



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH TEACH ENCOURAGE DISCIPLE



APRIL 2008

ACCOUNTABILITY

in deeds, words, and thoughts



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STATEMENT OF BELIEF

Outreach Israel Ministries and TNN Online

There is One Almighty Creator God of the Universe, who has revealed Himself to us in the manifestations of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came in fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies of the Scriptures and is fully God. It is mandatory for us to believe in a Divine Redeemer to be saved. Salvation is a free gift of God to all who receive Messiah Yeshua into their lives and confess of their sins. Those who reject Messiah will be consigned to eternal punishment.

The Holy Scriptures, Genesis-Revelation, are the inspired, infallible Word of God as revealed in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts.

There is only one assembly of chosen ones/elect, the people of Israel, of which all Believers in Messiah are a part. God does not have two groups of elect: Israel and "the Church."

The Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) is the foundation of all Scripture, was followed by our Messiah Yeshua, and is to still be followed and studied by Believers today.

Yeshua the Messiah is coming to gather the saints after the Tribulation period.

OIM is an *agapē* ministry, freely and benevolently giving the vast majority of its teachings and resources, without charge, to those who desire to be spiritually nourished.

For a fuller Statement of Faith, consult the OIM website

Outreach Israel News is the monthly newsletter of Outreach Israel Ministries, a non-profit organization with an emphasis on reaching, teaching, and encouraging the Messianic community. Subscription to **Outreach Israel News** is without cost and supported only by donation.

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OIM UPDATE

April 2008

This month of rebirth in the annual cycle of nature in the Northern Hemisphere includes the first of Aviv/Nisan when the Spring feasts of the Lord are once again remembered. Fourteen days into the month we encourage everyone to participate in Passover and the season of Unleavened Bread, during which the annual Counting of the Omer is commenced. For fifty days throughout the balance of the Spring, the Messianic community of faith is exhorted to prepare itself for *Shavuot*, which we will celebrate here in Orlando from June 13-15. By participating in remembrance of the Exodus of Israel from Egypt at a *sedar* meal, and continuing forward to remember the other admonitions given to us in the Torah, we each have the opportunity to grow in our individual and collective walks of faith.

This year, I would recommend that if you have not already done so, that you purchase your own copies of my reflection books *Counting the Omer: A Daily Devotional Toward Shavuot* and *Sayings of the Fathers: A Messianic Perspective on Pirkei Avot*. Unlike previous years, we will not be sending out daily teachings each day of Counting the Omer, primarily due to technical constraints and the large number of spam filters and blockers that were not present several years ago. We will, however, be offering some key teachings near the end of the Counting the Omer season with **Virtual Shavuot**.

We are now in our second month of the TNN Press Book Fund. J.K. McKee's summary in this newsletter will give you a fuller understanding of the short term, mid term, and long term strategy of why we are making this effort to upgrade our publications. I have also reproduced pieces from a recent post (24 March) on our McHuey Blog, which addressed some of the ten major ideas that will be changing the world in the mid-to-long term future, most notably including the concept of "Re-Judaizing Jesus" derived from a recent article in Time Magazine (18 March). If there is ever a time for the Messianic movement to step up to the challenge, **it would be now**. I personally believe that our timing for the perfect bound printing of our publications is excellent, given the increased demand for credible knowledge and qualified opinions on the Hebraic Roots of our faith.

Interestingly, another article I read this past month dealt with ten (other) technological advances that are going to shape our future. Although this article is from a number of years ago, it was intriguing because of our Health and Nutrition emphasis on taking glyconutrient supplements. This article is referenced in this issue of OIM News.

Finally, during the past several months as I have been following the Torah readings on a regular basis, through the conclusion of Exodus and into Leviticus, I have been prompted to write our lead article which deals with the subject of **personal accountability**. Perhaps the often-quoted statement from Luke 12:48b says it all for today's Messianic community of faith: "From everyone who has

been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.” Hopefully, my thoughts will help some of you realize the awesome responsibility we have been given, so that we might glorify the One who has been so generous in His gifts to us!

Until the restoration of all things...

William Mark Huey

JOIN THE TNN PRESS BOOK FUND



Would you like to see high quality, scholastic, and loving Messianic books like *Hebraic Roots*, *Introduction to Things Messianic*, *Torah In the Balance*, and *When Will the Messiah Return?* available from major booksellers? Do you want your friends to be able to purchase these books without the “fear” of having to contact a Messianic ministry? Join the ongoing **TNN Press Book Fund** today and make this a reality!

The TNN Press Book Fund is the most ambitious project ever embarked upon by our ministry. For over five years, we have been on the cutting edge preparing materials for the long-term future of the Messianic movement, ranging from introductory books to home study guides to commentaries on various books of the Bible. These publications *now* need to be able to have a wider distribution than *just* our ministry. They need to be out there to counterbalance some of the unfair and unloving materials that bring discredit to the Messianic community. They need to promote a Messianic movement that is going to be an influence of positive change in the world. TNN Press offers some of the most well-researched and theologically stable Messianic materials on the market, and it is time to see that our publications are professionally printed.

The planned printing of our books will go about in four preliminary stages, with a minimum of 500 copies per title produced:

Stage One:

Hebraic Roots: An Introductory Study
Introduction to Things Messianic
Messianic Sabbath Helper
Messianic Winter Holiday Helper
Messianic Spring Holiday Helper
Messianic Fall Holiday Helper
TorahScope, Volume I

Stage Three:

A Survey of the Apostolic Scriptures
A Survey of the Tanach (2008)
James for the Practical Messianic
Hebrews for the Practical Messianic
other commentaries (to be determined)

Stage Two:

The New Testament Validates Torah
Torah In the Balance, Volumes I & II (2009)
The Two Houses of Israel (2008)
When Will the Messiah Return?
The Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism
TorahScope, Volume II

Stage Four:

Counting the Omer
Sayings of the Fathers
other *Practical Messianic* commentaries
(yet to be written)

All in all, we are estimating that this long term project will cost over \$50,000. Yet, each stage can be completed in four \$12,500 increments. **Please join with us today!**

ACCOUNTABILITY

in deeds, words, and thoughts

by Mark Huey

Recently during our annual trek through the Torah portions, my study of *Pedukei* (Exodus 38:21-40:36) initiated a deeper study into the subject of accountability. In this *parashah*, the mustering or accounting of the materials used for the construction of the Tabernacle was detailed. Keeping an accurate account of the physical aspects of the Tabernacle was admirable during Moses' era, but what is personally more important to consider from the distance of 3,300 years, is the aspect of **individual accountability** that every human being will encounter during the course of a lifetime. I often find that as I examine the Torah, the Holy Spirit will prompt me into a deeper search, so that His sanctifying grace would continue to mold my heart and character. It is amazing how the Word of God can have such a motivating impact on your heart, as I recently found that the intentions of my heart were being laid bare before the Holy One of Israel. As the author of Hebrews articulates,

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to **judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do**” (Hebrews 4:12-13).

Reviewing *Pedukei* several weeks ago, I was led to reflect upon some important words given by Yeshua to His Disciples:

“Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come. Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? **For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.** The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil. **But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned**” (Matthew 12:32-37).

At the end of these verses, I found myself repeating the statement “every careless word” or “every idle word” (KJV) over and over again. The clear emphasis is that every person must use the tongue wisely. Interestingly, when you find yourself audibly speaking the Word of God, you also find yourself hearing the Word as it reverberates in the room off of the walls. Hearing the echoes of “every careless word,” such piercing aspects began to convict me of my own failings in terms of my tongue. In trying to exhort an audience of people, I actually found myself being humbled by memories of my own failings regarding my use of careless words. I thought of mumbling under my breath the thought “idiots” or “fools” when it comes to some of the people that I know and have to interact with.

While I have been able to control outbursts of epithets that are audible, I still recognize that my thoughts regarding certain people in certain situations have ushered forth opinions that were definitely in my heart. Quickly thinking back to what Yeshua states about calling someone a fool as equivalent to *murder*, just compounded the conviction in my heart:

“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be **guilty enough to go into the fiery hell**” (Matthew 5:21-22).

In my thought life, I have found myself not making a distinction between someone doing something idiotic or foolish, versus attributing the status of being an idiot or fool to that person and thus being worthless in the eyes of God. Even though I have not spoken such things loud enough for anyone to hear, I have certainly made judgments in my heart that certain people were fools or good-for-nothings. In a matter of seconds during a presentation where I was trying to teach others, I sincerely felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit. As a continuing process of the sanctification that I desire, I decided to briefly comment on the subject of being accountable for our words or thoughts—which inevitably led me to expand my review into what the Scriptures say about our deeds. This expansion of my study uncovered so many verses that for the purposes of this article, I am simply going to let the references speak for themselves.

In searching out God’s Word, I have found that our personal accountability for actions can be broken down into our: deeds, words, and our thoughts. Amazingly, our omniscient Heavenly Father is recording everything that we do, say, or even think in some sort of celestial filing system. Just the thought of this has prompted me to start making choices about more than my visible deeds, and perhaps verbal comments, to the point of initiating a concerted effort to work on my thought life.

Consider some of the words of Job and the Psalmist, concepts which we find repeated by Yeshua and Paul:

“For He [God] pays a man according to his work, and makes him find it according to his way” (Job 34:11).

“Once God has spoken; twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God; and lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, for You recompense a man according to his work” (Psalm 62:11-12).

“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS [Psalm 62:12]” (Matthew 16:27).

“Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS [Psalm 62:12]” (Romans 2:6-7)

In Paul's instruction to the Corinthians, he elaborates on the aspect of accountability before the *bēma* (βῆμα) or "judgment seat of Messiah":

"For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by **faith, not by sight**—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have *an answer* for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For the love of Messiah controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Messiah according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. **Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come**" (2 Corinthians 5:1-17).

Of course, being new creatures in the Lord should evidence itself in what comes out of our mouths. Each human being is going to stand before Yeshua, and it is up to each of us whether the judgment He issues be *positive or negative*. Those who are judged worthy of entering into His Kingdom are obviously those who have repented of their sins and have experienced the goodness of His grace.

There are scores of admonitions throughout the Scriptures, particularly proverbs, which speak about the tongue and what ushers forth from one's mouth. Recognizing that we will all be held accountable for our words, it is critical to implement self-control of our tongues. Here are just a few examples that have really struck me, concluding with the original words of Yeshua which prompted this personal review. Note the aspect of accountability in these verses:

"An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will escape from trouble. **A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words, and the deeds of a man's hands will return to him**" (Proverbs 12:13-14).

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly. The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good. A

soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit" (Proverbs 15:1-4).

"A brother offended is *harder to be won* than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a citadel. With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; he will be satisfied *with* the product of his lips. **Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit**" (Proverbs 18:19-21).

"He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles" (Proverbs 21:23).

"For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil. **But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned**" (Matthew 12:34b-37).

As you can read, Yeshua the Messiah was very aware of the problems associated with the tongue and mouth, and particularly careless or useless words that are often spoken by people. But here in unequivocal terms, a connection is made between words spoken and what is in the heart. This is where the very thoughts of a person, perhaps ushering forth from the heart, are considered. In other places in the Synoptic Gospels, Yeshua declares that what is in the heart is actually what generates all sorts of defiling activities in men and women:

"And He was saying, 'That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man'" (Mark 7:20-23).

"Yeshua said, 'Are you still lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man'" (Matthew 15:16-20).

When you go back and consider some of the texts that deal with the thoughts of people, you are reminded that generally speaking, human thoughts are not necessarily good. Consider some of these reminders:

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, **and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them'" (Genesis 6:5-7).

Obviously, these thoughts were wicked, but recall that God remembers all thoughts:

"The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are a *mere* breath" (Psalm 94:11).

King David understood God's omniscience, and even prays that Solomon's thoughts would have the proper intentions as he was chosen to build the Temple to the Almighty:

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; **for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts.** If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be courageous and act" (1 Chronicles 28:9-10).

However, Jeremiah reminds us of the deceitfulness of the heart that does not seek after God, and how He will hold unrepentant people accountable for their thoughts and deeds:

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is in the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit. **The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds**" (Jeremiah 17:7-10).

Proverbs details the dilemma that we face between those consumed with wicked and evil thoughts, versus those who are consumed with righteousness:

"**The thoughts of the righteous are just, but the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.** The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright will deliver them. The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand. A man will be praised according to his insight, but one of perverse mind will be despised" (Proverbs 12:5-8).

According to Isaiah, our Creator's thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Yet, as His followers we can work toward thinking in a manner that is pleasing to Him. We can repent of our ungodly ways, with the clear expectation that He will pardon our iniquities:

"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. **Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.** For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:6-9).

Each of us who claims a saving knowledge of Messiah Yeshua has a choice to work on not only his or her deeds and words—but also our very thoughts. As the following parable reminds us, **to whom much is given, much is required:**

"And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says in his heart, "My master will be a long time in coming," and begins to beat the slaves, *both* men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; the master

of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers. And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, but the one who did not know *it*, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. **From everyone who has been given much, much will be required: and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more**" (Luke 12:42-48).

As Yeshua was delivering this parable, He was admonishing His Disciples about the requirement for them to be accomplishing the Father's business. Believers are reminded of what we have been given when we consider above all, the gift of eternal life and the forgiveness for our sins—be those sins found in deeds, words, or even thoughts. This redemption above all is something that even King David looked forward to during his lifetime:

"A Psalm of David. A Maskil. How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit! When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD'; and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah" (Psalm 32:1-5).

But did you notice that King David was cognizant of his need to acknowledge and confess his sin—knowing that the Holy One would forgive him of his sin? The Apostle Paul quotes from Psalm 32 when trying to describe to the Romans the concept of justification by faith, just like the Patriarch Abraham:

"What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? 'ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS' [Genesis 15:6]. Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 'BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT' [Psalm 32:1]. Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, 'FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS'" (Romans 4:1-9).

Placing one's total trust in Yeshua's redeeming work at Golgotha (Calvary) is the key to the walk of faith that puts Believers above the challenges of condemnation for every deed, word, or even thought that would warrant God's wrath and judgment. However, later in Paul's epistle, he reminds his readers that there should definitely be some evidence of the walk in the Spirit, by putting to death the deeds of the flesh that are caused by sin:

"So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by

the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*" (Romans 8:12-17).

In Paul's letter to the Galatians he declares some of the great distinctions between deeds of the flesh that come from sinful behavior, and what are commonly known as the fruit of the Spirit that come from a transformed heart. I think it is good to re-read these words and simply make an account of where each of us presently is in relation to these different actions, words, or thoughts. After all, as you read down the list, you will note that we are each to personally examine our own walks of faith in order not to be deceived, but let me add, in order to check that we are truly being sanctified by God:

"Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, **of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Messiah Yeshua have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Messiah. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **But each one must examine his own work,** and then he will have *reason* for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one will bear his own load. The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 5:19-6:10).

If a person is exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit, then one is truly following "the Torah of Messiah" and living the way that He has modeled for us.

Finally, let us always be reminded of the power of God's grace that has saved us all from our sin. Perhaps no better summation of what has been done for us is recorded by Paul in his letter to Titus:

"But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, He saved us, **not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing**

by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Yeshua the Messiah our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men" (Titus 3:4-9).

I would be remiss to not make one final observation, which I myself was made aware of in my examination of accountability for our deeds, words, and thoughts. Consider what we are told in the Book of Revelation about the Great White Throne judgment of the Messiah. When I read this passage, I am struck by the absolute need for someone to have his or her name clearly penned in the Book of Life. If not, as the passage concludes, the consequences are devastating:

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:11-15).

Here, we see that the condemned unrighteous are judged by the Lord according to their deeds, and the degree of punishment they receive in the Lake of Fire varies accordingly. None of us should find ourselves judged by our deeds in such a way—but only receive rewards for the acts of goodness and faith we have performed when we stand before Him!

It is absolutely critical that each one of us continually follow the advice of the balance of the Scriptures I have listed. I know that for me as a result of this study, I am conscientiously and volitionally choosing to pray for people rather than to think unpleasant thoughts about them because of actions I witness. Hopefully in time by practicing this action, my thought life will be conformed even more to the image of the Messiah (Romans 8:29), as God works in and through me by the power of His Holy Spirit. It is my prayer that I will learn to look at other people the way my Heavenly Father sees them—creatures made in His image (Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6; James 3:9) possessing great value.

My friends, seek Him with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength! Pray that as you so do this, your deeds, words, and even thoughts will not only be forgiven, but that over time, will be clear evidence that you indeed know Him. More importantly, be sure that the King of Kings knows you! Praise Him that His accounts are never out of order!

A Change a Coming

by Mark Huey

An important article entitled "10 Ideas That Are Changing The World" appeared in a recent issue of Time Magazine (18 March, 2008). As the article states,

More than money, more than politics, ideas are the secret power that this planet runs on. Here are a few you need to know about

- Common Wealth
- The End of Customer Service
- The Post-Movie-Star Era
- Reverse Radicalism
- Kitchen Chemistry
- Geoengineering
- Synthetic Authenticity
- The New Austerity
- Mandatory Health
- Re-Judaizing Jesus



http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/article/0,28804,1720049_1720050_1721663,00.html

Of these ten ideas, the last one, which the article labels as "Re-Judaizing Jesus," should be very intriguing to today's Messianic community of faith. Allow me to reproduce the report on this phenomenon:

Recently a popular blogger — let's call him Rabbi Ben — zinged the scholarship of a man we shall call Rabbi Rob. R. Ben claimed R. Rob did not "understand the difference between Judaism prior to the two Jewish wars in the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. and later Mishnaic and Talmudic Judaism." He helpfully provided a syllabus.

Actually, neither man is a rabbi. (Sorry.) Ben Witherington is a Methodist New Testament scholar, and Rob Bell a rising Michigan megapastor. Yet each regards sources like the Mishnah and Rabbi Akiva as vital to understanding history's best-known Jew: Jesus.

This is seismic. For centuries, the discipline of Christian "Hebraics" consisted primarily of Christians cherry-picking Jewish texts to support the traditionally assumed contradiction between the Jews — whose alleged dry legalism contributed to their fumbling their ancient tribal covenant with God — and Jesus, who personally embodied God's new covenant of love. But today seminaries across the Christian spectrum teach, as Vanderbilt University New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine says, that "if you get the [Jewish] context wrong, you will certainly get Jesus wrong."

The shift came in stages: first a brute acceptance that Jesus was born a Jew and did Jewish things; then admission that he and his interpreter Paul saw themselves as Jews even while founding what became another faith; and today, recognition of what the Rev. Bruce Chilton, author of *Rabbi Jesus*, calls Jesus' passionate dedication "to Jewish ideas of his day" on everything from ritual purity to the ideal of the kingdom of God — ideas he reweave but did not abandon.

What does this mean, practically? At times the resulting adjustment seems simple.

For example, Bell thinks he knows the mysterious words Jesus wrote in the dust while defending the adulteress ("He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone," etc.). By Bell's calculation, that showdown occurred at the same time as religious Jews' yearly reading of the prophet Jeremiah's warning that "those who turn from [God] will be written in the dust because they have forsaken [him]." Thus Jesus wrote the crowd's names to warn that their lack of compassion alienated their (and his) God.

A trickier revision for readers involves Paul's Letter to the Romans, forever a key Christian text on sin and Christ's salvific grace. Yet this reading necessitates skipping over what seems like extraneous material in Chapters 9 through 11, which are about the Jews. Increasingly, says Jason Byassee, an editor at the *Christian Century*, [sic] scholars now read Romans through those chapters, as a musing by a lifelong Jew on how God can fulfill his biblical covenant with Israel even if it does not accept His son. Byassee the theologian agrees. But as a Methodist pastor, he frets that Romans "is no longer really about Gentile Christians. How do you preach it?"

That's not a frivolous query. Ideally, the reassessment should increase both Jewish-Christian amity and gospel clarity, things that won't happen if regular Christians feel that in rediscovering Jesus the Jew, they have lost Christ. Yet Bell finds this particular genie so logically powerful that he has no wish to rebottle it. Once in, he says, "you're in deep. You're hooked. 'Cause you can't ever read it the same way again."

http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/article/0,28804,1720049_1720050_1721663,00.html

As you can read in this excerpt from Time Magazine, people are beginning en masse to recognize the Jewishness of Jesus. While ideas pertaining to the Jewishness of Yeshua, Paul, and the Apostolic Scriptures have been present in Christian scholasticism for the past fifty years—**only now are they significantly getting the publicity they deserve**. Apparently, articles about Jesus and the Apostle Paul being First Century Jews are coming into so much prominence in other publications, that the editors of Time are including what they consider the "Re-Judaizing of Jesus" as one of the ten ideas that is going to change the world. These same editors astoundingly conclude that these ideas will have more power to change how the planet runs than money or politics.

For a Messianic Believer today, this represents a unique opportunity if this specific prognostication proves correct over time. Providentially, God has uniquely positioned people in the Messianic community to be able to speak knowledgeably, confidently, and most important Scripturally about what is transpiring in this particular spiritual realm.

From our perspective there is no doubt that the Spirit of God is and has been revealing the truths about the Hebraic and Jewish Roots of our faith with increasing measure over the last forty years. In the last ten years the intensity has exploded across many spectrums of not only the evangelical community, but has also reverberated back to the Jewish community—who for the most part are curiously scratching their collective heads. Jews in the Diaspora and Israelis in Israel are increasingly hearing bold statements from obvious Gentiles like: "I am returning Ephraim," or "I am one of the Ten Lost Tribes," or "I am Jewish due to some remote ancestor," or "I am a follower of Torah like the mixed multitude leaving Egypt."

These kinds of statements and sentiments (whether accurate or not) are generating considerable discussion not only among some Jewish people and their rabbis, but also among some Christian pastors and theologians. There is an opportunity for knowledgeable people to assist among those who place their faith in the God of the Bible, helping them to understand that they are a part of the Israel of God (Galatians 6:16) and have a much greater spiritual heritage than they properly understand. The Prophet Amos foresaw this time happening millennia ago:

“Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,” declares the LORD. ‘For behold, I am commanding, and I will shake the house of Israel among all nations as *grain* is shaken in a sieve, but not a kernel will fall to the ground. All the sinners of My people will die by the sword, those who say, “The calamity will not overtake or confront us.” In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches, I will also raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old; that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by My name,’ declares the LORD who does this. ‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘When the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine and all the hills will be dissolved. Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them,’ says the LORD your God” (Amos 9:8-15).

The Jewish people who are getting ready this year to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel are already seeing the fruit of this prophecy to a certain extent, as they have flourished in the Promised Land. On another hand, those Messianics who are unable to yet participate in the greater physical promises as seen by Amos, are still able to see through the veil of the ancient texts to what is eventually going to happen in the Father’s perfect timing as His eschatological plan is realized (cf. Acts 15:15-18). Even though we cannot all live in the Land of Israel, we can still appropriate the best that the “land” of the Scriptures has to offer!

The fact that secularists like the editors of Time Magazine are recognizing aspects of what is happening today, via the “Re-Judaizing of Jesus,” is yet just one more confirmation that what is happening is more than an ephemeral wish by “holy rollers.” Instead, what we are beginning to witness is the restoration of God’s people and a fuller understanding of who our Messiah is. It might take some time, but progress is being made steadily. May all of us who call on the God of Israel, be we Jewish or non-Jewish, seek to be like King David whose tabernacle *is being restored*.

I pray that our Father would give each of you the patience and wisdom, so we can wait upon Him for His right timing as His restoration is accomplished. I pray that He would grant each of us wise understanding and sensitivity, to lovingly share what is right, pure, of good repute, and edifying when given the opportunity with others. My friends, whether we want to believe it or not, **a change is coming on the horizon**. We need to all ask the Lord how we can be part of His solution, encouraging greater spiritual growth and oneness among His children.

April 2008 Health Update

by Mark and Margaret Huey

For many, this is going to be ancient news, but since we just found out about it this past month, we are including it in this month's newsletter. In the February 2003 edition of *Technology Review*, there is an article devoted to describing "10 Emerging Technologies That Will Change the World." Rather than recreate what was stated, the following is a quote from the overview, and then a quote from the section about glycomics which is a synonymous term for the term glyconutrients that we have been sharing for the past several months. I first give you the overview with appropriate highlights and underlines and then the section on glycomics:

Review Technology identifies the developments that will dramatically affect the way we live and work-and profiles the leading innovators behind them.

In labs around the world, researchers are busy creating technologies that will change the way we conduct business and live our lives. These are not the latest crop of gadgets and gizmos: they are completely new technologies that could soon transform computing, medicine, manufacturing, transportation, and our energy infrastructure. Nurturing the people and the culture needed to make the birth of such technological ideas possible is a messy endeavor, as MIT Media Lab co-founder Nicholas Negroponte explains in *Creating a Culture of Ideas*. **But in this special section, *Technology Review's* editors have identified 10 emerging technologies that we predict will have a tremendous influence in the near future. For each, we've chosen a researcher or research team whose work and vision is driving the field. The profiles, on the following pages, offer a sneak preview of the technology world in the years and decades to come.**

Glycomics

James Paulson, a researcher at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA, lifts a one-liter, orange-capped bottle from his desk. The bottle is filled with sugar, and Paulson estimates that, had the substance been purchased from a chemical supply house, it would have cost about \$15 million. "If I could only sell it," Paulson jokes, admiring what looks like the chunky, raw sugar served at health food restaurants.

In fact, Cytel, a biotech company Paulson once helped run, synthesized the sugar-one of thousands made by the human body-with hopes it could be sold to truly boost health. Cytel's aim was to turn the sugar into a drug that could tame the immune system to minimize damage following heart attacks and surgery. That ambition failed, but the effort to understand and ultimately harness sugars-a field called glycomics-is thriving. And Paulson, who has gone on to cofound Abaron Biosciences in La Jolla, CA, is leading the way, developing new glycomic drugs that could have an impact on health problems ranging from rheumatoid arthritis to the spread of cancer cells.

The reason for the excitement around glycomics is that sugars have a vital, albeit often overlooked, function in the body. In particular, sugars play a critical role in stabilizing and determining the function of proteins through a process called glycosylation, in which sugar units are attached to other molecules including newly made proteins. "If you don't have any glycosylation, you don't have life," says Paulson.

By manipulating glycosylation or sugars themselves, researchers hope to shut down disease processes, create new drugs, and improve existing ones. Biotech giant Amgen, for instance, made a more potent version of its best-selling drug (a protein called erythropoietin, which boosts red-blood-cell production) by attaching two extra sugars to the molecule. Other companies such as GlycoGenesys, Progenics Pharmaceuticals, and Oxford Glycoscience have glycomic drugs in human tests for ailments ranging from Gaucher's disease to colorectal cancer. "The medical potential...is absolutely enormous," says Abaron cofounder Jamey Marth, a geneticist at the University of California, San Diego.

Despite the importance of sugars, efforts to unravel their secrets long remained in the shadows of research into genes and proteins—in part because there is no simple "code" that determines sugars' structures. But over the last few decades, researchers have slowly uncovered clues to sugars' functions. In the late 1980s, Paulson and his team isolated a gene for one of the enzymes responsible for glycosylation. Since that watershed event, scientists have been piecing together an ever more detailed understanding of the ways sugars can in some instances ensure healthy functioning and in others make us susceptible to disease.

It's a gargantuan task. Researchers estimate that as many as 40,000 genes make up each person, and each gene can code for several proteins. Sugars modify many of those proteins, and various cell types attach the same sugars in different ways, forming a variety of branching structures, each with a unique function. "It's a nightmare" to figure all this out, says Paulson. "In order for the field to progress rapidly, we need to bring together the experts in the various subfields to think about the problems of bridging the technologies and beginning to move toward a true glycomics approach." In an attempt to do just that, Paulson heads the Consortium for Functional Glycomics. The group, comprising more than 40 academics from a number of disciplines, has a five-year \$34 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Despite this large-scale effort and healthy dose of federal funding, however, Paulson stresses that the consortium cannot detail every sugar in the body. "We're just taking a bite out of the apple." But what a sweet, large apple it is.

Jon Cohen Technology Review February 2003

As you can read, the field of glycomics or glyconutrients is one of the technologies that is going to have a profound influence on our world for years to come. It is our opinion that the Ambrotose glyconutrient products developed by Mannatech are some of the breakthroughs that this article refers to, because of the testimonies of many who have had significant physical help for their bodies by consistently using the Mannatech products. **You can not only start protecting your long term health circumstances, but also if inclined, take advantage of positioning yourself to at minimum, have your products paid for through the direct selling benefits.**

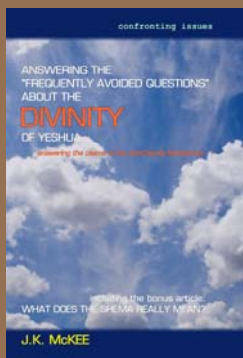
Please research out these products for yourself and if we can be of any help with your questions, please give us a call.

Blessings, Mark and Margaret
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Two new additions to TNN Press' **confronting issues** series:

*Answering the "Frequently Avoided Questions"
About the Divinity of Yeshua*

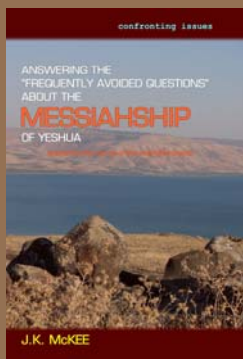
*Answering the "Frequently Avoided Questions"
About the Messiahship of Yeshua*



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Whether or not Yeshua the Messiah is Divine, or was just a human empowered by God, is an old debate going back several millennia. It is not that surprising that the Divinity of Yeshua has been under attack in today's emerging Messianic community. Per a great deal of hostility displayed toward "Christian theology," many consider a Divine Savior to be an errant belief that needs to be discarded—and claim to have Scriptural support for their case.

In *Answering the "Frequently Avoided Questions" Against the Divinity of Yeshua*, TNN Online editor J.K. McKee demonstrates this issue to indeed be one of salvation, and the level of engagement of anti-Divinity Messianics to be surface level at best.



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One of the oldest debates that has existed between Jews and Christians for two millennia is whether or not Yeshua of Nazareth is the promised Messiah. Most of Judaism has rejected Yeshua as Messiah for a number of reasons, and has developed arguments against who He is. These reasons shake the faith of the naive and undiscerning.

In *Answering the "Frequently Avoided Questions" Against the Messiahship of Yeshua*, TNN Online editor J.K. McKee demonstrates how weak many of the anti-missionary arguments are, especially as they are presented from an Orthodox Jewish theology that sits in a vacuum. Ten of the common reasons given against Yeshua's Messiahship are carefully refuted from an engaged perspective.

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