

September 2008



Dearly Beloved in Messiah, The King,

He is Coming Back Again!

September 1, 2008 marks the beginning of the month of *Elul* on the Jewish calendar. This is the month preceding the seventh or holiest month of the Jewish calendar, the month of *Tishrei*. *Yom Teruah*, (known as *Rosh HaShanah*), the Feast of Blowing of Trumpets, begins on the evening of September 29, 2008. The *shofar* or ram's horn is blown 100 times in traditional Jewish synagogues on the feast, calling God's people to repentance, and reminding God of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac. This feast of the Lord, outlined in Leviticus 23:23-25, will be fulfilled when Yeshua the Messiah comes again. Just as He fulfilled the spring festivals at His first coming (Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost or *Shavuot*), He will also fulfill the fall festivals at His second coming (*Yom Teruah*, *Yom Kippur*, and *Sukkot* or *Tabernacles*). Does this mean that Yeshua will return in the fall? If He follows His established pattern of *moedim* (divine appointments), the autumn will be the season of His return. Every year, as the fall feasts draw near, we experience a renewed sense of expectancy. Could this be the year? Are we ready for His coming? Are our lamps filled with oil? Are we ready to meet The Bridegroom? Will our generation see the return of the Messiah? It is quite possible that when Yeshua spoke about the end of the age to His *talmidim* as recorded in Matthew 24 (the "Olivet Discourse"), He used the fig tree as a symbol of Israel and gave us a clue concerning His return. Matthew 24:32-34 seems to indicate that the generation that sees the "fig tree" blossom will be the generation that sees the return of the Messiah. Dating from either 1948 (re-establishment of the Jewish State), or 1967 (Jerusalem back under Jewish control), puts us closer to Yeshua's return than most of us imagine.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, no not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."
(Matthew 24:36) We don't know the day. We don't know the hour. But we do know the season.

Coming for a Faithful, Holy Bride

At the end of his life, Rabbi Saul of Tarsus (the Apostle Paul) said that he had fought the good fight, he had finished the race, and had kept the faith. He looked forward to the crown of righteousness which the Lord had laid up for him, as well as for all those who loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:6-8) Do you "love His appearing"? Is your heart adorned with bridal love for the King of Kings? Are you part of the consecrated bride for whom Yeshua is returning? Is the cry of your heart, "Come, Yeshua, come?" If so, now is the time to learn it in Hebrew: "*Bo, Yeshua, Bo!*" (pronounced "bow" as in bow tie).

Yeshua is coming for a bride that is holy—*kadosh*—literally "set apart" or "set aside for a special purpose." We are made holy by our relationship with a Holy God. His *Ruach HaKodesh* on the inside of us is the bridal gift that serves as the token of our inheritance, the seal of His promise to return for us. However, we can grow in holiness as we yield ourselves to God in obedience, service, and righteous living. L. Grant Luton in his book **In His Own Words** comments on the holiness of Yeshua's bride in relation to Philippians 3:12, "*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Messiah Yeshua took hold of me.*" In Luton's words: "There is a holiness whereby Yeshua takes hold of us, and there is the exercise of holiness whereby

we take hold of Him. The first brings salvation; the second brings fruitfulness. Again, God is holy and therefore desires us to be holy by separating ourselves from the standards and appetites of this world and pledging our loyalty to Him."

As we mentioned in our booklet, **The Ancient Jewish Wedding and the Return of Messiah for His Bride**, the Hebrew word for bride, *kallah*, literally means the secluded or enclosed one. Messiah's bride, composed of both males and females, is to be like a private enclosed garden, whose sole purpose is to bring pleasure to her Beloved! Yeshua's bride has been purchased by His own blood. She no longer belongs to herself but to Him. When He returns, it is to claim that which is rightfully His: US! He has gone to prepare a bridal chamber for us in His Father's house (Heaven). How excited are we about His returning for us? Have we grown weary in waiting? 2 Peter 3:3-4 tells us "...that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'..." But Messiah's bride knows better! Yeshua said, "...I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3). He will keep His word. Messiah will come again!

As we meditate on the "bride of Messiah," we realize that many who call themselves believers in Jesus (Yeshua), do not live in expectation of His coming. We fear that in some cases the verse from Matthew 24:12 has become flesh in them: *"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."* Has your love grown cold? It's not too late to cry out to the Lord to stir up holy passion in your heart. Pray as the *Shulamite* did in *Shir HaShirim*, the Song of Songs: *"Draw Me."* He will. This is truly the hour to get right with God and make one's calling and election sure! (2 Peter 1:10)

"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him.' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' " (Matthew 25:6-8) Be filled with the Holy Spirit, and love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength! Let every heart prepare Him room.

The Coming of Messiah: a traditional view

There are a variety of schools of thought within traditional Judaism concerning the Messiah and His coming. Some branches of Judaism believe in a personal Messiah, some don't. They believe in a "Messianic Age." One school, the followers of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, believes that we are in the "End of Days" and that the arrival of *Mashiach* is imminent. They, along with many other Jewish thinkers, believe that the world was created to last for six thousand years. Afterwards, there will be a *Sabbatical* millennium. We are now believed to be in the sixth millennium, which denotes *Erev Shabbat*, the Eve of Sabbath. The Jewish year that begins on September 29, 2008 is 5769 (and could be a lot closer to 6,000 than is calculated). Orthodox Jews of this particular school are preparing for the *Shabbat* of the *Mashiach*. They are involved in the formal "Friday afternoon" preparations.

Of course, traditional Jews do not believe that Messiah came already. They are waiting for a Messiah to come. In fact, belief in the coming of the *Mashiach* is a fundamental principle of the Jewish faith. Every Jew is required to reaffirm this faith each day: "I believe with complete faith in the coming of the *Mashiach*. And though he may tarry, I will await His coming every day." The Talmud (Shabbat 31a) states that one of the first questions asked of a Jewish person when he faces the "Heavenly Tribunal" is whether he yearned for and anticipated the coming of *Mashiach*.

Another generally accepted belief in Judaism is that just as a child comes only through birth pangs, so does redemption. Isaiah. 26:17 is often quoted: *"As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs, when she draws near the time of her delivery, so have we been in Your sight, O Lord."* The sufferings anticipated prior to the coming of *Mashiach* are called the "birth pangs of *Mashiach*" or *Chevlei Mashiach* in Hebrew. As the time of His coming draws nearer, and contractions increase, are stronger and closer together, each pain is said to draw the *Mashiach's* "birth" and the final end of suffering nearer.

Elijah the Prophet figures in the end-time scenario of most Orthodox Jews. Malachi 4:5-6 is the basis of their belief: *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."* As believers in Yeshua, we know that Elijah did precede the first coming of Messiah in the person of Yochanan (John) the Immerser. (See Matthew 11:14.) His message was one of repentance, and we expect that same spirit to move in the hearts of fathers, children and all people before the Messiah's second coming.

The Jews of the *Breslov* school believe that Elijah will come a full "day" before the Messiah comes to announce his arrival and awaken people to repent. They believe that his spirit is already succeeding, since the pendulum among Jewish people has begun to swing away from atheism and "nonsensical ideologies" to the search for spirituality and God. Elijah's (*Eliyahu's*) strength is seen to be his ability to fight atheism, as evidenced by his victory over the false prophets and idolators of his time. (See I Kings 18.)

We are seeing this "spirit of Elijah" at work in our lives and ministry. This week an 80 year old who happened to tune into Jewish Jewels, and then come to a Temple Aron HaKodesh service, prayed with Jamie to repent of her sins and receive Yeshua as her Messiah. That same night an Israeli man met his *Mashiach* at a gathering in our home. A few days later, another Jewish woman joyfully entered the Kingdom of God. The veil is being lifted. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is revealing Himself to His Chosen People as we, like Yochanan the Immerser, say,...*"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*

Two Parts of the Second Coming

The second coming of the Messiah is mentioned more than 300 times in the *Brit Hadasha* (New Covenant), eight times as often as His first coming!

The Bible seems to indicate that the Messiah Yeshua will return in two stages, (1) His coming **for** His bride and (2) His coming **with** His bride. The first coming is known as the "Rapture," although this word does not appear in the Holy Scriptures. What does appear is an apparent "catching away" of believers who have died and those still alive based on the following verses from I Thessalonians 4:15-17: *"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Messiah will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*

This "catching away" in Hebrew is *natzal* and implies rescuing out of great danger. The Bible says that it will be sudden (Matthew 24:38-41). The archangel that blows the *shofar* is probably Michael. (See also Daniel 12:1-3.) There are three groups that differ on the question of when the "Rapture" will take place: Pre-Tribulation Rapture, Mid-Tribulation Rapture, and Post-Tribulation Rapture. David Stern, in his **Jewish New Testament Commentary**, states that "...there is no certain way of determining who is right until events eliminate all but one possibility!..." (Dr. Stern's personal position is Post-Tribulation Rapture.) We, on the other hand, after extensive study of the ancient Jewish wedding customs, have concluded that the Bridegroom is coming to take us away before the time of the greatest trouble since earth began (Pre-Tribulation Rapture). We believe that we will be in our bridal chamber during the Great Tribulation. However, we do not believe that we will escape a time of great distress and even persecution just as believers all over the world are experiencing now. What we do expect to escape is the "wrath of God." Since we do not want any of our Jewish brothers to experience the time of great trial, we are doing all we can to "bring them into the ark" (Yeshua, the ark of our salvation), before it is too late!

Coming as Mashiach Ben David

Following His resurrection from the dead, Yeshua was with His followers for forty days, and then

departed from them on the Mount of Olives. The Bible tells us in Acts 1:9-11 that Yeshua was "...taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight." As the disciples watched this happen, two angels said to them, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Revelation 1:7 reinforces this truth, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him" (See also Zechariah 12:10 & 13:1.)

Matthew 24:29-30 says it in a slightly different way, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days...the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

This "coming" after the "Great Tribulation," when the entire world will be under the control of an anti-God government, is the return of the Messiah Yeshua with His followers to rule and reign upon the earth. He returns as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (See also Matthew 25:31-34.) His coming will usher in the Millennial Age, a time when the Lord's "circumcised in heart" people will be gathered, with Yeshua, their Messiah, ruling over them as King. All other nations will also be subject to the King of Kings during a Golden Age of 1,000 years. "For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9)

Coming to Jerusalem

Yeshua, the Messiah, is coming back to the city of Jerusalem. What a day it will be when His feet stand on the Mount of Olives, and that Mount is split in two, from east to west! (See Zechariah 14:4.) "...Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You" (Zechariah 14:5). Then living waters shall flow from Jerusalem. Until that glorious day comes, there will be trying times. At this moment there is a plan to divide Jerusalem that could change the course of world history in a moment. PRAY for the peace of Jerusalem. Pray about coming with us from May 31-June 11, 2009. The 2009 Mercy Mission will culminate with a prophetic event like no other: A WEDDING IN JERUSALEM. At this very moment God is preparing a bride!!!

Neil & Jamie

Titus 2:11-14

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - September 2008

LOCAL TV STATIONS

| STATE: | CITY: | STATIONS: | AIRTIME: |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| AK | North Pole | KJNP TV 4 | TUE 6:00 PM |
| FL | Tampa/St. Pete. | WCLF TV 22 | SUN 2:30 PM |
| FL | Orlando/Cocoa | WTGL TV 45 | SUN 1:30 PM |
| FL | Miami/Ft. Laud. | WHFT TV 45 | THU 11:30 AM |
| FL | Tallahassee | WVUP TV 45 | SUN 1:30 PM |
| FL | West Palm Beach | WFGC TV 61 | SAT 10:30 PM |
| GA | Columbus | WYBU TV 16 | SUN 2:30 PM |
| IA | Dubuque | KFXB TV 40 | SUN 1:30 PM |
| IL | Peoria | FAITH ALIVE CH 20 | FRI 6:00 PM |
| MO | New Bloomfield | KNLJ TV 25 | SUN 1:30 PM |
| NJ/NY | NJ/New York | WMBC TV 63 | SUN 4:00 PM |
| OH | Columbus | WSFJ TV 51 | SUN 3:30 PM |
| OR | Portland | K26GJ TV 26 | SUN 12:00 PM |
| OR | Salem | K21GX TV 21 | SUN 12:00 PM |
| SC | Greenville | WGGS TV 16 | FRI 10:30 AM |

SATELLITE NETWORKS

DirecTV

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 367]
Christian Television Network (CTN) - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 376]

God TV - The GOD Channel

WED 4:30 AM (GMT) & 6:30 AM (Jerusalem)

Digital Satellite Receiver

World Harvest TV (WHT) - C-Band - Galaxy 16 -
Transponder 15 - 99° W - SUN 3:00 PM (EST)

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WHT - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 130]

