

נתיב האמת

Netiv HaEmet

The Path of Truth

Issue 01

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**Special October 7
Yahrzeit
Memorial Edition**

Featured Article:

Never Again Never Alone

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He's not a white European or a Palestinian. He cannot be separated from his Jewish identity. p.4

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I FOUND SHALOM .COM

Jewish followers of Jesus share their stories

Isaiah 53.COM

This chapter could change your life

Welcome to the launch issue of *Netiv HaEmet*

A year ago, on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists carried out a horrifying attack upon Israel. We remember the 1,200 Israelis who were murdered on that day and the additional hostages who were killed in the months thereafter. May their memory be a blessing. We also continue to pray and rally for the release of the remaining hostages.

For our launch issue of this newsletter, we want to instill hope in the midst of a world of rising antisemitism and opposition to Israel's right to exist. The news looks bad, but there are bright lights of hope that media reports often miss. As our feature article says, even though the rallying cry of "Never again" has fallen short, we can be confident that we are never alone.

Our publication team consists of Christians and Messianic Jews who are united in their love for Israel, the Jewish people, and the Jewish Messiah, Jesus. A key theme of this issue is that *Jews and Christians need each other more than ever in the world today*. Not only do we have a shared spiritual lineage, but we also share a heartfelt rejection of antisemitism and an acceptance of God's great promises to the Jewish people.

You may be asking why you are receiving this newsletter. At some point in months or years prior, you submitted your contact information on Chosen People Ministries' websites or petitions. You may have been interested in Isaiah 53 or in our pro-Israel advocacy work that brings Christians and Jews together. However you found us, we hope that this newsletter will encourage you as you seek the path of truth.

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October 2024

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NEVER AGAIN NEVER ALONE

We thought the world had learned its lesson. We thought humanity had grasped the gravity of antisemitism. We thought we had friends who stood with us. We held onto the hope we would never again witness this amount of senseless brutality. But on October 7, 2023, Hamas' savage attack on innocent Jewish people shattered those illusions. The subsequent upswell of antisemitic rhetoric has been hard to believe and even more hurtful to experience.

"Never Again"—the Jewish community's determined vow against another genocide after the horrors of the Holocaust—now feels like a hollow echo. It is natural to feel helpless in the face of enormous evil and shattered dreams. It is normal to wonder how something like this could happen again, despite all the Jewish community's efforts to build a safe haven for ourselves. But in a world with shattered hopes, we now wonder if there is any lasting hope left to grasp.

NEVER ALONE

However, even as our hopes seem shattered, there is an unbroken promise—a promise enduring the test of time—which has seen Jewish people through the darkest moments of history and can carry us through despite the growing intensity of attacks on Israel and global antisemitism.

This promise is not given by man but by the God of Israel. In the Torah, He made an eternal covenant with our ancestors, a covenant binding Him to us and to the land of Israel forever (Genesis 15). This covenant is not based on the worthiness of Jewish people but founded on God's love and faithfulness for His chosen people. As Moses, our lawgiver, wrote,

The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord

loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

According to Moses, God promised to be our God and called upon us to be His people. He vowed to dwell among us, guide us, protect us, and defend us, and despite our failures and shortcomings, He has remained faithful to His promises.


Throughout history, God has proven Himself to be a shield of protection around Jewish people. Whether our persecutors were Haman, Hitler, or Hamas, He has intervened on our behalf countless times—often in miraculous ways—to deliver us from harm and danger. Even when Jewish people felt abandoned or forgotten, He was always present, working behind the scenes to bring about redemption and restoration.

He is still deeply engaged today, even amid the interminable suffering Jewish people have endured over the last year, especially Israelis who lost loved ones on October 7 and during its aftermath.

UNEXPECTED FRIENDS

We are not alone in another sense as well. There are countless followers of Yeshua (Jesus), the Messiah, who believe the land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel, and they also believe Jewish people still play a significant role in God's plan for the ages. In a world where Jewish people seem to be losing friends and are feeling increasingly isolated, we might remember how Christians also used to be viewed as enemies and persecutors. However, times have changed, and today's sincere, Bible-believing Christians are now some of our greatest supporters.

As one Anglican Christian said recently, "If antisemites want to harm the Jewish people, then they have to get through us first!" How powerful! What an expression



of love and support. This amazing show of support and backing by Christians may open us up as Jewish people to take a new look at the claims of Yeshua to be the Jewish Messiah.

Yet, the support we as Jewish people receive today from the Christian community can sometimes be confusing because of an uncomfortable history of “Christian” persecution. The Crusades, pogroms, and even the Holocaust are often believed to be the cumulative result of a long history of Christian antisemitism.

This is why it is so critical for Christians and Jewish people to understand there are many beliefs tying us together. One of them is a mutual understanding of how God made a covenant with Jewish people, which He will never repeal. Consider this biblical promise:

Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the Lord of hosts is His name: “If this fixed order departs from before Me,” declares the Lord, “then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever.” (Jeremiah 31:35–36)

The continued existence of the sun, moon, and stars—and even the waves hitting the Tel Aviv seashore—is evidence of God’s continued preservation of the people of Israel. Many followers of Jesus recognize this fact, passionately insisting anyone who is opposed to the Jewish state and people is opposed to God Himself.

A DEEPER REASON

However, there is an even deeper significance behind the advocacy of Christians on behalf of Israel. Christians often view the modern State of Israel as the fulfillment of biblical prophecy and believe God will fulfill His remaining promises of bringing a lasting peace to Israel when Yeshua returns.

The Christian commitment to Israel and Jewish people stems from a profound understanding of Yeshua’s identity as the Jewish Messiah. Yeshua identified as a

Jewish person; He was one of us. He said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 15:24). He came to Jewish people first, and only later did His message have an impact on Gentiles all over the world.

Followers of Yeshua see Him as the fulfillment of biblical prophecies, as central to the redemption narrative throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, and the embodiment of God’s love for His people. Yeshua also came to bring unity between Jewish people and Gentiles and to reconcile humanity to God. As Messianic Jews, we believe Yeshua came to offer forgiveness of sin to all who put their trust in Him: to our Jewish people and to Gentiles alike. The Jewish prophet Isaiah foretold the Messiah’s atoning death for our sins:

He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. (Isaiah 53:3b–6)


By forgiving our sins, Yeshua provides us with a true and lasting hope nobody can ever take away or destroy. He said,

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28–30)

Yeshua gives us a peace transcending the troubles and horrific terrorist acts of this world. When all else fails, including our calls for “Never Again,” our Messiah remains faithful and true. We are never alone when we trust in Him. We know the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be faithful to keep His promises to His chosen people—forever! ♦

"As the Jewish people confront the latest threats to their existence, they will find standing alongside them Christian[s] who passionately share their concerns not despite their Christian faith, but because of it."

— David Brog, *Standing with Israel*



JESUS IS JEWISH

In the New Testament, Jesus is inseparable from his Jewish identity. When asked about the greatest commandment in the Law of Moses, Jesus pointed to the most important prayer in Jewish life, the Shema:

One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’” (Mark 12:28–30)

Jesus’ answer, found in Deuteronomy 6:4–5, is one of the most important prayers in Judaism. It affirms the God of Israel as the one true God and urges the people of Israel to love Him with all their hearts, souls, and strength.

Yet, attempts to separate Jesus from His Jewishness abound. Classic Christian art depicted Jesus as a white European rather than a Middle Eastern Jewish man. The Nazi Reich sought to transform the Jewish Jesus into a non-Jewish Aryan. Today, some are claiming Jesus was a Palestinian refugee, divorced of His Jewish identity.

But falsehoods like these cannot erase the truth of history. Jesus of Nazareth was born in Bethlehem of Judea, circumcised on the eighth day, obeyed the Torah, taught in the synagogues, observed the Jewish festivals, and claimed to be the Jewish Messiah and king of Israel. He lived and died a Jewish man, and He will return to Jerusalem and reign from the throne of David forevermore.

Jewish in His Birth

The Gospel of Matthew confirms Jesus’ Jewish identity right from the start: “The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matt 1:1). The passage then continues to give the Jewish lineage of Jesus.

Matthew also records Jesus’ birthplace as Bethlehem of Judea (Israel), in fulfillment of the prophecies written by the Jewish prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures: “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king” (Matt 2:1). Matthew was referring to the prophet Micah who wrote, “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity” (Mic 5:2).

Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day, according to the Law of Moses, and his mother, Miriam (Mary), and adoptive father Joseph dedicated Him at the Temple after the days for their purification were complete (Luke 2:21–22).

Jewish in His Life, Ministry, and Death

The New Testament depicts Jesus as a faithful Jewish man who kept the Law of Moses, taught other Jews to do the same, and called the Temple “My Father’s house” (Luke 2:49; John 2:16).

The New Testament also describes Jesus as a Jewish rabbi who had twelve Jewish talmidim, or students (disciples). At first, He sent out His disciples to preach the good news of God’s kingdom only to the people of Israel: “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans, but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:5–6).

In His conversation with a Samaritan woman, Jesus affirmed, “Salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22), in contrast to Samaritan beliefs, and revealed to her He was the Jewish Messiah (vv. 25–26).

In His death, Jesus identified Himself as Israel’s suffering servant, suffering on behalf of his people’s sins, taking the punishment for sin upon himself (Isaiah 53:5–6).

After His resurrection, Jesus once again commissioned His talmidim (disciples) to go out and proclaim the good news, but this time, He sent them into the whole world (Acts 1:8). Gentiles by the thousands began coming to faith in Messiah Yeshua and putting their trust in the God of Israel, just as the ancient Jewish prophets of long ago foretold (Isaiah 49:6).

Jewish in His Return

Jesus not only identified with His people Israel in His birth, life, ministry, and death, but He also said He will not return until Jewish people are living in Jerusalem and ready to welcome Him as their Messiah:

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." (Matthew 23:37–39; cf. Luke 21:24)

The prophet Zechariah also foretold of this future day of Israel's spiritual and political redemption at Yeshua's return:

And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son. (Zechariah 12:9–10; cf. Romans 11:25–26)

Jesus, as the Jewish Messiah, will return to defend Israel

from her enemies, and Jewish people living in Israel at the time of His return will realize He is the One pierced at His first coming. He will then reign from His rightful throne in Jerusalem, and Israel will bless the nations by serving as the central place of worship in God's kingdom (Isaiah 2:2–4; 19:23–25).

Jesus is not a European, American, Aryan, African, or Palestinian—although He loves and died for all people and nations. He is the Jewish Messiah who suffered and died for sin at His first coming and He will defend Israel from her enemies and set up His kingdom in Jerusalem at His return, as the Jewish prophets foretold.

But until that glorious day, we need to decide now whether we believe Jesus is Messiah. Do you believe He took the punishment for your sins upon Himself in His death, then rose from the dead, according to the Jewish Scriptures? Only those who trust in Him will escape God's judgment for sin and spend eternity with Him. ♦

OF COURSE CHRISTIANS LOVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE!

Of all the religious groups around the world, Christians stand out for their love and support for Jewish people. Today, this bond is demonstrated by numerous examples of Christians showing solidarity with the State of Israel. What drives this deep-seated connection? What inspires this enduring love? Let us explore these questions by beginning with the sacred text for Christians, the New Testament, a collection of Jewish writings centered around Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah.

The Loving Examples of Yeshua and Paul

Yeshua models loving Jewish people throughout His life, from the very beginning. Yeshua (ישוע), which means "salvation" in Hebrew, was the name given to Him at His *brit milah* (eighth-day circumcision ceremony). He was given this name because, according to an angel of the Lord, "He will save His people [Israel] from their

sins" (Matthew 1:21). Yeshua shows his desire to set his people free while reading a haftarah portion (from Isaiah 61) in His home synagogue:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18–19)

Yeshua explained this passage as relating to his mission: "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). Yeshua the Messiah came to free his people from bondage to sin and death out of his deep love for his people, Israel. His love for Israel was so strong, even when Israel's leaders committed egregious sins, which ultimately resulted in the destruction of the Second Temple. Yeshua responded by referencing Psalm 91, "How often I wanted to gather your children together,

the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings” (Matthew 23:37). Yeshua gave up his life and rose from the dead so his people, and the rest of the world, could experience eternal life. Thus, a central theme of the New Testament—the crucifixion—is an act of love toward Jewish people.

Paul, the apostle, and one of the most influential Jewish leaders in history, expressed his deep love for Israel. He wrote, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for [Israel’s] salvation” (Romans 10:1). Paul taught how Jewish people retain all of God’s promises, including, “the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Messiah according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen” (Romans 9:4–5). Paul also claimed Israel’s “gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29). In sum, Yeshua and Paul serve as models for all followers of Messiah, Jewish or Gentile, to love Jewish people with sincerity and passion, imitating God’s heart for His people.

Christian Action Shows Love for Jewish People

Yeshua’s love for Jewish people, rooted in the New Testament, has provoked countless Christians to radically defend and support Jewish people throughout the centuries. During World War II, many Christians showed extraordinary bravery in aiding Jewish people. For instance, Protestant Pastor André Trocmé in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, along with his village, sheltered around 3,500 Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution. Mother Maria Skobtsova, a nun in France, also played a critical role by providing shelter and forging documents to protect Jewish people from deportation. Despite being arrested and sent to a concentration camp, she and her collaborators’ efforts remain a powerful testament to Christian love for Jewish

people. Similarly, Bishop von Galen, a Catholic bishop in Germany, publicly condemned Nazi policies, including those targeting Jews. His outspoken opposition to the regime’s actions helped inspire many to resist the Nazis.

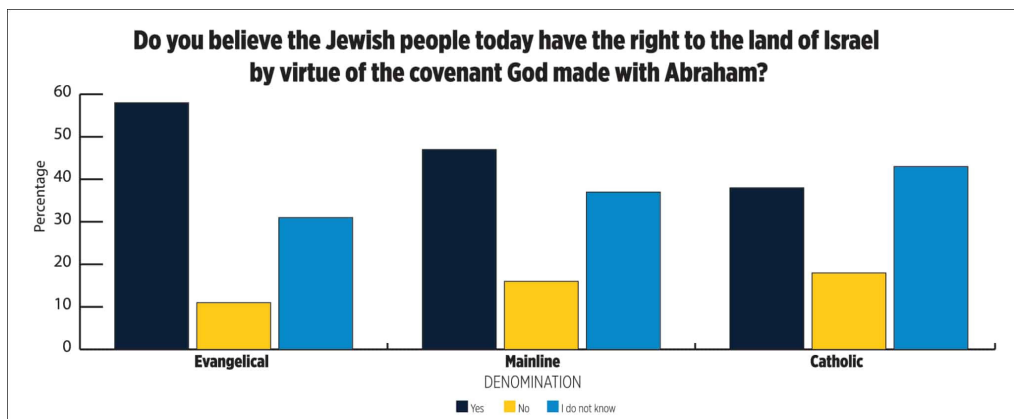
In contemporary times, Christian support for Israel and Jewish people remains steadfast. Following the horrific attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, various Christian organizations mobilized to support Israel with millions of dollars in donations to help in its war efforts against Hamas and provide aid for survivors, hostages’ families, evacuees, and others who are suffering. Christians in Bogotá, Colombia, showed their support for Israel by holding a rally protesting President Gustavo Petro’s decision to sever ties with Israel. Others held rallies to show Jewish people the love of Jesus the Messiah, including a well-attended event on Broadway in Manhattan on June 20, sponsored by Chosen People Ministries.

Each of these examples of Christians loving Jewish people makes complete sense because their faith, grounded in the Jewish Scriptures, expresses sincere love for Jewish people. One personal story perfectly captures the deep love and support Christians have for Jewish people. Stephanie, a Jewish friend, was walking near a home in the American South, wearing her Magen David (Star of David) necklace, when she encountered a Christian woman with an “I Stand with Israel” banner on her porch. Stephanie stopped to thank the woman, who responded, “I pray for your people every day. I pray for the peace of Jerusalem every day. Every church here does.”

Do Christians love Jewish people? Of course, they do! One of the ways Christians express this love is by praying for the peace of Jerusalem, as encouraged by King David, who wrote, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you’” (Psalm 122:6). ♦

Christian Attitudes Toward the War in Gaza in 2024 Survey Results

In March 2024, Motti Inbari conducted a survey of 2,033 self-identified American Christian adults. He found that 87% of respondents are concerned about antisemitism in America today, and 62% believe it is antisemitic to say that Israel does not have a right to exist.



For more statistics, see <https://www.chosenpeople.com/christian-attitudes-war-gaza-survey/>

INTERVIEWS WITH MESSIANIC JEWISH IDF SOLDIERS

We hope that you will enjoy this exclusive window into the lives and hearts of active and recently active IDF soldiers who are Jewish followers of Yeshua.

How have you and your family been affected by October 7?

Avi, 23, married: A lot of emotional stress, my army service was lengthened and now I will do reserve duty. It changed my overall life plans. Many friends are suffering from the direct emotional damage of seeing horrors and losing friends.

Yoni, 23, married: After October 7, I've struggled to feel "safe" in most places that I go. There's always this thought in the back of your mind that something terrible could happen at any moment. Also, many friends were in Gaza fighting and it was scary to know that I couldn't really do anything but pray for their safety.

Yoni, 24, married: On October 7, my family's home city was overrun by more than 500 terrorists. Around 30 police officers gave their lives in the fighting, and many were killed and taken hostage in our city. Only by God's grace were we able to get out of the city that morning and had we not left sooner, we would not be alive to tell about it.

Ezra, 28: My family has mostly been affected by worry and concern, especially for my mother. Some of my family visited Israel this summer. I think they were somewhat reassured to see that the day-to-day life in Israel continues fairly safely.

Sammy: We live in the Galilee, so it is out of reach of Hezbollah missiles and out of reach of Gaza missiles, so, security wise, we are fine. My family is affected in the sense that all the men were called up, which is how it is for most families.

E, officer: People feel like nothing is sure around them, so you can't be safe anywhere, and the reality changes rapidly, before you can even get used to it.

How has your faith impacted you since October 7?

Avi: It has kept me sane, with the constant threat of

missiles or drone attacks, bombings or shootings. I have been forced to rely on the Lord for my strength.

Linoy: October 7 made me realize how God really is the only one we can put our trust in. Only through Him is true victory.

Yoni: Faith has become much more tangible. The prophecies of the Bible are swiftly moving into fulfillment, and many proofs of God's protection and existence are being shown to us as we fight on the front lines and live in this country God promised to our people more than 3,500 years ago.

Ezra: I think the war has pushed me to take spiritual community more seriously and also seek God more intently on direction and guidance.

Sammy: We were part of taking back control of the kibbutzim and cleaning them up. There were several occasions where I really just saw how the Lord protected me and my team: mortars that landed next to us that did not explode, rockets that missed us left and right, soldiers who were almost killed, but by God's grace, they were saved just by the skin of their teeth. So, it really impacted my faith, just seeing God's divine protection—intervention even. Also seeing the hopelessness of people who do not have Yeshua and being able to share the gospel with them at that time.

E: The only thing that gave us hope is the fact that God never changes, and his love for us will be there forever.

What has the Messianic Jewish community in your area done to help the war efforts?

Yoni: Our community has seen more than 400 members join the fighting and experienced losing two of our bright young men. We have done all we can to unite, pray, and support each other in every way we can.

Linoy: The community has helped in a number of ways—a big one being providing housing for the thousands of Israeli refugees.

Ezra: A lot! Huge operations bringing food to displaced civilians, housing displaced Israeli civilians, sending sup-

plies needed by soldiers...lots of prayer, intentional community, [and] outreach.

Sammy: Most soldiers in the north don't have good logistics and don't have nicely cooked meals. They eat mostly tuna from cans and beans from cans. And so [at my] congregation an effort was made to make food for these soldiers, nice warm meals, curry, and, for Friday, Shabbat meals.

Have you been approached by any unbelieving Jewish friends asking about your faith in the past year? What happened?

Yoni: Of course. The interests are growing especially in these times of confusion, pain and loss. Our light brings hope and turns many to the light as well.

Ezra: Yes. A range of responses. Some showed a level of interest (mostly on an intellectual level, though some a bit deeper than that); some were less interested but did not show any prejudice; and a few showed that they found this distasteful.

Sammy: I got to spend lots of time with my teammates. My unit is a tank battalion, so there are lots of friends who are part of the tank teams. We've talked deeply about fears and concerns because for most of us it was the first time being exposed to death and dealing with what death looks like—the smell of death. And we spoke about the thought of also possibly being killed in the tanks. A lot of people asked about Yeshua because people in my battalion know that I am a believer, so I had lots of meaningful conversations and was able to hand a few New Testaments out to my teammates. I was able to pray with a few guys, so it was definitely a special time in that sense.

E: As for my own unit, people around me have started to feel depressed and to lose hope during the war. I could understand the reasons for that, because I experienced them too, but I felt that it was my own responsibility to cheer those around me, to tell them that God has always been with the nation of Israel and that we will prevail, even if it looks impossible. During some of those times I also talked explicitly about my faith in Yeshua and how important it is for me.

What is your prayer for Israel and for the Palestinians?

Avi: My prayer is simply for peace. Israel spends so much of its time just trying to stay alive, and it seems that Palestinians as a whole (although not all) have dedicated themselves to death and destruction, regardless of the personal cost or the cost of others. The only way things can change is for Yeshua to work in their hearts and our hearts, to come to faith.

Yoni: For Israelis, that we will see the Messiah's return ever swiftly and be ready for the greatest immigration of Jews back to their homeland. For the Palestinians, only God's mercy on the people and for justice for those who are given over to Satan.

Sammy: We pray for wisdom for the prime minister and for the minister of defense, chief of staff. Also, for the soldiers that are fighting that God would bless them and protect them. Also, for the hostages, that God would comfort them in their captivity and that they could be released soon. And for the Palestinians, the same—just grace and mercy for them because they are also suffering a lot. They are also dealing with lots of tragic loss and death. So, my heart goes out to them too.

How can we outside of Israel help?

Ezra: Pray. Be extremely active in reaching out to under-educated groups that follow the winds of shallow anti-Israel movements in the US/Europe/Asia/Africa/South America. Continue in the good work of donating supplies, especially when reserves are called up. And, important: live life to the fullest! If we allow them to bring our lives down, then we are handing them the victory. Let's not allow that to happen as much as possible.

Linoy: Prayers, donating to organizations that are helping the war effort, researching and trying to understand the full picture.

Sammy: Definitely prayer. In my different encounters with the enemy during my reserve duty, I really believe God's intervention because of prayer saved my life. Thanks to donations from believers, my team and I have high-quality gear from head to toe, helmet, vest, knee pads, boots, even medical equipment we've received through donations from believers in Yeshua. It has been a huge testimony also to my team and to many other soldiers who have received donations in my unit from believers. Also, advocating for Israel is another huge way people can help. Fight for Israel on social media, explain Israel's cause, its right to exist, and its right to fight for itself. Stand for Jewish people. ♦

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

— Jesus, John 16:33

Quick Takes



Did you know?

The Balfour Declaration, issued on November 2, 1917, marked a pivotal moment in Jewish history. British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour expressed support for a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine in a letter to Lord Rothschild. Influenced by Christian Zionists, Balfour saw this return as a fulfillment of biblical prophecy. The declaration affirmed the Jewish connection to the land and their aspirations for independent statehood, providing vital international support. This crucial endorsement set the stage for the establishment of the modern state of Israel, significantly advancing the goals of the Zionist movement and Jewish self-determination in their indigenous, ancestral homeland.



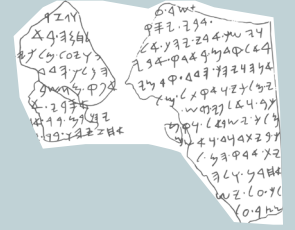
Wisdom for Today

"If you were to ask what our response to the Holocaust should be, I would say this: Marry and have children, bring new Jewish life into the world, build schools, make communities, have faith in God who had faith in man and make sure that His voice is heard wherever evil threatens. Pursue justice, defend the defenceless, have the courage to be different and fight for the dignity of difference. Recognise the image of God in others, and defeat hate with love. Twice a year, on Yom HaShoah and the Ninth of Av, sit and mourn for those who died and remember them in your prayer. But most of all, continue to live as Jews."

—Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



The Bible and History



The Tel Dan Stele, a ninth-century BCE stone tablet discovered in northern Israel in 1993, provides compelling historical validation for the Bible and the Jewish people in Israel. The inscription, written in Old Aramaic, mentions Jehoram the "king of Israel" and Ahaziah the "king of the House of David," both of whom are referenced in 2 Kings 12:17–18. These kings were killed by a rival who resembles Hazael, the king of Damascus, noted in 2 Kings 10:32–33 for his frequent attacks on Israel. The Tel Dan Stele affirms the historical account found in the Tanakh, demonstrating that the Jewish people have been present in the land of Israel since ancient times. The stele is currently on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

“““

"The New Testament texts preserves for Jews part of our own history. . . . A critically aware, historically informed study of Jesus in his Jewish context does more than provide benefits to Christians and Jews alike; it aids in preventing anti-Semitism that tends to arise when the history is not known. The concern to recover Jesus's Jewishness is these days particularly urgent."

— Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

The Misunderstood Jew:

The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus

Meet The Team:

Dr. Brian J. Crawford, DMin

If you catch Brian in his natural habitat, there is equal chance he'll be reading Maimonides, the Talmud, or Christian theologians, or else nerding out about the latest computer technology and playing PC games. Initially trained as a structural engineer, he left his engineering career behind and joined Chosen People Ministries since 2010 (although, as Brian often says, "Once an engineer, always an engineer"). He received his Master of Divinity degree in Messianic Jewish Studies in 2015 and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Philosophy and Apologetics at Talbot School of Theology in 2021. He is the Assistant Dean of the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies in Brooklyn, NY. After living in Brooklyn for nine years, he now resides in Southern California with his college sweetheart and three children. They all miss a good New York everything bagel.



What if Jesus is the Jewish Messiah?

You might be ready for the next step – to acknowledge Yeshua (Jesus) as Israel's long-awaited Messiah. Here are some simple steps to take as you continue your journey.

REPENT — God is holy and we are not! We frequently behave in ways that separate us from Him, and we need His forgiveness. The Hebrew Scriptures say, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear” (Isaiah 59:1–2). Recognizing our sin is the first major step toward an intimate and personal relationship with the Lord.

BELIEVE — We cannot earn God’s forgiveness through good works or keeping the mitzvot. The Torah says about Abraham, “Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). The New Covenant Scriptures say, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life” (Romans 6:23). Personal salvation is a gift from God that we accept by faith.

ACCEPT YESHUA — The great Rabbi Saul, writing in the New Covenant Scriptures, tells us what we should believe to receive the gift of personal salvation: “That Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). If Yeshua is both divine and the rightful king of Israel, then He deserves our full allegiance.

PRAY — Prayer is a personal conversation with God—heart to heart. You can pray in this way: “God, you are righteous and I am not. I have disobeyed your commandments. I believe Yeshua is my Messiah. His death and resurrection are my only hope. Please forgive me and give me a new life with you.” And God will answer, as we read in the New Covenant Scriptures, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).

LIVE HOLY — Once you find forgiveness through the gift of salvation through placing your trust in Messiah Yeshua, He calls us to live holy lives according to His word (Ephesians 2:8–10; 1 Peter 1:15–16). We are put G-d first in all that we do, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:28–31), we are to flee sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18), we are to be honest in our words and in our business dealings (Ephesians 4:25), we are to avoid unwholesome talk (Ephesians 4:29), we are to control our anger (James 1:19), we are not succumb to envy and pride, but to be humble (1 Peter 5:5). While forgiveness is immediate, shedding our lives from sin takes a lifetime of submitting to Messiah and relying on His grace and mercy as we grow in our holiness (2 Corinthians 7:1). The New Testament even calls Jewish followers of Messiah to remain Jewish (1 Corinthians 7:17–18; Acts 21:17–26), only to transform our attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that do not conform to the truth of the gospel and Messiah Yeshua (Romans 8:29).

נתיב האמת

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The Path of Truth

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