



January 2013

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Beloved Friends in Messiah,

Focus on Yeshua

As we enter 2013, the Lord is leading us to begin a new calendar year by focusing on The Beginning—Yeshua, our Messiah—The Alpha and Omega, The Alef and Tav, The Beginning and The End. Three verses from the Book of Hebrews call our attention: *"Looking unto Yeshua, the author and finisher of our faith..."* (Heb. 12:2). *"...consider Him"* (Heb. 12:3), and **"Yeshua the Messiah is the same yesterday, today and forever"** (Heb. 13: 8; JNT).

We have chosen to look at six of the many facets of Messiah to see how FAITHFUL He is. Yeshua was, is and always will be a Rock, a King, a Healer, a Teacher, a Savior, and a Friend.

Yesterday: A Rock

Yeshua the "Rock," was the One that provided water for the Children of Israel during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. He was the source of *mayim hayim*, living water, even before He came to earth in human form. Rabbi Saul commented on this aspect of Yeshua as "the Rock": *"For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ [Messiah]"* (1 Cor. 10:4).

In the region of Caesarea Philippi, God gave the apostle Peter a revelation of Yeshua as the Son of the living God. Each of us must receive that same revelation from God: Yeshua is The Chief Cornerstone spoken of in Psalm 118:22-23 and the Stone that the builders rejected (Matt. 21:42).

Yesterday: A King

Yesterday, Yeshua was a King. It was prophesied thousands of years before Yeshua was born that He would be King. *"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper..."* (Jer. 23:5). *"Behold—thy King cometh"* (Zech. 9:9). Yeshua was born *"King of the Jews"* (Matt. 2:2). He was worshipped and adored, even as an infant. He taught His followers about a kingdom of the heart, where love rules and forgiveness flows. His message was radical as He called His *talmidim* (disciples) to store up treasures in heaven, to trust and not worry about anything, to seek His kingdom first, and even to love our enemies. Yeshua called believers to submit to His authority every day in every way.

Yesterday: A Healer

Yeshua blessed both believers and non-believers alike by healing them: *"...God anointed Yeshua of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him"* (Acts 10:38). It had been prophesied long before His birth that Yeshua would be a healer. The remarkable prophecy of Isaiah Chapter 53, written 700 years before Yeshua was born, speaks of the healing aspect of His ministry. We read in Is. 53:5, *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."* Our healing was purchased over 2,000 years ago when Yeshua fulfilled this prophecy.

Twelve years ago, we experienced the reality of Yeshua as healer when Neil was delivered from prostate cancer. Recent checkups show that he is still cancer free. At 76, Neil is actively seeking God for His assignments during this next season of his life. Part of that assignment includes having been recently elected president of our condo board, after living here for only six months. Neil is in contact with many secular Jewish seniors on a daily basis. Prayer is appreciated for wisdom and favor!

Yesterday: A Teacher

Yeshua was also a teacher, a rabbi. Lois Tverberg, in her excellent book, **Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus**, shares an insight concerning Yeshua's teacher/student relationship: "He asked each one of them to follow him—literally to 'walk after' him. He invited them to trek the byways at his side, living life beside him to learn from him as they journeyed. His disciples would engage in life's activities along with him, observing his responses and imitating how he lived by God's Word. Out of this unusual teaching method arose a well-known saying: 'you should learn from a rabbi by 'covering yourself in his dust'." Yeshua's disciples followed him from town to town, hearing His words, and having their hearts changed.

Yesterday: A Savior

Yeshua was a Savior. Even before He was born, an angel revealed to Yosef, His step-father, that he was to call Him Yeshua, for He would save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). At His dedication in the Temple, righteous Simeon said that he had seen the Lord's salvation at last (Luke 2:30-32). When Yeshua was in Jericho and saw Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector, who had climbed a tree to get a glimpse of the Messiah, the Lord called him down. Yeshua went to the home of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus repented of his sin, and salvation (*yeshuah*) came to his house that day (Luke 19:1-10).

Yesterday: A Friend

Not only was Yeshua a Rock, a King, a Healer, a Teacher, and a Savior, He was a Friend. Proverbs 18:24 says *"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."* Yeshua showed Himself to be that kind of friend when He walked upon the earth. He was rightly accused of being a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Yeshua answered His accusers by telling His listeners that it was the sick, not the healthy, that needed a physician. (See Matt. 9:9-13.) Yeshua befriended Matthew, a tax collector, Miriam, a prostitute, a Samaritan adulteress, even Judas, the one who betrayed Him, calling Him *"friend"* at the very moment of betrayal (Matt. 26:50). Yeshua ultimately proved His friendship for all mankind by laying down His life for us: *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends"* (Jn. 15:13).

Today: A Rock

Last month, during Hanukkah, many of us sang the old traditional Hanukkah hymn, *Maoz Tzur* (Rock of Ages): "Rock of Ages, let our song praise Thy saving power. Thou amidst the raging storm was our sheltering tower..." Yeshua, the Rock that was cleft for us all, is still our Rock today. He is the One upon which we, as wise builders, build our lives. On November 6, 2012, Election Day, Jamie received a word from the Lord about the current state of the USA including the fact that Hurricane "Sandy" was part of His judgment on our nation. "We have forsaken the Rock, and are now built on shifting sand. Sand is made of rock that is broken in pieces, eroded, worn down, which is now the case with the US. God is sifting the sand through His fingers, but He is keeping the pieces of the Rock safe. They are precious to Him, a part of Himself, His body. Cling to the Rock of Ages (*Maoz Tzur*), and His saving power. Lead My People to the Rock while there is still time."

Today: A King

Yeshua was King yesterday and is King today. Wise men still bow in worship before King Yeshua, who rules and reigns in the hearts of the children of God. The King's kids (us) have the righteousness, peace, and joy that He promised. His Kingdom is at hand. Our King is never caught by surprise about things that happen in our lives. We like what Nancy Hinkle said in a devotional from the New Spirit-filled Bible for Women: "He (God) isn't pacing the throne room wondering how it is all going to turn out. When an earthly king walks into his throne room and takes his seat, everything in that room comes

into order. When God is on the throne of our lives, He brings everything into order. We can be at rest, trusting that God has everything under control." We are seeking to serve the King in our new home at King's Point on a daily basis. Seated at our Thanksgiving table were the two of us and seven pre-believing Jewish seniors. Since one of our guests was president of the local Democratic Club, we were safer discussing religion than politics!

Today: A Healer

Yeshua healed yesterday, and He heals today. After ministering at a fruitful marriage retreat weekend in Atlanta, GA. in November, Jamie went for her annual mammogram and was shocked to get a diagnosis of breast cancer. By the time you receive this letter, she will have been to MD Anderson Hospital in Houston for further testing, consultation and possible treatment. We know that Yeshua is Jamie's healer, and are standing on all the promises of healing in God's Word. We also have many friends locally who are experts in natural healing products and remedies. Jamie juices, fasts, cooks healthy food, exercises regularly and does whatever she can to keep her temple in great shape. (Please do not send us suggestions about natural products, etc. This would be more of a burden than a blessing. We covet your prayers for Jamie's complete and total healing. If the Lord gives you a verse for Jamie, she would welcome that.) We believe Exodus 15:26, "...*For I am the LORD who heals you*" (*Ani Adonai rofecha*). Yeshua is the Great "*I Am*" (Jn. 8:58). He is a very present help in time of need (Ps. 46:1). What God did for Neil twelve years ago, He will do for Jamie. This is an attack. What the enemy meant for evil, God will turn for good. (Reports to follow...)

Today: A Teacher

Is Yeshua still a teacher? Is this aspect of His life the same? Yes! Our Rabbi teaches us on a daily basis. He does this today through the *Ruach HaKodesh*, who lives inside each born again believer in Messiah. Yeshua promised us this "Teacher" shortly before His death: "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you*" (Jn. 14:26).

The Holy Spirit wants to be YOUR teacher in 2013! Many years ago when we were young believers, Neil asked the Lord to send him a mentor, someone to teach him about the things of God. Shortly thereafter, we were in a State Park and attended a worship service in a log cabin. The speaker that morning did not know us, but told Neil that God had a word for him. It was: "You've been asking God for a mentor, someone to teach you. He wants you to know that His Spirit will be your Teacher." He showed Neil 1 Jn. 2:27, "*But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*" From that day forward, we have tried to walk closely with the Lord, listening to and obeying the voice of His Spirit.

Today: A Savior

The same Yeshua who saved Zacchaeus, Saul of Tarsus, and the woman caught in adultery is saving Jewish souls today. We rejoice to inform you that Jean Lobel, age 100, received Yeshua as her Messiah in late November. She finished reading Jamie's book **A Kiss A Day**, as well as the book by Beverly Lewis that Jamie bought for her at a book signing in PA. Jean's daughter prayed with her to receive the Lord and was amazed at the revelation God gave Jean as He prepared to take her Home (the night before this letter was finished). Jamie has recently received an invitation to attend the 100th birthday party of Jean's friend Lillian Roth, who asked Jamie to come and give her a copy of **A Kiss A Day**. Please pray for Lillian's salvation. Yeshua is saving Jewish seniors here in South Florida!

Today: A Friend

Yeshua is a friend today. He lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). He is a friend that can be trusted. He never tires of listening to our problems, our hurts, or the desires of our hearts. He is the "*Chief among ten thousand*" spoken of by the bride in The Song of Songs: "*His mouth is most sweet.*"

Yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem" (Song. 5:16)! Yeshua is still saying to His talmidim, "...I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father. I have made known to you" (Jn. 5:15). Our Friend, Yeshua, wants to share secrets with you in 2013. Draw closer. Thank Him for His friendship, and look for His blessings daily.

Forever: A Rock

Yeshua is a Rock forever, especially in the sense of being a source of *mayim hayim*, living water. What began in the wilderness was made manifest in Jn. 4:10 (the Samaritan woman at the well) and during Sukkot in Jn. 7:37 when Yeshua said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." This water becomes living fountains in Revelation 7:16-17: "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters..."

Forever: A King

Yeshua will be recognized as King of Kings at His return (Rev. 19:16). His people will finally see Him as their promised messianic King. We read in the Book of Revelation that Yeshua's kingdom will be proclaimed at the Seventh trumpet: "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15)! We can join even now with the twenty-four elders saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned" (Rev. 11:17).

Forever: A Healer

Will Yeshua be our Healer forever? The living waters of the Lamb become a river of life and a source of supernatural healing. The Apostle John saw this river in a vision: "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:1-2).

Forever: A Teacher

Will the Holy Spirit, sent to us by Yeshua, be with us forever? Yes. Yeshua, in Revelation, instructs the various "churches," exhorting them to hear what the Ruach is saying to them. Some of Yeshua's final words are instructions concerning our role as the bride: "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). Our teacher is telling us to invite others to enter His kingdom.

Forever: A Savior

Yeshua, The Lamb of God, whose blood was shed for the sins of the world, is our salvation forever and ever. He is Eternal Salvation. John saw a great multitude of all tribes, nations, peoples, and tongues standing before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:10). Heaven also resounded with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood..." (Rev. 5:9).

Forever: A Friend

Yeshua will be our Friend forever. His words at the end of the Gospel of Matthew should be of great comfort to us as we enter 2013: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). We can trust His promise of Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Yeshua's love for us is a covenant love, an unconditional love, a love that never fails (1 Cor. 13:8). A lot may change this year, but we can count on Someone who never changes, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever: Yeshua, our Rock, our King, our Healer, our Teacher, our Savior, and our Friend.

"Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come..." (Rev. 1:4).

Love and Blessings in 2013,

Neil & Jamie