



OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

REACH TEACH ENCOURAGE DISCIPLE



MAY 2008

MATURING MULTITASKING:

*seeking Kingdom righteousness,
while storing treasures*





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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

May 2008

Passover has recently concluded, and we have once again remembered God's freedom and deliverance of His people. Now that our *sedars* and the week celebrating the Festival of Unleavened Bread have come and gone, the season of Counting the Omer is upon us. The Messianic community now eagerly marches toward *Shavuot* or Feast of Weeks. This is a special time for each of us to reflect, and be thankful for the Holy One's provision for us, as we once again focus on Him and what He has accomplished!

In recent years, we have faithfully sent out various e-mail reflections. These have been compiled in two books that are available for you to use: *Counting the Omer: A Daily Devotional Toward Shavuot* and *Sayings of the Fathers: A Messianic Perspective on the Pirkei Avot*. This year we cannot offer daily e-mail postings due to the wide array of security protocols that were not in place a year ago, but we do encourage you to focus on your own Omer Count. Our prayer is that you will be blessed by taking the time to praise the Lord on a regular basis, and once again contemplate your relationship with Him. If you are in need of a means for stimulating some thanks and meditations as you Count the Omer this year, do not hesitate to contact us for a copy of one of these publications.

For this season of reflecting and planting, this month's lead article has been entitled, "Maturing Multitasking: Seeking Kingdom Righteousness While Storing Treasures." This article is an attempt to describe the contrasting aspects of pursuing the work of God's Kingdom, while properly using the financial enterprises that the Father has enabled to exist for Believers to accrue resources that can be used for Him. Balancing these critical functions is certainly a goal of mine, and hopefully some of my testimony will be useful in your personal pursuit of God and His righteousness, as you desire to be useful for Him here on Earth.

Additionally, in a recent McHuey Blog, the concept of asking God to use you for what He created you for has been posted. I have included these thoughts so that we all might pray to Him more often, being prepared for His service and molded by His Spirit.

We continue to encourage people to be concerned about their health and nutritional needs. An article about the "Four Pillars of Optimal Health" will hopefully stimulate you to make some choices that benefit your body and quality of life. It remains our constant prayer that many of you reading this newsletter will be inspired to do what it takes to attain and maintain good health for the Lord's work.

I would encourage each of you to enjoy this season of reflection, and if possible **to come and join us in Orlando for Shavuot 2008 from June 13-15**. We still have room and would be pleased with your company during this appointed time, when we celebrate the giving of the Torah and the Spirit through both proclamation and praise!

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.



Shavuot 2008-Orlando, FL

June 13-15, 2008

Orange County Convention Center

Please make your registration to attend Shavuot 2008

Individual - \$35.00; Couple - \$60.00; Family - \$85.00
prices go up after May 31

Call Outreach Israel at (407) 933-2002 to register

MATURING MULTITASKING

seeking Kingdom righteousness, while storing treasures

by Mark Huey

In recent months, the annual dilemma of balancing one's life, given the plethora of choices that cross one's path, has presented itself to me once again. The period to be productive in the field of growth returns during the planting season. The incessant yearning to make one's existence meaningful, and useful in the work of God's Kingdom, naturally generates some tension. The world, the flesh, and the Devil are each worthy opponents—opponents that tug on our desire to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness above all other options.

While pondering these aspects of the cyclical nature of living, compounded by some personal decisions that have been many months in the making, thoughts about Kingdom-seeking compared to treasure-storing came into focus. A frequently read passage from the Gospels came to my mind, as Yeshua articulates some foundational principles for establishing a life that is correctly balanced and useful for God's purposes. Consider who or what you are serving, as you contemplate where you are storing your treasures and what you are seeking after:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.** For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not worth much more than they?** And who of you by being worried can add a *single* hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added**

to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:20-34).

For years in my spiritual journey, aspects of this passage have had a profound impact on my decision making. Frequently, whenever I look or even glance at a clock that indicates that it is 6:33—whether AM or PM—my mind instantly contemplates seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness, knowing that all things will inevitably be added. At times, my active mind is redirected to muse about pursuing the Kingdom for His purposes. Sometimes in the course of various thoughts about work, provision, or the cares of the world that inevitably sneak into the mind, the lure of pursuing and storing *other* treasures creeps into my thought patterns. In a free enterprise world, with all of the opportunities available for earning and/or accumulating wealth, the temptations are legion.

Back in 1992, I made a written commitment to the Lord to become a bond-servant, relinquishing my rights to seek my own will, choosing instead to allow Him to do anything He desired through me by my willingness to serve Him. When you make a written contract with your Creator, and then carry it in your wallet for over sixteen years, there are times that you carefully pull it out and re-read it in order to verify exactly what it is you have committed to Him. Of course, in return I did not receive a tablet etched in stone by the finger of God, but I have had the Holy Writ as His testimony to me that He will keep His promises. Inevitably, Matthew 6:33 has come to mind, and—for the past sixteen years, my household has had all of its needs met! The Lord has been true to His promises, and I can testify to it in any number of miraculous ways.

Additionally, looking back on my life of faith, I have been able to observe that the Holy One has ordered my life in such a way that I can discern distinct seven year patterns or seasons, where He has worked and accomplished things. While I know that this is not necessarily applicable to everyone, I find it very interesting as I continue to seek after Him. On May 28, 1993 in my 42nd year, I was reacquainted with Margaret. A little over a year later we were married and embarked upon our journey together. On seven years to the day, May 28, 2000 in my 49th year, we were finally relocated as a family to Kissimmee, Florida after wandering from three locations in: Texas, to Honduras, and back to Oklahoma. Then, seven years later to the day, on May 28, 2007 in my 56th year, I noted on the previous day while concluding our *Shavuot* celebration in Orlando, that we were beginning another seven year pattern for our lives together. I had just finished the eighth set of "sevens" for my life, and the ninth set of sevens was commencing. In the Spirit, I knew something was happening, but could not necessarily define just what it was the Father was going to do. This is where patiently waiting as you seek Him applies, knowing that He not only knows what is best for your life, but that He has a great plan and a purpose for you!

At this point, some of you might be asking, "What does all of this have to do with storing treasures and seeking the Kingdom?" This is certainly a good question. All I can say is that for the fourteen years of my marriage to Margaret, our household has been storing treasure up in celestial vaults, which by faith we believe will ultimately be the best investment any of us could make! We know from our Messiah Yeshua that the eternal rewards accrued by the investments of

our time, talents, and resources are not at all threatened by Earthly elements. This comforting thought allows us to innately know that we are serving the Lord, and that various human temptations will not intrude into our lives. It is a blessing to know that we have been called into His service, and that we have faithfully followed His lead to learn how to live by faith. In fact, I personally believe that the example that Margaret and I have given to our children of living by faith, is perhaps one of the most important attributes that we can model for them. This is especially true in light of their great talents and abilities that the Lord has given them, which could be used for other things!

Consequently, questions arise such as: How do you balance seeking God's Kingdom and storing up treasures, given all of the complexities of life? What do you do when you have great natural talent, a good work ethic, and certain wants and desires that supersede your needs? How do you avoid focusing on treasure-seeking on Earth, rather than pursuing God and His righteousness, when you have the inherent ability to generate significant revenues? Clearly, the need to seek and maintain balance in your walk with the Messiah is critical for answering each of these questions.

Yeshua, in a parabolic manner, speaks to the contrast between God's Kingdom and treasure. Note that He also contrasts real estate investors and merchants with pearls of great value, along with fishermen gathering fish. All of these examples require people to be involved in aspects of commerce:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering *fish* of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, ‘Yes.’ And Yeshua said to them, **“Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”** When Yeshua had finished these parables, He departed from there” (Matthew 13:44-53).

Yeshua spoke in parables, so that only those who were serious and had the spiritual ears to hear could understand. Recall these words to His Disciples:

“And the disciples came and said to Him, **‘Why do You speak to them in parables?’** Yeshua answered them, ‘To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, **“YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND;**

YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM" [Isaiah 6:9-10]. But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear" (Matthew 13:10-16).

Some people will recognize the eternal value in God's Kingdom, and will sell all in order to acquire more understanding, or make huge sacrifices in order to gain more knowledge. Many will proclaim the magnanimous importance of God's Kingdom by "casting the net," realizing that some will listen and some will not. Yeshua gives us a vivid picture of what the Kingdom of God is all about, and just how it compares to the treasures of this world. When comparing Earthly goods to the eternal goods provided by God's Kingdom—**why would one allow temporal things to take priority over eternal things?** There is an intrinsic foolishness of pursuing and gaining the treasures of this world, instead of denying yourself and following the Messiah. As we should each be reminded,

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. **For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?** For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:34-38).

This does not necessarily mean that everyone should sell all of their possessions to the point of being destitute. But, being a true follower of the Messiah does require sacrifice, and requires that a person use his or her resources in a manner that can be useful for the work of God. Consider the words Yeshua issues to the rich young ruler, and the difficulties that he had when presented with what it takes to enter into God's Kingdom:

"And someone came to Him and said, 'Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?' And He said to him, 'Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only* One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.' *Then* he said to Him, 'Which ones?' And Yeshua said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS; HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' The young man said to Him, 'All these things I have kept; **what am I still lacking?**' Yeshua said to him, 'If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.' But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. And Yeshua said to His disciples, 'Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' When the disciples heard *this*, they were very astonished and said, 'Then who can be saved?' And looking at *them* Yeshua said to them, 'With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'

Then Peter said to Him, 'Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?' And Yeshua said to them, 'Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life'" (Matthew 19:16-30).

As you can read in this specific case, the young man with many treasures was stumbling over just what he was going to serve, and what it would take for him to go beyond just some kind of rote obedience to the Torah. Yeshua knew this, and reminded His Disciples that the entrapments of riches can become burdensome without some kind of Divine intervention. Certainly, we all know people who have been blessed with temporal treasures who are good stewards of their resources, and have been used mightily by God to finance the work of His Kingdom. In those cases, financial blessings have not impaired the thrust of Matthew 6:33—"seek first His kingdom and His righteousness." While seeking God's righteousness is the most important when one has a proper relationship with Him, He will often give people responsibilities and resources concurrent with their level of spiritual maturity.

This is where a need to be balanced in your walk of faith is critical. Remember that God's righteousness is given to us by faithfully believing that Yeshua paid the incurred debt for our sin with His precious blood, *and* is evidenced by us living properly according to His high and holy standard. This can be accomplished via a consistent study of Scripture, including: the Torah, Prophets, Writings, and Messianic Scriptures—as one will become more conscious of God and allow His Word to mold your character. It is only through a disciplined routine of study, prayer, meditation, and contemplation of the things of God that our hearts and minds will become more like Yeshua the Messiah. As we grow in faith and properly encounter the trials of life, we will be steadily conformed to the image of the Messiah (Romans 8).

Ultimately, as you can understand the more complex aspects of God's Kingdom, you should be able to handle the responsibilities of stewardship. This may include being entrusted with the treasures of this world, to use properly for His work. But if you are fortunate enough to be given such wealth, recognize that your eternal security rests in *your relationship* with the Lord and not the materials He gives you to use.

I ask you these final questions as I hope to have provoked you to consider not only what you are seeking, but how you are handling your Earthly treasures:

- Are you truly seeking the Kingdom and His righteousness with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength?
- Do the cares of this world encumber you with anxious thoughts that you know you should not have?
- Where is your security? Who is your investment advisor?
- Are you diversified with plenty of resources invested in your Heavenly accounts?

- Why not make the Holy Spirit your Counselor, as the Spirit is supposed to lead you in all things (John 14)?

Only you know where you are currently storing your treasures, and whether or not you are actually seeking after the Holy One of Israel and His righteousness. *My prayer is that you will be blessed in all that you do.* Above all, my friends, I hope that you will be able to maximize your life and be **all** that you were created to be: sons and daughters of the living God! When He entrusts us with great responsibilities, we get to demonstrate that we are mature men and women who are able to multitask—balancing our pursuit of Him by being able to live real lives in today’s world! By doing this properly, and not being like the rich ruler who was asked to give up His possessions, we show ourselves to be followers of God who are not encumbered by the treasures of man, but can use those treasures to His glory. To Him be everything—Hallelujah!

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR COUNTING THE OMER FROM TNN PRESS



COUNTING THE OMER
A Daily Devotional Toward Shavuot

Have you ever considered the command of Leviticus 23:15-16 to Count the Omer, and wondered how this applies in the modern era?

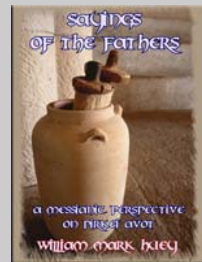
Have you ever wondered how this decree could be more meaningful and fulfilling in your Messianic walk of faith? What critical lessons can be learned in the time between the

festivals of Passover and *Shavuot*?

If you can identify with these questions, then *Counting the Omer: A Daily Devotional Toward Shavuot* is just the book for you!

SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS
A Messianic Perspective on Pirkei Avot

Sayings of the Fathers: A Messianic Perspective on Pirkei Avot takes readers through not just one, but two years of fifty-day reflections—and six bonus days—of some of the ancient wisdom seen in this valuable text. You will not only be introduced to some of the key views present in the Apostolic period, but also be able to weigh the value that the Jewish Sages have in your own personal study and reflection upon the Scriptures. Be prepared to join into an ancient discussion that spans the ages as you reflect on these words. Be blessed as your faith and outlook on the world are enriched, and you have more to take to your Heavenly Father in prayer!



THE OTHER SHOE

by Jane McKee

There is a movie quote that I am often reminded of in my life, “good things take time, but great things happen all at once.” The fact is, this tends to be true for me. I don’t live on mountain tops or valleys most days, even so, all things good tend to come bunched together, and the bad comes the same way. The point is: What do we do when the blessings come? What about the trials?

For the past few weeks, I have felt truly blessed in so many ways. My job is going extremely well. I feel as though I’ve truly found a home, where my giftings are appreciated as they are, and no one is trying to change me. In fact, they keep asking for more! My energy, random ideas, and strategic planning can exhaust most people, so the fact that this is the result of 7 months on the job, is quite phenomenal to me. It proves that I am situated perfectly for a future career, which is something few can say so soon out of school these days. Overall, I’m quite content with my current circumstances and have few causes for complaints.

While I can look at my life and know that I am extremely blessed, there is the inevitable “other shoe” that is poised to drop and remind me that life isn’t always fun to deal with. While I am not the type to let trials run me over, that doesn’t make them any easier. Right now, while my blessings mainly lie with my job, so do my trials. One in particular that is staring me in the face is a failure of one of my major projects. Note—I deal with people—not products or ideas, at work, so a failure affects more than just a few people. When I was hired, this project was handed to me already failing; I was told to do what I could to make it work, if it could work.

I have always been the type who believes that if I can’t do it, then no one can. As such, I rarely fail, but when I do, it tends to take on much larger proportions than others. I have such an experience currently staring me in the face, and while I know what it is that I am dealing with, it does not make the task any less daunting. Pride makes people say and do things that are meant for self-preservation. I cannot afford such idle comments, but have to take the brunt of others. My own dilemma is whether or not to call it out, or just do damage control?

I do not have the luxury in my position that others have to let my emotions affect my decisions. I deal with too much drama, too many other people, to give in to that style of thinking. As a result, when it is over, the emotions hit me much harder than if I had dealt with them during the time. It is in these moments that I rely on the Lord the most. He has always been my Rock and my support during times of trials, no more so then when others use me as their own support almost to my breaking point. This is the other shoe for me—when the worst is “over,” that is when the hard part of rebuilding begins.

The fact is, we all tend to be caught up in either one emotion or the other. When life is going poorly, that is all we see—not the mini blessings that God sends to light our way back. When things are fantastic, we ignore the promptings of the Spirit, fights with friends or loved ones that we “just don’t want to deal

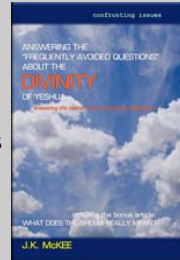
with yet,” and generally just try to make the high last longer. Not that I have a secret to success to offer in this struggle, but I have tried to note it in myself when it happens.

I endeavor to use the blessings in my life to give me perspective through trials and to use trials as a means to find a blessing in disguise. I call myself the “perpetual Pollyanna” (to those who are unfamiliar with the reference, she is a character in a turn-of-the-century novel, an orphan who is noted for always playing the “glad game”—finding something to be glad about no matter what). I think that you always have to look ahead to where things are going, not to just get frustrated with the here and now. Sure, we all have those days when we just can’t take it anymore. I am no stranger to that (just ask my mother). But again, it is our choices which distinguish how we make it past that particular obstacle or if we do at all.

My challenge is this: While none of us can figure out the Father’s plan before it occurs, we can endeavor to be more thankful for the blessings He has given us (both small and large), and to think on whatsoever is good, pure, and lovely (Philippians 4:8) during the trials. Don’t be afraid to face the things that are difficult—it is those times which are the making of us. And, waiting until later only makes it harder—not easier. Remember that most everyone can be happy with a little effort, but it is how resilient we are in times of crisis that show the true character that we should want others to emulate (or not). Be who you are called to be in the Messiah and face your own trials, potential failures, and the unknown with the faith that the Lord will see you through to the end—which is most often, yet another new beginning...

NOW AVAILABLE FROM TNN PRESS

Whether or not Yeshua the Messiah is Divine, or was just a human empowered by God, is an old debate going back several millennia. 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.



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.



A SIMPLE PRAYER

by Mark Huey

The other day after exchanging a series of e-mails, I spent about three hours on the phone with a brother from Germany who has had an extraordinary life serving our Risen Savior. Among many of the things we discussed, I was most struck by one written and verbalized statement that I believe launched him years ago into productive service for the Holy One of Israel. Rather than try to rephrase his words, the following is a quote from one of his e-mails that describes his transition from a translating teacher/missionary in Mongolia to a Messianic Believer:



About six or seven years ago, we as a family began to study the scriptures... A messianic Jewish brother from Vienna was instrumental in helping us to gain understanding in the related prophecies and scriptures in both, the NT and OT. The Ruach led us to...live according to scripture. So we started to celebrate Shabbat and the Biblical feasts. Having lived several years in Mongolia proper, we had no problem to completely cancel pork and the unclean seafood from our diet. In Mongolia there is hardly any pork as these species would freeze to death at wintery (sic) temps down to -40°, they traditionally eat mutton and beef and as no ocean is close, there is no seafood at all.

When we related our views to Christians here at that time, our support for the translation works and some of the acts of mercy (aid goods for the poorest in Mongolia) broke down and soon came to a halt. So we became humbled, **went deeper into prayer and confession of our wrong ways before Abba and I asked [that] He [grant] me to do what He had in mind with me before creation – that I would be able to be refined to His will, not mine...** Consequently, we went out of the church and engaged in a free evangelistic church nearby.

As you can read, my new friend and his family suffered from the “revelation” they received about the restoration of Israel and their decision to pursue a Messianic lifestyle. As his fruitful ministry in Mongolia began to change, his family turned to the Father with prayer and confession, imploring and petitioning the Creator to use him (and his family) for exactly what he and they had been created to do. When I read this and later heard it verbalized on the phone, I was overwhelmed by the profundity of such a simple prayer! The more I thought about this and shared it with others who confirmed the power of such a request, I was prompted to write to all that might read this posting a series of questions, comments, and suggestions for your consideration:

- Do you believe in God?
- Do you believe that God created you?
- If so, then why don't you ask God to do with and through you *everything* He has created you to do, be, and become?
- That God is sovereign, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent is a given.

- Therefore, *all* that has happened to you up to this point in time is by His design.
- Let those experiences, tests, trials, and disappointments be assets rather than liabilities for your service unto Him.
- Rest in Him, be patient, wait upon Him, and in His time perhaps you will not only know why, but for what purposes the Father has created you.

Finally, let Him do whatever He desires to do through you, as you yield to His will.

Passover, Objections to the Last Supper: Is it true that there are some substantial objections to the Last Supper being a Passover meal? If there are any, how do you respond to these arguments?

There are some objections that are commonly made to the Last Supper being a Passover meal, but very few of them are made in light of Yeshua's words to His Disciples: "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22:15). According to the Messiah, the meal that He *ate* with His Disciples was the Passover, and what may appear to be divergent accounts among the Gospel authors needs to be theologically reconciled. The text does not say that He just *celebrated* the Passover, but specifically that He *ate* (Grk. *esthiō*, ἐσθίω) a *sedar* meal. And while we commonly consider "Passover" to just be a holiday, in Scripture the *pesach* (פֶּסַח) is often the "sacrifice" (*CHALOT*, 294).



Some objections to the Last Supper being a Passover *sedar* include the references to it occurring on the Day of Preparation for the Passover (John 19:14), Passover eaten with solely a group of men as opposed to a family, the fact that there is no distinguishing between "bread" or "unleavened bread" in the accounts, and wine being consumed from a common cup. In contrast to this, the meal was eaten at night as the Passover should be, the obligatory drinking of wine was remembered, Yeshua and the Disciples customarily reclined for the meal, and a hymn was sung as was observed for Passover (Matthew 26:30). They do appear to have followed the prescribed protocol for a First Century Judean Jewish *Pesach*.

In total, it does seem that some modifications were made between Yeshua's *sedar* meal and the main *sedar* that would have been observed during His time. This may account for Yeshua's Last Sedar being a "teaching *sedar*," which may have been practiced by many Rabbis of His day the day prior to the Passover. Such meals were not uncommon in the days of Messiah prior to the Passover beginning. Rabbis would usually do this with their students to train them to conduct their own Passover meals, or for those entering to Jerusalem from afar to become accustomed to Passover in the Judean tradition. It makes perfect sense for Yeshua, our Rabbi, to do something like this as He was establishing the New Covenant with His own blood, and commissioning His Disciples to continue His work.

For a brief examination of this issue consult the article "The Last Supper and the Passover" in the *Archaeological Study Bible*, p 1611.

CHOOSING THE FOUR PILLARS OF OPTIMAL HEALTH

May 2008 Health Update

by Mark and Margaret Huey

The more one reads, researches, and studies the voluminous and rapidly expanding information available about health and nutrition, the more one realizes that there are essentially four principal aspects of obtaining and maintaining optimal health. For the purpose of this update, we will simply call them **the four pillars of optimal health**, because without them everyone jeopardizes the realizable opportunity to achieve sustainable wellness. They are: (1) appropriate hydration, (2) an exercise regimen, (3) a proper diet, and (4) supplementation of vitamins, minerals, and glyconutrients.

Appropriate Hydration

When God made human beings, He included water as an essential element of our makeup. It comprises approximately 60% of a male's weight, and 50% of a female's weight. Next to oxygen, water is what our bodies need and crave because it allows them to function properly. Without proper hydration, our bodies operate inefficiently as water not only keeps our body temperatures consistent, but also acts to eliminate the waste building up in the urinary tract, digestive tract, and glandular/skin tracts. Here is a quote that generally establishes a formula for proper hydration for those engaged in athletic activity, but is recommended because of the importance of maintaining water equilibrium:

"There isn't a 'recommended daily allowance (RDA)' for daily water intake. Part of the reason is the difference in physical activity, age, present physical condition, living in a hot or dry climate, and diuretic medications all contribute to fluid loss and a greater need for water. In addition, a diet rich in fiber, high in protein, or taking a supplement such as creatine requires an increase in water consumption. **It's estimated that healthy adults require at least eight to ten cups of water each day.** The following formula will provide you with a more precise amount of water necessary for your daily needs.

"The formula (7) is .5 times your weight in pounds to get the number of ounces divided by 8 to get the number of glasses. Example: 115 lbs x .5 = 57.5 ounces. 57.5 divided by 8 equals 7.2 glasses. Often, we replace fluids by consuming beverages such as milk, fruit juices, coffee, tea, and sodas. Our bodies will extract the water from these sources through digestion and metabolism" (Rob Wilkens, "Proper Hydration," accessible at: femalemuscle.com/wilkins/hydration.html).

People should be constantly hydrating themselves throughout the course of each day. The recommendation is to choose properly filtered water, over the wide variety of other choices available, for the intake of liquids. The challenge is often reprogramming one's habits so that drinking water becomes a joy, as one eliminates the tendency to drink water in all of its altered, enhanced, and/or re-

constituted forms. One of the great by-products of drinking sufficient water is the fact that it contributes significantly to weight loss and weight maintenance. For those who struggle with weight fluctuations, this should be a prime motivator to get in the habit of hydrating consistently.

Exercise Regimen

Most people recognize the need to have some type of exercise regimen, but for many, finding the time and the motivation is a challenge. However, attaining and/or maintain optimal health—including an exercise regimen for cardio, strength, and flexibility disciplines—is essential. Obviously, getting the heart pumping beyond the resting state is critical for maintaining a healthy heart and circulatory system. Walking, running, biking, rowing, hiking, and any other number of activities allow the heart to beat faster and it will strengthen the heart muscle. For the sake of avoiding the long term consequences of a sedentary lifestyle, choose to get up and move your body. At the same time, it is also essential to strengthen muscles in your arms, legs, and back by including some routines that will push these muscles beyond elementary use. Simple push ups and pull ups help the arms and back, while simply walking stairs or riding a bike will help the legs and increase strength if done consistently.

Additionally, maintaining flexibility via simple stretching before and after workouts will keep you limber. Try touching your toes when you shower, or when you arise in the morning. Not only will this help with your flexibility, but it will also remind you of areas of your body that perhaps need some fine tuning.

A regular exercise regimen will allow your body to eliminate waste through the pores of your skin by generating a sweat. Perspiration will help cleanse your body of toxins that have a tendency to build up without being eliminated. As you do this, you will see why proper hydration, coupled with a good exercise regimen, will allow your body to flush elements that are not necessarily good for your optimal health.

Proper Diet

So much can be said about eating properly that any attempt that I make will barely scratch the surface, especially per the individual needs and taste preferences of each person. For those inclined toward following the instruction manual provided by God, the elimination of certain items that He has declared are unclean immediately begins to narrow down the choices of what should or should not be eaten. Margaret and I prescribe to a Biblically kosher diet, with an emphasis on choosing what we have determined are the “superfoods” best suited to naturally supply anti-oxidants and nutrition to our bodies. Eliminating the habit of eating foods that are processed or enhanced, with chemicals designed to lengthen shelf life or eye appeal, is critical. We have also chosen to eat organically grown vegetables and fruits whenever possible. Consuming foods that are alive, with the natural enzymes still actively doing what God intended them to do in our food chain, is our goal.

Thankfully, the proliferation of interest in health and nutrition is actually

encouraging the food industry to begin to meet the market demands for organically and naturally grown produce, grains, and meats. The benefits of eating properly while consciously avoiding fast food, convenience store junk, carbohydrate saturated impulse foods, will go a long way toward optimizing your health. In fact, what we have discovered is that over time, your view of food will get to a place where you are seriously concerned about putting certain things that have been labeled “food” into your mouth and digestive tract. The benefits of eliminating a girth of built up chemicals around our mid sections is quite an incentive. As that extra ten, twenty, or even fifty pounds begins to “melt away”—a sense of accomplishment—knowing that you are becoming more and more healthy, is quite a reward for making good diet choices!

Supplementation

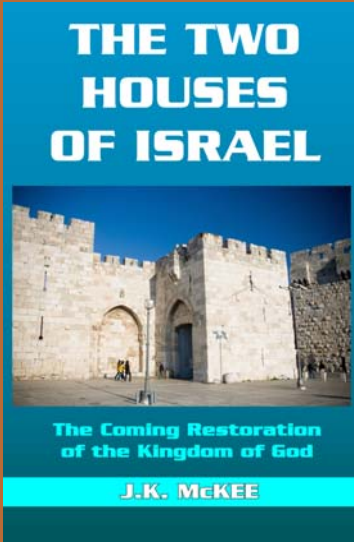
As noted multiple times in previous updates, the critical need for supplementing our diets is beyond academic discussion. It is almost universally agreed that the typical American diet does not have the nutritional needs that our bodies require. The depleted soils, and the substitution of natural vitamins and minerals by the “fortification” process, should stir one to concern. In a classic case, someone wanting to drink something they would consider good, often goes to the grocery store and buys a half gallon of orange juice with all “extra pulp” that is fortified with calcium. However, what you are often not told by the manufacturers is that when the orange juice was pasteurized, the heating process (to help maintain shelf life) killed all of the enzymes (living food) that were originally contained in the oranges when they were picked off the trees. Manipulating food for the sake of making money has significantly altered the quality of what God originally intended for the orange, with its enzymes intact, to do for natural human digestive functions.

In order to counterbalance the problem of not having the necessary vitamins, minerals, and glyconutrients in many of our foodstuffs (to maximize cell-to-cell communication in our immune system), we are always recommending you to supplement your diet. In our research, we have found some products that we highly recommend. Nevertheless, regardless of our choices, we encourage everyone to take at least something. As the old saying goes, “Something or anything is better than nothing!”

If you decide you are going to forego one of these pillars, you could be reduced to a three legged stool that will stand, but without the solidity of a four legged base. If you eliminate two, then your two legged balancing act will stand, but only if supported by something else that might be artificially produced. If you choose to eliminate three of these pillars, then you will be like a pogo stick, simply bouncing along trying to stay up. However, we know that through exhaustion, you will eventually have to lie down and suffer the consequences of choosing poorly when it came to your own health and nutrition. We recommend all four, **but the choice is yours.** Choose wisely....

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A new book available from TNN Press:
THE TWO HOUSES OF ISRAEL
THE COMING RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD



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The Coming Restoration of the Kingdom of God examines the Biblical basis of the Two-House teaching, various objections that have arisen to it, required refinement and change that must take place among its advocates, and also the mission of what it means to be "Israel" often overlooked by most Messianics (Two-House or not). He offers a new style of looking at the Two-House teaching, especially for a broad Messianic movement that is trying to determine what its long term goals are to be—as we eagerly await the return of Yeshua and the establishment of His reign from Zion!

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