

March 2007



Blessings in Yeshua!

Israel: Still "Chosen"

Our focus this month is on Israel, specifically God's love for Israel and His continued commitment and covenantal relationship with the Lord of Israel and God's people Israel, the Jewish people. The God of the Bible chose Israel. His selection. His prerogative, recorded in the Torah in Deuteronomy 7:6-7, 8a: *"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor chose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers..."* Israel, a "chosen people", a "special treasure", a people that would be blessed above all peoples according to the Word of the Lord in Deuteronomy 7:14. Israel's destiny, previously proclaimed at Mt. Sinai was to be *"a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"* (Exodus 19:6).

God gave Israel as a nation a *"coat of many colors"*, but the Heavenly Father's love and election has proven costly. Like Joseph, the beloved son of Jacob, Israel has experienced jealousy, hatred and subsequent suffering and isolation throughout the ages. Notwithstanding, Israel has been blessed. The Jewish people have miraculously survived and prospered. The nation of Israel has been resurrected from the dead. Israel is unique, and will one day be truly "happy". Consider Deuteronomy 33:29, *"Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you? A people saved by the Lord."* In his booklet **Pageants that Prophecy**, Lawrence Duff-Forbes mentions that in an age of pagan darkness, defilement, disease and degradation, Israel arose as a shining light. Israel's unique God instructed His people concerning the invaluable health preservatives of quarantine, sanitation and hygiene at a time when no other nation knew about or practiced them. A Unique God explained the difference between "unique" and "pure" to a Unique People, and proclaimed to them: *"I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples"* (Leviticus 20:24). Concerning Israel's future happiness, Duff-Forbes says the following: "That Israel is unique is undoubtable. That she will yet be happy is prophetic. This latter feature, jeweled and shiny, blazes the light of its hope from its golden settings of God-given promise." The promise that the author refers to is the promise of salvation, *"Yeshua"* in Hebrew. Israel will find true happiness when she finds her Messiah, the *"Prophet like Moses"* spoken of in Deuteronomy 18:18. God has not forgotten His beloved Israel. He has sent her Messiah-Redeemer. His name is Yeshua.

Israel: NOT Replaced!

The Jewish people today are the ancestors of the Israelites of the Bible. Rabbi Saul, speaking about his brothers according to the flesh, says the following in Romans 9:4, *"...who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the*

promises..." The Apostle continues in his discourse of God's continuing plan for His people Israel with a statement that should render any notion of Israel having been replaced absurd and groundless: "*Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*" (Romans 11:28-29). The promises that God made to His people Israel are still valid. That includes the promise of a land (See Psalms 105), and the return of God's people to that land from the four corners of the earth. (See Ezekiel 36:1-38) The Jewish people are still a "chosen people" because of God not because of them! The Church has not replaced the Jewish people. God has not taken away His promises, nor His covenants, nor His blessings from Israel and given them instead to the Church. It is amazing how many "Christians" believe this! Much educating remains to be done.

Those who mistakenly espouse the doctrine of Replacement Theology say that the promise to Israel and the Jewish people are figurative (not literal) and have been taken away from Israel and given to the Church. They also falsely state that the references to Israel in the New Covenant pertains to the Church and not to the Jewish people. Check out all 77 references to Israel for yourself some time to see how absurd this **notion** is. Some examples: Romans 10:1, Matthew 10:6, Matthew 15:24, Luke 1:16, John 3:10, Acts 2:36, Hebrews 8:8, and Revelation 7:4.

The New Covenant makes it very clear that the Christian attitude toward the Jewish people should be one of gratitude not arrogance. Gentile believers are told not to "*boast against the branches*" of an olive tree that they have been grafted into. (See Romans 11:18) While God has never broken His covenant promises with Israel, He has graciously included "*whosoever will*" in covenanted promises and blessings through Yeshua the Messiah. "*Now therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...*" (Ephesians 2:19)

The natural seed of Abraham has not been superseded by the spiritual seed. When Yeshua said in Matthew 21:43, "*Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*" He was **not** talking about the Jewish people as a people. He was referring to the chief priests and Pharisees (v. 45) who had failed in this role as spiritual leaders of God's people. Holy Scripture can be trusted to prove one point. We must be careful to read in context.

Israel (Jacob) I Have Loved

Jacob, the son of the patriarch Isaac, had his name changed by God at the site of an intense wrestling match which he had with the Almighty as recorded in Genesis 35:10. "*And God said to him, 'Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name.'*" Jacob, in Hebrew *Ya'akov*, is related to *akev*, the word for "heel". This name does **not mean** "heel grabber", which reinforces a negative **bias** toward Jacob, although at his birth he did take hold of his twin brother Esau's heel (Genesis 25:26). When God changed Jacob's name to Israel, He was making a statement and declaring a destiny. Jacob went from being a "heel" to being a "prince with God". God was pleased with Jacob. He pronounced a blessing of fruitfulness over him, and reaffirmed the covenant of a promised land that the Lord had already given to Abraham and to Isaac, his grandfather and father.

God made an amazing statement concerning Jacob and his twin brother Esau: "*Was not Esau Jacob's brother?... Yet Jacob I have loved; but Esau I have hated...*" (Malachi 1:2-3). This is the same Jacob as the prototype of the scheming Jewish businessman. But God loves Jacob and so should we. His ultimate stamp of approval of this son of Isaac is the fact that God chose to call Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac and **Jacob** (Exodus 3:6, 15). Ponder that one!

Why did God love Jacob? The Bible tells us in Genesis 25:27 that "*Jacob was a plain man dwelling in tents.*" (KJV) The word "plain" in the original Hebrew means pious, gentle, dear, perfect, undefiled, upright; precisely the opposite of deceit and cunning. Yes, Jacob took away his brothers birthright, but

that was according to the Will and Word of the Lord who told Jacob's mother that the older of her twins would serve the younger. This happened while Jacob and Esau were still in Rebekah's womb, God had said that two peoples would be separated from her body. The descendants of Jacob were the Israelites and the descendants of Esau, the Edomites, also known as the Amalekites.

God knew about Jacob and Esau before they were born. He knew that Esau would despise his birthright and that Jacob would value it. While Jacob's destiny was to inherit the land which God gave to Abraham and ultimately bring forth the Messiah through His genealogical line, Esau's destiny was to serve his brother and live by the sword (Genesis 27:40). God sees the heart. God selected Jacob, not Esau. Esau purposely chose to wed foreign wives, against his father's (and God's) wishes (Genesis 28:8). He did not love God or the things of God in fact, the Bible calls Esau "godless" in the Brit Hadasha, Hebrews 12:16 (NIV). In spite of all this, it was still God's **election** that caused the birthright and blessing to go to Jacob rather than Esau. *"And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), it was said to her, 'The older shall serve the younger.' As it is written, 'Jacob I have loved but Esau I have hated'."* (Romans 9:10-13)

Israel, Whom the World has Hated

This month as we "boo" Haman, the wicked enemy of the Jewish people, on Purim (March 3-5), we are reminded once again that although God loves Jacob, the devil hates him. Anti-Semitism has ancient, demonic roots. Haman was only one in a long line of despots who had an irrational hatred of the sons of Jacob. The Edomites (sons of Esau) were no exception. When Israel left Egypt, Esau's sons replaced them (Numbers 20:21). The Edomite's ruler's name was Amalek. God swore that He Himself would war against Amalek from generation to generation (Exodus 17:14). Haman was a direct descendant of Amalek. Sandra Teplinsky, in her excellent book **Why Care About Israel?** notes that the royal Herods in the New Covenant were also Edomites, sons of Esau. She highlights the **current relevancy** of the historical persistent, anti-Israel, anti-God hatred of the Edomites.

"Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave My land to themselves as a possession, with whole-hearted joy and spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country.'" (Ezekiel 36:5)

"For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment. Because he pursued his brother (Israel) with the sword, and cast off all pity; his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever. But I will send a fire..." (Amos 1:11-12)

"In a sense the war of the womb between Jacob and Esau has yet to end. With the inception of the modern Jewish state, their struggle has resumed with a vengeance, this time playing out on Israeli soil. How will the contest be resolved? Jacob will once more undergo a life-changing encounter with the Angel of the Lord..." AMEN.

Israel: Blessed by God

While it is true that Israel as a whole has rejected the word of the Lord and has not been faithful to their calling, God has remained FAITHFUL! Many Jewish people today see Judaism as irrelevant. The Bible is a book of stories or history but not God speaking today. Most do not give God glory when great discoveries are made, or inventions conceived. Nevertheless, the blessing of God is what has made Israel "rich" - in science, in the arts, in finance, medicine, and technological devices of all kinds. When God blesses, His blessing is irreversible (Numbers 23:20). The accomplishments of the Jewish people are pretty out of proportion to their numbers. Every couple of months we are astounded as we read of the most recent discoveries and technological innovations coming from Israel. Neil often says that if the world

stopped hating and persecuting the Jewish people, especially, Israel, there would probably be no disease without a cure, and no world problem without a solution.

In closing, we want to share a few recent discoveries with you:

1. A team of researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has developed a new method of targeting malignant brain tumors by inducing the cancerous cells to "commit suicide".
2. Researchers at Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology have found a way to propel a tiny swimming robot through spinal fluid. When attached to a tiny camera, it will be able to travel inside the spinal column to the target area and broadcast video images or photos.
3. Researchers at Jerusalem's Hebrew University have found that depression can cause loss of bone mass leading to osteoporosis and fractures. (Envy, of course, can do the same thing. No research necessary. See Proverbs 14:30)
4. Two Israeli researchers have developed the world's first antibiotic that kills anthrax and its deadly toxins.
5. Israeli scientists at Ben Gurion University in the Negev have identified why it is good to consume large quantities of tomatoes and why the best way to eat them is cooked with olive oil and cheese. The lycopenes that turn on the body's response system are not soluble in water. When tomatoes are cooked with cheese and/ or olive oil they are better absorbed than when eaten raw. Ten different types of cancer are affected by the consumption of tomatoes. Yeah, PIZZA! Go Israel!

Yours for the salvation of Israel,

Love in Yeshua,

Heidi & Jamie

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - March 2007

LOCAL TV STATIONS

STATE/CITY

AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4	TUE 6:00 PM
CA	Sonora	PUBLIC ACCESS 8	MON 8:30 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WLCB TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30AM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
IL	Chicago	TLN (WCFC)	MON 1:30 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITHALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 PM
IL	Rockford	TLN TV 51	SUN 9:30PM
NJ/NY	NJ/New York	WMBC TV 63	SUN 4:00 PM
OH	Columbus	WSFJ TV 51	SUN 3:30 PM
PA	Philadelphia	WFMZ TV 69	SUN 9:30 AM
SC	Greenville	WGGS TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

SATELLITE NETWORKS

SKY ANGEL

Angel Two - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9702]
 GTN - SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9707]

DirecTV

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 321]

God TV - The GOD Channel

TUE 3:30 AM (GMT) & 5:30 AM (Jerusalem)

Australian Christian Channel (ACC)

THU 8:00 AM (AEST)

SKY Digital - New Zealand

Shine TV - WED 11:30 AM & 10:30 PM [ch 99]



AIRTIME

INTERNATIONAL

Philippines - Shalom TV THU 6:00PM

INTERNET

www.jewishjewels.org

www.acctv.com.au

www.shinetv.co.nz
