

2ND QUARTER 2017



JEWISH VOICE TODAY MAGAZINE



What Trump's Presidency
Could Mean for Israel

9 Ways YOU
Can Pray

The Spring Feasts
How Believers in Yeshua
Should Celebrate

Outreach Update
The Masvingo
Medical Clinic



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SHALOM



Photo by Kobi Gideon/GPO



Dear Friend,

Open the newspaper or turn on the nightly news, and you can quickly see that 2017 is already shaping up to be a year of great change. President Trump is still a wild card, and only time will tell how he will treat Israel. Be sure to read the article on page 6, “What Trump’s Presidency Could Mean for Israel.” In the weeks and months ahead, it is so important that we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

And in this Passover season we also pray that you will know God’s peace as we celebrate His goodness and faithfulness. I have talked to so many Believers in Yeshua who wonder what that means for them. This magazine is full of practical insights to help you experience the full blessing of all of God’s spring feasts.

There are many reasons to rejoice as God is using our efforts together to build His Kingdom. Our medical outreach to Masvingo was tremendous but showed us just how great the need is and just how critical it is that we not only return to impoverished communities like those in Masvingo, but that we expand our outreach to others who desperately need our help.

As you read the stories on page 14 of this magazine, it is my prayer that you’ll be encouraged by how your partnership is touching lives and making a real difference. God continues to exceed even our wildest dreams of impact, but it is only as we come together with compassionate partners like you who will stand with us in prayer and in generosity that we will continue to see miracles happen as we minister in Yeshua’s name.

Jonathan Bernis
President and CEO
Jewish Voice Ministries International

The Day that CHANGED the World

JVMI STAFF WRITER



It was just one day...a single 24-hour period... from sundown to sundown. But it was the most consequential and significant day humanity had seen since Adam and Eve's exile from the Garden. In fact, it was the day the greatest redemptive act of human history took place—the culmination and consummation of thousands of years of divine preparation and action.

Of course, I'm speaking of the day Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the Messiah) laid down His life—becoming the long-awaited fulfillment of Passover's sacrificial lamb. On this single day, dozens of Old Testament Messianic prophecies were fulfilled.

What makes this single day so monumental? It is because the day of Yeshua's death (and later resurrection) represents God's victorious "check mate" of Satan in a cosmic chess match that had been thousands of years in the unfolding—one made necessary by Man's rebellion and the resulting fall. There in the Genesis garden, the first man and woman had been deceived into surrendering their God-granted authority and their keys to the Kingdom. The tragic result was mankind's loss of intimate fellowship with God.

This fall also unleashed a terrible curse upon the

world. Future generations and indeed earth itself were subjected to corruption, decay, and death as a result. But almost immediately, God put in motion a plan for restoration—a plan the enemy would attempt to thwart at every turn.

God's opening gambit in this chess match for the ages was to make a prophetic proclamation right there in the Garden:

"I will put animosity between you and the woman—between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel" (Genesis 3:15).

The next several thousand years of human history—and the entirety of the Old Testament record—can be understood as the clarifying of God's strategy to bring that promised "seed" into the earth and the serpent's futile efforts to keep that very promise from being fulfilled.

Move and countermove, the match evolved.

- Cain's murder of Abel. The subsequent birth of righteous Seth.
- Abraham's surrender of his lovely wife Sarah to a foreign monarch's harem. A dream that warns that monarch before he takes her into his bed chamber.
- Pharaoh's slaughter of an entire generation of

Hebrew infants. The miraculous rescue of the infant Moses by an Egyptian princess.

- King Saul's repeated attempts to murder David. David's survival and rise to the throne of Israel.
- Herod's "slaughter of the innocents" in Bethlehem. The preemptive dream that warned Joseph to whisk his wife and infant son away to the refuge of Egypt.

Each of these events—and countless others leading to the events of that one day in Jerusalem 20 centuries ago—are highly intentional moves in this high-stakes match. It is a war in which the "spoils" are the souls of all mankind and the title deed to planet Earth. This is the significance of the "scarlet thread of redemption" that runs like a river through the Bible's wondrous narrative.

Every move reveals God's loving, redemptive plan to deposit that promised "seed" in the fertile soil of earth, and the doomed serpent's desperate, fear-and-rage-filled efforts to keep that seed from being born and crushing his head.

On the day of Yeshua's execution, the heel of that "Seed" was indeed crushed. But the end result was the far more devastating carnage of the enemy's legal headship or right to rule planet earth.

Many other Messianic prophecies were fulfilled in exacting detail on that day.

For example, the Psalmist David predicted Judas' betrayal when he, prophetically speaking in the voice of the Messiah, wrote: *"Even my own close friend, whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me"* (Psalm 41:10).

In a similar way, the prophet Zechariah foresaw the way Jesus' closest friends and disciples dispersed and went into hiding on that day of darkness:

"Awake, O sword, against My shepherd, against the man who is My companion! It is a declaration of Adonai-Tzva'ot. Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered!" (Zechariah 13:7).

The Word of God records the precise fulfillment of this prophecy in Mark 14:50, where we read: *"And all fled, abandoning Him."*

Daniel's prophecies concerning the Messiah are extraordinary. In his prophecy of the "69 Weeks"

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life! —JOHN 3:14-15

(7+62), he not only delivered the stunning prediction that Israel's Messiah would be killed—something unthinkable to the Israelite mind—he predicted the time of the Messiah's execution down to the exact day! *"From the issuing of the decree to restore and to build Jerusalem until the time Mashiach, the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and 62 weeks. It will be rebuilt, with plaza and moat, but it will be in times of distress. Then after the 62 weeks Mashiach will be cut off and have nothing"* (Daniel 9:25-26, emphasis mine).

Daniel's "weeks" here are weeks of years. In other words, seven-year periods. And at the time he received this revelation, God's people were still in exile in Babylon. Babylon eventually fell to rival empire Persia, and just as Daniel predicted, in 458 B.C. the Persian King Artaxerxes issued a "decree" permitting the return of Judah's exiles and the restoration of Jerusalem. Space restraints do not permit a full explanation here, but numerous scholars have demonstrated that indeed precisely 69 "weeks" of years (483 years) after Artaxerxes issued his decree—to the very day—Yeshua of Nazareth was executed by the Romans in Jerusalem. The Messiah was "cut off."

The 24 hours that led up to and included Yeshua's death and burial were clearly a day packed to the brim with fulfilled prophecy.

Of course, Yeshua also fulfilled His own prophetic words on that day as well. Among them were the words He spoke to Nicodemus who had come to Him in the evening—words that not only pointed to His impending execution but also explained the significance of that sacrifice:

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life! For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14-16).

A few chapters later in John, we hear Yeshua prophesying further—this time to His inner circle: *"And as I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself." He said this to show the kind of death He was about to die*" (John 12:32-33).

Yes, this was a Passover like no other...a day of fulfilled prophecy...the day that changed everything. 🌟

WHAT TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY COULD MEAN FOR ISRAEL

JVMI STAFF WRITER



Photo by Kabi Gideon/GPO

Therefore, first of all I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all people—for kings and all who are in authority—so we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and respectfulness. —1 Timothy 2:1-2

Even after a lengthy campaign season, President-elect Donald Trump remained something of a wild card in the minds of many people.

But at the time of this writing, America's 45th president does appear to be getting off to a good start in at least one regard. And that should be encouraging to those of us who care deeply about U.S.-Israel relations.

Here's why I say that:

The *Times of Israel* reported that after the U.S. election in November, Donald Trump had already spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In a statement to the news media, the prime minister's office said Trump and Netanyahu "have known each other for many years" and had "a warm, cordial conversation" by phone. During the call, Trump invited the prime minister for meetings in the United States at the "first opportunity."

Regional issues were also apparently raised during the phone conversation, but the statement did not elaborate further.

In remarks released to the media after Trump proclaimed victory, Netanyahu called him "a true friend of the State of Israel" and promised to work with the new president "to advance security, stability, and peace in our region."

It's encouraging that our new president of the United States made it an early priority—even before he officially took office—to work on improving the strained relations with America's most important ally in the Middle East.

A major Israel advocacy group sees the new U.S. Congress as the "most pro-Israel ever."

Donald Trump may be off to a good start, but what about the other key influence on U.S.-Israel relations: Congress?

Well, here's more promising news...

The largest and most influential group advocating for stronger U.S.-Israel relations said that it sees the next U.S. Congress as the "most pro-Israel ever"—this according to the *Times of Israel*.

Following the November elections, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which bills itself as a bipartisan group working to strengthen, protect, and promote the U.S.-Israel relationship,

issued a statement congratulating Trump and "the elected and reelected senators and representatives who will be part of the most pro-Israel Congress ever..."

AIPAC said it looks forward to "working with them and the new administration to further strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship."

The group took the occasion to also remind Trump of comments he made at the AIPAC's policy conference in March 2016 on the importance of the relationship: "We will send a clear signal that there is no daylight between America and our most reliable ally, the State of Israel."

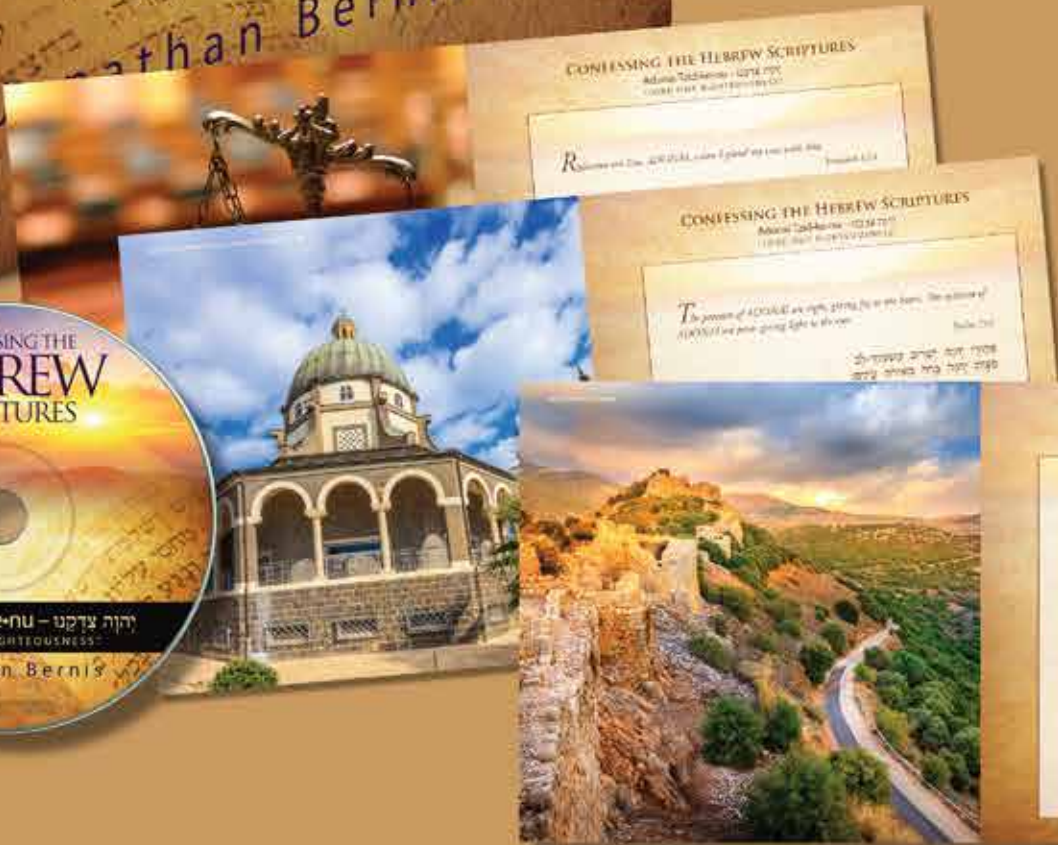
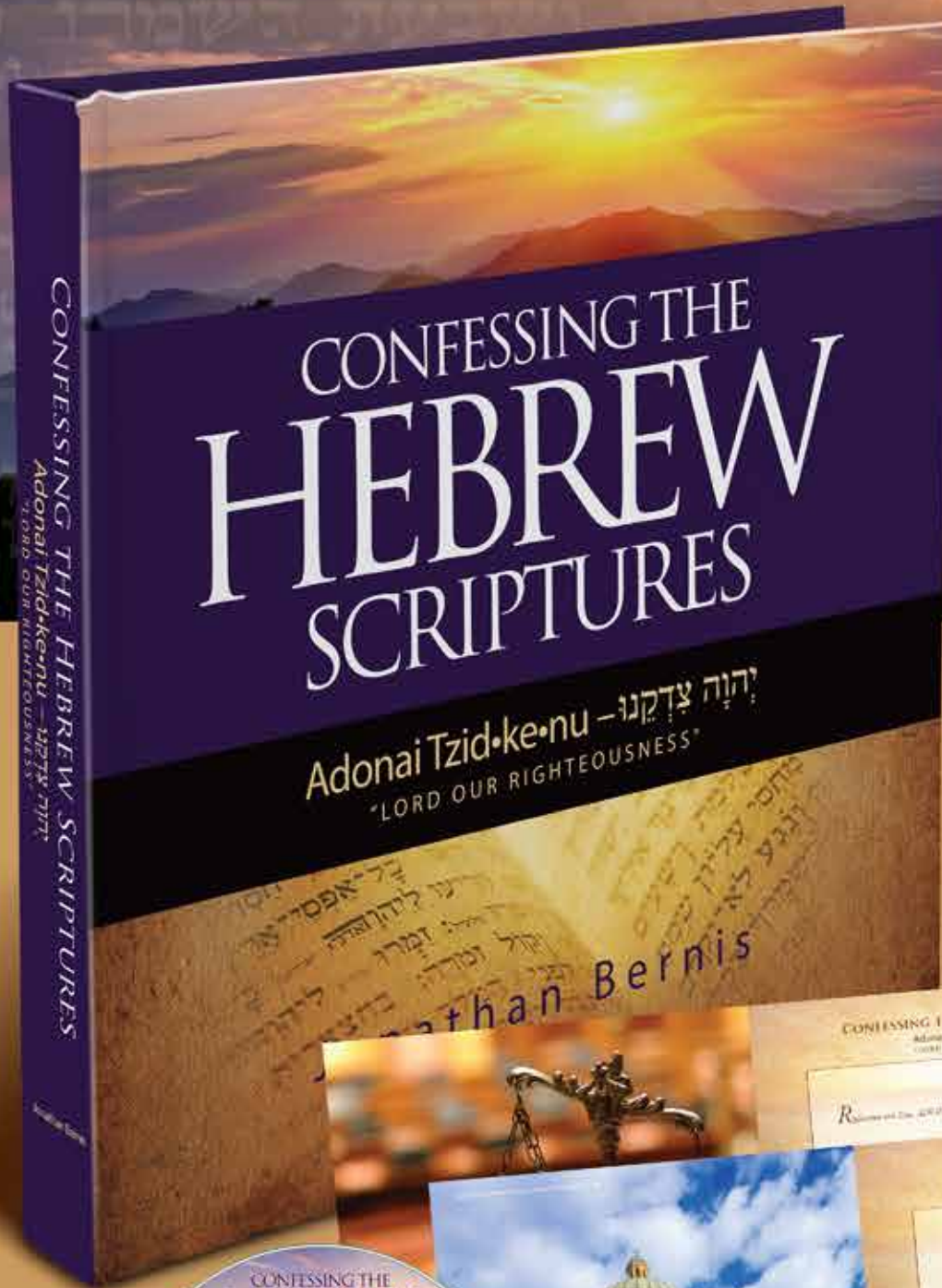
I mention these developments not because of any allegiance to Donald Trump. Rather, I'm motivated by my firm belief that Israel will benefit from a strong bond with its greatest ally, America—no matter who is in the White House.

Whether you favored Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton in last year's election, our responsibility remains the same as Believers in Yeshua (Jesus) AND supporters of a Jewish state: to pray for and seek productive relations between the two nations and to pray for those in leadership. I hope you'll join me in praying for that in the weeks ahead.

Here are some ways to pray:

1. Strengthened U.S.-Israel ties and productive relations between leaders in each country
2. World opinion and sympathy toward Israel to grow more favorable and fair, including in the United Nations
3. Healing to replace the division and strife experienced in so many countries
4. Building unity, first among the Body of Messiah and also throughout our nations
5. That we recognize and honor God as having ultimate dominion and authority
6. World leaders to humble themselves before God
7. God to draw the leaders of the world to faith in Yeshua
8. Righteous leaders who fear God and love truth
9. Leaders to rule with integrity, with God's guidance

See 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Psalm 122:6, Ecclesiastes 3:3, Colossians 3:14, Daniel 4:34, Daniel 2:21, James 4:10, Psalm 46:10, James 4:8, Proverbs 29:2, Exodus 18:21, Psalm 78:72, Proverbs 3:5-6. 🙏



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Jonathan Bernis' series on *Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures* continues with this NEW installment centered on God's name "Adonai Tzidkenu," the Lord our Righteousness. Discover how you can move into a deeper relationship with Him, a person-to-person relationship in which the Lord Himself is your righteousness.

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- Be encouraged by speaking the Scriptures in Hebrew
- Discover how to make God's promises a reality for you
- Release the power of God's Word in every area of your life



Receive your copy of *Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures: Adonai Tzidkenu, Lord our Righteousness* book and accompanying CD as our way of saying "thank you" for your gift of **\$40** or more to support the global ministry work of Jewish Voice. 8688

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God's Festivals & The Christian Faith

BY JOHN D. GARR, PH.D.

Every event on God's calendar is very important to all Believers in Yeshua. Despite the fact that most Christians have consigned the biblical festivals to a long-forgotten history of the Jewish people, these festivals are just as vital to Christian identity today as they were in Bible days. The festivals which Yeshua and the apostles celebrated as they joined their Jewish families and communities in worship of the God of Israel still have profound importance for the Messianic Jewish community and for all Christians today.

God's Festivals

What have been termed "Jewish festivals" are actually God's festivals. In fact, God Himself described them in these simple terms: "These are *my* festivals" (Leviticus 23:2, emphasis added). Though God did give His festivals specifically to the Jewish people as a part

of the Sinai covenant, he clearly intended them for all of His children, including those non-Jews who would believe upon Him through Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah and the Savior of the world.

God specifically instructed His people with these words: "Three times a year you shall celebrate a festival to me" (Exodus 23:14). These three appointments were *Pesach* (Passover), *Shavuot* (Pentecost), and *Sukkot* (Tabernacles). In addition to these three, God added four additional times of celebration in Leviticus 23, thereby making a total of seven biblical festivals. *Matzah* (Unleavened Bread) and *Bikkurim* (Firstfruits) were to be celebrated immediately after Passover. *Teruah* (Trumpets) and *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) were to be observed shortly before Tabernacles.

The menorah, the seven-branched lampstand in the Tabernacle of Witness, is an excellent mnemonic device for remembering the three "Feasts of the Lord" and the seven festivals. Just as the menorah has three

branches on one side, one shaft in the middle, and three branches on the other side, so God's calendar has three festivals, Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits, at the beginning of the agricultural year, then one festival, Pentecost, in the middle of the agricultural year, and three festivals, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles, at the end of the agricultural year.

The seven festivals were designed by God to be "appointments," the primary meaning of the Hebrew word *mo'edim*, which is generally translated as "festivals" or "feasts" in English. Since the word *mo'edim* can also be translated as "rehearsals," it is also clear that the festivals were times for God's people to prepare for events that were still in the future. The seven festivals are appointments that God has set on His calendar for meeting with His people. At the same time, they are rehearsals that point to the unfolding of Messianic prophecy.

Christian Concerns

Amazingly, Jewish and Christian leaders, both in history and in the present day, have offered considerable objection to Christian observance of the biblical festivals. It seems that neither official Judaism nor official Christianity is very tolerant of Christians who confuse and confound the lines of demarcation between Judaism and Christianity by attempting to observe the "Jewish" festivals.

Most Christian objection to festival observance is based on ecclesiastical anti-Judaism that developed after the first century in church history. Before the church fully opened the door to the Gentiles at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:16–20), the vast majority of its communicants were Jews; therefore, there was no question at that time as to whether or not Believers in Yeshua should observe the festivals. Their celebration was a significant part of the Jewish heritage upon which the early Jewish leaders of the church had founded a faith and polity that recognized Yeshua as the fulfillment of the Messianic expectations of His people and as the Savior of the world.

As Gentiles came to prominence in the church, they were influenced by their own traditions and by pressures from the political powers of the day to disassociate themselves from the Jews and all things Jewish. At the same time, a controversy raged in the church over whether or not complete obedience to

the Torah (Law) was essential to salvation in addition to faith in Yeshua. In some of Paul's writings, he openly attacked some of the people in the Jewish community (both in traditional Judaism and in the church) who believed that salvation resulted from submission to and ritual observance of God's law. This social criticism, however, was an intramural exercise among fellow Jews and was, therefore, misunderstood and generalized by later Gentile church leaders.

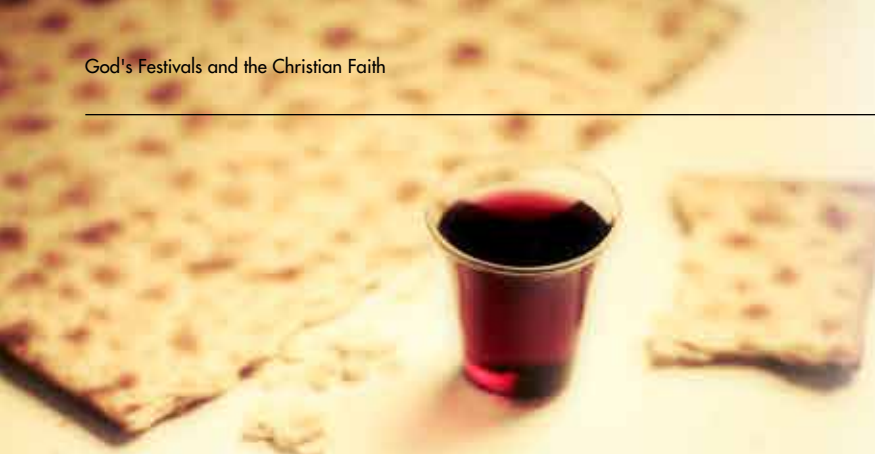
Rather than maintain Paul's balanced position on the interrelationship of Christian faith and the Torah, subsequent church leaders adopted an increasingly antinomian posture, ultimately insisting that Christians have nothing in common with Jews and Judaism. This was particularly true in relationship to ecclesiastical holy days which had been changed from their original first-century construct to accommodate the various societies into which the Christian faith had expanded. Passages such as Colossians 2:16–17 were enlisted to assure Christians that all "Jewish" holy days and sabbaths had been abandoned by the church.

Having been ripped from its moorings, Christianity drifted on the tide of human tradition, often swirling in the maelstrom of a pagan-based worldview that allowed violent conduct toward the Jewish people. In this kind of environment, it was unthinkable that a Christian would celebrate a "Jewish" festival, including the Passover. Even today, in an age of enlightenment, much of the church is wary of any involvement in "Jewish" practices.

Growing numbers of Christians, however, are rejecting these historical arguments and are rediscovering Christianity's Jewish connection. They are saying to themselves, "If it was right for Yeshua and the apostles, it must be right for me." They are embracing teachings and practices that were clearly a part of the first century church's system of praise, worship, and service. And, they are discovering rewarding and fulfilling experiences as they immerse themselves in this biblical and "New Testament" heritage.

Even today, in an age of enlightenment, much of the church is wary of any involvement in "Jewish" practices.

(continued on next page)



Pictures of the Messiah

All of the festivals have great significance for Believers in Yeshua because they reveal truths about the Messiah, just as Paul, the Jewish rabbi and apostle to the Gentiles, pointed out in Colossians 2:16–17: “These [Sabbath and festivals] are a shadow of things to come, the reality of which is the Messiah.” All seven of the festivals, therefore, are prophetic pictures of the Messiah, who is the reality and fulfillment of each of them.

There could not be a more perfect picture of the person and work of *Yeshua HaMashiach* than the three spring festivals. Yeshua was crucified on the very day of Passover, forever filling the Passover with eternal, spiritual meaning. He was recognized as the Lamb of God who would remove the sin of the world by no less a prophet than John the Baptizer (John 1:29). Likewise, Yeshua also was the personification of the Unleavened Bread (*matzah*) in that he was the sinless one who had never succumbed to the leaven of sin (1 Peter 2:22). He was the bread of life who came down from heaven to give everlasting life to all who would believe upon Him (John 6:33, 41, 50). Finally, Yeshua was also the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:23) who brought fulfillment to the Festival of Firstfruits when He was resurrected on the very day of that festival following His crucifixion.

Fifty days after His resurrection, on the day of Pentecost, Yeshua imparted the gift of the Holy Spirit to His disciples (Luke 24:49). Just as God had given His Torah to Israel on the first Pentecost, so on the first Pentecost following His resurrection, Yeshua filled the Believers in the Upper Room with the Holy Spirit, empowering them to be witnesses throughout the world (Acts 1:8).

Just as surely as God fulfilled the spring festivals by filling them with the grace of Messiah, so the fall festivals will also be fulfilled by Yeshua in the time of the end. When the Messiah comes, all the events in

the fall festivals will come to completion and will be fulfilled in Yeshua. First, God has ordained a great day of awakening as the end of the age approaches. The divine shofar will be blown on *Yom Teruah* (*Rosh Hashanah*), issuing a clarion call to summon Israel, the Church, and the world to repentance and restoration (Joel 2:1).

Subsequent to that great awakening, all of Israel will be saved (Romans 11:26)

in a profound event of restoration wherein they will recognize the Messiah and be reconciled to Him (Zechariah 12:10). This will be the ultimate fulfillment of Israel’s Day of Atonement when God opens the fountain for sin to the house of David (Zechariah 13:1), makes all of them righteous (Isaiah 60:21), and inscribes their names forever in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Revelation 21:27).

Finally, both Jews and Gentiles—all the righteous of the earth—will be gathered together in Jerusalem for the last great festival (Tabernacles), the event that will celebrate the inauguration of the universal kingdom of the Messiah in God’s capital city, Jerusalem. The righteous will rule with *Yeshua HaMashiach* (Revelation 20:6), and they will “possess the everlasting kingdom of God forever and ever” (Daniel 7:18).

The Christian Passover: A Jewish Interpretation

Both Jews and Christians need to recognize the fact that Christian understanding of prophecies and practices in the Hebrew Scriptures rests on interpretations of those Scriptures by first-century Jews who came to see in Yeshua of Nazareth the Messiah of Israel. Yeshua Himself was a Torah-observant Jew. All of the apostles on whom the church was built were Torah-observant Jews. Virtually the entire constituency of the church’s first decade was comprised of Jews who were faithful to the Torah. Indeed, many of their number were and continued to be Pharisees (Acts 15:5) and temple priests (Acts 6:7). As Jews, they had a clear and distinct right to interpret their Scriptures apart from any overarching dogma or systematic theology imposed upon them by another part of the traditional Jewish community, for no one branch of Judaism was dominant at that time.

Christian interpretations of the Passover and its manifestation in the death and resurrection of Yeshua are established on the solid rock of *Jewish* interpretation. These Jewish followers of Yeshua celebrated the Passover *Seder* traditions of their day, imbuing each part with additional meaning from the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Yeshua. When the early Jewish leaders of the Christian church interpreted the Passover events allegorically as pointing to Yeshua, they did so on the basis of Jewish hermeneutics. Later, Gentile Christians' allegorical interpretations of the Exodus Passover events merely expanded upon the foundation that their Jewish predecessors had laid. These ideas, then, were birthed in the fertile hearts of observant Jews: Yeshua and His apostles. They are, therefore, Jewish interpretations, not Gentile interpolations that can be casually dismissed as lacking authenticity.

How should Christians observe the festivals?

The Bible gives a clear answer. What better example could we have than that of our Lord Yeshua Himself? According to the Gospels, He celebrated the Passover with His disciples by observing the traditional *Seder* that the sages had prescribed for His time. The core of the modern *Seder* predates the time of the Messiah and was the order which Yeshua employed in the Last Supper.

Should any remain confused, Paul gives the liturgical order for recognizing Calvary in the Passover celebration: "For I received from the Lord that which

I also delivered to you: that the Lord Yeshua on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Could anything be more apparent, then? It is an undeniable truth that Paul instructed Gentile Christians to observe the Passover with the ceremony that Yeshua prescribed on the night before His crucifixion. The same principle applies to all of God's festivals because Yeshua is the fulfillment of each of them.

What does God say to Christians about Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and

Tabernacles? The answer is simple: "Celebrate!" 🇺🇸



JOHN D. GARR, PH.D. has served the Christian church as theologian, presbyter, and educator for over 40 years.



LOVE FOR ISRAEL BOXED SET OF 18 NOTECARDS

The scene on these stunning notecards places you on a lovely balcony in Israel where a menorah, shofar, and prayer tallit rest on a marble table with a view of the Old City of Jerusalem including the Temple Mount and Western Wall behind. This boxed set of 18 notecards is reproduced from the original oil painting by Jeanette Jensen. Cards measure 5"x 7" and come with 2 extra envelopes.

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THEIR HEARTS WERE GLAD: MASVINGO MEDICAL CLINIC

The first hint of light was still hours away on an August morning as Jewish Voice staff and volunteers gathered at the JVMI medical clinic they'd opened a few days earlier in a poverty-stricken Jewish community in Masvingo, a town located in southeastern Zimbabwe.

Having been struck hard by a repeated water crisis, these people now flirted with a new round of cholera and other dysentery diseases which had led to thousands of deaths a decade ago. People were in urgent need of medical care and spiritual healing.

The staff and volunteers had already seen countless people in previous days, and they knew the line would once again be lengthy when the clinic's doors opened at daybreak. However, they weren't prepared for what they saw at 3:30 in the morning as their flashlights scanned the outer perimeter of the clinic.

Already, an estimated 1,000 people who desperately needed free medical and dental care were



queued outside, ready to receive the compassion and care of Yeshua through our staff and volunteers.

Recognizing some familiar faces, the volunteers concluded that many of the people they were looking at had been there the day before but weren't able to make it to the front of the line by the time the clinic closed. Instead, they spent the night outside.

Rather than walking home and re-walking the many miles to get back, it was evident these masses had chosen to spend the last 20 hours in the clinic's perimeter to retain their place in line so they would hopefully be seen today—the clinic's last day.

Unlike Western culture, where sleeping on an air-filled mattress with a sleeping bag to serve as a human placeholder for the latest tech product or the best seats at a sporting or music event is viewed as little more than an adventure, these hurting souls had spent the night in almost-freezing temperatures.

Instead of sleeping bags to keep them warm or

*So my heart is glad and my soul rejoices.
My body also rests secure. For You will
not abandon my soul to Sheol nor let
Your faithful one see the Pit. You make
known to me the path of life. Abundance
of joys are in Your presence, eternal
pleasures at Your right hand.*

—Psalm 16:9-11

transcends words.”

Equally alarming was the awakening acceptance by the staff and volunteers that time and resources would prevent many from receiving care before the end of the day.

Jack goes on, “Our hearts are to treat and minister to everyone within our reach. How can we feel that we’ve completed our work when we have to turn people away, especially women and babies?”

But that didn't deter the level of care and compassion in the hearts of the volunteers. Jack recalls one particular interaction that final day when the healing of Yeshua was present.

A young man who was weak and unable to walk

soft grass to lie on, many of the people slept on ice-cold granite outcroppings that had collected the evening's bitter temperature.

JVMI staff member Jack Zimmerman recounts, “It broke our hearts to see the poverty and devastation... the images of what we saw

MASVINGO



on his own reached the front of the line. He was led by volunteers who'd quickly assessed that he was blind.

After a thorough examination, it was determined that the blind man's vision couldn't be aided with the equipment on hand, but the physician who examined him felt confident that a procedure could be performed to restore the young man's sight in nearby Harare.

Although the amazing news of restored vision was one to be celebrated, the day was now drawing to an end, and the volunteers knew they had hard news to deliver to the crowd still waiting to be seen: the clinic would soon be closing for another year.

It was a heartbreaking moment as the volunteers prepared the announcement, but instead of the anticipated mass disappointment from those still waiting in line, something remarkable occurred.

There was applause. It's one of the ways the

"Everyone in that line was clapping because they knew that even though they wouldn't receive what they needed that day, they knew we loved them enough to come out and do whatever we could to help."

Lemba express their gratitude.

The volunteers had expected the possibility of an angry unsettling stemming from a sense of abandonment, but that's a Western mindset where it's more common than not to expect pandemonium when a store sells out of an item before it can be purchased by the masses. Shoppers who had camped out for hours so they could be in line when the stores opened certainly don't applaud when they're turned away.

The concerned minds of the JVMI staff and volunteers were quieted by the applause. Jack says that he believes "everyone in that line was clapping because they knew that even though they wouldn't receive what they needed that day, they knew we loved them enough to come out and do *whatever* we could to help."

The applause was their way of saying that although they never made it to the front of the line,



they were thankful for our presence...their hearts were glad and their souls rejoiced (Psalm 16:9).

There are thousands of people waiting for our scheduled return in October to distribute life-saving medicines, offer spiritual encouragement, and prepare the way of the Lord! Our goal this year is to help *everyone* who comes to us. Each Jewish Voice clinic is made possible by the prayers and gifts of God's people. We invite you to partner with us to change lives as we proclaim Yeshua to Jewish people in Masvingo and around the world. 🇺🇸

DON'T LET THE GOVERNMENT DECIDE HOW TO DIVIDE YOUR ESTATE



Jewish Voice has partnered with the Financial Planning Ministry to provide FREE WILL AND TRUST PLANNING to JVMI partners like you if you have a need. You will have peace of mind knowing your gifts will be blessing God's Kingdom well into the future.

Also, if you choose to participate in the Abraham Promise Fund, you will make a lasting, long-term impact on countless lives.

When you make a legacy gift to the Abraham Promise Fund, you will be a part of proclaiming the Good News of Yeshua to hurting Jewish people all around the globe for generations to come.

JOIN with us and create an enduring legacy of reaching the Jewish people with the Gospel!

CALL 1-855-550-1455 or
VISIT jvmi.org/apf to learn more.





WHAT WE SAW AS WE PROCLAIMED YESHUA TRANSCENDED WORDS

Unlike Western culture, where sleeping on an air-filled mattress with a sleeping bag to serve as a human placeholder for the latest tech product or the best seats at a sporting or music event is viewed as little more than an adventure, hurting souls in Masvingo spent a frigid night sleeping on granite outcroppings in almost-freezing temperatures waiting for the JVMI medical clinic to open on its last day.

There were already 1,000 people lined up before sunrise—most of them women and children. What the staff and volunteers had already seen at the clinic in previous days transcended words, but this image was especially heartbreaking: knowing that **not everyone could be seen before the clinic closed its doors for another year.**

Our goal this year is to PROCLAIM Yeshua and help EVERYONE who comes to us.

Each Jewish Voice clinic is made possible by the prayers and gifts of God's people. We invite you to partner with us as we prepare to return to Masvingo and other locations throughout the year to deliver compassionate care and the Good News of Yeshua to every precious Jewish person within our reach!

There are thousands of people waiting for our return to Masvingo. **Your support is needed today** as we prepare to distribute life-saving medicines, offer spiritual encouragement, and prepare the way of the Lord.



**MAKE KNOWN
TO THEM THE
PATH OF LIFE**



OUR THANK YOU GIFTS TO YOU

We'd like to express our gratitude to you for helping us reach everyone who comes to this important ministry we share together. These special gifts are sincere tokens of our immense appreciation of your incredible generosity. Your support means the Jewish people in places like Masvingo are receiving much-needed, life-saving care and the Good News that Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel, has come.

For your gift of support of ANY amount...

5009

Biblical Feasts Tent Cards

Discover the significance of Jewish feasts with these beautifully designed table-top tent cards. Each card includes information explaining the feast, its traditional observance, prophetic significance, and Messianic fulfillment. Designed to fold into a tent and sit on your table, the inside includes even more meaningful information, including a traditional recipe, to help you celebrate each feast in your own home.



For your gift of \$60 or more...

1804

Feasts of Israel Collection

If you can share a gift of \$60 or more, we'll send you our complete Feasts of Israel Collection. In addition to the Biblical Feasts Tent Cards, this powerful collection of resources ALSO includes:

Feasts of Israel CD by Jonathan Bernis

In this powerful teaching by Messianic Rabbi Jonathan Bernis, you will see that these Biblical Feasts are prophetic tapestries that shadow future redemptive acts of God revealed in the New Covenant. This life-changing CD is relevant for Jews and Gentile Believers alike.

The Promise Box

The Promise Box is filled with 120 Bible verse cards revealing God's promises to you. The beautiful painted canvas box is designed to resemble the Bible and includes a lovely depiction of the Golden Gates, the Gates of Mercy, in Old Jerusalem on the lid. We know this treasure will be a lasting blessing to you as you draw on God's promises every day. The box measures 5.24" x 3.5".

Jewish Voice Anointing Oil

Minister healing prayer and blessing to those you love with this special oil infused with real myrrh and frankincense from the Holy Land.



For your gift of \$125 or more...

1837

When you send a gift of \$125 or more, we'll send you the complete Feasts of Israel Collection as described above with our deepest gratitude and also include this stunning shofar and beautifully crafted wooden stand to display this special keepsake and conversation piece. Finishes vary in these natural animal horns, but all are beautiful and have been tested to be functional before shipping. The shofar measures 8-11" in size.



Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for being a part of every life touched, every patient helped, every soul saved.

May the Lord strengthen you!



How to Prepare for PASSOVER in Your Home

BY RABBI BARNEY KASDAN

Of all the festivals listed in the Bible, many would say that Passover stands out as the most informative. It is certainly the most detailed in its description and traditional observance. We naturally think of the amazing details revolving around the Passover Seder meal. While this is certainly a highlight of the Jewish year, there are some other intriguing customs involved as we prepare for Passover within our homes even before the Seder dinner.

One of the central tenets of Passover is the removal of leaven from all our dwelling places:

“For seven days you are to eat matzot, but on the first day you must remove *chametz/leaven* from your houses” (Exodus 12:15). Traditional Jews start this process (*biur chametz*) with a thorough cleaning of the house. This would include the customary spring cleaning (yes, God invented it!) but with a vital additional step. All *chametz* must be removed, which would include any products containing yeast such as cereals and many processed foods, as well as breads. Leaven products can be given away or stored in a secured area like a closet and even symbolically “sold” to someone else. While there are technicalities in Jewish law about this process, the main thing for Believers in Yeshua is to appreciate the spirit of the tradition. Leaven is a common symbol for sin in the Scriptures and Jewish tradition. It is an apt representation since sin, like yeast products, permeates and even corrupts where it is found. Passover is more

than a holiday of cleaning out our homes. It is a reminder to remove those things that are hurtful to our spiritual lives.

The next step of Passover preparation likewise illustrates great spiritual lessons for us. After the home has been completely cleansed and the leaven removed, there is an amazing tradition called the search for leaven (*bedikat chametz*). This may sound puzzling since the house was already cleaned but this tradition focuses on further details of the cleansing. On the night before the start of Passover, small portions or crumbs of leaven are hidden in various locations throughout the home. It should be placed in rather obvious places where the *chametz* can be easily found. To facilitate the search for the leaven, four eclectic items are needed: a candle, a wooden spoon, a feather, and a paper bag. As the candle is lit, it is held by the person leading the search, perhaps a parent. At this point, any kids in the home can actively participate as the group walks room to room in search of the last remnants of leaven. When one piece is discovered by the candlelight, then it is scooped up onto the wooden spoon with the help of the feather. The *chametz* is then placed in the paper bag and the search continues until every last piece of leaven is found and likewise stored in the bag. The following blessing is said:

“Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments and commanded us to remove the leaven.”

The leaven in the bag is kept overnight and then burnt outside the next morning (before the first night of Passover) to assure its complete destruction. It is also important to point out that it is not enough to just remove the leaven. One is also required to replace it with *matzah/unleavened* products for the full eight days of the Passover holiday. Evidently, it is not sufficient to merely remove the evil, but we must proactively have a pure walk in our spiritual journey with God.

A Messianic Midrash

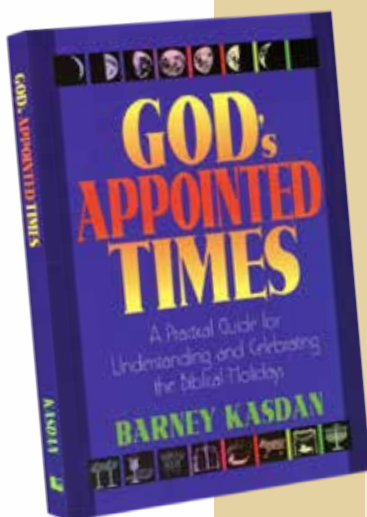
Bedikat Chametz/the search for leaven is no doubt a fun and captivating tradition for the whole family. Yet, once again we should take a deeper look for the spiritual lessons behind this Jewish custom. As the final search for leaven (sin) commences, a lighted candle is mandatory. Is it not the light of God's Word that exposes the spiritual leaven in our lives (Psalm 119:11)? As sin and hurtful actions are exposed by the light, so, too, they are collected and dealt with according to the feather and spoon. If we allow for some "Messianic midrash" teaching, the wooden spoon can be reminiscent of the wooden tool used for sin's destruction; namely, the wooden cross of Messiah's death (I Peter 2:24). The feather reminds Believers in Yeshua that it is also by the unique work of the Holy Spirit (dove) that we connect to Yeshua as our Redeemer. His ultimate work, as accomplished at Passover, is the destruction of our sins and the

hurtful consequences of our rebellion. We get a fresh realization of this truth as the bag of *chametz* is burnt before the first Seder meal. We should also note the important chronology here. Before we celebrate the Seder meal (which highlights the remembrance of Yeshua with the third Cup and *Afikoman matzah*), we must search out our lives and be cleansed of any *chametz*. Our connection with Messiah (breaking bread with Him) requires that we first take an honest look into our own lives and let God take away our sin. So even before we celebrate the Seder, we learn essential lessons as we prepare our homes. Not surprisingly, all Believers in Yeshua are encouraged to incorporate some of these rich customs in our holiday celebration. As Rabbi Sha'ul states:

"Get rid of the old *chametz*, so you may be a new batch, just as you are unleavened—for Messiah, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast not with old *chametz* of malice and wickedness, but with unleavened bread—the *matzah* of sincerity and truth" (Also see I Corinthians 5:7-8). 🇺🇸



Rabbi Barney Kasdan serves at Kehilat Ariel Messianic Synagogue in San Diego, California. He is also author of four popular books, including *God's Appointed Times*, which describes in detail how the Jewish holy days point to Yeshua.



God's Appointed Times

by Rabbi Barney Kasdan

The Biblical holy days are not just for Jewish people. Gentile Believers in Yeshua can receive the blessings of these glorious days as well. Rabbi Barney Kasdan believes ordained feasts and holy days of Israel are among the greatest object lessons in the Bible. Rabbi Kasdan is the leader of Kehilat Ariel of San Diego, one of the largest Messianic congregations in the world. In *God's Appointed Times*, he explains each of the major and minor holy days described in Scripture. Each chapter includes historical background, traditional Jewish observance, relevance to the New Testament, prophetic significance, and a practical guide for Believers, including songs, crafts, and recipes.

Receive Rabbi Kasdan's book for your gift of \$15 or more for the international outreach of Jewish Voice Ministries. Thank you for your generous support. 8675



SHAVUOT:

What it is and What You Should Know

JVMI STAFF WRITER

Shavuot is one of three pilgrimage feasts that the Jewish people were commanded to observe at the Temple in Jerusalem, and it holds many points of significance.

God instructed a holy gathering and declared that no regular work is to be done on Shavuot. In Leviticus 23, God gave instructions for the Israelites to “count from the morrow after the Shabbat” after Passover, “seven complete Shabbatot. Until the morrow after the seventh Shabbat, you are to count fifty days, and then present a new grain offering to Adonai” (Leviticus 23:15-16).

Jewish tradition teaches that God gave the Torah (the Law) to His people at Mount Sinai on the day of Shavuot. Therefore,

Shavuot is a time of celebrating the gift of the Torah, which set apart the Jewish people as God’s own. Their relationship with God changed when they received His Law. They knew so much more about Him, His holiness, and what was required to live in relationship with Him. In this celebration of the Torah, many Jewish people today stay up all night reading the Torah together, and when Shavuot dawn breaks, they pray together and read the Ten Commandments.

Other names for Shavuot

Like many Jewish holidays, Shavuot is known by several names. Shavuot means “sevens” or “weeks,” and, because of the counting of seven weeks, the festival is called the Feast of Weeks. As it also relates to the harvest and the offering of the

first fruits of the standing wheat harvest, Shavuot is also called the Feast of First Fruits. The 50-day count gave Shavuot another name: Pentecost.

Why is the Celebration of Christian Pentecost at a different time than Shavuot?

While Shavuot begins at sundown on May 30 this year, the Christian calendar notes that Pentecost is June 4. Why the difference?

Pentecost on the traditional Christian calendar follows a 50-day count from Easter, while traditional Judaism Shavuot counts from the day after Passover. This brings up the question of why Easter is on a different schedule than Passover. (Note: There are some ancient Jewish traditions that

count Shavuot from the day after the Shabbat during Passover week so that Shavuot will always be on a Sunday. However, traditional Judaism today begins the count to Shavuot from the day after the Sabbath rest required on the day of Passover itself, which can be any day of the week.)

In 325 A.D., the Council of Nicea emphatically separated the celebration of Yeshua's resurrection from Passover. Though the resurrection occurred on the Sunday following Passover, the Council did not want the holiday associated with Passover. Animosity toward Jewish people had grown in the church, which by then consisted largely of Gentiles. The Council overlooked that the Gospel was "to the Jew first" (Romans 1:16) and that Gentiles are grafted into the covenant God made with the Jewish people (Romans 11) through Yeshua. The decision shows just how soon in history that the church let the apostle Paul's words fade from their understanding. The Nicene Council abandoned the Jewish calendar for the Gregorian calendar and declared that the resurrection would be celebrated the first Sunday after the new moon following the Spring Equinox, which is between March 19-21 each year. Since the Nicene Council's decision, Pentecost has been marked as 50 days after Easter.

The importance of Jewish roots

These calendar changes hide a significant element of the first Pentecost: it was Shavuot. Because Shavuot was a pilgrimage feast, Jerusalem was filled with Jewish people from "every nation" (Acts 2:5). They'd come to celebrate

It is a time to offer our first fruits to the Lord, to recommit ourselves to His Word, and to celebrate the gift of His presence in each of us through His Holy Spirit.

and make their offerings for the Feast of Weeks. In Acts Chapter two, just 50 days after Yeshua's resurrection, the Holy Spirit that He had promised came upon the early Believers in Jerusalem. As the Holy Spirit filled them, they spoke in other tongues. Jewish people from every nation heard the Good News each in their own language. God planned the gift of His Holy Spirit and the miraculous display of His power to be given at a time when many of the people of Israel would be present in Jerusalem to witness it. Three thousand people were saved that day!

Prophecy fulfilled at Shavuot

Centuries after God gave the Law on Mount Sinai, He said there would come a day when He would write His law on the hearts of His people. Jeremiah foretold the day when God would make a new covenant with His people, saying, "*Behold, days are coming... when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.... I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart*" (Jeremiah 31:30-32). He also declared, "*I will put My Ruach [Spirit] within you*" (Ezekiel 36:27). On the Shavuot following Yeshua's death, God fulfilled this promise when He gave His Holy Spirit.

It is with all of this insight that Messianic Jewish Believers commemorate Shavuot. It is a time to offer our first fruits to the Lord, to recommit ourselves to His Word, and to celebrate the gift of His presence in each of us through His Holy Spirit. It is a time to rejoice in fulfilled prophecy and to hold dear the rich Jewish roots of New Covenant faith in Yeshua. 🌟

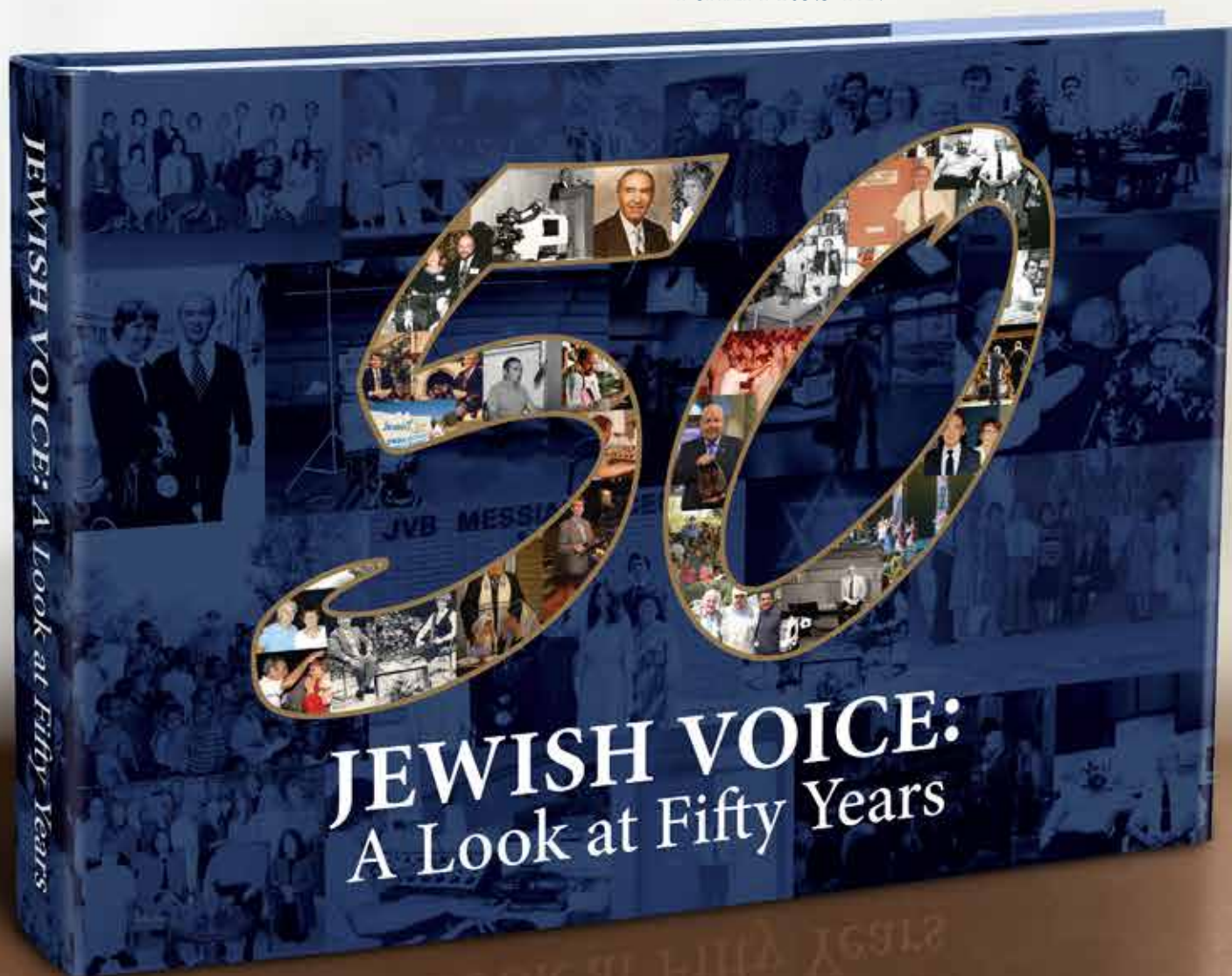
Shavuot begins at sundown on Tuesday, May 30, 2017.





*“Remember His wonders that
He has done, His miracles.”*

– PSALM 105:5 TLV





JEWISH VOICE: A Look at Fifty Years

As we celebrate this important ministry milestone, we invite you to join us in looking back at all that God has done through Jewish Voice Ministries International over these last 50 years while also looking forward to the next 50 years of proclaiming the Gospel of Yeshua to the Jew first, and also to the nations (Romans 1:16).

This beautiful hardcover coffee table book is full of

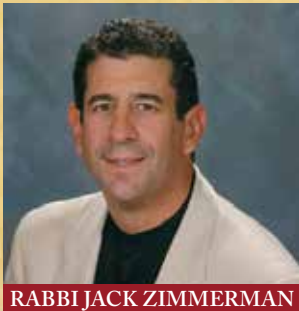
photos and stories from five decades of ministry.

From Louis and Chira Kaplan's earliest Jewish Voice Broadcasts to large-scale festivals in Russia, India, and Argentina, to medical outreaches in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, this book is a celebration of God's wonders and miracles and how He is positioning Jewish Voice Ministries International for even more in the years to come.

Receive your copy of *Jewish Voice: A Look at Fifty Years* as our "thank you" for your gift of **\$100** or more to continue the global outreach of Jewish Voice.

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Hebrew School

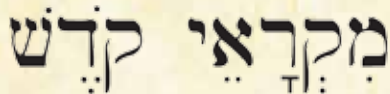
WITH RABBI JACK

HEBREW LESSON FOR THE SPRING FEASTS

Shalom, everyone! We're once again entering the season of the annual biblical festivals found in Leviticus 23 and learning how they each point to Yeshua in their fulfillment.

But did you know that so much more can be revealed when you understand what the original Hebrew says and what it really means?

That's why I'm so excited in this issue of our magazine to introduce you to two new words. In their original Hebrew, they look like this:



Since we read Hebrew from right to left, the first word is pronounced, *MEEK-ray* and the second is spoken as *KO-desh*. Said together, these words mean, "Holy Convocation," and hold major importance for our upcoming spring festivals, because these festivals (as well as the ones that follow in the fall) are all holy convocations.

So what are holy convocations, then? Ahh, here's where things get really interesting: you can't read the Bible without seeing that fellowship is of paramount importance to the Lord. In fact, in Acts 2, a revival took place in verse 47, when God added to the number of those being saved, and we notice that all the activities that led up to this had fellowship as their common thread.

Simply put, a *MEEK-ray KO-desh*, or holy convocation, refers to the act of assembling together (fellowshipping) for the purpose of worshiping and glorifying the Lord. While the word *MEEK-ray* speaks of coming together in an assembly, adding the word *KO-desh* is what makes the assembly holy.

Now that you've got the basics, let's go a bit deeper: if we look again at that word *MEEK-ray*, we

see that it also has another meaning—"a rehearsal!" So, putting the pieces together thus far, we have people assembling together to worship God, and as they do, they are engaging in a rehearsal.

Rehearsing...for what?

Actually, it's rehearsing...for Whom!

While it is often noted that the upcoming spring feasts have already been fulfilled, the more we acknowledge and take note of them, the more we are rehearsing and preparing for the great day when the One they all point to will return. For example, the period from Pesach to Shavuot (Passover to Pentecost) not only reminds us of the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Yeshua, but helps us to prepare and look forward to the time when all Believers will be resurrected.

That's what makes the idea of a rehearsal so important. Actors know very well that after so many rehearsals, they are finally prepared and their lines are deeply imbedded. In the same way, God desires that our rehearsals of what and Who is to come, cause us to have the Lord and these upcoming times deeply embedded in our hearts as well!

Let us look forward with joy to when all Believers will be resurrected!



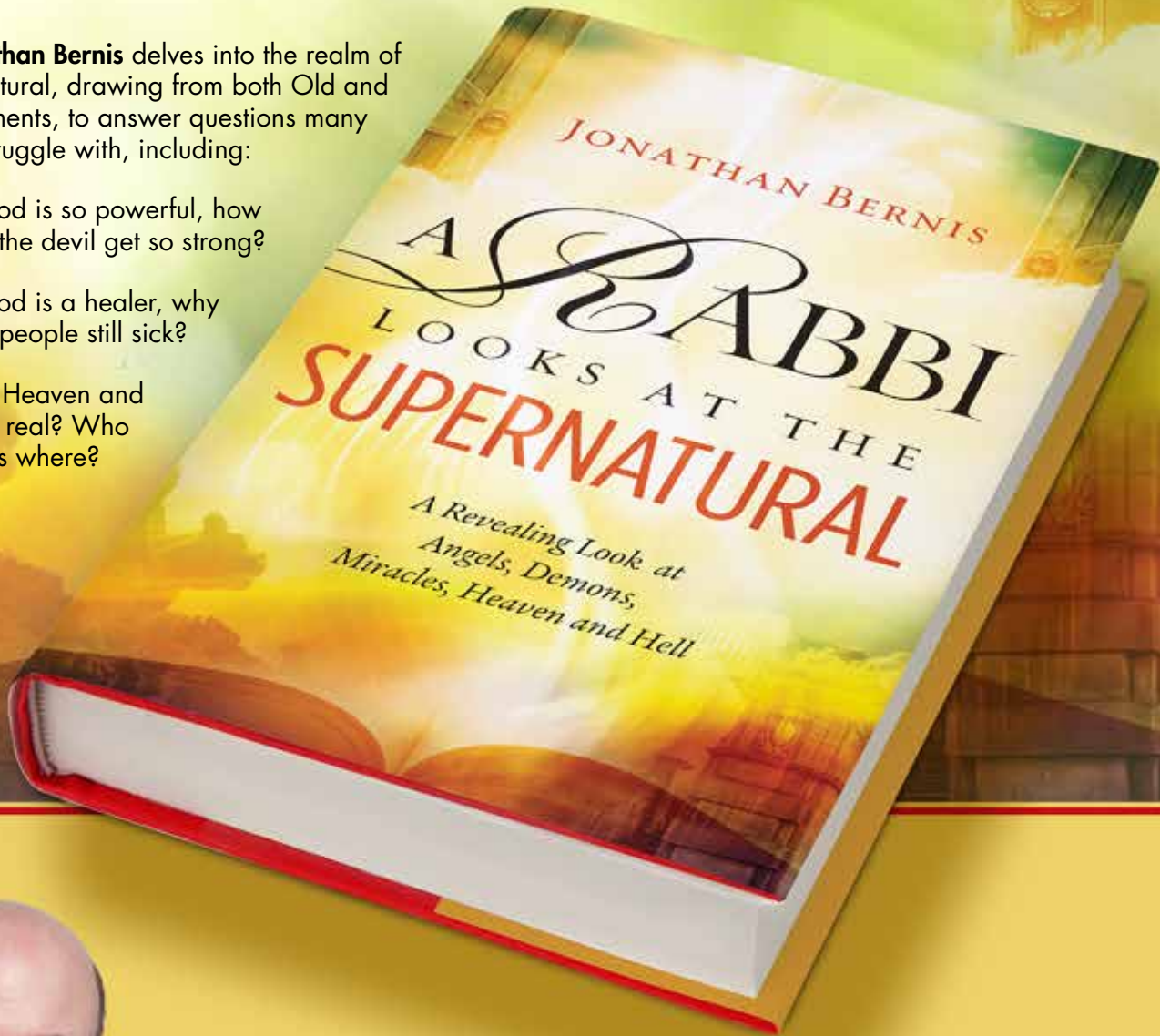
EXCLUSIVE OFFER!

“Above all, you will discover that you are uniquely wired to live a supernatural existence here and now—and that there is a faithful, loving God who longs for you to embrace with confidence His supernatural work in your own life.”

—Jonathan Bernis

Rabbi Jonathan Bernis delves into the realm of the supernatural, drawing from both Old and New Testaments, to answer questions many Believers struggle with, including:

- If God is so powerful, how did the devil get so strong?
- If God is a healer, why are people still sick?
- Are Heaven and Hell real? Who goes where?



Send a **gift of \$40 or more** to support the outreach of JVMI and receive *A Rabbi Looks at the Supernatural* as our thank you gift to you. 9207

Just use the enclosed reply form to request your copy today.
Thank you for your generous support of JVMI!



Be a part of these life-changing trips as together we prepare the way of the Lord!

God has called Jewish Voice to be on the front lines of the battle to take the Good News of Yeshua to the world. Now we invite you to join us on this journey as together we live out the ancient words of Isaiah 40:

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Whether you’re a medical or a non-medical professional, we need volunteers like you on medical outreaches to Jewish communities in some of the most impoverished parts of the world.

We’re preparing the way of the Lord, bringing much-needed medical treatment and the truth that these precious people can have a hope and a future through Yeshua the Messiah.

JOIN JVMI

on an international medical outreach mission and bring the compassion and care of Yeshua to those in need.

VISIT


jvmi.org/2017outreach or call 800-299-9374 to learn more and partner with us.

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