

Issue 43 - Summer 2008

# HA'SHEM

Truth that transforms



## ISRAEL AND THE NATIONS

**Inside:** Enter the Gentiles  
Treasures from the Land  
Betrayal or Prophecy?

43





## HA'SHEM is Hebrew for the 'THE NAME' (Yahweh)

### DIVINE NAMES AND TITLES

Throughout this magazine you will see the names YAHWEH and YAHSHUA. Yahweh is the original name for the heavenly Father and Yahshua is the original name of His Son, our Saviour. Also the term ELOHIM (or its shortened form El) may be used. This literally means 'Mighty One' and is usually translated 'God' in the King James Version of the Bible.

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## Editorial

# ISRAEL AND THE NATIONS



by Alcot Walker

**L**ike the sound of the ocean waves breaking over a rocky shoreline so a sound is crashing on the beaches of today's church. It is a sound beckoning people to search out and examine the original moorings of their faith. It is signaling that the new vibrant community that emerged from the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Yahshua has its roots in the faith of Israel; that the messiah came as a Jew, He grew up as a Jew, and the faith He proclaimed was centred in a Jewish or Hebrew context. There is a growing company of believers across the globe, from every cultural background, whose ears are hearing the sound and whose lives are being ignited as they embrace things that connect them to what many have called the Hebraic roots of the Christian faith.

This edition of Ha'Shem seeks to explore the relationship between Israel, the people of Yahweh's choosing, and the other peoples of the earth – all of whom He sent His Son to redeem. The theme 'Israel and the Nations' seeks to bring together the many evidences from Scripture that show the unified growth of Yahweh's unbroken purpose for His people and nation.

In the 21st century people are coming to an understanding that Yahweh's work in the Old Testament wasn't His plan A, the failure of which brought into being His plan B – the New Testament. The fact is Yahweh only ever had one plan which He has been rolling out through the vicissitude of time. Indeed, that plan is still unfolding. It comes down to His eternal desire to have a people for His name sake. Let me use the Almighty's own words to sum up this desire: "I will place My residence among you, and I will not reject you. I will walk among you and be your [Elohim], and you will be My people" (Lev 26:11-12 HCSB). Time and again, from Exodus to Revelation, we find this statement being echoed. Why? Because it remains the ultimate purpose of the heavenly Father. Please do check it out – Exod 29:45-46, Deut 12:11, 2 Cor 6:16, Rev 21:3.

Take some time to read the pages of this edition prayerfully and see what resonates with your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what He wants you to know and to give you the courage to apply the truth as He shows you. At the second coming of Yahshua Messiah we will have the incredible privilege of seeing the 'Israel of Yah' (Israelites and gentiles) serving Yahweh and ministering to the world as ONE!

*Alcot*



# THE HERITAGE OF JACOB

by Buel Hallpike

## Introduction

**W**hat could Yahweh have meant when He said through the prophet Isaiah, "...And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob..." (Isa. 58:14 NASB), and is this relevant to us today?

Before we can unravel the meaning of this promise and discover its significance to us, we need first to fit this verse into the context of the preceding verses to see why the promise was made, then understand why it is the "heritage of Jacob" and not of Isaac or of Abraham. After this we need to look at the promises made

to Jacob and to the house of Jacob, and determine exactly what the heritage of Jacob is – past, present and future.

## Background

The whole chapter (58) is about the delusion and hypocrisy of Israel thinking they were pleasing Yahweh by going through the external motions of upholding the law with regard to the observance of Yahweh's proclaimed fasts (most likely the Day of Atonement). Instead of being motivated to draw nearer to Yahweh, they were assured by their deadened consciences that they were pleasing Him. Ignorant

yet arrogant, they asked, "Why have we fasted...and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?" (vs. 3 NKJV).

It was to counter such complacency, fallacy and audacity that the prophet Isaiah was commanded in this chapter to "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. 58:1 NKJV). Israel's presumptuous external exhibitions of obedience outraged rather than pleased Yahweh. They were doing all the wrong things with the wrong motives and attitudes on Yahweh's holy day. Through His prophet, Yahweh said that the "...fast that I have chosen" was "to



loose the bonds of wickedness”, (vs. 6 NKJV), not for them to do injustice and to satisfy themselves, while making a token gesture of honouring Yahweh. The chapter continued by detailing these wrongdoings and showing how Israel’s circumstances would change when they returned to the old paths and rebuilt “...the old waste places...” (vs. 12 NKJV).

In verses 13 and 14, Yahweh was promising them that if they ceased their transgression of the Sabbath or holy day laws and returned to delighting in the Sabbath that they would be blessed in many ways and He would “...feed (them) with the heritage of Jacob (their) father...” (NKJV).

## The Uniqueness of Jacob

Although the reference to the previous verses may seem to clarify why Jacob was mentioned in verse 14, it does not fully justify the choice of Jacob in preference to his father Isaac or grandfather Abraham, who also kept Yahweh’s laws and were also promised blessings to their posterity.

John Gill in his commentary on

this verse said that it was, “Not Abraham, of whom it is written, ‘Arise, walk through the land in the length of it’ (Gen. 13:17 KJV), nor Isaac, of whom it is written, ‘for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries’ (Gen. 26:3 KJV), but Jacob, of whom it is written, ‘and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south,’ (Gen. 28:14 KJV) expressing the larger extent of the inheritance.”

He continued by stating: “The sons of Jacob, and not Ishmael the son of Abraham, nor Esau the son of Isaac, inherited the land of Canaan.” Gill added that the more significant reason was that Jacob “is the father of all true Israelites, who are, as he was, wrestling and prevailing.”

Matthew Poole’s explanation is that “the whole posterity of Jacob was within the covenant, but Ishmael and Esau, one the seed of Isaac, the other the seed of Abraham, were both excluded.”

Jacob had three divine revelations - once at Peniel (Gen. 32:28) and twice at Bethel (Gen. 28:14 and 35:10). Of these he was twice told that his name would be changed to Israel – no longer

would he be called ‘the supplanter’ but ‘Yahweh prevails’. The Nelson Study Bible extends this meaning to be ‘Prince with [Yahweh]’.

Jacob had moved on from prevailing over mere mortals to having a special relationship with the Almighty Yahweh after wrestling with the ‘angel’ of Yahweh. His sons became the foundation stones of Yahweh’s specially chosen nation, which was named after him, Israel. Their significance throughout Bible history and prophecy transcends that of any other family. It was through this nation that Yahweh revealed His awesome power and plan, not only for Israel but also for all nations of the world. This was in accordance with Yahweh’s promise made to Jacob at Bethel in Genesis 28:14.

It was through the line of Judah, Jacob’s son, that Yahshua the Son of Yahweh, Prince of Peace, our Redeemer and Israel’s promised Messiah was born. Numbers 24:17 foretells not only the coming Messiah, but also shows the significance of Jacob: “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but





not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult” (NKJV).

There is something special about Yahweh’s selection of Jacob from birth, his supremacy over his older brother Esau, his blessing from his father, Isaac, his encounter with the Angel of Yahweh, the change of his name, his two meetings with Yahweh, and his spectacular posterity that includes the Messiah. Deuteronomy 32:9 tells us, “[Yahweh’s] portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance” (NKJV). 1 Chronicles 16:13 refers to the “...seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!” (NKJV)

It requires no special insight to perceive that the inheritance of such a man, hand-picked and blessed by Yahweh, would have significant implications for future generations.

## The Temporary Heritage

When Yahweh appeared to Jacob in a dream at a place that Jacob later named Bethel, Yahweh said to him, “...the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 28:13-14 NKJV). Again when Yahweh appeared to Jacob a second time at Bethel, Yahweh said to him, “The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land” (Gen. 35:12 NKJV). There can be no doubt that part of Jacob’s heritage was to be the material land of Canaan. Furthermore as the length of Israel’s occupancy of the

land varied with their obedience to Yahweh, one can see a link between the heritage referred to in verse 14 and the house of Jacob’s dishonouring of the Sabbath in verse 13 (see Isa. 58).

Nevertheless the heritage of land was also promised to Abraham and to Isaac. Therefore the heritage of Canaan was Jacob’s as well as Isaac’s and Abraham’s. In cases where retrospective reference is made to the inheritance of Canaan, the three names of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are generally mentioned together. Therefore Isaiah’s specific mention of the “heritage of Jacob” would seem to point to something other than Canaan, which is more peculiar to Jacob. Yahweh knew that the blessings of Israel could not be dependent on their fluctuating relationship and obedience to Him. Time and again in the history of Israel they occupied that land when they obeyed Yahweh and were driven from it when they disobeyed. The Old Testament ended with Israel being driven out of their land. At the time of the writings in the New Testament, the Romans occupied Israel. Later in 70 A.D. the temple was destroyed, Jerusalem burned, the nation ravaged, and the people driven into exile.

The land of Canaan pointed to the earthly place of liberation. Israel never experienced total liberation but only pockets of it. Their Messiah was not coming to give spasmodic periods of freedom but to liberate them completely not merely their nation but most importantly their hearts that they might enter into their heritage prepared for them before the foundations of the world.

## The Eternal Heritage

It is obvious from Hebrews 11:39 that the heritage of Jacob as well as of the other patriarchs cannot only be the Promised Land

of Canaan into which they had entered since they all died having not obtained the promise. The Bible makes it clear that Yahweh had something far greater in mind for Israel, the offspring of Jacob, than the land of Canaan.

Israel had continually shown their inability to obey Yahweh. The prophet Jeremiah said, “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jer.17:9 NKJV) That was Israel’s dilemma. If Israel were to obtain the blessings Yahweh had in store for them, there had to be a change, which they were incapable of making. Jeremiah 31:31-34 gives a clear indication of just what Yahweh had in mind: “Behold, the days are coming, says [Yahweh], when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says [Yahweh]. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says [Yahweh]: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their [Elohim], and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know [Yahweh],’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says [Yahweh]. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (NKJV).

This promise unlike the promises to Abraham and Isaac is specifically for the house of Israel (Jacob) and has longer term, indeed everlasting significance. It was pointing to the time when Yahweh’s laws would be in their hearts, they would recognise their



Messiah and Redeemer and their hearts would turn to Him.

Paul took up this theme in Romans 11:26-27 when he wrote: "...all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins'" (NKJV).

The day is coming when the house of Jacob will accept the New Covenant that is provided through the Deliverer, Yahshua the Messiah, who is of their lineage. He will forgive their sins. His laws will be indelibly written in their hearts; they will delight themselves in Yahweh, and will be fed with the heritage that had been promised to them. This heritage is most important for it encompasses all people who accept the Messiah as their Redeemer. Yahweh's ultimate commitment is not for places or land but for a people who will tabernacle with Him.

## Relevance to us today

Yahshua came: "A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel" (Lk. 2:32 NKJV). He died that all people who accept and obey Him may enter into the eternal heritage of Jacob. In John 1:12, we are told that, "...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of [Yahweh], to those who believe in His name" (NKJV).

Preaching to Israelites "from every nation under heaven" on the day of Pentecost, Peter said, "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as [Yahweh our Elohim] will call" (Acts 2:39 NKJV). Therefore we Gentiles, who at one time "...were without [the Messiah], being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and

strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without [Yahweh] in the world... have been brought near by the blood of [the Messiah]" (Eph. 2:12-13 NKJV).

Through Yahshua we have the privilege to be "...grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree..." (Rom. 11:24 NKJV) and to enjoy our eternal heritage that has come to us through the lineage of and promises to Jacob, "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope" (Rom. 15:12 NKJV).

Today those who are keeping Yahweh's commandments, including His Sabbaths, and believe in Yahshua our Saviour are already feasting on the One who is the heritage of Jacob, as He leads us to Zion our eternal heritage, the Promised City of Yahweh. Like Israel in Isaiah's day we, too, can become complacent and arrogant as we go through the motions of obeying Yahweh while our callous hearts are far from Him. Yahshua is not coming to admire "whitewashed sepulchres" who "...draw near with their mouths and honour [Him] with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from [Him]..." (Isa. 29:13 NKJV). Like the house of Jacob we must return to and remain in the old paths of doing what is pleasing to Yahweh, if we will feast on the [eternal] *heritage of Jacob*.

## Conclusion

It has been said that, "The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed". The heritage of Jacob concealed in the Old Testament has been revealed in the New. There is a Promised Land awaiting the house of Jacob and their adopted heirs. It is the City that none of the patriarchs entered. It is not the land

of Canaan, but the New Jerusalem, which will descend from heaven when Yahweh tabernacles with men. It will be flowing not with milk and honey but with the word and glory of Yahweh.

"David My servant [Yahshua, who is the line of David] shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them...and My servant David shall be their prince forever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them...and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their [Elohim], and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, [Yahweh], sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore" (Extracts from Ezek. 37:24-28 NKJV, additional text mine).

Those who enter in will truly be of the house of Jacob - "...the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face" (Ps. 24:6 NKJV), and will feast on the everlasting "heritage of Jacob". Halleluyah! "...The ransomed of [Yahweh] shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isa. 35:10 NKJV). Halleluyah!

At last the people of Israel will have been delivered and so, too, will those Gentiles who are grafted into the inheritance of Israel. Are you ready to feast on Jacob's heritage?



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# TREASURES FROM THE LAND

by Jemrose Walker



*Jemrose Walker: Serves as  
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## Trip of a lifetime!

I was a child when I first encountered the love of the Congregation of Yahweh for Israel – this divinely chosen, much sought-after and fought-over little piece of land in the Middle East. I remember week after week listening to sermons about Israel: Israel – the land; Israel – the people; Israel

– the principle and Israel – the man. I learned about the great covenants which Yahweh had made with His special people; that we should bless Israel and not curse her. And all the time the love and admiration grew in my heart.

The relationship that exists between the Congregation and Israel runs deep, built up over the years through prayer and practical support. Out of this relationship emerged a profound desire in many, to walk, one day, the very same streets which our Saviour, Yahshua, walked. Those of us who had sat under the ‘Israel’ ministry felt this strongly. If only someone would organise a Pilgrimage! Is it possible? It would be the trip of a lifetime!

The writer says, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven” (Ecc. 3:1). It was possible! Suddenly it was the right time for the Congregation of Yahweh to embark on a Tour of the Holy Land; firstly in August 2004 and then, again, in June 2007. More than thirty people have been able to walk the streets of Jerusalem, visit incredible sites in Caesarea and Bethlehem, sail on Galilee, scale the heights of Masada, experience the miracle of multiplication, touch the Western Wall of prayer, survey the Valley of Jezreel (Armageddon) and much more. On both visits we spent ten wonderful days touring, exploring and learning; we were awed by breathtaking archaeological finds of another life, another era.

It has been an honour to be the organiser of both trips. A daily delight was watching everyone enjoying the often dramatic beauty of the ‘rose in the desert’, bathed in brilliant sunshine. We drank from the deep well of knowledge, which our guide, Michael Enav, seems to possess. He commented that we had made his job much easier because we had an understanding of Scripture and a strong sense of our Hebraic roots. I would like to commend our brave driver, Eli, who patiently and skilfully transported us through our itinerary in his modern, air-conditioned coach.

Some of the ‘pilgrims’ who went on the first journey were not well enough to make the second one so, for them, August 2004 truly had been their trip of a



lifetime. As for the rest of us, until Yahshua touches down on the Mount of Olives, we will want to go back again and again to the land “flowing with milk and honey”; flourishing with olives and dates and every imaginable fruit and vegetable. “I will bless those who bless my people.” We have blessed Israel and, in return, we have been blessed indeed.

*The following comments are what some of the ‘Pilgrims’ had to say about their most memorable experience:*

### **A taste of the ‘Presence’**



Touching and praying at the Western Wall – there was such a tangible presence of past, and to come, Glory; a simmering, tiny taste of the ‘presence’ that graced Solomon’s Temple, and I began to understand why the Levites were unable to minister. A wonderful experience in a Beautiful Land! (E Williams)

### **Something out of this world**

My experience at the Western Wall was something out of this world! To go and pray there was a blessing and an honour. I will never forget it. I felt deeply moved and at peace to be able to pray with everyone from all walks of life and denominations, in such a poignant place. (M Young)

### **The same stones!**

In Jerusalem we came to a place where the original Roman road had been found and raised to street level. I walked on the road and it hit me that I was walking where Yahshua had walked, on the very same stones! That will stay with me forever. (S Watson)

### **City ablaze with light**

Driving into Jerusalem at night was one of my most precious memories. As the city blazed with light so the Dome of the Rock paled into insignificance. The Temple Mount was gloriously floodlit, creating a special aura at the place where individuals tangibly met with their Elohim. It was awesome. (F Hewitt)

### **A special privilege**

The Western wall was awe-inspiring; a tangible spirit of reverence and anticipation there. As I touched the wall, hope and faith rose from my innermost being, encapsulated with love and adoration. I was challenged not to take for granted the special privilege of being able to commune with my heavenly Father. (S Michaels)



# ENTER THE GENTILES

by Richard Willetts

One of the little explored metaphors that Paul uses for the Church is 'The Commonwealth of Israel' as found in Ephesians 2:12 (KJV). Those of us who belong to countries that form part of the British Commonwealth, have a particular understanding of this word; whilst belonging to separate nations, we are bound together by one common bond. No, I am not talking about cricket but rather allegiance to a common Sovereign or Queen! Of course, our reigning monarch holds no real political power; she is little more than a figurehead, providing an ongoing, albeit tenuous, connection between all the nations represented. As members of Yahweh's commonwealth, we also owe our allegiance to a Sovereign, but one with real power and influence - Yahshua Hamashea, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In this chapter of Ephesians, Paul shows us how, through the blood of Yahshua, Gentiles who are without Yahweh and without hope in the world and with no Israeli ancestry can be brought near to the covenants and promises that were the exclusive domain of Abraham's natural descendants. He goes on to explain how Yahshua has broken down the wall that existed between Jew and Gentile, enabling us to enjoy citizenship with the redeemed of Israel and co-membership of Yahweh's household (Eph. 2:14,19).

This was a ground-breaking revelation to the very early Church in Jerusalem that was composed entirely of Jews and converts to Judaism who had come to believe in Yahshua as their Messiah. As Paul and others began to have phenomenal success in bringing Gentiles to salvation in Yahshua, they convened a council to discuss what guidelines, if any, should be given to these Gentiles who were coming to faith in Yahshua, particularly where the Law of Moses was concerned. They were anxious that they should not make it difficult for Gentiles who came to Yahshua, by imposing upon them any unnecessary burden.

They decided upon some basic guidelines from the Torah, specifically requesting that they

abstain from any form of sexual immorality, from the eating of food sacrificed to idols, from consuming blood and from the meat of strangled animals (i.e. from those killed with the blood left in) (Acts 15:19-20). These guidelines actually predated Moses, being part of Yahweh's general instructions to Noah and humanity as a whole (Gen. 9:14; Gen. 19:13 - sin of Sodom). They did, however, point out that Moses has been preached in every city since earliest times and read in synagogues on every Sabbath. This would suggest that Gentiles have more to learn and assimilate by hearing what Moses has to say; as a preacher once quipped, "If you've only got half a Bible, you've got the wrong half."







## Salvation to the Jews First

We know that the New Covenant of which Jeremiah prophesied, was to be cut with **Israel and Judah** (Jer. 31:31). As a part of this covenant, Yahweh promised Israel that He would write His law not on tablets of stone but on the innermost parts of the people's being. He promised that they would all have a personal and individual relationship with Yahweh (vs 33-34). Ezekiel prophesied that Yahweh would put a new spirit in them and that He would take away their hard heart and give them a heart of flesh. Then they would follow His decrees and be His people (Ezek. 11:19-20).

We see here the promise of the new birth and the indwelling Spirit which all those who believe in Yahshua can receive, and we can rejoice in Yahshua's wonderful provision for us. Countless millions of people of all races and creeds have shared in these promises since the resurrection of Yahshua, but what many of us forget is what Paul affirmed in his

letters: that salvation is to the Jew **first** (Rom 1:16) - it is, after all, their covenant. "...Theirs (*the physical descendants of Israel*) is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of [Messiah]..." (Rom. 9:4-5, *italics mine*).

Paul is very clear in his teaching that Yahweh's promises to Israel regarding their rights to the land of Israel and the saving of 'all Israel' in a future time have in no way been diminished or superseded by salvation coming to the Gentiles - on the contrary: "... if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!" (Rom. 11:12).

We should not lose sight of the fact, however, that it was never Yahweh's intention to have two churches: a 'Jewish' church and a 'Gentile' church - (although this is how Christianity began to pan out in the days after the apostles) Yahshua came to make the two

one.

Listen carefully to Paul's argument: "Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called 'uncircumcised' by those who call themselves 'the circumcision' (that done in the body by the hands of men) - remember that at that time you were separate from [Yahshua], excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without [Yahweh] in the world. But now in [Messiah Yahshua] you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of [Messiah]. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two **one** and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself **one new man** out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to [Yahweh] through the cross" (Eph. 2:11-16, *emphasis mine*).

## The Israel Principle

In order to understand the





implications of this where the New Testament Church is concerned, we need to understand that Israel is more than just a country and more than just a people with a specific natural ancestry (though it is certainly this) it is a **principle**. The name Israel which was eventually given to Jacob, Abraham's grandson, means 'ruler with El'. As a result of Jacob's obedience to the call of Yahweh on his life and his contending with the angel of Yahweh, he began to reclaim Adam's original commission to 'rule' over all living things. Yahweh's original plan for humanity was that they should rule with Him. In the end fallen man still 'rules' but without Yahweh and under the yoke of sin. Yahweh's plan for Israel was that as a people in covenant relationship with Him, they should

be a blessing to the whole world. It was never Yahweh's intention that the blessing given to Israel should just remain 'in the family'. The prophet Isaiah provides us with some astonishing promises to those who would not normally be allowed full citizenship in Israel – specifically **eunuchs** and foreigners. "For this is what [Yahweh] says: To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant - to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off. And **foreigners** who bind themselves to [Yahweh] to serve him, to love the name of [Yahweh], and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who

hold fast to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for **all nations**" (Isa. 56:4-8, emphasis mine).

Even under the Old Covenant, it was possible for foreigners to become part of the Commonwealth of Israel. Indeed, Ruth the Moabitess became part of the royal messianic genealogy of Yahshua (Matt. 1:5).

This principle continues into the New Covenant era, where Paul likens 'old Israel' to an indestructible olive tree. By failing to believe in Yahshua as the Messiah some original branches were broken off but wild olive branches (Gentile believers) have been 'grafted in' (Rom. 11:17-21).

We see from this that Yahweh's Israel principle has always existed from the beginning. Remember the olive leaf that survived the flood in the days of Noah? (Gen. 8:11). Through Yahshua we have been grafted into the 'Israel of [Yah]' (Gal. 6:16).

This truth should be no cause for arrogance as Paul is quick to emphasise. Let us not forget that we do not support the root; it supports us. Although we have been grafted we can just as easily lose our privilege as many (though not all) in Israel did.

## Implications for Gentiles in the Church

Being grafted into the olive tree of Israel, allows us as Gentile believers to explore and embrace the Hebraic roots of our faith, some of which though clearly a part of the early Church's expression of the faith were abandoned over subsequent centuries. Some people interpret the outworking of the unity



between Jews and Gentiles spoken of by Paul in Ephesians as being a general abandonment by Jewish believers of most or all of the teachings of Moses, so that there would be no reason for a 'barrier' to exist between them and Gentiles (after all wasn't the law nailed to the cross, so we don't have to observe it anymore?) We need to be careful here to "rightly divide the word of truth". Many assume that Jewish believers with Paul's encouragement ceased from eating only the food prescribed by Moses, abandoned the observance of the Sabbath day from sundown Friday night to sundown Saturday, and the celebration of the feasts such as Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. This view runs contrary to the Scriptures. Paul made it quite clear that he was not going around telling Jewish believers to turn away from Moses, nor was he forbidding them to circumcise their children, or live according to Jewish customs. This is clearly backed up in Acts 21:21. We misunderstand Paul's teachings regarding our relationship with Yahshua and the Law of Moses if we do not first understand that Paul throughout his life continued to live in

obedience to the law (Acts 21:24). Furthermore there is plenty of evidence in Acts and Paul's letters to show that celebrations like Unleavened Bread and Pentecost formed an integral part of life of the early Church. The earliest source that specifically mentions worship on a Sunday is Justin Martyr's 1st Apology chapter 67 written around 150 AD.

We are also wrong if we assume that Paul taught that getting physically circumcised as prescribed in the Law of Moses was a requirement for believers in Yahshua. Paul and the apostles at Jerusalem were strongly opposed to this, (yet he still had Timothy circumcised so as to avoid any contention with those who might otherwise deny him access to the temple in Jerusalem that was still in existence at that time).

What Paul emphasised in his teaching was that observance of

all or any part of the law was not a means of salvation, but rather faith in Yahshua. Simply put, we don't love Yahweh with all our hearts, or refrain from murder, or keep the Sabbath day holy in order to be saved, we do it because we're saved and because Yahweh through an operation of the Holy Spirit has written His law in our hearts. Where salvation is concerned, it is circumcision of the heart and by the Spirit for which Yahweh is looking (Rom. 2:28-29).

As a system of salvation, Moses' ordinances regarding the tabernacle and the offerings were superseded by the high priestly ministry of Yahshua. Moses' teaching on these issues nevertheless has much to teach us about the principle of making a sacrifice - both Yahshua's sacrifice for our sins and the one that we are all called to make with our own lives (Rom. 12:1). Yahshua made it clear that the time had come when worship would not be centred around the temple in Jerusalem nor any other specific location but those that worship Yahweh would worship in spirit and in truth. Being a natural descendant of Jacob does not guarantee us a place in Yahweh's 'New Covenant' Israel - we have to come to Yahshua first. To me one of the key understandings that we should embrace with regard to the Israel of Yah is that we have liberty in Yahshua to enjoy all the spiritual blessings given to Israel.

*Richard Willetts: Lead Pastor  
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# THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY

by Beverly Nembhard



*Beverly Nembhard: A prophetess who has been involved with the Congregation's overseas development*

In my experience being a leader is a challenging venture, but when you know that Yahweh has called and commissioned you, there is the belief that He will give the necessary grace to face all the pressures and oppositions that you may encounter.

One of my greatest problems as a leader was the feeling of inadequacy. It would engulf me when I least expected it, thus crippling my self-confidence, rendering me hopeless and sometimes helpless. There were times of uncertainties; times of pressure as I faced people and situations for which I couldn't find solutions. There were times of doubt when I was asked to do a task that I did not feel capable of doing. I would question my position as a leader and even my calling.

I remember on one occasion I felt so vulnerable that I decided to share some of my fears with a senior minister; she pointed me to some verses in 2 Corinthians 3:5-6, "Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as

coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from [Elohim]. [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through [Messiah]]..." (Amplified Bible). This was a revelation to my heart. Yahweh knew more about me than anyone else yet He had qualified me and given me the ability to serve Him in the sphere of leadership.

I simply obeyed the call by making a conscious decision to dedicate my life for service. I believed the One who had started the work was more than able to accomplish it in spite of my weaknesses. Yahweh knew that I was an imperfect human being yet He entrusted me with His ministry. I tried to comprehend the fact that He is with me when I am soaring over the mountain top or down in the valley of despondency. He knows the pressure that is necessary to make me an effective leader. My responsibility is to submit to Him. It is imperative that all leaders grasp the fact that our power, ability and sufficiency are not of ourselves but are from Elohim.

## Our power and ability and sufficiency are from Elohim.

I was also comforted to know that many great leaders in the Bible had to grapple with acceptance. Moses, for example, when called and commissioned by Yahweh, had many excuses why he was not the right person for the job. He felt inadequate. (Ex. 4:10). He argued with Yahweh and during his leadership there were times of despondency, yet Yahweh continued to use him. He faced many difficult situations with the Israelites in the wilderness, many trials; nevertheless, Yahweh continued to use Him, because in spite of his problems



he chose to obey Yahweh.

I believe that one of the most important characteristics needed in a leader's life is obedience. The Scriptures tell us that Yahshua learned obedience by the things that He suffered. As the greatest leader ever to have graced our planet, His life is our example; nonetheless, He also had 'ups and downs' when many disciples turned away and stopped following Him, when His closest friends deserted Him, when His own family rejected Him; these incidences could have been seen as failures, but He obeyed and stayed true to His Father's will and purpose. Moses found courage and strength in Yahweh in spite of his 'down' times; therefore, he was able to rise above his circumstances to lead Yahweh's people through the wilderness. Even so as ministers who lead, it is important for us to find Yahshua in our 'down' times, because He has promised never to leave or forsake us.

If Yahweh has called you to a position of

## One of the most important characteristics needed in a leader's life is obedience.

leadership or any other ministerial position be assured that whatever persecution, affliction, trial, temptation or pressure you may encounter, He will give you the strength and courage to work through the difficulties. Yahshua will use every experience to hone your character so that you can reach your full potential in service.

One of the greatest 'ups' for me as a leader in the Body of Yahshua is to know that I am in the centre of Yahweh's will, serving Him and the household of faith. It is the joy of seeing lives transformed by a spoken word or an action. It is to be part of a visionary team that is committed to lead, encourage and give direction to those who are seeking to dedicate their lives in service in these last days.

## TREASURES FROM THE LAND

### Connection through words

Visiting Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls emerged: the heat, the dryness, the dust, stepping back in time; I pictured myself a member of this community, perhaps writing a scroll. Then later to read the actual scroll (some words) was so good; life from so long ago making connection through words. *(M Taylor)*

### A powerful image

The Garden of Gethsemane, with its grove of ancient olive trees standing strong and healthy, constantly replenished by new shoots springing up around the old trees, entwining themselves with the aged branches, created for me a powerful image of Israel. Yahweh encircles and protects His people so they are not destroyed. *(B Nembhard)*

### History given new meaning

The trip was FUN and informative. An experience of a life time! The history of the Holy Land became alive and was given new meaning. Being part of a group added to the fun as one was able to share and compare thoughts. It was also good value for money. *(C Walker)*





# BETRAYAL OR PROPHECY?

by Valerie Warsop

**“For I will gather all the nations to battle  
against Jerusalem;  
The city shall be taken,  
The houses rifled,  
And the women ravished.  
*Half of the city shall go into captivity,  
But the remnant of the people shall not be cut  
off from the city”***

(Zechariah 14: 2; italics mine NKJV)

On 27 November 2007, USA President George Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas pledged to forge a peace deal by the end of 2008. The plan entitled “The Road Map to Peace” was first outlined by Bush in a speech on 24 June 2002, when he described it as a “framework for progress towards lasting peace and security in the Middle East.” It includes having a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, and it is his purpose to try and convince the Israeli public that such a division would be in their best interests. Millions of people across the world see plans to divide Jerusalem and give back strategic ancient sites as a great betrayal.

As I write this, President Bush has just completed his state visit to the Land itself. He told Palestinians in Ramallah, on the West Bank, he believes that within the year, they will sign a peace treaty with

Israel that will give them their own state. Bush is the first US president to officially commit to recognising a Palestinian state, and he is presently being reported in news briefs as having said that this achievement will be the crown of his presidency. Mike Evans of the Jerusalem Prayer Team asks, “...Is he so consumed by his legacy that he would sacrifice Jerusalem and hundreds of thousands of innocent Jews to attain his goal? Israel would have to give up the Temple Mount and the Western Wall in East Jerusalem; evacuate most of the strategic West Bank which would leave it vulnerable to rocket attacks in Tel Aviv and at its international airport!”

In an article dated 14 October 2007, the following statement was made by former chief rabbi Avraham Shapira protesting against the plan to transfer Jewish holy places to foreign control. “The Land of Israel belongs to the Nation of Israel and was granted to us as an inheritance by the Creator

of the World. Neither the prime minister nor anybody else has the right to give away areas, or even a grain of sand, of the Holy Land of Israel.”

If George Bush achieves his goal then watch for the decline of the USA. The British Empire was once the greatest, proudest nation on earth, but its disintegration began when it mistreated Israel at the time of World War 2. If the USA negotiates the division of Jerusalem it will start to collapse and eventually will lose its place as a leading super power. Over the centuries when the leaders of powerful nations have stretched out their hands against Yahweh’s chosen people dissolution of supremacy and strength has inevitably followed.

On a practical note one indignant resident of Jerusalem wrote to me saying, “...it is costing the Israeli tax payers \$25,000 US an hour for Bush’s visit for security etc. The municipality has spent thousands upon thousands of shekels cleaning up the surrounding streets where he is staying, putting up flags, adding more bedding plants, even scrubbing the pavements near his hotel! Yet a very large number of municipality workers have not been paid for more than three months! All this spending for Bush and yet there are employees here who are hungry and in serious debt...” How can Israel be so extravagantly welcoming a man



who, whilst saying he has their best interests at heart, is actually proposing to hack their inheritance in two?

I am currently asking myself the question, “Are these plans actually a betrayal of Israel or is this the inexorable timetable of Yahweh working out the prophetic utterance of Zachariah that has stood for more than twenty-five centuries?” If Jerusalem is divided this year then we must acknowledge the fact that, prophetically, it is later than we think!

As believers we can – must – pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for all those who live in her. We should pray, too, for the mothers and fathers, the sons and daughters; all those in the Land who have already been through so much and will continue to fight for survival until their Messiah returns. As He sets His feet on the Mount of Olives, which in fact faces Jerusalem on the east, His arrival will be announced by that sacred mountain splitting in two and a new valley appearing. The Bible promises that the entire world will see this happen!

**“Be on your guard [constantly alert], and watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come” (Mk. 13:33 AMP).**



Valerie Warsop: Serves as a member of the Congregation of Yahweh's Board of Trustees

# Discovering My Family History

by Ruth Baugh



Ruth Baugh: A member of the Leadership Team for New Hope Community Congregation in Northumberland

**Y**ou have heard it said of the Jews that they are blinded only in part - this is because they did not grasp the fact that salvation is through faith in Yahshua the Messiah. I, too, was blinded in part when it came to realising the great inheritance which was mine (see Rom. 11:25).

I went from knowing the Shepherd's voice, to seeing His face. Suddenly, I recognised He was a Jew; that He dressed like a Jew and He thought like a Jew. More than that, I saw that He was the Author of the faith of Israel. He shaped them by His word. His Law shaped their very thoughts and actions. The laws He gave them governed them from the cradle to the grave. He fashioned their faith from Abraham to the coming Messiah. What a revelation!

Israel was called out to be a peculiar holy people and what made them different was their faith in the one Elohim (no idols to bow to) and the Law - clear, absolute instructions for life in the home and the community. These instructions are Yahweh's intention for a faith based community, having their fulfilment in the New Covenant, the Israel of Yah. I could see that 'the Church' was not a replacement of Israel - nor a law unto herself. I had been grafted into something that was born in the heart of the Father, shaped and perfected by His Son, and brought to life by His Spirit. Suddenly I saw I had been missing part of the inheritance; the Hebrew roots of my faith.

I was deeply challenged as I discovered more fully the beliefs, practices and lifestyle of the early church. I came to see that, internationally, the Church had been robbed of part of her inheritance. For example the feast days were a 'foreshadow', a taste of what was to come having their fulfilment in Yahshua; they were also times of blessing and rejoicing. These days had been set from eternity, in the heart of Yahweh, as meeting times for a community of believers. They were to be times of refreshment, reflection, repentance, healing, restoring - at least that was Yahweh's intention; and they were there to keep His People focused.

Understanding what the term 'New Covenant Israel' means has deepened my awareness of the purposes of Yahweh. The expression itself had a fuller impact on my soul, in a way that would change my life forever. Yahshua said, "...I am the way and the truth and the life..." (Jn. 14:6) and that meant walking in the light of what I saw. Truth is more than something which is to be understood, it is to abide in. It was like seeing what I had been called into for the first time. I became aware that I was 'connected' to the children of Abraham - as though there were a line through history. Though this all became a reality at my new birth, understanding its significance was like discovering my family history and inheritance.

I no longer saw the church of the New Testament as something separate. No, I understood that the Fathers of Faith were as much a part of New Covenant Israel, as I now was, because they died in faith, looking for a city whose builder and maker was Yahweh. The impact of this on my walk with Yahshua took me to another level of faith.



# THE HALL OF FAITH

by Mike Taylor

Christianity separated from its Hebrew roots in the Old Testament and began its drive to be independent from about 100 to 400 CE. As this happened, many Christian leaders assumed a replacement position in regard to Israel, claiming that the Christian Church has now replaced Israel in terms of the blessings and purpose of the faith (i.e. as described by Wilson, 1989). Israel, some claim, has been replaced by the Church, so in this respect the “superior” document, the New Testament, has now replaced the Old Testament, as the major document of faith. DeMar (2005) explains how a replacement theology perspective entails that the Jews are excluded from Yahweh’s people and have no future spiritual destiny. In this perspective, there are two covenants, the Old and the New, and the Old Covenant is now past as God has established a New Covenant with a new people, who are severed from the old Covenant (often referred to as “the law”). Kessler (2002) confirms how the ‘traditional writings’ of the Church views Christianity as a replacement of Israel with the surviving Jews being allowed to live as a pointer to the ‘truth’ of their replacement.

## Looking at the Questions

The question therefore needs asking as to whether there is one covenant and one message, into which the Christian Church is

‘grafted’ or whether there are two messages, one for the Israelites, and one for the Church. In answer to this question, the dominant view in Christianity argues that scriptures such as Hebrews define two separate covenants. One typified by the failing Israelites in chapter eleven and the other being the new covenant in chapter twelve inaugurated by the Messiah. My main focus will be drawn from two verses in chapter twelve (1-2), to ascertain if this is the case, before this however, it is necessary to look at the last

verse of the eleventh chapter. [In this article I will be using the term ‘New Covenant’ to refer to the New Testament, and ‘Old Covenant’ when referring to the Old Testament].

The last verse of Hebrews eleven actually marks the beginning of this article, in that the start of Hebrews twelve begins with the end of chapter eleven and is integral to the chapter. Verse 40 of chapter eleven reads: “[Elohim] had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”





Hebrews chapter twelve continues this thought with an exploration of what the New Covenant was about. Whilst the translation above is accurate, it is in some sense an understatement of what the author of Hebrews meant. Stern (1988) in his Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) makes a fuller interpretation: "... they did not receive what had been promised, because God had planned something better that would involve us, so that only with us would they be brought to the goal."

Here the whole matter is laid out explicitly. Yahweh planned the whole work, Old as well as New Covenant, to be completed in Yahshua. Dodds (2002) comments on this verse: "And the perfecting of the people of [Elohim] under the Old Testament is said to have been impossible, not as might have been expected "apart from the Son," but because the writer has in view the history of the Church, the relation of the people of [Elohim] in former times to the same people in Messianic Times"(364-365).

The author of Hebrews linked together both Messianic and Hebrew believers, where both become interdependent upon each other. The one biblical covenant needs both Old and New Testament believers. Westcott (1997), commenting on this verse, believed that no "independent"

part of the body of believers can gain its fulfilment separately to the rest of the believers. Therefore there can only be one covenant that evolves over time towards its completion in Yahshua. Westcott refers to Yahweh's providence as "far reaching" and therefore beyond our own plans and perspective. With the sometimes partisan orientation of some of the Church's faith community, (such as the unspoken and spoken anti-Semitism that occurs in Churches), giving ourselves to Yahweh's providence is the infinitely wisest option for us. The main difference between those of the Old Covenant and those of the New Covenant is that Messiah has "...already opened the way to the Divine Presence on which we can enter" (Westcott p382), the "we" in this case being the Gentile believers. Phillips (1972) translates this verse: "[Elohim] had planned something better for our day, and it was not His plan that they (the OT Covenant believers) should reach perfection without us" (brackets are my inclusion).

Consequently, both those of the Old Covenant and those of the New Covenant are tied together into one covenant of mutual interdependency.

Hebrews chapter eleven is often called the "Faith" chapter of the Bible. In this book the author gives a summary of how Old Testament believers in Yahweh attained to the pinnacles of faith. The author's

thoughts are carried on in chapter twelve:

12:1 Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance, the race marked out for us. 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on [Yahshua], the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of [Elohim]. (NIV)

The first word of chapter twelve, the word "therefore" is important. It is called in Greek, an emphatic particle (Vincent, 1946) that is: "strongly affirming the facts on which the following exhortation is based" (1163). This means that verse eleven is connected to verse twelve. Chapter divisions are a modern invention so the end of chapter eleven and the beginning of chapter twelve merge and can be read as:

11:40 [Elohim] had planned something better for our day, and it was not His plan that they (the OT Covenant believers) should reach perfection without us 12:1 therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...

There is a continuous flow of thought from the concepts at the end of chapter eleven into chapter twelve. McReynolds (1999) with others translates "therefore" the first word in chapter twelve, not with therefore, but consequently. This translation affirms these chapters as a totality and therefore connects the faith in chapter





eleven to the Messianic experience explained in chapter twelve. The faith we use today is the same faith that was used in the Old Covenant towards Yahweh, and has not and will not change the fact that we can only relate to Him by faith.

One of the strong connections between the covenant made to Israel, and the New Covenant witnessed in the book of Hebrews stems from the writer's reference to Abraham. In Genesis, (17:19) Elohim makes the "everlasting covenant" with Abraham and his descendents who formed the foundation upon which the covenant concept emerged within the Old Covenant. The writer mentions Abraham ten times with a focus, in chapter seven, of how Yahshua was the one who blessed Abraham (as Melchizedek) and therefore is the only one who is qualified to change the covenant's development. The Old Covenant could not be changed but could only be extended by its originator into the New Covenant.

The Hebrews author cites the "heroes" of faith as examples to follow. To this writer the "cloud

of witnesses" was central in their discussion of the New Covenant. This is not saying that these 'heroes' have become irrelevant, they are 'Old Covenant', but that they form a major foundation of New Covenant faith. As Yahshua said in His parable (Matthew 7:26) about the builder who built straight onto sand, dispensing with a foundation, so that the house fell, such a man is "foolish." To dispense with the Old Covenant foundation of our faith, would be equivalent to getting rid of the foundations of our buildings such as the houses we live in; they will not stand if at all stressed. The New Covenant can only be built on a firm foundation, one that is seamlessly joined into the building.

The word 'cloud' in chapter twelve, verse one is, according to Wuest (1978), the Greek word 'nephos' and refers to a great mass of cloud covering the entire visible space of the heavens, or a single large mass" (p212) with indistinct edges. Vincent (1946) agrees, defining this cloud as a "vast, encompassing and overhanging mass." The lack of distinct boundaries can be understood when the writers of the Old Covenant were restricted in citing the people of faith that they knew. The same may be said of us in the New Covenant, most of us will not be mentioned in history books, but we are nevertheless witnesses to Yahshua's mission. The witnesses are too numerous to list. The link to what is said in chapter eleven cannot refer to Christians who were around at the time of writing for those in chapter eleven are the ones that we are recommended to look to as our examples.

Does the author's phrase in Hebrews 12:2, "looking unto Yahshua who is the author and finisher of our faith" (AV) mean that the Old Covenant is

now irrelevant? Replacement theologians believe that as Yahshua finished the faith, so what came before is redundant. Several points can be made that demonstrate that this is not the case. The word "our" according to Barnes: "...is not in the original here, and obscures the sense. The meaning is, he is the first and the last as an example of faith ... the most complete model that can be placed before us".

The translation is more accurately rendered, the faith, not our faith. Yahshua completed "the" faith, that is, all faith from both covenants. It would be possible to argue that if Yahshua perfected our faith then we need not be connected to what came before. This is a replacement theology position and is untenable if it is the faith which is completed. Furthermore, Vincent explains that the word for 'author' is better translated as 'leader', and that 'finisher' (AV version) is best rendered, 'perfector'. Vincent explains that this is not about our faith but (as above) the faith absolutely, that includes all faith from Abel to Messiah. In Himself Messiah: "Furnished the perfect development, the supreme example of faith, and in virtue of this He is the leader of the whole believing host in all time" (Vincent, p1164).

Yahshua took the Old Covenant and brought it to perfection, for in its now completed form it transcends all barriers, it changes history (both personal and world history), it brings resurrection to all who receive it. A different translation is provided by Stern: "looking away to the initiator and completer of that trusting, Yeshua" (CJB). Yahshua is 'initiator, leader, completer, and founder of the faith work that started in the Old Covenant and extends to us now as recipients of the New



Covenant.

One final comment needs to be made which is that in Revelation (13:8) a warning is made to those who do not worship the “Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world”. We, who do worship the Lamb, can now know that He was the real sacrifice that is central to the whole Bible record. There is no dispensing or removing of one covenant in place of another. Yahshua as the slain lamb is central to all.

## Conclusion

With these few references the scriptural evidence can only support the proposition of there being only one covenant comprising two merged covenants, the Old and the New. This development is called the New Covenant. Perhaps a better name for the New Covenant would be the ‘Extended’ Covenant. After all, this is what and who we as followers of Yahshua are; we are living in what is an extension in time and place from Old Covenant times. Perhaps Old and New Covenants could simply be called, “The Covenant”. One issue is paramount and concerns the fact that Yahweh is unchanging. As the Maker of the heavens and the earth, Yahweh does not make mistakes, His Covenant and access into it is the same today as in times past – by faith. In the Old Covenant, the sacrificial system, the animal sacrifices were of themselves impotent to amend for any wrongs - apart from faith. Only faith was acceptable for Yahweh’s family. Nothing of the Old Covenant now needs annulling by us, for the Old Covenant rested supremely on faith. Now, we can enjoy salvation that is built on the firm foundation of the Old Covenant as perfected by our Leader, Yahshua, who takes us into the New Covenant.

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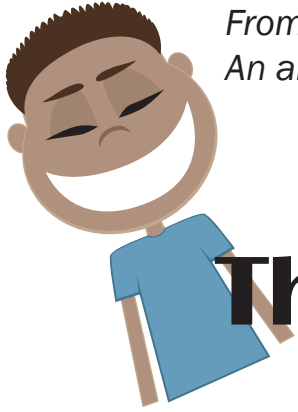
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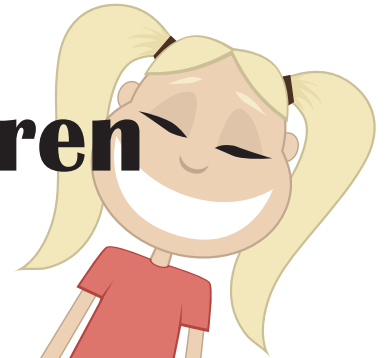
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*From the mouths of youth and infants You have ordained praise:  
An anthology of poems, psalms and prose written by children and youth*

# Worship From The Hearts Of Children



## A Song From My Heart — Talitha Collinson

**M**y name is Talitha Collinson and I am 11 years old. I enjoy ballet, tap, reading, swimming, listening to music and baking. I also enjoy going to church. I have been going to church since I was really small (a baby actually), and all the young people take part in the meetings. I bake some cakes (with the help of my Mum) each week to share with those that come to the Sabbath meeting as we continue fellowship after the meeting has finished.

Recently I wrote a song which I sang in one of our Sabbath meetings and I would like to share it with you.

### SHOUT HALLELUYAH

Jump up and down, spin all around and shout  
HalleluYah

Jump up and down, spin all around and shout  
HalleluYah

He's here, here, here  
He's here, here, here  
He's here, here, here  
Let's shout HalleluYah

Jump up and down, spin all around and shout  
HalleluYah

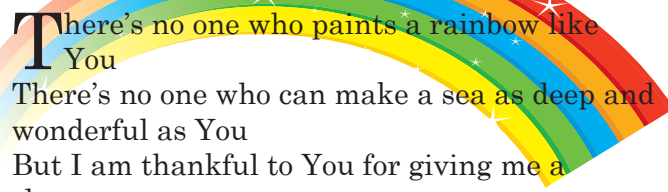
Jump up and down, spin all around and shout  
HalleluYah

He loves you and me  
He loves you and me  
He loves you and me  
Let's shout HalleluYah

Jump up and down, spin all around and shout  
HalleluYah

Jump up and down, spin all around and shout  
HalleluYah

And shout HalleluYah  
AND SHOUT HALLELUYAH!

**T**here's no one who paints a rainbow like  
You  
There's no one who can make a sea as deep and  
wonderful as You  
But I am thankful to You for giving me a  
chance  
I'll praise You forever through singing and the  
dance

by Serina Leech

**A**s a baby I went to church  
Never knew that Satan lurked  
As I got older  
My faith grew bolder  
Proud to call Your Name  
Not a droplet of shame  
Now I know what You did  
On my life You placed a bid  
This bid was You  
And I love You too  
So I'd just like to thank You  
For always being there  
When I thought no one cared  
Because now I know  
You do exist  
That's why I pray  
Before I lay

by Iman Anthony



# EXPRESSIONS – from the heart of Youths

## Worship Is Fun!

**Pritam Josephs (age 11)**

In a church service lots of things happen – for instance a welcome and prayer, testimonies, scriptures, sharing time, a study or sermon, I could write a list and it would be endless! My personal favourite part of a service is the worship. This is what I think...

### What is Worship?

If you're reading this and you aren't a Theist, the word 'worship' might mean bowing down to a huge golden statue. Well for me, it's not. First of all our God (Yahweh) is not a huge golden statue, He's alive in heaven! Secondly, worship is more than that. Worship is giving thanks to Yahweh for everything He's done for us. If you think about what He's done you won't be able to express your feelings with normal, human words!

### What's the point?

That has to be the silliest question I've ever heard! But obviously somebody would ask that question! Well it's like a doctor saving your best friend's life. If that ever happened to you what would you say to that doctor? Maybe "Cheers mate," or "Yeah – thanks for doing whatever you did!" But please tell me you wouldn't only do that! If it happened to me I'd probably say, "Thank you so very much! I don't know how I can ever thank you enough! You have to be the best doctor ever! Here's £1,000! Use it to treat yourself! Man! You deserve MUCH better than that!" Well that's exactly the point of worshipping. If somebody does something heroic for you the one thing you want is to do something that pleases them. And what pleases Yahweh is seeing His children (us) say thank you to Him by worshipping Him.

### How do you worship?

Well that's your decision. It says in the Bible: "[Yahweh] has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if [Yahweh] has given you the ability to prophesy, then prophesy whenever you can – as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from [Yahweh]" (Romans 12:6 The Living Bible).

What these verses are saying is to use your gifts wisely to serve Yahweh. So if you can sing, sing. If you can dance, dance.

### So what now?

Well you know what, why and how to worship. It's now all about doing it. I find worship fun, as there are a lot of fun things to do for worship. Even going up to the front of the room and just simply saying, "I love Yahweh!" is worship. I try to do something in church every week.

When I wake up, where would I be?  
Without knowing You're there watching  
over me

Being alone every night, every day  
No one to speak to, nothing to say  
All these worries run through my head  
Hurting inside and being misled  
How can I sleep not feeling secure  
Hide inside my room locking the door  
Alone in the darkness without an escape  
Because You're not here, that's what keeps me  
awake

So I sit down to think, then mutter a prayer  
Emptying my mind as if I didn't care  
Letting go of my fears, feelings and stress  
While tensions in my body become less and less  
Then BAM in a flash, there you appear  
The dark room gleams with light and everything  
seems clear

Who knew a little prayer could do so much  
This wonderful feeling with just one touch  
My heart feels so warm, glowing like fire  
Lift me up with your love, take me higher and  
higher

The joy that I feel, I want this to last  
Move on to the future, forgetting the past  
And here I am smiling away  
Thankful and grateful each and every day  
Having someone to talk to, no more secrets inside  
My body revived, I'm filled with pride  
Now you're in my life, I'm happy as can be  
Thank you my Father for rescuing me.

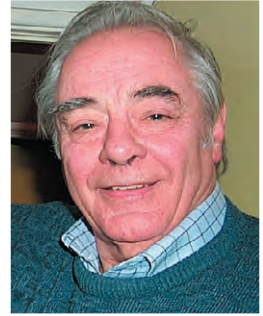
by Tamara (Y-Worx)



# PRAYING FOR ISRAEL

by David Winter

*“Your name will be... Israel, because you have struggled with [Elohim] and with men and have overcome” (Gen. 32:28).*



David Winter: A regular teacher on Revelation TV



**T**he promise that Yahweh made to Y’acob is as true today as ever it was - the last sixty years have been a ‘struggle’ for the fledgling “nation born in a day” (see Isa. 66:8).

Our prayers were answered and Israel was not only ‘born in a day’ but has also survived six major wars in its short life. When people tell me that they don’t believe in miracles I have a one word answer ‘Israel’!

We need to pray...

- ***For Israel’s continued survival***

This tiny ‘baby’ nation is surrounded by literally millions of Arabs in nations committed to its destruction. Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East and has fulfilled Yahweh’s promise of reconstruction.

- ***For the government***

Many people talk about ‘proportional representation’ - in Israel they practise it. Sadly, like so many other things the theory doesn’t work in practice! Consequently Israel is usually governed by coalition - often called ‘government by the minorities’. In addition Israel is a totally secular state and Yahweh is not even mentioned in the constitution. Scripture exhorts us to pray for government and all in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

- ***For the members of the Knesset (Israel’s parliament)***

Those who are Christian (there are a few), those favourably disposed to Christians and those who are positively hostile to Christians - there are a few of these!

- ***For Messianic believers***

The government concedes that there are at least 13,000 Messianic Jews in the country and that means that there are probably twice this number! They are under extreme pressure in places such as Be’ersheba where there is currently a case going through the courts following some intense opposition.

Additionally there are thousands of Arab Christians - particularly in the north around the Carmel area and a few Druse believers, too.

- ***For members of the IDF (Israel Defence Forces)***

There are many believers in the armed forces and a recent ‘rally’ attracted over 90 of them. In military conflicts many have witnessed the deliverance of Yahweh through difficult situations.



- ***For Mission activity***

In spite of being a 'Jewish state' people are free to evangelise in Israel and the state will protect your right to change your religion. Incidentally, Israel is the only state in the Middle East where, when you enter, you do NOT have to declare your religion!

- ***For tourists***

Visitors to Israel make a large contribution to the economy of the country and have a unique opportunity to show solidarity with Yahweh's chosen people. The people of the Land will welcome you and there is even a government scheme which facilitates visits to the homes of Israelis.

- ***For the media***

There is no question in my mind that our western media are distinctly biased against Israel and this is a form of anti-Semitism. Pray that hearts will be turned back to honest and unbiased reporting.

- ***For boycotts and proposed boycotts***

Pray that people will be aware of the media bias and will learn the true facts of this tiny country fighting for its right to exist.

- ***For Jews all over the world***

Pray that they will support Israel and honestly consider their obligation to make aliyah (return). Pray for the many believing Jews in the Diaspora including many hundreds in the UK.

- ***For Gaza and The West Bank***

Around 2,500 Gazans call themselves 'Christian' and included in this would be a number of evangelicals - particularly Baptists. They are under intense persecution from the Muslim majority and the owner of the Bible Bookshop has recently been murdered. Please pray for his dependants and for those who remain in spite of the daily threats to life. Many 'Palestinians' want to live in peace with their neighbours, others are consumed with hatred for everything Jewish. Pray that the Father will stay the hands of those who want to shed innocent Jewish blood - even though it may also involve the deaths of fellow Arabs. Thank Yahweh for the enormous success of the 'separation barrier' which has reduced the number of suicide bombers significantly over the past few years.

- ***Jerusalem***

The psalmist says, "Pray for shalom in Yerushalayim" (Ps.122:6 CJB) remembering that the word 'shalom' also means 'wholeness'! Pray that the attempts to divide the city will be thwarted.

- ***The Church***

Pray that the British and world church will unify to pray for and protect Yahweh's chosen people. "Shevet Achim" (brotherly unity) (Psalm 133:1).





# THE DELUSIONS OF REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

by Osmund Aukland Knutson

**R**eplacement theology, described simply is where one believes that Israel is no longer the chosen people of Yahweh, but that all Yahweh's promises to Israel have now been passed over to "the New Covenant Community", which is defined as the Christian Church.

Jeremiah 31:31-36 indicates that the New Covenant is made with the house of Israel and with the house of Yehudah (Jacob), i.e. with the Jews and the other tribes of Israel. It says that Yahweh will put His Torah (law) in their heart and mind, and He will never cease from being the El of Israel. Yahweh tells us in Isaiah 56:1-7 that the stranger, i.e. anyone that is not of Israel and of Yehudah, has full entrance into Israel if he loves the name of Yahweh, keeps the Sabbath and takes hold of Yahweh's covenant, which includes the Torah. Yahshua, through His death and resurrection, opened the gate for us all to enter the household of Israel, benefiting from the covenants and the promises.

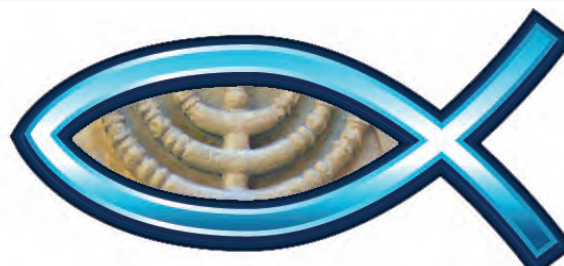
Yet many Christians have a very different opinion. Sadly, it is as if these believers take it that the New Covenant is with the Gentile church and that Yahweh will take the Torah out of their minds and hearts and will no longer be the God of Israel unless

Israel enters their church. They also feel that one falls out of grace and goes into legalism if one honours Yahweh's Torah and His Sabbaths. This is not the New Testament's message nor was it Yahshua's message.

Yahshua was a Jew, the Messiah of David's royal descent and He said that no part of the Torah should ever fall away. Yahshua had disputes with the Pharisees and Sadducees about what is the true Torah. He told them that they had disregarded Yahweh's commands in order to hold to their own traditions and thus invalidate the Torah (see Mark 7:8-10). And He would say the same to many Jews even today.

Over the centuries the Sabbath, the biblical holy days, the names of Yahshua and Yahweh were changed or substituted. This could be taken as an attempt to cut all roots from the faith of Israel, and may have fuelled the growth of anti-Semitism which culminated in the Holocaust of the Nazis.

Now the call goes out for Israel to return and for the Gentiles to embrace fully the faith Yahshua and His apostles proclaimed. Yahweh has made Jerusalem a cup



of trembling unto all nations. All the nations of the earth will gather against Israel, but then Yahshua's feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, and all the nations will go up to Jerusalem to keep Yahweh's Feasts.

For those who would like to learn more about this particular interpretation of New Testament scripture Tony Pearce makes an excellent contribution with his essay 'IS THE CHURCH THE NEW ISRAEL?' (See 'Light for the Last Days', winter 2005 edition. Website: [www.lightforthelastdays.co.uk](http://www.lightforthelastdays.co.uk))

Email: [enquiries@lightforthelastdays.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lightforthelastdays.co.uk)



*Osmund Aukland Knutson: Lead Pastor of the Congregation of Yahweh in Norway*





# GLOBAL PRAYER

*With YAHWEH nothing is impossible... Ask and you shall receive...*

## ***From the family in Norway:***

There is a move in Norway at the present time. Many people are receiving so much of what we have stood for and prayed for over the years. We thank our Father, Yahweh, for such progress in the work.

### **Pray:**

- For the health of Osmund. He does not feel so strong anymore, but he is of vital importance in the work in Norway.
- That we will have, and be open to, Yahshua's guidance and will know how to respond to the openings being presented to us.
- That we might be alert and have the discernment of the Holy Spirit.

## ***From the family in the USA***

### **Pray for us, remembering these things:**

- It is His church, not yours; He's going to build it, not you.
- So they went forth to save the lost
- Equip the saved  
So the equipped can be sent.

## ***From the family in Aylesbury (UK)***

We have a lot of those who, like King Agrippa, are 'almost persuaded', as well as a few new believers of all ages coming to events. We really want to see a spiritual breakthrough in their lives.

### **Pray:**

- That Yahweh will give the wisdom to know what the next step should be.
- For the Youth cafe starting on the estate

where we work which is run jointly by Youth For Christ and Fusion. We are involved in the staffing of this and are advertising it to all the young people who attended camp and others that we know.

- That we can effectively disciple young people on Quarrendon Estate.
- That Yahweh will send out workers to assist us with the harvest that is materialising.

## ***From the family in Hitchin (UK)***

### **Pray that Yahweh will:**

- Constantly inspire the congregation, filling each one with knowledge, wisdom and understanding; encouraging growth!
- Grant us the ability to be effective mouth-pieces and vessels so that His Word will become real in the hearts of those who hear it.
- Inspire those who do hear to commit themselves to Him no matter what the personal cost.
- Help the committed hearers to become faithful disciples who, in turn, will win others.

## ***From the family in Nottingham (UK)***

### **Pray:**

- For our congregation as it seeks to work with the homeless and destitute people living in the city of Nottingham. Pray that Yahweh will give us wisdom to know what to do in helping these people to change the course of their lives.
- That as a congregation Yahweh will help us to find new ways of attracting children and young people; and in attracting them that we will be enabled to introduce them to the message of the Gospel.



# GLOBAL PRAYER continued

- That Yahweh will raise up new, and youthful ministers from among us, eager to serve, and devoted to Yahshua's commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations".
- To be effective in ministry is costly! Pray that Yahweh will bless us with the finances needed to do the work He's calling us to do in these last days.

## ***From the family in Bulwell (UK)*** **Pray:**

- That Yahweh will challenge the hearts of His people, unite and equip them to be authentic servants in His kingdom.
- That the young people will be inspired and empowered to live for Him in these perilous times.
- That the process of growth will continue until all reach full development.
- That the leaders will be inspired to lead His people.
- Against spiritual opposition.
- That the prodigals will come home.
- That we will find ways of attracting young men into the Fellowship.
- For emotional, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing.
- That each of us will find our gifting and that Yahweh will raise up leaders.

## ***From the family in India*** **Pray:**

- That Yahweh will pour out His blessing upon us that we might work together with all brothers and sisters in Yahshua across the world.

- Our messianic principle is based upon Psalm 133. Please pray for unity among Yahweh's global community.

## ***From the family in Jamaica*** **Pray:**

Sisters Yvette Lakeman (Jamaica), Michelle Ward (Jamaica), and Audrey Myrurrie (USA) who said their final 'goodbye' to their father, Deacon George Myrurrie, in September 2007. Please bear them in your prayers; although they know he's in Yahweh's arms, he is greatly missed. He was an exceptional father (and husband) and one whose life left a beautiful legacy for his sons and grandsons to follow.

## ***From the family in Nigeria*** **Pray:**

- For Jane Iloduba Amarachukwu for Yahweh to uplift her in this life, and for peace and direction.

*"Now to him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. To him be glory in the church by [Yahshua Hamashea] throughout all ages, world without end" (Eph. 3:20-21 Webster).*

Halleluyah!

Compiled by Denise Walls from the  
Congregation of Yahweh in Bulwell, UK

*Send your prayer requests, along with your name, church and country to:*

Ha'Shem Magazine , 'Global Prayers',  
92-94 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham NG1 4EE ENGLAND

Or Email: [admin@CongYah.co.uk](mailto:admin@CongYah.co.uk)