



Dear Lovers of God and His Torah,

Yeshua in the Torah

The theme of our new series of Jewish Jewels television programs is "Yeshua in the Torah." We are in the process of editing the first six of these programs. Your prayers are greatly appreciated at this time since we are finding it a challenge to work on these programs (we desire excellence), while at the same time shepherding our growing Messianic congregation here in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Our days are full (usually 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM), overflowing with wonderful God-incidences: Jewish people seeking information about Yeshua, teaching, preaching, hospital visits, funerals and memorial services, Mercy Mission planning, and celebrations of all kinds. We are working while it is yet day for as the Scripture says, "...the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4).

We are often asked the question: "If Jesus is the Messiah, where is He in the Jewish Bible?" This is a valid question. Lord willing, our new television series will help answer many of the questions that Jewish seekers are asking today. This month's letter is designed to give you a taste of what we plan to present to our television audience. Yeshua is in the Torah!

The Tanach speaks of Messiah

"Then I said, 'Behold I come; in the scroll of the Book it is written of me'." (Psalm 40:7)
Yeshua's voice preceded His coming. He speaks in the Torah and throughout the Tanach, the Holy Scriptures, for those who have ears to hear! His voice is the voice of the Beloved, *"kol dodi,"* spoken of in *Shir HaShirim*, the Song of Songs. The prophet Micah tells us that the *"One to be Ruler in Israel"* would be born in Bethlehem. His *"goings forth are from old, from everlasting."* Yeshua did not appear one day in Jerusalem as the Messiah out of a vacuum. Moses and the Jewish prophets wrote about Him from the beginning. Even Yeshua Himself said to those who doubted His Messiahship:

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." (John 5:39)

"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me." (John 5:45-46)

Yeshua appeared to His talmidim following His resurrection, and began to explain to them that His death and resurrection had been part of God's plan for the salvation of the world, and that this plan had indeed been spoken of in the Holy Scriptures:

"...These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me" (Luke 24:44).

Daniel Gruber in **Torah and the New Covenant** makes the following statement: "The Law of Moses leads us to Yeshua. It is our tutor for that purpose. It defines Messiah. It did for the disciples. 'Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Yeshua of Nazareth, the son of Joseph".' (John 1:45)"

What did Moses write?

In the Torah of Moses we find the Messiah in types, shadows and actual preincarnate appearances. One of the first, and most important references to the Messiah, is found in the very first book of the Torah, *B'resheet* (Genesis). In chapter three we read about a cunning serpent who tempted Eve. She doubted God's goodness, and her husband, Adam, in direct disobedience to God, joined her in sinning against their Maker. This sin resulted in Adam and Eve being expelled from the Garden of Eden, and separated from the God who created them. God cursed the serpent for his role in this separation, and made the following proclamation to him:

"...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise (crush) your head, and you shall bruise (crush) His heel." (Genesis 3:15)

This verse from the Torah is often called the "proto-evangel" (the "first gospel") since it is the original proclamation of the promise of God's plan for the redemption of the entire world. Genesis 3:15 has been termed the "Mother prophecy" that gave birth to all the rest of the Messianic promises.

Early Jewish sages considered Genesis 3:15 to be Messianic in character, in effect, to be one of the first glimpses of Messiah in the Torah. The word enmity, in Hebrew, *eybah*, is really "hatred" with the idea of fierce and aggressive antagonism. Hatred came into the world at the Fall along with sin, sickness and death. The serpent of Genesis 3:15 was more than a mere "snake" as we know the animal. Before the Fall this creature must have been quite attractive and beguiling; however, the power behind him was evil and deadly. Medieval rabbis identified the serpent as ha Satan, "the Adversary." The New Covenant confirms this in Revelation 12:9, *"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world..."*

There would be intense hatred between the seed of Satan and the seed of Eve. Eve's seed, identified as "He," singular, would bruise the head of the serpent, while His heel would be bruised. The Hebrew word for "bruise" and "crush" is the same: *"suf."* One receives a mortal blow (head crushed), while the other receives a minor injury (heel crushed).

Who is the "seed of the woman" who one day defeats Satan? The word for seed in Hebrew is *"zera"* and in Greek *"spermato"*. The Targum associates this seed with the Messiah King. This seed is Yeshua, the promised Messiah, the One called "the last Adam" in the *B'rit Hadasha*, who reversed the curse of the first Adam. Some Bible scholars maintain that "the seed of the woman" alludes to more than just a future descendant, but one who has no human father, since biologically it is the man who produces the seed. This promised seed would have to be supernaturally implanted in the womb, as was the case with Yeshua, born of a virgin as prophesied in Isaiah 7:14.

What about the heel? When did Satan bruise Yeshua's heel? When He was crucified, as prophesied in Psalm 22:16, *"...They pierced My hands and My feet."* Although Yeshua's wound seemed mortal, He triumphed over death, purchasing victory over sin and death itself for the descendants of Adam and Eve.

The Angel of the Lord

In the Torah portion called *"Va-Yera"* (Genesis 18-22), we encounter the "Angel of the Lord," a special messenger of God, also known as the "Angel of YHWH."

"Then the Lord [YHWH] appeared to him [Abraham] by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, 'My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant'." (Genesis 18:1-3)

Three men (later called "angels" in Genesis 19:1) appeared to Abraham. Moses identifies one of them as YHWH (verses 10,13,17, 20, etc.), using the sacred name of God. Two of the "men" left to deliver a message to Sodom. The other "Angel" stayed to speak with Abraham. This Angel of YHWH is identified as God Himself. He is called "the Judge of all the earth." Many Bible scholars believe, as we do, that the Angel of YHWH is a preincarnate manifestation of Yeshua. The special term used for these appearances is "Christophanies." Dr. James A. Borland, in his book, **Christ in the Old Testament**, defines Christophanies as follows: "those unsought, intermittent and temporary, visible and audible manifestations of God the Son in human form, by which God communicated something to certain conscious human beings on earth prior to the birth of Jesus Christ."

Yeshua appeared in human form in many other places in the Torah. Space does not permit extensive commenting on them, but you can find Yeshua in the following portions of the Torah:

Genesis 16:7-13: The Angel of the Lord spoke with Hagar, who was fleeing from her mistress, Sarai. Note that this "Angel" has knowledge of the future, can bring events to pass, is seen as "God," but also is distinct from "the Lord."

Genesis 22:1-18: In the *Akedah*, the binding of Isaac, the Angel of the Lord (YHWH) told Abraham not to lay his hand upon his son, Isaac. Then, this "Angel" spoke again and said, *"...By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, in blessing I will bless you..."* (Genesis 22:16-17) This "Angel" is divine: Yeshua, before His incarnation.

Genesis 31:11-13: The Angel of the Lord spoke to Jacob and called Himself *"the God of Bethel."*

Genesis 32:22-32: A "Man" wrestled with Jacob until daybreak and changed Jacob's name to Israel because he had struggled with God and men and prevailed. Jacob called the place Peniel, meaning 'face of God,' *"...For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved"* (verse 30). Who did Jacob wrestle with? The Angel of the Lord: the preincarnate Yeshua. (See Hosea 12:3-4.)

Exodus 3:1-6, 10-14: The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush. *"...God called to him from the midst of the bush..."* (Exodus 3:4). He identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 3:6), as well as, *"I Am Who I Am"* (Exodus 3:14). (Yeshua later applies this name to Himself in John 8:58.)

God promised His people that He would send an "Angel" with them on their journey to the Promised Land and said: *"Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him"* (Exodus 23:21). No ordinary angel has the power to forgive sins. Only God and His "Angel."

For other appearances of the Angel of the Lord in the Tanach see: Numbers 22:35-38, Judges 2:1-5, Judges 6:11-23, Judges 13, and Joshua 5:13-15.

"...before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58)

Yeshua said these words to Judeans who accused Him of having a demon because He told them that Satan, not Abraham, was their father. He also said, *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad"* (John 8:56). When did Abraham see Yeshua's day? He saw it when Abraham gave tithes to a mysterious priest—king of ancient Jerusalem, Melchizedek (who is seen in Jewish writings as a type of Messiah). This priest was not a priest after the line of the high priest Aaron. He was the *"...priest of God Most High"* (Genesis 14:18) who offered a covenant meal (bread and wine) to Abraham, and blessed both Abraham and "God Most High." Psalm 110 confirms Messiah's special priesthood in verse 4, *"... You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."* The book of Hebrews in the *B'rit Hadasha* testifies to the eternal nature of Yeshua's priesthood (chapters 5-7), comparing and connecting Him with Melchizedek: *"...king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem meaning 'king of peace,' without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God..."* (Hebrews 7:2-3).

Abraham also saw Yeshua's day when Abraham took his son, Isaac, to Mt. Moriah with the intent of sacrificing him in obedience to the Lord. Michael L. Brown in Volume Three of his **Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus** mentions the *Akedah* (the binding of Isaac) as a "pre-illustration" of the Messiah in the Torah. We have already seen the Angel of the Lord as a preincarnate appearance of the Son of God, but the *Akedah* also shows many parallels to God's redemptive plan through the Messiah who would come.

- Abraham was willing to give up his son, making a great sacrifice because of love (for God) (Genesis 22:12). God willingly gave up His only Son, making a supreme sacrifice because of His love (for us) (Romans 8:32). What God did not demand of Abraham, He demanded of Himself.
- Isaac was willing to be sacrificed. He submitted to his father's will. Yeshua laid down His life willingly, in obedience to His Father. While Isaac was spared, Yeshua was obedient to the point of death.
- Abraham was confident that even though he was about to sacrifice his son on Mt. Moriah, somehow he would return with his son. (See Genesis 22:5.) Hebrews 11:17-19 tells us that Abraham offered up Isaac by faith, "...accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense" (Hebrews 11:19). Isaac's resurrection was figurative; Yeshua's resurrection was real.
- When Isaac asked his father where the lamb was for the burnt offering, Abraham told him that God would provide for Himself the lamb (Genesis 22:6-8). God did. And that's when Abraham saw Yeshua's day—since centuries later God provided Himself a Lamb, Yeshua, His only begotten Son, the final sacrifice for sin. "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

May He who freely gives us all things, meet all your needs and open to you the treasures of Torah.

Love,

P.S. Check out this month's offers!

A Year Through the Torah- Yeshua said in John 5:39 that the Scriptures testify of Me. Join in with Jews all around the world and be blessed by the study of the weekly Torah portions.

Messiah in the Old Testament- Understand the concept of Messiah as a developing theme of God's process for bringing Messiah to earth through the nation of Israel. Very unique viewpoint!

My Lord and My God- The conclusion is simple. Yeshua must be YHWH in order to be the Promised One of Israel. Follow the Cohen's as they chart the prophecies of the Messiah.

P.P.S. Like Queen Esther, you have been called to the Kingdom for such a time as this. Purim is March 10th. Aaron Früh's book, **The Decree of Esther**, will really bless you. Happy Purim!

Neil & Jamie

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - March 2009

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	Chicago	WJYS TV 62	MON 1:00 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	GTN TV 23	SUN 2:30 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]

WMBC - SUN 4:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 63 or 900]

Christian Television Network (CTN) - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 376]

Dish Network

Christian Television Network (CTN) - SUN 2:30 PM (EST)
[Ch. 267 & 9399]

God TV - The GOD Channel

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

Insight Digital Cable: GTN

SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 283]

Digital Satellite Receiver

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

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