaking to me as I was sitting and crying as usual. Anyway my sister loaned me the teaching tape, “spirit of Error” which shook me that God could do such a thing. I have been involved with so called over spiritual church gatherings and have watched the God channel, I couldn’t see anything wrong, but I never had all these great experiences happen to me, although I do believe that Jesus dealt with issues of my past, but I was alone with Him at the time, never in public. I have searched my heart for any thing that may have offended Him and have repented to God. Could you please help me because I now feel that dread again, I am finding it difficult to pray, I am afraid again. Did I imagine my relationship with Father, I have no peace, have I angered God, am I now going to hell? Please can you advice me on this matter. I do need to clarify something, I always cry when I pray from my heart for this fallen world, so tears are normal for me, I am not an over emotional person with every day issues.

I do hope that my contacting you about this issue won’t cause offence to you and I do hope to receive your reply regarding this.

In Jeshua  
Chrissie

### Reply:

Dear Chrissie:

Why would you think God is angry at you. Do you think He is angry because you came out of these false teachings as He commanded you to do, “Come out of her my people...” Don’t you know that He was faithful to send someone to tell you the Truth. He knows you love Him, but He wants you to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Now, what you need to do since you



have searched your heart for anything that is wrong and would offend Him and asked Him to forgive you is to BELIEVE He has forgiven you. Do you remember and believe His Word, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9.

It is very apparent to me you don't have a spirit of error because you are searching your heart for those things that offend Him. But, what is apparent is you have had little discernment and little growth in your Christian faith because you were not able to see through the lies of the God channel and others of their ilk. The mature man or woman of God is able to discern truth from error. As it is written, "But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

This is my prayer for you, Phil 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment. The remedy for your situation is first, believe God you are forgiven, then ask Him to give you good solid teachers so you will not be deceived again. Then study to show yourself an approved workman of God who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. Also, ask your sister to give you some more tapes and to help point you to a good church and some good teachers that will help you grow and mature in your faith. We have a number of very good teachers on this site and we have a link section that can point you to some good solid ministries.

If you grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord you will find the Peace you seek. He has promised that He loves you with an everlasting love, and that He sent His Son to die for your sins, to rise on the 3rd day and to give you His Holy Spirit.

May the Lord give you His Peace.

In Peace,  
David Lister  
Moriel

## AUSTRALIAN LETTERS

**In printing these letters I wish to emphasize that this is not about building up the ego of people at Moriel but to the Glory of Our Saviour and Lord.**

**Please remember to renew your subs each December so we can best utilize the resources that the Lord provides. We must be wise & caring stewards.**

**If you have missed a couple of back issues write and let us know and we will send them to you. Of course that is subject to remaining stocks.**

Marg

I am renewing my subscription after

allowing it to lapse. The recent events in Israel have made it evident we are approaching the end times John prophesied in Revelation so it is even more important that as Christians we keep vigilant, study God's Word and be ready to contend for the Truth. In Jesus  
Miss V of Australia

Thank you for the work of Moriel. The seed you sew will bear fruit – good fruit.  
Mr & Mrs W Australia

Dear Friends at MMA

I was alarmed to come across the subscription reminder – that although filled in quite some time back, clearly was not sent to you.

The Info Load is just building and building in these Times of the Signs and I am occasionally overwhelmed

We depend so much on Moriel and greatly value receiving the regular BE ALERTS off the net – I don't know where our level of understanding would be were it not for Scott Brisk's reports.

Mr P Australia

As usual the "Moriel" magazine is one I wait upon each delivery day with eagerness. I know God will bless all those who are involved with giving these vital truths against false teaching which is so predominant in these last days.

Mrs A of Australia

Dear Christian Friends

I can only send you a donation to help in ALL your wonderful work for our Lord God – a very small token for HIS wonderful work for us in Lord Jesus Christ.

Your features are a great help for me – now a very old man over 90 years of age – living on a Veterans Pension. Too disabled to go anywhere. Apart from a very bad time in the Army – about despaired of salvation!! – but HE brought me to my senses in the years after!!

God bless all of you who work for HIM and HIS KINGDOM  
Mr B of Tasmania

**I have copied this letter exactly as received. It touched my heart so deeply**

Dear Moriel

So sorry to contact you about this as I don't feel as though what I have to say is of great importance to your large organization.

I only wanted to tell you of my concern for a comment made all the way back in 07 by Jacob Prasch. In his sermon presented in Calvary Chapel Santa Barbara Conference. He made many challenges that were most helpful and edifying. Many of the

preachers that he did defame I had never heard of here in Australia or I already knew were not grounded in the truth. However I did find some fault in his claim of John Piper's anti-Semitism. Only today did I listen to a John Piper sermon on the salvation of the Jewish nation. I have also been informed that he has even preached on the importance of Christians searching out their Jewish roots and viewing ourselves as Jews and hating anti-Semitism.

Sorry to take your time but I did see it an issue especially in regards to the power and influence Jacob Prasch exudes when he speaks. I wasn't to sure of any other way to express this concern in an appropriate format Mrs B of Australia via email

## Reply:

Thank you for your email.

Listening to the conference recordings Jacob Prasch never accused John Piper of anti-Semitism but of Replacement theology, Calvinism, and teaching against the prophetic significance of Israel, all of which are demonstrably true facts.

As you point out it was an American conference (not an Australian one) and these teachings by Mr Piper (largely available on his website) are well documented and broadly known in the USA where John Piper is a known figure and his views are popularly known. In the USA where Mr Piper and his views are generally known, no one from the USA has ever challenged the accuracy of Jacob's remarks.

We are able to comment on things we did say. But I am afraid we cannot comment on things we did not say.

Having said that, while we do not consider Mr Piper to be anti Semitic (his erroneous replacement theology is largely a bi product of the errors of Reformed Calvinism to which he subscribes), most unsaved Jewish people would equate a negation of biblical grounds for Zionism with anti-Semitism. This however is a different matter than what was discussed at the conference.

Actually, Jesus spoke of the return of the Jews of Jerusalem as a sign of the last days and of Christ's coming return (eg. Luke 21:24, Zechariah 12:1-10, Matthew 23:39-40). Hence Mr Piper is not only misled but is leading others away from a sign that Christ told us to be alert to recognize. But we do not view him as anti Semitic, simply in error and misleading others on the aforementioned key points.

We trust this help  
In Jesus  
Jacob



Greetings from Japan,

### KONNICHIWA!

By God's grace, we are happy to say that a new branch of Moriel has opened here in Japan.

My Name is Geoff Toole, my wife is Fumie and we have four kids, Sami (5), Elliot (4), Manoah (2) and Baruch (five months). Originally from Sydney, I came to the Kansai (Osaka) region nine years ago and have been busy learning the language and attempting to reach the Japanese people with the Gospel until now. We have begun a small fellowship with around six believers, which is going well. Daisuke Mori, our first disciple, has been busy translating lots of Moriel articles for the new Moriel Japan Web site. We are based in Nishinomiya City, which lies between Osaka and Kobe. The Kobe earthquake occurred right here about 15 years ago.

### TO WHOM SHALL I SPEAK AND GIVE WARNING THAT THEY MAY HEAR? (JER 6:10)

Being independent, we have had limited contact with other churches until now, concentrating on Bible study and evangelism in our local area and Kobe city. This has been tough but rewarding. The first few years of street witnessing provided a real wilderness experience. We would go from train station to train station, park to park, and not succeed in even speaking to a single person, let alone sharing the Gospel. I could stand outside a major university and in an hour not be able to even give away one tract! In the Japanese culture of "non-confrontation" it is a big thing for people to talk to a stranger on the street, especially a foreigner, and even more so

a Christian. We posted tracts in the thousands, and spent many hours on the streets without a single response. I had experienced a little "successful" outreach in the Philippines where most people are happy to listen to the Gospel. I had witnessed on the streets of Sydney where people will at least talk and debate, but when you spend hours street witnessing, and then years without even a chance to share the Gospel, that is a test!

### THE LORD HAS MADE ROOM FOR US!

Yet just as the Lord refreshed Caleb's daughter with springs in the desert, God refreshed us along the way with the conversion of Daisuke and some of his friends, at a park in Kobe where lots of young people are open and willing to talk! It is hard to express how much of an encouragement these things have been. I understand how Isaac must have felt to finally get to Beer Sheba. "At last the Lord has made room for us and we shall be fruitful in the land" (Gen 26:22).

The last two years have seen dozens and dozens of great opportunities in sharing the Gospel, explaining the Bible, and challenging people on the streets—Japanese and foreigners alike. Last week I spoke at length with a Japanese boy who had never heard the Gospel, an older Buddhist lady (who was very open), a Jordanian and a Palestinian student. Kobe is full of ex-patriot workers from around the world. Perhaps this is one reason why that area is particularly open. Thanks to The Church for Everybody in Sydney we are equipped with much needed tracts in Arabic and Armenian.

### MEETING THE SHEEP

In the days to come, we pray that God

would also open doors to other Christians and pastors in order to share the teaching of Moriel with the churches at large. This is perhaps going to be a much more daunting experience! As in other countries there is a distinct lack of depth in the majority of Christian teaching here. There are many churches around the Osaka/Kobe region, but most are unseen and unheard. In eight years the only people I have seen street witnessing were Koreans and other missionaries. The first Moriel Japan newsletter, which is due to be mailed out to churches soon, is simply a translation of Abraham's Journey, and the typology of Jonah. We pray that it will be well received

### THE LOCAL HIGH PLACES

Japan is very formal, and perhaps the greatest sin in the Japanese culture is to upset somebody. That is why we'd love to introduce Jacob! If there is anything Japan needs right now it is the offense of the cross. Although Japan is mostly Buddhist, the people have a very materialistic version of Buddhism. The real Japanese idols of extremely competitive secular education and financial success must shortly come down as the world begins to shake. Before that time Christians must be prepared with a solid understanding of the Word, and a hope grounded solely in the world to come. Even now the seven-day-a-week study schedule of many Japanese children has left many churches with few, if any, young people. The pressures of Japanese society are causing mental disease to proliferate. Yet how few Christians will stand up to the idols of their day! These are some of the main issues facing the churches here.

God's people perish for lack of wis-



dom. One sad thing I have found is that very few of the professing Christians here have even considered the ideas of a literal Genesis or pre-millennialism. This couples with a general lack of knowledge of the outside world among the wider population.

The issue of recontextualization to the Japanese world-view, as discussed in Jacob's Midrash article, is something we have had to deal with while translating. Daisuke has even needed to coin some of his own Japanese words in the process. Please pray that God may guide us in these things.

Although mild in comparison to other Asian countries, there is a certain amount of persecution even in Japan. When people leave the Buddhist traditions to follow Christ it usually disturbs the family at large. Perhaps a dose of persecution would do Christians good though, and wake them up a little. God will deal with Japan in His wisdom.

So while continuing with our fellowship and local evangelism, we would like to introduce Moriel and some Hebraic biblical understanding to the Japanese churches. As our own eyes have been opened to the truth of the Word, may God open the eyes of Japanese Christians.

### PRAYER

\*Please pray that God would have leaders and lay people alike read and hear the Moriel messages.

\*Also that God may give us a real direction by which to serve Him in this ministry.

\*I would also ask for prayer for our son Baruch, who was born 3 months premature. He has just come home after 4 months in the NICU. He needs constant oxygen supply for a chronic lung disorder and is generally weak in immunity. Please pray with us that the Lord would strengthen him.

\*At this time we are considering beginning a new Bible study in our home as Fumie and Baruch may not be able to attend the Kobe meeting. Pray that God would guide us in this, too.

It is our great pleasure to join the other Moriel branches in ministry and fellowship. A special thanks to Sutherland Christian fellowship for their prayer and support. Also a special thanks to David Lister who came to visit us in January. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement for us all.

In Christ.

Geoff Toole and the members of Adullam Gospel Church, Nishinomiya City, Japan.



## News Flash . . . .

### Hiding the truth about Hussein

Aug. 28, 2009

BENJAMIN WEINTHAL, Jpost correspondent in Berlin, THE JERUSALEM POST

The publicly funded Multicultural Center's (Werkstatt der Kulturen) decision to remove educational panels of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Muhammad Amin al-Husseini, who was an ally of Adolf Hitler, from a planned exhibit, sparked outrage on Thursday among a district mayor, the curator of the exhibit, and the Berlin Jewish community.

The curator, Karl Rössler, told The Jerusalem Post that it is a "scandal" that the director of the Werkstatt, Philippa Ebéné, sought to censor the exhibit.

"One must, of course, name that al-Husseini, a SS functionary, participated in the Holocaust," said Rössler.

The exhibit covers the "The Third World during the Second World War" and three exhibit panels of 96 are devoted to the mufti's collaboration with the Nazis.

The grand mufti delivered a talk to the imams of the Bosnian SS division in 1944, and was a key Islamic supporter of Nazi Germany's destruction of European Jewry.

Ebéné denied that there was an "agreement" reached with the local German-Muslim community to shut down the exhibit. She termed media queries regarding an agreement as "Eurocentric."

She told the Post that the exhibit was intended as a "homage to soldiers from African" countries who fought against the Nazis.

When asked about her opposition to the inclusion of the mufti panels, she asked, "was there ever a commemoration event in Israel to honor the [African] soldiers?"

Rössler was notified last Friday that Ebéné wanted to take out the panels dealing with the grand mufti, but he rejected her demand to remove them.

Meanwhile, the exhibit in its uncensored version has been relocated to the UferHall gallery.

Maya Zehden, a spokeswoman for the 12,000-strong Berlin Jewish community, told the Post that Ebéné's rejection of the exhibit showed "intolerance," and a director who is "incapable of acting in a democratic" manner.

Zehden urged that the Berlin government consider replacing Ebéné as director. Zehden also sharply criticized Günter Piening, Berlin's commissioner for integration and migration, for defending Ebéné's decision to censor the exhibit.

Piening told the large daily Tagesspiegel that, "We need, in a community like Neukölln, a differentiated presentation of the involvement of the Arabic world in the Second World War."

Zehden termed his statement "an appeasement attempt" to ignore the fact that "there was no official resistance from the Arabic world against the persecution of Jews" during the Shoah.

She accused Piening of showing a false tolerance to German-Arabs in the neighborhood by not wanting to deal with disturbances from the local community.

Piening issued conflicting statements to the Post. While denying his statement to the Tagesspiegel, he said, however, that his comment was stripped out of a context of quotes.

He said the "reason" for the removal of the grand mufti panels dealt with a "misunderstanding of the background of the exhibit."

In an e-mail to the Post, Heinz Buschkowsky, the district mayor in Neukölln, where the exhibit was originally planned, wrote, it is a sign of "anticipatory obedience to avoid probable protests. I do not consider this position to be good."



The famous photo of Adolf Hitler sitting with Grand Mufti Hajj Muhammad Amin al-Husseini.

He added that Piening's statement is a "repression of the facts dealing with anti-Semitism."

The district mayor wrote that the center by its own "claim to stand for freedom, tolerance, and culture should be careful not to set off suspicion that it is imposing censorship."

\* This article can also be read at <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1251145138139&pagename=JPArticle%2FShowFull>, Copyright 1995- 2009 The Jerusalem Post - <http://www.jpost.com/>

# Let Us Reason

Ministries

**The Confusion of what is false  
is cleansed by the truth . . .**

*By Mike Oppenheimer*

In our time lies seem to be everywhere. There is an increase of confusion which shows that we live in a day of increasing evil.

James 3:13-18: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

The truth is far rarer to be heard in our day than at anytime in recent history. People are quite content to be fed misinformation, disinformation by the media and the church as long as it makes them feel good. The media brings their own interpretation on events to spoon feed those who cannot think beyond the first letters of the alphabet. These are those who could care less about their country or church. The church is to have wisdom and know truth from error and not fall for the same error that the world has. We are to have the mind of Christ.

We make peace by bringing the good news (Rom.10:14-21). Rom. 10:18 : "But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

But the world has another agenda for peace. We are told by the media: Islam is peace while they continue to kill people, even their own. They cannot see the error of this.

The Devils current propaganda campaign is to convince the church they are Israel, not the Jews, and that the Jewish people do not deserve the land, the Palestinians do.

Its simple - if Israel does not control the land, no temple can be built, Israel cannot have a revival of Judaism that will

eventually lead them to know their Messiah. Then Satan can continue influencing the world in the hearts of sinful man and not be forced. Control is the key issue, so Satan raises up men like Arafat and Saddam and Ahmadinejad to bring oppression, confusion and use them to influence the world to go against Israel. But God has his times and seasons and He is sovereign and ultimately in control of the world events (1Thess 5:1-3).

1 Cor. 14:32-33: "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." Why do we have confusion in the church? Tune into Christian TV and you will rarely hear what is true on this subject because the prophets prophesy falsely. They are unable to speak what is necessary to the church. As long as we allow the false prophets to continue to speak, the truth will be heard less and less.

There is the spirit of the world, that lives in the natural man preventing him from receiving any of the things of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:12 -14). The spirit of the Antichrist, we are told is already in the world. (1 Jn. 4:3), that has people deny Jesus is the Christ which "is the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). The spiritual influence and the fallen human nature are both strongly in play. Rom. 1:18 : "who suppress the truth in unrighteousness," v.25 "who exchanged the truth of God for the lie."

Paul writes in 1 Tim. 3:15 We are the, "church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Without the church preaching and practicing the truth (by exposing and removing lies) she cannot be a pillar of truth. We are to be active and proactive, reaching out to the lost and at the same time protect the sheep. God is more concerned with the church than He is with the world; we are his salt and light to reach those that are living in darkness. They are to look at us and see Christ, the difference

should like night and day.

Some people believe they already have the truth without Jesus. But Jesus said He is the truth, the truth is found in a person and that person is God's Son who spoke truth - His word. No one is born in this world with the truth, one must be reborn spiritually to know this truth (John 3:3-6). When Pontius Pilate had interrogated Jesus just before his crucifixion (John 18:37 -38) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" "You say rightly that I am a king. "For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" He immediately left Jesus not staying around to hear an answer (Vs.38). Pilate was staring at Truth incarnate, he was so close yet so very far. He didn't have the time to hear an answer and would end up crucifying the truth. It is no different today, with all the information and knowledge available in our technological age the truth is even more rare than in Jesus' time. Why? There is spiritual war going on planet earth, it involves everyone. It pervades society, politics and religion and it is about "The truth" who is the way and the life (Jn.14:6). Darkness is against light, lies against truth; in fact everything is turned around in our day as Isaiah describes: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20)

There are so many lies we do not know where the truth is anymore. Lies from the highest offices of the land to the pulpits. They "love evil more than good, lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah (Ps 52:3). The lies are so prevalent that many do not recognize the truth when they hear it. James Dresden writes, "When a well-packaged web of lies has been sold gradually to the masses over generations, the truth will seem utterly preposterous



and its speaker a raving lunatic."

Trying to find a church service where the word of God is honored, and expository preaching is consistently spoken from the pulpit is almost like finding gas for under \$1.50 in America. If you can find a church in your nearby neighborhood that has not adopted the Purpose Driven program or gone for the way of entertainment to reach the un-churched, or gone emergent it is a rarity.

John speaks of Jesus twice as one full of grace and truth. John 1:14, v.17 "grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Jesus said, "for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice" (John 18:37); that same voice can be heard by the declaring of His word.

Truth is of the utmost importance to God, He speaks to us by His word and its power to change us works by His Spirit. John 17:17: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." But there are those who have disregarded the truth as their basis for teaching. What can take us away from the truth we are to base our lives on? (2 Tim.3:16). The "useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth" (1 Tim. 6:5); listening to those who blaspheme the way of truth (2 Pet. 2:2); listening to myths and made up laws from man (Titus 1:14); not renouncing the hidden things of shame, by walking in craftiness and handling the word of God deceitfully (2 Cor. 4:2); removing the belt of truth (Eph. 6:14); not receiving the word of God as truth for it to effectively work in us (1Thess. 2:13); or loving the truth (2 Thess.2:12). Paul tells us that love "rejoices in the truth (1 Cor. 13:6).

John the beloved disciple writes about the truth as much as Paul, in his 3 epistles and 1 gospel. He tells the church that knows the truth, "and that no lie is of the truth" (1 Jn. 2:21). He juxtaposes light and darkness for the truth and a lie 1 Jn. 1:5-6: "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." We are not to just say the right words but have the right actions that give weight to our words. 1 Jn. 3:18: "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." The epistles are filled with admonishments to obey the truth and walk in it to train ourselves and be conformed to the image of the Son.

We are saved by the word of truth, the gospel (Eph.1:13); we begin our walk with Christ in truth (2 Thess.2:13), and are to continue in it (Col.1:6; 1 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pt.1:23); and stand in the gospel (1 Cor.15:1-2).

John makes it clear the world speaks one way and those of the world respond, however "We are of God. He who knows God

hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (1 Jn 4:5-6). Falsehood is void of truth. The only way you can fight falsehood from influencing you and taking over is by keeping the truth, understanding it. Truth is like disinfectant in a festering wound, a light that dismisses the darkness. Our God is described as light, as "a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" (Deut. 32:4; Psalm 31:5).

We must be watchful in the times we live in. We show our love by caring for each other, being involved (1 Jn. 3:16). James 5:19 teaches, "if anyone among you wanders from the truth" "to turn a sinner from his ways" we are to try help them return to save them from judgment. In a world filled with lies we are to "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time" (Col. 4:5) point to the one who is the truth by using his word. May we let God continue to do His work in us so that He can do His work through us to others.

Mike has been evangelist to the cults for over 20 years and started Let Us Reason 15 years ago and is involved in apologetics and discernment to protect the church from false teaching like those in the cults. Let us Reason is a teaching ministry to the body of Christ, all denomination or non denominational churches that adhere to the Christian distinctive. [www.letusreason.org](http://www.letusreason.org) is offering this month the book the Empty Pulpit, normally for \$22, now \$25 that includes any single DVD of your choice (includes shipping in the US ).



SO WHERE IS JACOB TODAY?

### Christ Community in El Centro

Friday through Sunday,  
Jan. 15 - 17, 2010  
1923 Austin Road  
El Centro, CA 92243  
760 352 0336

Speakers: David Hocking  
and Jacob Prash  
Details to Follow

### Calvary Chapel Tri-City

Thursday through Sunday,  
Jan. 28 - 31, 2010  
2334 East Southern Ave.  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
480- 345-6200  
Details to Follow

### Shalom Prophecy Conference

Friday through Sunday,  
Feb 4-7, 2010  
32500 Cathedral Canyon Dr  
Cathedral City, CA 92234  
760-115-0181  
Messianic Hotline: 760-837-SAVE

### Vision Calvary Chapel

Friday through Sunday,  
March 12 - 14, 2010  
Prophecy Conference  
Porterville, CA  
Details to follow

### Red River Bible and Prophecy Conference

Thursday through Sunday,  
March 18 - 21, 2010  
Courtyard By Marriott  
1080 28th Ave. South  
Moorehead, MN 56560

### 20th Winnipeg Prophecy Conference

Friday through Sunday,  
Sept 15 - 17, 2010  
Victoria Inn  
1808 Wellington Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada

# TrueRevival

Sandy Simpson

We have been treated to many years of counterfeit revivals by way of Toronto, Brownsville, Lakeland led by many false teachers like John Arnott, John Kilpatrick, Todd Bentley, Benny Hinn, Rodney Howard-Browne, C. Peter Wagner, John Wimber and hundreds of others. The Latter Rain ideas of revival are not based on what the Bible teaches is true revival at all. They teach that revival can be staged and planned when brought to town by those who carry a transferable anointing. I have dealt with the issue of a transferable anointing in a number of other articles proving there is no such thing according to the Bible. The Holy Spirit is the One who brings revival, not according to the enthusiasm and orchestrations of man ... not by the will of men. Revival can only as a result of true repentance and forgiveness.

*Acts 3:19 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;* (NASB)

I have been involved in some true revivals over the years and in every case they happened because someone was moved by the Holy Spirit to confess their sins to another person publicly and ask for forgiveness. Out of that simple act came revival of prayer, the preaching of the Word, and evangelism. Those affected were not driven by some uncontrollable force to try to press the “anointing” into people or throw the Holy Spirit around a room, but were renewed in their spirit to prayer, to obedience to the precepts of the Word, and to preaching the Gospel. The great missionary efforts (not “missional” efforts”) of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were based on true revival which caused Christians to move beyond their own comfort zone, to sell what they had, to travel to a foreign country, to leave their own families, to commit to live there for their rest of their lives, and to learn another language and culture so that they could effectively communicate the Gospel message. This type of result of true revival is rarely in evidence today which is why true missionary work is in decline. But it is in decline because there is a lack of true revival, which is the result of a lack of repentance. Yet

the Bible calls all believers to continue to repent as a lifestyle.

*Re 3:3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.* (NIV)

*Re 2:5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.* (NIV)

These verses were spoken to the Church by Jesus Christ Himself. True repentance involved returning to obeying the precepts taught by Jesus Christ, the Apostles and the prophets in the written Word.

*Psalm 119:25 - My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.* (NASB)

*Psalm 119:107 - I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.* (NASB)

*Psalm 119:154 - Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word.* (NASB)

Revival comes by way of the Word of God and obedience to it.

*Psalm 119:40 - Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me through Your righteousness.* (NASB)

*Psalm 119:93 - I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have revived me.* (NASB)

If we live according to the Word we will obey the precepts written there. We are revived when we obey the Lord, repent of our sins, and follow Him. We prove we love the Lord by obeying His commands.

*Joh 14:15 - If you love me, you will obey what I command.* (NIV)

*Joh 14:23 - Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”* (NIV)

*Joh 14:24 - He who does not love me will not obey my teaching”. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.* (NIV)

*Joh 15:10 - If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain*

*in his love”. (NIV)*

*1Jo 5:3 - This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,* (NIV)

If we keep the testimony of The Testimony we will be revived.

*Isa 8:20 - To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.* (KJV)

*Psalm 119:88 - Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.* (NASB)

Those who want to experience revival must be faithful and obedient witnesses of Jesus Christ according to the Word. Then they can know the lovingkindness of the Lord as it relates to revival. In this old revival song we see the precepts of true revival.

## SET MY SOUL AFIRE

Words and Music by Gene Barlett

(1) *Set my soul afire Lord, for Thy Holy Word, Burn it deep within me, let Thy voice be heard Millions grope in darkness in this day and hour, I will be a witness, fill me with Thy pow’r*

*Refrain: Set my soul afire Lord, set my soul afire. Make my life a witness of Thy saving pow’r. Millions grope in darkness, waiting for Thy Word. Set my soul afire, Lord, set my soul afire!*

(2) *Set my soul afire, Lord, for the lost in sin, Give to me a passion as I seek to win; Help me not to falter never let me fail, Fill me with Thy Spirit, let Thy will prevail.*

(3) *Set my soul afire, Lord, in my daily life. Far too long I’ve wandered in this day of strife; Nothing else will matter but to live for Thee, I will be a witness for Christ lives in me.*

Revival is not some feeling sent from God to be spent on for our emotional pleasure. It is based on the written Word which is to be obeyed. It is evidenced in a desire and carried to fruition in witnessing the Gospel to the world. It is based on repentance from “wandering in this day of strife” in our daily lives. This then is true revival.

Commemoration of Crispin & Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.285 Beginning a short series on prayer: Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been



going on of late -- and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work. To pray for revival while ignoring the plain precept laid down in Scripture is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble. Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience. (A.W. Tozer, Of God And Men, Chapter 14, Prayer: No Substitute for Obedience, Page 55, Par. 3)

**Sandy Simpson** is a commissioned missionary working with Pacific island peoples for the past 20 years. He has one of the largest apologetics web sites on the Internet featuring thousands of articles from hundreds of ministries on a variety of discernment subjects. He has written a number of books including "Discernment Toolkit", "Idolatry In Their Hearts" (with Mike Oppenheimer), "The New Apostolic Reformation – What is it and where is it going?", "Finish The Race" (with Juanita Simpson), "Letters To The Church", and "Lessons In Forgiveness". He has also produced a number of DVD and CD projects including "The New Apostolic Reformation – What is it and where is it going?" (with Gary Gilley, Mike Oppenheimer, Jacob Prasch, Orrel Steinkamp and many others) (6-DVD set), "Spirit Of Truth or Spirit of Error – Part 1 Benny Hinn" (with Mike Oppenheimer and Jacob Prasch), "Discernment Toolkit Video Study Series" (3-DVD set), "The First Nations Movement" (with Mike Oppenheimer) (2-DVD set), "From Church to Emerging Church" and a number of other DVD and CD projects. All these are available on the Apologetics Coordination Team site at: <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/>

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## QUOTES OF THE QUARTER !

**Justice David Brewer said this:**

*"This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation ... We find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth ... These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation."*  
(1892)

# News Flash . . . .

## Anglican Priest Disgraces Authentic Christianity

The following piece, written by CAMERA analyst Dexter Van Zile, appeared in The Jewish World Review on July 27.

Anglican Priest Naim Ateek is making the rounds in support of his most recent book, A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation (Orbis, 2008), in which he falsely accuses Israel of perpetrating a "slow and creeping genocide" against Palestinians — who have one of the fastest growing populations in the world.

Apparently, leveling false accusations at the Jewish people and their homeland is not enough to get one barred from polite society in 21st century America.

So much for history progressing in an upward spiral.

In February, Ateek, founder of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, appeared at churches in Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

And on July 18-20, Ateek appeared at a number of venues in the Puget Sound region of Washington State. In addition to appearing in churches, Ateek appeared for the first time before a congregation of American Jews — at the Kadima House in Seattle.

The centerpiece of Ateek's Puget Sound tour was his June 20, 2009 appearance on Weekday, a radio show hosted by Steve Scher and broadcast on KUOW, an NPR station in Seattle. During his radio appearance, Ateek returned to a persistent theme in his writings: the notion that the god described in some of the Hebrew Scriptures is a primitive, violent and territorial god who cares only about Jews.

During the interview, during which Scher lobbed softball questions, Ateek described Palestinian liberation theology as a way of helping people understand "how the Bible has been abused by Jewish religious extremists and Christian Zionists [who are] using the Bible against the Palestinians."

According to Ateek, "people quote from Genesis that G-d has given the land to the Jewish people. So the land is given by God so they have a divine right to the land and the Palestinians have no rights. They need to go. It is the wrong way of interpreting scripture. Palestinian liberation theology comes to really help people understand that the message of the Bible is not about a god who is a person concerned about a piece of land here or there, but a god of justice, a god of peace, a god of compassion."

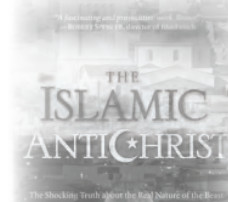
During the interview, Ateek stated that some books in the Hebrew canon — most notably Daniel and Jonah — offer a critique and an alternative to this "exclusive, bigoted god who says I'm gonna go with you to war, I'm gonna kill your enemies."

Scher, who did not raise concerns about Ateek's use of anti-Jewish polemics from the New Testament against the modern state of Israel, also failed to address a central question that needs asking: What type of god is propounded in Ateek's so-called "peacemaking" ministry?

It's an obvious question given Ateek's criticism of the exclusive and bullying god that he says Jews and Christian Zionists use to justify Israeli policies.

Ateek, who condemns belief in a god that would direct its blessing exclusively toward the Jewish people, propagates the agenda of a god who directs its judgment and anger at Israel, especially its Jewish inhabitants. Ateek does not openly confess allegiance to such a deity — in fact he denies doing so. Nevertheless, his commentary about the Arab-Israeli conflict provides a resting place, an ark, for just such a god. To read the rest of the story go to, <http://jewishworldreview.com/0709/ateek.php3>.

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# ISLAMIC ANTICHRIST

## THE UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS WITH JOEL RICHARDSON'S THEORY ON THE

*Note: This review is based on the electronic version of Joel Richardson's book published on his website "Joel's Trumpet".*

The Internet has been abuzz with varying views and reviews of Joel Richardson's book, *The Islamic AntiChrist*, promoted by World Net Daily. The book offers interesting comment and some insightful observations but seeks to challenge and reverse the popular teaching of Babylon the Great not being related to either Roman Catholicism or a revived Roman Empire, but the Islamic world. In Joel Richardson's thesis, Gog and Magog are neither nations nor individuals arriving from Russia, but of the antiChrist (Gog) and the Islamic world following him whom the author identifies with the Mahdi, the Islamic messiah cum antiChrist. This is not to be confused with the Islamic doctrine of the Dajjal, the one-eyed antiChrist whom they associate with the ancient Egyptian sun god and with Jesus (not as Islam understands Jesus, as a mere prophet inferior to Mohammed, and not God in human flesh).

Joel Richardson's arguments are that Rome never conquered Babylon, that Russia is not specifically identified as the "uttermost parts of the North," that the Gog and Magog conflict and the battle of Armageddon are one and the same, and that Israel will turn to their God, and the Lord's Name will no longer be profaned upon the destruction of Gog. Hence, since the antiChrist will cause the name of God to be profaned and Gog's destruction ends this, Gog must be the antiChrist cum Mahdi.

Let us be clear that, biblically, Islam is certainly an antiChrist religion, and Mohammed was an antiChrist/false prophet. By the scriptural definition of 1 John, Islam denies the Father and Son relationship and is categorically of the antiChrist.

Islamic decapitation and shari'a plainly meet the descriptions of the ordeal the antiChrist will inaugurate to brutalize those refusing to take his mark, etc.

Just as frightening, Islam has demonstrated a capacity to deceive on two fronts – a political-economic front and a religious front. It has been able to mobilize global forces and governments against Israel and the Jews. And this has been no less aimed at deceiving saved Christians.

On the political-economic front, in the USA naïve Evangelical Christians are easily manipulated into being duped by Repub-

lican Party politicians pretending to be pro Christian.

It was George W. Bush who, to honor Islam after September 11, 2001, placed in the White House a Koran teaching the definitive antiChrist doctrine that God has no son.

It was this same Republican president who forced Israel out of Gaza without a treaty, thus resulting in Gaza becoming an Iranian-controlled Hamas terror base used to attack Israeli civilians. His father, George H.W. Bush, handed Lebanon on a silver platter to Syria and Iranian-controlled Hezbollah (which killed hundreds of Americans in the 1983 embassy and Marine barracks attacks). George H.W. Bush (who is investment partners with members of the House of Saud in the Carlyle Group) called Saudi Arabia "our friend." In Bush family politics, a nation whose ruling family and government had members that funded Al Qaeda and a regime which beheads people for becoming Christians are "our friends."

It was Bush who first celebrated Ramadan in the White House, and who continued the express entry visa program for Saudi Arabians after September 11th. Former Republican Secretary of State James Baker acts as legal counsel for the Saudi Arabians against the families of American 9/11 survivors in litigation for Saudi funding of terror.

Reagan armed terrorist Iran and lied about it. Eisenhower was the first US President to knife Israel in the back in the 1956 Suez crises leaving Egypt in the Soviet camp. We also know from declassified White House tapes that Richard Nixon, like his spiritual mentor Billy Graham, was a vehement antiSemite.

It was the Reagan administration that refused to medevac badly wounded US Marines in October, 1983, to nearby operating tables in Israel where their lives may have been saved. Those Marines were dead on arrival thousands of miles away in Germany and England. This was done in order not to offend the Saudi Arabian owners of the Republican Party.

This betrayal is plainly motivated by corrupt economic interests. Again, the same things are true of the pro Islamic/ anti Israel policies of Democrats like Carter (whose charity is heavily funded by Moslem oil

money) and Obama, the son of a Moslem. But the Republicans are misrepresented as being "conservative," "pro-Israel," and even "Christian," thus easily duping ignorant and undiscerning Christians. The elect are indeed increasingly being deceived by Islam and by their own leaders.

The pandering to radical Islam by the British government under Tony Blare and Gordon Brown, and the cancerous growth of radical Islam throughout Europe and in Canada and Australia are even more frightening. This phenomenon is not devoid of prophetic significance.

This deception has spread from the political realm and into many churches with pseudo-Evangelical figures such as Rick Warren, Tony Campolo, Robert Schuller and, above all, Emergent church guru Brian MacLaren (who celebrates Ramadan).

There is no doubt these trends are of prophetic significance and are helping pave the way for the antiChrist and false prophet. Even in an age of apostasy and spiritual degeneration within the churches, it is still a fairly distant stretch to believe that a purely Islamic leader can mislead Christians into accepting him as a returned Christ.

The problem with Joel Richardson's approach is that he is playing baseball instead of billiards. His eye is one ball and he is ignoring all of the other balls which are no less important.

Joel Richardson's first problem is that he all but ignores a fundamental principle of biblical exegesis: the Old Testament is interpreted in light of the New Testament of Christ. The New Testament focus (and indeed only mention) of Gog and Magog is the post-millennial unleashing of Satan followed by Gog and Magog where they are identified with the nations of the earth. It makes no mention of the antiChrist or individuals. Joel Richardson ignores this, violating a foundational tenet of hermeneutics.

This issue presents another consideration that Joel Richardson likewise ignores. Given the fact that by common consensus there are two battles of Gog and Magog and Ezekiel 38 and 39 points to two future events, there is every possibility of a predictive double reference where there is a partial fulfillment in one fulfillment and a total fulfillment in



the second. The precedents for this in biblical prophecy, especially eschatology, are multiple. Isaiah 9:6 predicts both the birth of Christ (First Coming) and the government being on His shoulders (Second Coming) in one breath. In the Olivet Discourse Jesus speaks of the AD 70 events first prophesied in Daniel chapter 9, and then in the same discourse jumps ahead to end-time events. The Ezekiel 38 and 39 prophecy that defilement and infidelity will cease will have an obvious and definite fulfillment in the New Testament Gog and Magog. Joel Richardson's thesis fails because his exegesis fails.

Another problem for Mr. Richardson is that the New Testament in a spiritual sense identifies Rome with Babylon (1 Peter 5: 13, Revelation 17: 9 and 18). The early Christians would certainly have identified Rome with its Pantheon as the custodian of the false religion as having their ontogeny in ancient Babylon. While we would never use Patristic tradition as a basis of any doctrine or doctrinal interpretation (and we hold a rank disapproval of the post-Nicean fathers theologically), the so-called church "fathers" do constitute an important historical source to understand the mind set of the early Roman Catholic Church. Jerome's *De Viris Illustribus*, and Augustine's *City of God* reveal earlier sources that viewed Rome as another Babylon.

Moreover, that the fourth beast of Daniel's vision, defeated the Grecian conquerors of the Persians who, previously, had conquered Babylon, is incontestable, as is the fact that the typological descriptions of Daniel and Revelation are the same.

Mr. Richardson's contentions further fail to add up due to considerations of geography. To begin, with a possible and debatable exception of Libya (Put), no Arab countries are even listed in the nations among those involved in the Gog and Magog war in Ezekiel 38 and 39. His assertion that Russia is not specifically named in Scripture must be co-equally applied to the absence of Arab Moslem nations regarding Gog and Magog. The Armageddon conflict however speaks specifically of the nations surrounding Israel and Jerusalem in Zechariah chapter 12. His case, at least as he proposes it, just does not fit and fails to add up. This is to say nothing of the omission of a comprehensive theological argument to reconcile or explain how to resolve the seven-month clean up of the battlefield, unless one takes license to extend the task into the Millennium when in fact the bulk of Scripture, especially in Ezekiel, rather indicate that the biosphere itself will undergo a divinely reconstructed restoration to a pre-Adamic state without participation of human agency.

An additional consideration is that major areas of Arab Moslem Jordan will escape the domain of antiChrist (Daniel 11:41). Moreover, one would be hard pressed to picture Saudi Arabia, the seat of Islam located

directly to Israel's South and an Islamic world mainly to Israel's South, East, and West (apart from Turkey and half Moslem Lebanon) as being "the uttermost parts of the North." It just doesn't work.

A final problem with Joel Richardson's scenario is that it avoids addressing central theological facts that Scripture states regarding Arab Islamic nations. To begin with there are the curses found in the Book of Genesis of Ishmael's seed being divided and Esau's sword being against his brother.

Arab tribes fought each other in pre Islamic Arabia for centuries. Mohammed believed that by monotheism he could bring about a pan-Islamic and Pan-Arab unity called ummah. It failed and continues to fail to this day. From the 8th-century Battle of Carballah, Sunni and Shia Moslems have hated each other to the Sunni – Shia and Arab-Kurdish war in Iraq to this day. There is no ummah. Indeed, this is a reason why Islam must murder Christians and Jews; without a common enemy they will always kill each other.

If Mohammed, Abu Bakir, and Ali could not unite Islam neither will the Mahdi; the union will fail and break down as usual, just as the Fatah-based Palestinian Authority and Hamas massacred each other in Gaza, as Iran and Iraq killed 1.5 million of each other, as Saddam Hussein raped Kuwait, and as King Hussein of Jordan exterminated 18,000 of Yassir Arafat's followers in Black September of 1970.

The curse of Genesis prevents Islamic unity into a united empire overrunning the West. Islam needed Christianized Britain and America to liberate Kuwait and protect Saudi Arabia from Saddam Hussein, just as they still need the West to protect them from their Persian Moslem brothers in contemporary Iran. Indeed, the greatest Islamic Empire was strategically dominated by Ottoman Turks who subjugated the Arab Moslems as serfs and slaves just as black African Moslems are enslaved by Arab militias today. This is the true face of Islam – a colossal ideological and religious failure, just as it has always been and always shall be.

When the Kings of The North (Western powers) fought the Kings of The South (nations which are today Islamic), the Kings of the South lost and will lose. Joel Richardson simply avoids dealing with these issues. Ignoring an issue will not make it go away. He also does not explain Jesus' prophecy that the antiChrist will come in his own name, and unsaved Jews will believe (John 5:43). How will Jews be deceived by an Islamic messiah? The issue of John 5:43 must be examined carefully.

All in all, Joel Richardson, while raising some valid points that warrant consideration, constructs a weak case that is hermeneutically, geographically, and historically deficient. His exegesis is not solid and there are simply

far too many questions he does not even address let alone answer.

We do not maintain however that there is no merit to the alarm that Joel Richardson, and similarly Brother Walid Shoebat are attempting to sound. Islam is most certainly an antiChrist Religion, but so is any religion that puts another in the place of Christ. Mormonism, Roman Catholicism, Sun Yung Moon's Unification Church and a host of cults are antiChrist. And The World Council of Churches, dominated by theological liberalism, is controlled by an antiChrist spirit. As Moslems await a mahdi and Jews a Messiah, so too Buddhists await the 5th Buddha and New Agers await Maitreya. Could it not be that the antiChrist will be diabolically empowered to cover all bases being satanically animated to represent all things to all people?

There is however one saving grace in the proposal of Joel Richardson, which appears to echo the emphasis of Walid Shoebat. While the Book of Acts and the Epistles mainly trace the growth of Christianity and the expansion of the Gospel message to the Greco Roman world in the direction of Europe climaxing in Rome itself from where Western civilization springs politically just as it springs from Macedonia and Athens culturally. This is the biblical record of the New Testament.

However, the Gospel, although having its spiritual origins in eternity, was in historical and theological terms born not in the West but in the East out of Old Testament Pre-Talmudic Judaism during the Second Temple Period. The strength of Joel Richardson and of my dear friend Walid Shoebat is that they seek to redress an imbalance which fails to view eschatology (and biblical dogma generally) from an Eastern as well as Western perspective. It is a further truth that the dangerous threatening and antiChrist nature of Islam must not be understated as it too often has been. Here we are also indebted to Joel Richardson. He is drawing attention to an evil paving the way for the antiChrist more than any other religious trend with the exception of the ecumenical/inter faith deception. While much of Joel Richardson's arguments are implausible and predicated on theologically abject suppositions drawn from faulty exegesis, we must at the same time acknowledge that there is a beneficial dimension to attributing the demonic disease of radical Islam and the need to not limit our perception of Scripture to reading it through a Hellenistic cultural prism.

None the less, Joel Richardson's proposition is as perforated as Swiss cheese. If his position is credible, his book categorically fails to package and present this position and to furnish a comprehensive apologetic for it. The source deficiency in Joel Richardson's book is bad exegesis, which bequeaths the rest of his case a shallow and wobbly, if not hollow, foundation.



# Are Emerging Church Critics Too Critical?

By Roger Oakland

Not every Christian is called to be a watchman. This is understandable. The body of Christ is made up of men, women and children with a variety of gifts and callings all important for the body of Christ to be healthy. The watchman or watchwoman is a person called by God to warn about the dangers of departing from the truth and being led astray.

This calling is not without problems and difficulties. The watchman, even though his or her voice may be biblical, is almost always considered by the majority to be too critical. This is especially true today when so many Christian leaders are embracing a Christianity that is more seeker-friendly and purpose-driven rather than God-fearing and Spirit-led. A person who attempts to exhort stray sheep back to the fold is considered negative, judgmental, and unloving.

Further, when someone has departed from the Word of God, they are not always grateful to someone who tells them they have departed. If a person knew they were being deceived, they wouldn't have been seduced by the deception. It is also a fact there are many who profess to have faith in Christ but have very little faith in His Word.

It is God's Word that must be our plumb line in bringing us back to the truth. Following a man and his ideas may well lead us astray, especially if his ideas do not line up with God's revelation as recorded in God's Word.

I have been attempting to sound a spiritual alarm by documenting facts associated with various ideas and trends that are sweeping the world in the name of Christ. We are living at a time in Church history when a new reformation is supposedly underway and Christianity is being reinvented so that it will be more relevant for the twenty-first century, but a Christianity that is not consistent with the Scriptures in not Christianity.

## ANSWERING THE CRITICS

There are those who will read this and will not come to the conclusion that we are living in an age of apostasy before the return of our Lord. There will be those who accuse me of presenting an unbalanced view of the emerging church, in spite of the facts. There will be those who say that

I concentrate only on the negative and that I have avoided all the good things about the Emerging Church.

For example, I anticipate there will be statements similar to the following one made by Emerging Church supporter Darren King in an article he wrote titled "A Response to Reactionism Against the Emerging Church":

It is clear that while those of us engaged in the Emerging Church conversation might find new perspectives a helpful thing, there are others, within the larger Christian community, who find these fresh perspectives not only unhelpful, but actually threatening. These people tend to operate under very circular, rigid belief systems. And for these people, any idea that infringes on any one corner of the "faith infrastructure" causes what amounts to a fight or flight response. [1]

This statement illustrates how someone with a rigid perspective (biblical perspective) is perceived by someone with an Emerging Church perspective ("fresh perspective"). From Darren King's viewpoint, if someone is not willing to abandon their "faith infrastructure," (the Bible) for the "fresh perspective," (ideas that are unbiblical or anti-biblical) the person is considered a dangerous crackpot.

Further, King, the editor of *Precipice Magazine*, states that he has a plan to deal with resistors who refuse to leave their "faith infrastructure" for the "fresh perspective".

What I am interested in is a discussion of the knee-jerk reactions; the critical responses that arise out of a spirit of superiority, disdain, fear, etc. It is with that aim in mind that we at *Precipice* launch a new feature called: "A Critique of Criticism: A Response to Reactionism Against the Emerging Church". Over the next few weeks we'll be directly addressing these particularly ungracious, destructive and dismissive examples of criticism, one by one. [2]

Following this article some examples of Emerging Church criticism were posted along with a response by *Precipice Magazine*. For example, as an answer to the criticism—"I feel like you can never pin down the Emerging Church on what they actually believe. That kind of slippery theology seems dangerous, cowardly, and way too convenient in our politically correct cul-

ture"—the following statement is made:

There is a very good reason why it's difficult to pin the Emerging Church down on certain issues. Simply put, the Emerging Church is an evolving movement, a fluid conversation. It is not a denomination with an official doctrinal statement to refer to. In these kinds of conversations it's usually helpful to differentiate Emergent, a specific group, from the larger Emerging Church conversation. Emergent is one community within the larger context of the Emerging Church...

The EC crowd is not nervous when grey areas linger. Mystery is newly embraced in the EC. And this shift away from a blind emphasis on propositional truth seems, to me anyway, much more in line with early Christian faith and practice. Faith is a process. The Christian experience is a journey. We would do well to remember that for the early followers of Christ, faith was commonly referred to as "the Way"—not the destination. [3]

If Christianity is evolving, as this writer suggests, what is it evolving into? Whether or not one names this trend a "church" or a "conversation" is not the issue. What is important is whether or not the trend is based on sound Christian doctrine. As we have discussed in previous commentaries, faith in the Bible is not the basis for this "New Reformation". Faith in the Bible is not being promoted; it is under attack. Faith is being undone.

Yes, it is true that the early church was called "The Way." However, the church was called "The Way" because the members of the church were following Jesus, who said He was "The Way." [4] Jesus also said the "Way" is a "narrow way" [5] and the "only way" [6] to get into heaven. The Emerging Church way or emergent conversation or whatever name is used to describe this so-called New Reformation, in my view is a wide way that many are traveling and heading in the wrong direction.

## DEFENDING THE EMERGING CHURCH

It should now be apparent that critics of the Emerging Church or "conversation" are also being critiqued. The reason Darren King, chief editor of *Precipice Magazine*, launched a column for "critiquing the



critics" was because of a number of negative comments about an article written by Scot McKnight titled "Five Streams of the Emerging Church" that appeared in the February 2007 issue of *Christianity Today*. According to King:

This issue (criticizing those who are critical of the Emerging Church) took on a new significance following Scot McKnight's "Five Streams of the Emerging Church" article that recently appeared in *Christianity Today*. As I mentioned in a previous entry, for every four positive responses to McKnight's article, there was one that was not only negative, but actually scolding, dismissive, insulting. [7]

Scot McKnight is a widely-recognized authority on the New Testament, early Christianity, and the historical Jesus. He is the Karl A. Olsson Professor in Religious Studies at North Park University, Chicago, Illinois. McKnight, the author of over twenty books, has given radio interviews across the nation, appeared on television, and is regularly asked to speak in local churches and educational events. Dr. McKnight obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Nottingham. [8]

In the article written for *Christianity Today*, Dr. McKnight took on the task of explaining what the Emerging Church is and what it is not. In the introductory portion of the article he wrote:

Along with unfair stereotypes of other traditions, such are the urban legends surrounding the emerging church—one of the most controversial and misunderstood movements today. As a theologian, I have studied the movement and interacted with its key leaders for years—even more, I happily consider myself part of this movement or "conversation." As an evangelical, I've had my concerns, but overall I think what emerging Christians bring to the table is vital for the overall health of the church. [9]

Scot McKnight claims the Emerging Church Movement is misunderstood by the critics. According to him, the Emerging Church is "vital for the overall health of the church." As a "theologian" and someone who "happily" considers himself part of the movement, McKnight has "interacted with the key leaders of the movement." In order to define the Emerging Church, McKnight made the following statement:

To define a movement, we must, as a courtesy, let it say what it is. Eddie Gibbs and Ryan Bolger, in their book, *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures* (Baker Academic, 2005) define emerging in this way: Emerging churches are communities that practice the way of Jesus within postmodern cultures. This definition encompasses nine practices. Emerging churches (1) identify

with the life of Jesus, (2) transform the secular realm, and (3) live highly communal lives. Because of these three activities, they (4) welcome the stranger, (5) serve with generosity, (6) participate as producers, (7) create as created beings, (8) lead as a body, and (9) take part in spiritual activities. [10]

Few critics of the Emerging Movement would have a problem with the definition offered by Gibbs and Bolger if it adequately defined the Emerging Church movement. However, this definition falls short of defining the movement. Numerous serious heretical ideas, beliefs and practices promoted by the movement show that biblical faith is under attack. Rather than a "New Reformation" there is a potential to return to spiritual darkness.

Further, while Scot McKnight is critical of D. A. Carson's criticism of the Emerging Church, he falls short of providing a complete and proper definition himself.

D. A. Carson's *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church* (Zondervan, 2005) is not alone in pointing to the problems in the emerging movement, and I shall point out a few myself in what follows. But as a description of the movement, Carson's book lacks firsthand awareness and suffers from an overly narrow focus—on Brian McLaren and postmodern epistemology. [11]

It is interesting how McKnight and others dismiss Brian McLaren and his unbiblical ideas by relegating him to the lunatic fringe when they want to point out the "good" in the Emerging Church Movement. This is like saying it is possible to remove the arsenic that has been placed in a milkshake by selectively sucking through a straw. The movement is laced with ideas by McLaren and other leaders of the emerging movement. The so-called "generous orthodoxy" Brian McLaren writes about could also be understood as widespread apostasy.

In order to censor the movement or the "conversation" to make it "emergent safe" one would have to come up with a new name for the movement that does not have anything to do with the word emerging. The move away from the Word of God toward an experiential encounter with "God" by the practice of Eastern mysticism and Roman Catholicism is clearly part of the movement that is presently underway.

In addition, Scot McKnight attempts to nullify legitimate criticism of the Emerging Church by suggesting that the Emerging Church critics don't understand Emerging Church terms. He wrote:

To prevent confusion, a distinction needs to be made between "emerging" and "Emergent." Emerging is the wider, informal, global, ecclesial (church-centered) focus of the movement, while Emergent

is an official organization in the U.S. and the U.K. Emergent Village, the organization, is directed by Tony Jones, a Ph.D. student at Princeton Theological Seminary and a world traveler on behalf of all things both Emergent and emerging. Other names connected with Emergent Village include Doug Pagitt, Chris Seay, Tim Keel, Karen Ward, Ivy Beckwith, Brian McLaren, and Mark Oestreicher. Emergent U.K. is directed by Jason Clark. While Emergent is the intellectual and philosophical network of the emerging movement, it is a mistake to narrow all of emerging to the Emergent Village. Emerging catches into one term the global reshaping of how to "do church" in postmodern culture. It has no central offices, and it is as varied as evangelicalism itself. [12]

If emerging is the word used to describe "how to do church in a postmodern culture," then the term needs to be defined with a warning label attached. In this day and age when we are being told that a "Christian can only be known for what they are for and not what they are against," such a broad definition provides a pathway to spiritual disaster.

We are instructed in the Scriptures to be like the Bereans, who searched the Scriptures daily "to see if these things be so." [13] They were taught by Paul, the great apostle who was inspired by God. Today, as Christianity is "being re-invented" we are being taught by many individuals who have a very dim view of the Scriptures. If Christians refuse to check out what is being proclaimed as Christian in reference with the Scriptures, then the consequences are predictable.



## END NOTES

[1] Darren King, "A Response to Reactionism Against the Emerging Church," Online posting: <http://www.precipicemagazine.com/emerging-church-criticism.html>, March 15, 2007.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] John 17:17

[5] Matthew 7:13

[6] John 14:6

[7] Darren King

[8] Scot McKnight biography, Online posting: [http://www.jesuscreed.org/?page\\_id=1137](http://www.jesuscreed.org/?page_id=1137), March 15, 2007.

[9] Scot McKnight, "Five Streams of the Emerging Church," *Christianity Today*, February 2007, p.35.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid.

[13] Acts 17: 10-11