



*Erev Yom Teruah  
is the night of  
September 12, 2007*

Shalom Shalom in the Sar Shalom!

### Knowing How to Answer

The Hebrew month of *Elul*, the month of preparation before the High Holy Days, begins this year on August 15th. The Lord has laid it on our hearts to help you **prepare to share**—Yeshua—with our Jewish people. We are exhorted in Colossians 4:5-6 in the *Brit HaDasha* (New Covenant) as follows: *“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”* Most of our Jewish people are outside the Kingdom of God today. Our God wants them to come inside, to be blessed, to know Him as *Abba*, to fulfill their divine destiny and to be set free to experience His love, His mercy and His grace. Time is short; we need great wisdom as we share the Good News of Messiah with the house of Israel. How do we get this wisdom? *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...”* (James 1:5-6a). As we ask our Father for wisdom in sharing Yeshua, He will give it to us. He knows the heart of each pre-believer. Our job is to be sensitive to the Lord’s still small voice and be gracious and “salty” in our speech. In other words, when Jewish people voice their objection to belief in Yeshua as Messiah, we should be loving, kind, gentle, longsuffering and friendly, always maintaining a sense of humor. We should never be argumentative, sharp, brusque, condescending, self-righteous, impatient or condemning. Remember, we are Yeshua’s hands extended. We need to be like the Rabbi we follow!

The High Holy Day Season is the time of year when Jewish people around the world tend to be most open to spiritual issues. The words “sin,” “repentance” and “atonement” come to the forefront. Rabbis exhort their flocks to return to God. We know that Yeshua is The Way, but others still have objections. Our goal this month is to equip you to deal with a few of the most common objections to Yeshua as Messiah.

### **“Yeshua could not be the Messiah since He did not bring peace to the world.”**

If by peace one means the absence of war on the physical or natural level, then it is true that Yeshua did not bring “peace.” However, peace in the Hebrew sense of the word means much more than the cessation of conflict. It means wholeness, health and well-being on every level. Those who follow Yeshua as Messiah and Lord do indeed experience a peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7). We have peace with God through the atoning death of Yeshua, and find great comfort in knowing that our names are written in the “Lamb’s Book of Life” for all eternity. Each year, when *Yom Kippur* ends, we rejoice anew, confident that we have been inscribed forever—not because of our fasting or our good deeds, but because of Yeshua’s sacrifice on our behalf, and our acceptance of this sacrifice by faith.

There is much more to be said about this issue of “peace.” First of all, if the Messiah was supposed to bring peace to the earth, and He was rejected by most, how could there be peace?? The purpose of the Messiah’s first coming was not to bring global peace, but to make peace with God possible by dying for the sins of mankind. The Bible speaks of one Messiah who comes twice. The early rabbis had a concept of two Messiahs, one called *Mashiach ben Yosef*, the other *Mashiach ben David*. They almost had it right. Instead of two Messiahs there is one—Yeshua—who came, died, was raised from the

dead, and is coming a second time (soon!). He will usher in a millennial reign of peace, the lion will lie down with the lamb (Isaiah 65:25) and King Yeshua, our *Sar Shalom* (Prince of Peace), will rule over a Kingdom of Peace. We have peace on the inside now. Peace on the outside is coming! (This answer is rather simplistic; Michael Brown (Vol. I) takes 19 pages to answer this objection. AMAZING!)

### **“A Man can’t become God!”**

This objection is an important one, especially for religious Jews. Our precious, pre-believing friend Sarah, has sat next to Jamie week after week at our Temple struggling with this question. On the one hand, she feels the overwhelming presence of the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit), the Love of God and Torah, and the fellowship of true believers. On the other hand, she is fearful of becoming an idolater if she puts her faith in a man who became God. What do we say to Sarah? First of all, “pray” is more important than “say.” Only the *Ruach HaKodesh* can reveal to the Sarahs in our lives that a man did not become God. **GOD BECAME MAN.** The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob can become whatever He wants to become. He is a Supernatural God. (This fact alone is debatable within the Jewish community.)

One verse in the Holy Scriptures, Isaiah 9:6, is considered by some to be the most important Messianic verse: *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* Over 700 years before Yeshua of Nazareth was born, the prophet Isaiah spoke of a king who would be born as a Jewish–human–child, yet was God Himself. No mere human would be called *El Gibbor* (Mighty God) or *Avi Ad* (Everlasting Father). God condescended to come to earth and take on human flesh. We have a hard time understanding that, in part, because we cannot fathom such love!

The Jewish prophet Micah also spoke about the child that would be God incarnate. He prophesied that Israel’s Ruler would be born in Bethlehem, and stated that His... *“goings forth are from of old, from everlasting”* (Micah 5:2). The Eternal God became a man in the person of Yeshua of Nazareth. The invisible God became visible. Yeshua, the God–Man, was no ordinary man. He was the Word of God clothed in human flesh who made his dwelling among us. “Made his dwelling” literally means “lived in a tent.” We like the way Michael Brown explains God becoming man: “So just as God ‘pitched his tent’ in the midst of his people Israel through the Tabernacle and Temple—while remaining God in heaven and filling the universe with his presence—so he pitched his tent among us through his son—while remaining God in heaven and filling the universe with his presence.”

### **“If Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah, how come so few Jews believe in Him?”**

God is not particularly popular today, especially in the United States. We have taken Him out of our schools, off courtroom walls, out of public holiday decorations, and, right now, some are trying to get His name off our currency. Many Jewish people today (as well as Gentiles) no longer believe in God. If they don’t believe in God, they certainly won’t believe in His Son, Yeshua.

Those Jewish people who have seeking hearts, who believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, are finding Him! We just heard a report that in Israel there are now about 150 Messianic congregations. Of course, all the first believers in Yeshua were Jewish. In our day, before His second coming, Jewish people are once again turning to their Messiah. They are investigating the Messianic claims of Jesus for themselves, and God is revealing the truth to them.

What happened at the beginning? The majority of the Jewish people were expecting a Messiah like King David who would come as a conquering King to defeat Israel’s enemies, especially the Romans. Yeshua came instead as a Lamb. He was also not popular with Israel’s leaders, their rabbis, since He pointed out their sins. They, therefore, rejected Him as Messiah. Today, rabbis follow this tradition blindly, taking a “majority rules” stance. Then Jewish congregants follow their rabbis rather than seeking the truth for themselves. Truth should never be determined by majority vote!



Yeshua's rejection was also part of a bigger picture of God's eternal plan for all mankind. It was prophesied in the Holy Scriptures, hundreds of years before Yeshua was born, that His own people would initially reject Him: *"Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."* (This Scripture is from the Tenach, Isaiah 53:1-3.)

God's "bigger picture" includes salvation being made available to the Gentiles, followed by a national acceptance of Yeshua by the Jewish people. (See Zechariah 12:10.) During the "Age of the Gentiles" (which is drawing to a close), God Himself has closed the ears and eyes of His people, and made the Good News of Yeshua available to the nations. Even in this, however, His heart still beats for His People Israel. The *Brit HaDasha* expresses God's purpose as follows: *"But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles"* (Romans 11:11). If the Gentiles had fulfilled their God-given role, wouldn't more Jewish people believe in Yeshua? Rabbi Saul continues in the Book of Romans explaining that hardening [unbelief] in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. *"And so all Israel will be saved..."* (Romans 11:25-26).

### **"I can go to God directly. I don't need a middleman."**

Not true. Our Jewish people have always needed a mediator between them and God. This pattern is well established in the Holy Scriptures. Moses is a perfect picture of a God-ordained mediator. At Mount Sinai he received the Law from God and gave it to His people. Moses also interceded on behalf of Israel so that God would not destroy them. The problem? Sin. *"And the Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation'."* (Exodus 32:9-10) Moses then pleaded with the Lord on behalf of the Israelites, and God relented from the harm He said He would do. What had the Israelites done that so angered their God? They had made an idol (the golden calf), worshipped it and sacrificed to it. They had forgotten the God who had just brought them out of Egypt!

Today's "Israelites" still sin. So do today's Gentiles. Man is prone to make God into his own image. Have you ever heard someone say, "O, **my** God would never do that!" **Their** god is generally not the God of the Bible. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob gave Moses a detailed sacrificial system through which the sins of His people might be covered—atoned for. Even today, on *Yom Teruah* (*Rosh HaShana*), our Jewish people recognize that they have sinned. Repentance (*t'shuvah*), prayer (*t'filah*) and charity (*tzedakah*) are thought to be adequate for forgiveness. These disciplines, however well-intentioned, do not match up with God's way of dealing with sin. The sacrificial system always included a blood sacrifice. The God of Israel has declared that there is no atonement except through blood.

The high priest—the mediator—made atonement for the sins of Israel once a year, on *Yom Kippur*. He entered the Most Holy Place with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering (Leviticus 16:3). Israel needed a mediator in order to be forgiven!

The Book of Hebrews, in the *Brit HaDasha*, makes it clear that Yeshua came to be our high priest to bridge the gap of sin that had separated us from our God. Through the blood of the New (Renewed) Covenant we are truly at-one-with-God: *"[Messiah] came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of [Messiah], who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant..."* (Hebrews 9:11-15a).

## **"A Jew can't believe in Jesus and still be Jewish."**

By whose definition? The Jewish majority? The rabbis? The God of the Bible? The government of Israel? Most Jews consider a person born of a Jewish mother to be Jewish, even if they are an atheist, an agnostic, a Baha'i, or a Hare Krishna. They draw the line at Jesus. Why? It can't be because Yeshua is considered a false Messiah since there have been a number of false Messiahs in Jewish history, and their followers were still considered Jews. It can't be because Yeshua Himself wasn't Jewish, since His mother Miriam was Jewish of the lineage of King David.

Is it again because truth is determined by majority opinion? What if the majority is wrong? If Yeshua is indeed the long-awaited Messiah of Israel, then believing in Him would make a person more Jewish; he would be a fulfilled or completed Jew. Our experience, beginning with Neil, has been that a Jewish person who receives Yeshua as Messiah and Lord (especially within Messianic Judaism) begins to value their Jewishness as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. They begin to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in spirit and in truth. They love the Torah. They celebrate the Feasts of the Lord (the Jewish Holidays). They are passionate about God, the nation of Israel, and the things that are on God's heart. Not Jewish? We disagree. Trusting in the Messiah Yeshua is the most Jewish decision a person can make! However, as Moishe and Ceil Rosen point out in **Witnessing to Jews**, no Jew wants to be considered no longer Jewish by his family and friends. Faith in Messiah sets a Jewish person apart from the majority of their fellow Jews and labels them as a traitor. That is a high price to pay for believing in Yeshua. The authors make the following comment: "The real and usually unspoken Jewish objection to Christ is the unwillingness to face the personal consequences of believing something that is so divisive."

Following God has never been the easy thing to do. But it has always been the way to real joy and fulfillment. Pray, pray, pray for your Jewish friends and loved ones. God is able, by His Spirit, to overcome all their objections!

*Love in Yeshua,  
Neil & Jamie*

*God bless you in a SPECIAL way this month!*

*Please begin to send in your offerings for  
our LOVE BASKETS for Israel 2007!*

P.S. Michael Brown's series **Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus** is A MUST for your personal study. ANOINTED. SCHOLARLY. COMPREHENSIVE. EXCELLENT!! Order all 4 books, or one at a time. You will be greatly edified and educated.

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## **Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - August 2007**

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### **LOCAL TV STATIONS**

<u>STATE:</u>	<u>CITY:</u>	<u>STATIONS:</u>	<u>AIRTIME:</u>
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 11:30 AM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITH ALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 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
PA	Philadelphia	WFMZ TV 69	SUN 9:30 AM
SC	Greenville	WGGG 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**

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



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### **INTERNATIONAL**

Philippines - Shalom TV THU 6:00 PM

### **INTERNET**

[www.jewishjewels.org](http://www.jewishjewels.org)

[www.acctv.com.au](http://www.acctv.com.au)

[www.shinetv.co.nz](http://www.shinetv.co.nz)

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