



# OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

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**SEPTEMBER 2008**

**THE MESSIANIC MARATHON**

*a history lesson*



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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

September 2008

The waning days of the Summer are upon us as the quadrennial celebration of Olympic athleticism, complimented by the political conventions here in America, vied for our attention. I must confess that, as a lifelong student of history and political science, who has always worked to stay in physical shape by exercising, it has been intriguing to watch some of the media coverage of these unique convocations. Additionally, as a family that respects our past, while working in the present, with the future in mind—we believe it is wise and prudent to be informed about current events. Margaret and I have always encouraged our children to not only understand world and U.S. history, but learn to analyze what is going on in the world through the spiritual grid provided by an ardent study of the Scriptures. Needless to say, our conversations this past month have been quite lively as we have dissected various aspects of the political environment that will be with us for the next two months.

The influence of this media exposure, coupled with various family discussions about politics—not to mention the various spiritual events we have been monitoring as a ministry—have definitely motivated me to write the lead article entitled, “**The Messianic Marathon: A History Lesson.**” I suppose the stark realization that most people do not spend much time understanding the past, in order to make wise political and/or spiritual decisions, is a serious concern of our household. Hopefully, some of the thoughts presented in this admonition will provoke you to prayerfully consider spending more time reviewing history, so that we are not doomed to repeat it!

Also included is a recent McHuey Blog posting of mine: “**Fling Yourself.**” In many ways, this compliments the lead article. It is my desire to encourage every Believer to wisely choose just what part of the work of the Kingdom that he or she has been created to do.

We have taken another opportunity to share with you some continuing information we are sourcing about the lack of essential nutrients associated with many of the vegetables and fruits grown for the sake of profit. We know that we are perhaps preaching once again to the choir about our concerns for proper health and nutrition, but because we know that many are still *not* making this a priority for their lives, we are concerned. Please consider doing the wise thing and supplement your body with what it needs to remain healthy! This is especially true if you are a Believer who wants to be *in the best shape* for the Lord's service.

From the ministry feedback we have been receiving, we know people are struggling with various challenges and decisions that will result in uncomfortable situations. 2008 has been an interesting year, with difficult questions being asked of our faith community. In light of our own challenges as we continue to minister to the Messianic body at large, I have found much courage this month by remem-

**Enduring  
Wisdom**

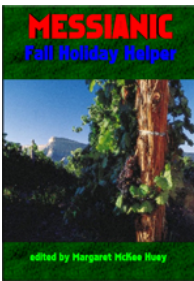
bering the words of James the Just from almost two millennia ago. In a like manner, may his thoughts bless you!

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.** And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. **But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,** who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:2-6).

I thank our Heavenly Father every day for the trials I face, as it helps to increase my faith. I pray that He would grant each of us more wisdom, so that we might continue to endure with joy!

Until the restoration of all things...

William Mark Huey



## **PREPARE NOW: THE FALL HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!** **Messianic Fall Holiday Helper**

To help your household during the Fall holidays, we have prepared a selection of articles on the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. These articles address the importance of remembering the call to convocate, the need to repent of one's sins, and above all our Heavenly Father's desire to commune with

His people. Included are some seasonal reflections and some traditional prayers to consider with your family during this special time of year.



## **EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY**

**JOIN US TODAY!**

Beginning on July 30, we started a Bible study on Paul's letter of Ephesians. The Epistle of Ephesians is a very important text by which today's Messianic movement can learn to understand what it means to actually be "the

Commonwealth of Israel" and fulfill God's mission for the world. It has profound significance regarding who the people of God actually are, how Believers are called to appreciate one another, and how we are supposed to live lives of holiness. TNN Online editor J.K. McKee will be considering the First Century context of Ephesians, regarding the controversies of its intended audience, its likely connections with Colossians, and how Tanach concepts about Israel are deeply embedded within its words. This study will challenge many of us not only regarding proposals made in Ephesians' scholarship, but also where today's Messianic movement needs to be heading in the future. *Be sure to be subscribed to our e-mail updates to receive this study!*



# THE MESSIANIC MARATHON

## *a history lesson*

by Mark Huey

History and the study of humanity's origin and progress through time are fascinating subjects that have stimulated my thoughts for most of my post-pubescent life. Curiosity about the past, why we are here, and where we all came from—was perhaps the primary motivation for my persistent questions to the unseen Creator about why I even existed. Thankfully, after crying out to Him for many years, He finally revealed Himself to me in the person of His Son Yeshua and His accomplished work at Golgotha (Calvary) some thirty years ago.

In fact, as the Lord would have it, the providential reading of an historical analysis of world history written by Christian philosopher Francis Schaeffer, *How Should We Then Live?*, was dramatically used by Him to open my eyes to the reality that the history of the world is essentially "His story." Thankfully, while under the conviction of this reality, the next book I was handed to read was the Holy Bible, which convicted me of my sin and my need for a Savior. Since being born again, my life in a continued pursuit of God's truths, has never been the same. A life of hopelessness was converted into a life with hope for a future in the presence of the God of Creation. The very Bible that I earnestly studied not only gave me understanding about the past, but also insights into the present and glimpses about the future of mankind.

Knowing about the future destiny of the world is something that has surely intrigued me, as I am sure it has intrigued you as well. I have, with great eagerness, examined many prophetic Scriptures and have come to varied conclusions here and there during my walk of faith. *This was especially true when our family became Messianic in 1995!* Since that time, there is one thing I have concluded after embracing a Messianic perspective of things: **Waiting on the Lord and His timing for anticipated prophetic events is something that requires the patient approach of a marathoner (having personally run two marathons) rather than the relative impatience of a sprinter seeking quick results.**

Even though the prophecies contained in the Word of God are for our future as a planet, they are not words that are absolutely and correctly understood in all of their details by us living today. While we surely need to be aware of them, rather than getting too excited about them or over-emphasizing them, it is much wiser and more prudent for you to pursue a walk of faith as a long suffering marathoner—as opposed to an impetuous sprinter. If you can learn to do this, you will have a better opportunity to endure and complete the race of righteous living as exemplified by the Messiah Yeshua. The author of Hebrews admonished his audience to run the great race of life with endurance:

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Yeshua, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne

of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.** You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin” (Hebrews 12:1-4).

After becoming a Believer in the Messiah of Israel, the study of the Bible as the world’s most authoritative history book became a passion of mine. It is amazing to consider the fact that a person can hold in their hands and consume with their eyes the words and thoughts of the Holy One, conveyed to us as human beings who are to be guided by its Divine instructions. Our great God, in His abundant mercy to His children, has uniquely seen that the Biblical manuscripts—both Hebrew and Greek—have been adequately preserved for us all the way into the Twenty-First Century. He has also seen to it that as a native speaker of English, I can access a variety of translations that might aid me as I seek to properly interpret the text.

Although the Bible is a wonderful gift that each of us can easily access, it is important to remember that down through the centuries, there has been a propensity for different individuals to come to conclusions about the Scriptures that can take people off on various tangents. These tangents take people away from the Bible’s critical messages of holiness, righteousness, and demonstrating God’s love—living a life pleasing to Him that can impact others. Frequently, these deviations from running the race with our eyes fixed upon Yeshua tend to result in a spiritual weariness, which can and does lead to losing a passion or heart for the work of the Kingdom.

One of the most repeated flaws typically deals with the return of the Messiah Yeshua to establish His Kingdom on Earth. While the Second Coming is certainly something to be expected by Believers, many theories have been concocted that have been tied to the number 666 and various world leaders, phenomena like “88 reasons why Jesus will return in 1988,” or a tightly-packaged 6,000 year scenario that relies heavily upon various chronological presuppositions that may not be accurate. How many of these, and related things, have actually been used to call people to repentance and greater holiness? How many of these things have motivated people to go out and spread the gospel to all who will hear? *Or*, how many of these things have been used to promote various teachers *and* line their pockets with some quick cash? Be careful, fellow saints, because the Adversary has been able to use various prognostications about the End of the Age to minimize or negate the mandate that God’s people have to both share the good news of Yeshua’s salvation and disciple others in the truths of Scripture.

Enduring students of Biblical, ecclesiastical, and secular world history are often able to see old patterns repeating themselves in today’s religious world. Much of the paranoia and hype and that we witness about the End of the Age were present in the year 1000, and not surprisingly, also the year 1666. The Radical Reformers thought they could march on the Vatican and depose the pope, then inaugurating their “Kingdom of God” on Earth. Today in 2008, we see some of the same old mistakes previously seen in human history repeating themselves. We have not taken seriously the word: **Those who do not study history are doomed to repeat it.** Knowing what has come before us is a prudent way for us to avoid some of the pitfalls, and perhaps potholes, which encumber the narrow

path of righteousness God's people are to pursue.

My Summer reading schedule has been spent examining two books that my daughter Maggie was required to read for her sophomore advanced placement history course. I read these two books so that I could discuss with her some of her thoughts. In order to give students in her class a balanced perspective on the historical significance surrounding the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, I re-read the classic work *The Jewish State* by Theodor Herzl (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1988), the founder of the Zionist movement, and *Mandate Days: British Lives in Palestine, 1918-1948* by A.J. Sherman (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997). Additionally, I was prompted to read a recently published book by Sir Martin Gilbert, *Churchill and the Jews: A Lifelong Friendship* (New York: Henry Holt, 2007), which piqued our collective interest in the unique relationship of Britain in Jewish history.

What has been a tremendous blessing to me in reading these books and other related materials, is that I have been able to see some of the nuances of the history of Zionism and the migration of the Jewish people into (then-) Palestine. It is fascinating to note how events in the past few hundred years ultimately led to the formation of the State of Israel. How Great Britain, and in particular how Winston Churchill handled his responsibilities as prime minister and a significant benefactor of the Zionist cause, was quite enlightening. In reading about these realities in relatively recent times, I was much more sympathetic to how and even why the United States, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush have handled the delicate Middle East situation during the past few decades of my specific interest.

When you compliment what these countries and leaders have been doing, in conjunction with what has been going on in the Land of Israel and around the globe, you can perceive that the hand of the Almighty is definitely behind the scenes orchestrating circumstances from His Throne—regarding the return of the Jewish people to the Promised Land and the timing of when certain prophecies will take place. Things have only taken place when the political and social situations have been ripe to allow them to take place. Yet to much of our analysis today, specifically the Messianic movement does not always look to the politics or social structures to consider what will happen next as God's plan unfolds. Instead, we often believe that we can subject God to some kind of calendar or timetable of our own choosing, and as a clear result it is most probable that many get the sprinter mentality about the end-times—rather than the more prudent approach of waiting on the Lord for His timing regarding His return.

Let us never forget that Yeshua Himself gave His Disciples this stern warning—appealing to a marathoner's approach—when they were questioning Him about the Messianic Age that they were anticipating:

“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. **But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*.** Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not

know when the *appointed* time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, *assigning* to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. **What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’**” (Mark 13:28-37).

Yeshua’s admonition is for His followers to simply “Be on the alert!” Regardless of when the End of the Age comes, we are to be faithful in the tasks that He has given us. We are to be diligent students not only of the Scriptures, but also of history, so we can properly anticipate the time of Yeshua’s return to rule and reign from Mount Zion. Many Scriptures come to my mind that point to the restoration process for all of Israel—many of which we have not studied or examined thoroughly enough. The one passage that in many respects summarizes *some* of what we may be currently witnessing, is seen near the end of Deuteronomy where Moses prophesies a future return of Israel to the Promised Land—one which concerns the future End of the Age:

“So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, **then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.** Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live” (Deuteronomy 30:1-6).

Moses describes a future time when the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy would be brought to mind by the people of Israel in all the nations where they had been banished because of their sin. This remembrance would result in a return to the Lord, resulting in obedience to Him by the heart and soul of His children. Eventually, this would trigger not only a restoration from captivity with compassion, but also a gathering back from ends of the Earth to the Promised Land. At that time, the Lord will bring His people back to possess such land, prosper on it, and multiply upon it. They will have circumcised hearts that will be sensitive to Him as their God. Deuteronomy 30:1-6 in many ways is the ultimate culmination of the “restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21) as foreseen by the Prophets. *Yet it is clear that many things must take place in order for this ultimate culmination to be realized!*

When you look at passages such as Deuteronomy 30:1-6, and take into account the actual history that has taken place with the Zionist movement of the past century—you should recognize that the principal proponents of Zionism

were more interested in establishing a homeland for the Jewish people rather than in obeying the Lord with all their hearts and souls. Are those currently returning to Israel today a group that is returning because of their innate love of the Lord, and a desire to obey Him and His statutes? Or, is returning to Israel simply a way for one to find sanctuary from the evil intentions of those who would want to destroy, or at the very least harass, the Jewish people? Certainly our Heavenly Father can use the evil intentions of men to initiate the fulfillment of prophetic Scriptures. *The Jewish return to the Promised Land is certainly a good thing!* But for those of us who claim to be diligent followers of the Most High, we have a responsibility to pause for a moment—and consider the wider implications *with many more prophecies* than just Deuteronomy 30:1-6. And perhaps most importantly, we need to consider the maturity level of our own Messianic movement, which is surely to be used in the future to accomplish some great tasks for the Lord.

Many people, often not tempered by a marathoner approach to faith in God, draw hasty conclusions without a larger consideration of the facts. Because people studying Bible prophecy often subject the Almighty to a date calendar of their own choosing, they are able to generate support for their activities, which proponents just claim are simply Biblical prophecies becoming a modern-day reality. *Little facts here and there from the past are conveniently left out of their discussions.* For those who lack a degree of historical context, or those who do not study history be warned: **You need to remember that being persuaded by those who speak with conviction, as if they have authority from on High, can happen without you noticing.** Always keep in mind that it is difficult to discern whether Moses' prophecies (among many in Scripture) will be accomplished prior to the return of Yeshua, during the season of His immediate return, or after His return when He rules and reigns from Jerusalem.

It is critical that we as God's people spend time in the study of His Word, seeking enlightenment and knowledge about our relationship with Him, and desiring discernment so that we will have a fuller picture of what He is doing. **We need to have a more comprehensive understanding about not only current events, but also historical precedents and how they are to be interpreted given the overall context of where we currently are as things move forward.** Discerning, if those promoting various activities are encumbered by any prejudice or presuppositions that influence their conclusions, is crucial to avoid the mistake of supporting and unequally yoking yourself to something that is just another human enterprise of fleshly intentions. We need to be able to run the marathon race of life well, remembering to “strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress” (Hebrews 12:1, NLT). Too many of us have “spiritual fat” (The Message) that keeps us from being the things He wants us to be!

As we run the marathon of faith, we also must be aware of a significant warning issued by the Apostle John, who understood that the spirit of antimesiah or antichrist was already at work in his era—especially if you are considering aligning yourself with those who do not place Yeshua at the center of their work. If people or organizations place their emphasis or focus on anything other than

the gospel of salvation, or somehow forbid Believers to share the hope that is within them about His work atoning for our sin, then perhaps we should be very weary of them. As we are instructed,

**“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Yeshua the Messiah has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Yeshua is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error” (1 John 4:1-6).**

**Do not yoke yourself with those who cannot discern the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of error.**

Our journey with the Messiah is a marathon, and it requires that each of us possess great endurance. Learn from history so that you do not have to repeat its negative patterns, or become a victim of those who twist history to serve their purposes. Be those who can heed its message, finishing the marathon of faith with great rewards at the end!

## 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.

Several decades ago, during the early years of my walk with the Messiah of Israel, I came across a classic book on revival penned in 1956 by Arthur Wallis, entitled *In the Day of Thy Power*. When I first read it, I noticed a short anonymous statement about a “successful life” tucked between the Table of Contents and Forward to the book. The definition of success caught my attention in such a profound manner that I copied it onto parchment, then framing and hanging it on the wall by my desk at home.



My frequent glances and re-reading of its simple formula made me think often about how one could have a “successful life” in Yeshua the Messiah. It succinctly defines success in life this way:

**“If you should make the greatest success of your life, try to discover what God is doing in your time, and fling yourself into the accomplishment of His purpose and will.”**

This straightforward and insightful definition really struck a chord with me. Beyond the inspiration and desire to have a successful life in the Lord as a young Believer, the key element in the statement was **“to discover what God is doing in your time”** on Earth.

Needless to say, in the mid 1990s when our family discerned and discovered that God was in the process of fulfilling His many prophecies regarding the restoration of all things, we determined to wholeheartedly “fling” ourselves into His work. Nothing became more important to us than seeking to accomplish His purpose and will for our lives—in light of our discovery that He was restoring His people to the original foundations beginning in the Torah.

Consequently over the past fourteen years, we have been privileged to be eye witnesses to many unique circumstances that are part and parcel of this restoration process. Additionally, the Lord has positioned us at times to become personally acquainted with many of the characters who have arisen as the restoration continues to plod along. In an inimitable sort of way, we have been able to participate in many unique and different situations that have taught us much about how God is working through a variety of individuals to accomplish His overall will, sometimes despite their methodologies and teachings. Occasionally at best, we have been concerned, or at worst very disturbed, by the actions and perceived motivations of some of these individuals.

Over the years, we have had to separate ourselves and keep our focus on what we have been called to do in order to maintain our ministerial integrity. Thankfully, discernment or the gift of the discerning of spirits, has been one tool we have sought and received from our Heavenly Father—because without it we could have been blindsided more often with perhaps greater damage to our col-

lective souls.

Today, as I get caught up on some e-mail reading after spending some time out of town helping my parents with an upcoming move, I am again overwhelmed by the different options available to those seeking to “fling” themselves into what God is doing at this point in time. However, in spite of the restoration continuing to move forward, the evidence of nefarious acts and actors continues to bedevil the seekers of God and His timing of things. Ironically, we are witnessing an array of human activities that are, in many respects, almost identical repeats of some of the tempting lures of the past decade-and-a-half that we have already experienced. We know that history has a tendency to repeat itself—but we honestly never thought that it could repeat itself so rapidly, *in a matter of months*, rather than years or decades or scores of decades.

I am quick to remember the adage attributed to P.T. Barnum and made famous by W.C. Fields and other comedians: “*There is a sucker born every minute.*” This revealing aphorism is perhaps the primary reason that people are so gullible so soon after the profitable ruses have barely left the blogospheres of recent days. On the other hand, proven methods for fleecing the flock (or the gullible suckers) continue to replicate themselves year after year, if not month after month!

We each have the awesome responsibility as Believers to implore our Heavenly Father for clarification each day, as we seek to be led by Him and accomplish His assignments. A few questions that have perhaps not been asked enough by Messianic Believers might be like the following:

- Is this ministry, speaker, teacher, organization, or movement striving to achieve Your purpose and will on Earth?
- Heavenly Father, is this [FILL IN THE BLANK] what You desire me to fling myself into with all my heart, soul, strength, and resources?
- Father, please give me the discernment to know if this is Your will for my life.
- Is this [FILL IN THE BLANK] what You have created me to do with my life?
- Father, please give me some concrete confirmation that I am to move forward with what You are leading me to do with my life, talents, time, and treasure.

The list could go on and on, but I hope and trust you are getting my point.

If I had the opportunity, I would go back and edit the definition for success with this simple corollary:

**Fling yourself, but *fling wisely* and with great discernment and confirmation that you are flinging your life—because you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Almighty is requesting if not requiring your fling.**

# CELEBRATING THE FALL FEASTS

by Margaret McKee Huey

Since becoming Messianic in 1995, our family has been in a state of transition concerning the Fall holiday celebrations. As Christians, we were not raised to celebrate and observe *Yom Teruah* or *Rosh HaShanah*, *Yom Kippur*, or *Sukkot*. I grew up thinking that these days were only for my Jewish friends who went to temple, instead of being Biblical holidays for all of us. Yet, the Scriptures are very clear that these days are for all Believers in the Jewish Messiah, and that they are to be observed perpetually throughout all of our generations. Hopefully, we do not have non-Biblical substitutes to stop practicing during the Fall, as are the cases with Christmas and Easter in the Winter and Spring. (Even as Christians, many of us stopped letting our children participate in the Satanic practice of Halloween long ago!) However, we do have to face the facts that our ancestors were not grounded in the ways of the Torah and that they simply did not know any better that these holidays were for them also. But for those of us who have been awakened and have embraced a Messianic walk with the Lord, we can no longer have this excuse. It is a delight to our family to participate in the Fall holidays, especially as they point to Yeshua's Second Coming!

## Personal Family Testimony

For our family, the walk of faith that has lead us to become Messianic has caused us to actively change three areas in our faith observance that are different from our Church upbringing. First, we now observe *Shabbat* rest, instead of going to Sunday Church. Second, we now eat Biblically kosher, instead of anything that our palate desires. And third, we now observe the Biblical appointed times that are listed in Leviticus 23, instead of the Church holidays that were passed down from the Catholic Church and inherited by Protestantism. Has this transition been an easy one? No. Family traditions are hard to change. Yet, I am happy to say that within our own small family, we have been able to adopt the Biblical practices and drop the un-Biblical ones "fairly" easily. We earnestly desire to be as Biblical as possible and to continue down that path that the Reformers did before us. Not all of them, unfortunately, received the full revelation that we have about the Torah, holidays, *Shabbat*, food, etc. We desire as a family to walk and to do and to be like our Messiah Yeshua in all things, as much as possible.

With the Fall feasts, we look ahead to that season when Yeshua will fulfill them in the future with His Second Coming! We look to that day in the future when Yeshua will come for the Believers when the trumpet is blown on *Yom Teruah*. During the Ten Days of Awe, we prepare for *Yom Kippur*, which will be the day when Yeshua will judge the world on the Day of the LORD. During a future *Sukkot* or Tabernacles, Yeshua will set up His Millennial Kingdom and we will tabernacle with Him for a thousand years. So, the Fall feasts are indeed a delight for any Messianic family to embrace!

## Family Observance

The wonderful thing about the Biblical holidays is that our Heavenly Father wants us to remember the great events of the Ancient Israelites by celebrating them! The *Sukkot* season has many wonderful truths that we can celebrate. When Yeshua observed it during His life, He did so in Jerusalem, as the final fulfillment will be having Him return to set up the Millennial Kingdom. We can delight in rejoining with our Jewish brethren by celebrating the Fall feasts with them. This season represents a time of hope, reflection, repentance, cleansing, and forgiveness.

“Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD’” (Leviticus 23:23-25).

On *Yom Teruah* or *Rosh HaShanah*, we set this day aside to have a very special meal for our family that is full of promise for the new year to come—a year in which we have again been forgiven by the Lord for our transgressions. We traditionally eat apples dipped in honey and other different fruit dishes that represent the promise of sweetness in the year to come. Song of Songs 2:3 is often viewed as comparing the people of Israel to the lovely apple tree. Also, the Land of Israel is said to be a land “flowing with milk and honey” in Exodus 3:8. We either say the prayers for *Yom Teruah* at our home, or we assemble with our congregation and celebrate the day with others.

“The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement, it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the LORD. You shall not do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God’” (Leviticus 23:26-28).

*Yom Kippur* is not a feast day; it is a fast. However, before the fast of *Yom Kippur* begins, we have a light meal for *Erev Yom Kippur*. It is a time to set the table all in white and use one's best china. This meal helps to set the mood for the very holy Day of Atonement before the fast begins. We set the day of *Yom Kippur* aside as a high *Shabbat*. We either use the prayers for this high holy day in our home as a family, or we observe the day with our congregation. After *Yom Kippur* is over at sundown, we break the fast. It is equally important to have a light meal as soon as the fast is complete. This meal is much more lighthearted as we walk with renewed assurance that our prayers have been answered and our corporate sins have been remitted.

“Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD. On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the LORD; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work’” (Leviticus 23:33-36).

*Sukkot* comes five days after *Yom Kippur*. It is a time when we celebrate a joyous reunion of God's people as we remember when the people of Israel lived

in *sukkahs* (booths) during the Exodus. Our family builds a *sukkah* outside in our backyard that has three sides to it. We spend time in it and eat our meals in it during the next seven days. Sometimes, we put up a tent in which to sleep outside. All in all, it is a week in which we camp out just as the Israelites did! At times, we have been able to spend *Sukkot* together with other families as we all camped out and ate together. A general feeling of family and fellowship should permeate each day of *Sukkot*. The love of Yeshua should be strongly felt in each home with the promise of His coming. Our family can truly say that it is not missing out on anything during this special season!

“For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the LORD; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work. These are the appointed times of the LORD which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to the LORD—burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, *each* day's matter on its own day” (Leviticus 23:36-37).

In Israel, the day after *Sukkot* is *Shemini Atzeret*, the Eighth Day, and it is often celebrated in conjunction with *Simchat Torah*, the Joy of the Torah. Outside Israel, they are celebrated in two days. *Shemini Atzeret* is considered a quiet day after *Sukkot* is over in which our family contemplates all that has transpired during the past fifteen days of the Fall feasts. Then on *Simchat Torah*, we are ready to celebrate again as we lift up the Torah, the joy that it gives us, and that the new Torah cycle of study is about to begin again. Our family has a meal of celebration that is very festive and fun.

## Loving Each Other

How do we deal with our extended family and friends who still do not understand why we are celebrating the Fall feasts with our Jewish friends? Our family believes that the restoration of the Fall holidays is a blessing to us! We, who are to walk as Messiah Yeshua walked, must reach out to others in love at this time when the Father is restoring His appointed times to His people. Yeshua told us that people would know that we are His disciples by the love that we have for one another. So, let us love our family and friends in such a way concerning these festivities that they will be drawn to us, and not repelled. For, dear friends, it is through our unconditional love for them that one day they will want to know what we know about walking like the Messiah. One day they will want to know why we have become thoroughly Messianic. Let us reach out in love and show them the better way. Let us rejoice in the true understanding that Yeshua not only actively participated in the Fall feasts of the Lord, but that He will come again to take us unto Himself at the Second Coming during this holiday time!

**Margaret McKee Huey** (B.S., Vanderbilt University) is wife of Outreach Israel Ministries director Mark Huey, and mother of TNN Online editor J.K. McKee. She is the editor of the Messianic Helper series, and serves on the Board of Outreach Israel as the Office Manager. She is also one of the copy editors for TNN Press.

# September 2008 Health Update

by Mark and Margaret Huey

Multiple times a week we receive either newsletters or e-mails that warn us about the lack of vitamins and minerals in the foodstuffs we consume. The following is a typical warning we just received from nutritionist Al Sears, M.D.:

These days, the produce you buy at your local grocery store just doesn't have the nutritional power that fruits and vegetables had just a few decades ago. **Over farming, soil depletion, commercial fertilizer, hybrid crops and genetic modifications are slashing the nutrients found in your fruits and vegetables.**

You'd have to eat 10 servings of spinach to get the same level of minerals from just one serving about 50 years ago. Producers create "hybrid" forms of your fruits and vegetables – not for their ability to store nutrients – but for their color, weight and shelf life. Why? So they'll look nice and pretty when they sit under the fluorescent lights of your supermarket.

You may think they look nutritious, but "under the hood," they contain little more than indigestible cellulose, sugar and water...

We first began to know that there was a problem back in 1936. A group of doctors introduced Document No. 264 to the floor of the United States Senate. It was a dire warning that the mineral content of the soil was eroding. Vegetables were losing their power and people were at risk. Unfortunately congress did nothing. Today, we're feeling the effects. For instance, just look at the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) nutritional values for fruits and vegetables today compared to 1975. Take a look at the loss of Vitamins and Minerals Since 1975:

Apples, Vitamin A is down 41%

Sweet Peppers, Vitamin C is down 31%

Watercress, Iron is down 88%

Broccoli, Calcium and Vitamin A are down 50%

Cauliflower, Vitamin C is down 45%; Vitamin B1 is down 48%; and

Vitamin B2 is down 47%

Collards Greens, Vitamin A is down 45%; Potassium is down 60%; and Magnesium is down 85%

According to USDA's own numbers, the vitamin and mineral content has dramatically plummeted – in just 30 years! Notice minerals like iron and magnesium have dropped by more than 80 percent. That's from commercial farming technology and powerful fertilizers that practically *sterilize* the soil – leaving it with little to no mineral content.

**If the soil doesn't have minerals, there's no way for vegetables to absorb them.**

And that's bad news for your health... Magnesium regulates over 300 body functions – every day! Magnesium is so critical, low levels in your blood can lead to diabetes, heart disease, heart attack and high blood pressure. But the story doesn't end there. I wasn't the only one to realize your fruits and vegetables don't pack the nutritional punch they used to... A report from the University of Texas in Austin, also tracked the decline of nutrients in produce. They reported findings at a recent meeting of the *American Association for the Ad-*

*vancement of Science* in St. Louis. They found significant drops in a wide range of produce across the board, including a 20 percent decline in vitamin C and a 38 percent plunge in vitamin B2.

What's worse, fruit and vegetable growers create "hybrids" for the sake of making their produce "look better." They actually create new versions of all your favorites so they have more water, more sugar, more pith (The indigestible support tissue like the white fibrous netting around an orange section) and less of everything else. **Growers call this the "dilution effect." For them, more water and more pith helps their produce ship well, look good and weigh a lot. But it virtually wipes out their vitamin and mineral content.**

At this point we each have two options. **Pretend that the problem does not exist, or do something about it.**

For the past year, we have been encouraging our friends and subscribers to first find a supplement that makes up for the above stated depletion of basic nutrients in our diets. **Then most importantly, make it a priority to discipline yourself to take the chosen supplements.** This of course, does not just mean physically eating them, but also setting aside the resources to pay for them.

In the long run, the sacrifice will be well worth it. Please let us know if we can help you as our research has found some supplements that we highly recommend!

We have been asked to include the recipe for the smoothie that we use most every-day in our home. *This smoothie includes the daily recommended requirement of our glyconutritional needs:*

#### **Quick Breakfast Smoothie**

- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries\*
- 8 oz water
- 1-cup plain fat free yogurt
- 2 scoops Advanced Ambrotose (TM) powder
- 1 scoop vanilla whey protein powder\*\*
- 2 teaspoons Psyllium husks powder
- 1-tablespoon coconut oil (Omega-3)

Blend until smooth! Great for breakfast or lunch.

- \*Substitute fresh or frozen strawberries and \*\*strawberry protein powder
- Fresh or frozen cherries with vanilla protein
- Peaches with vanilla protein
- Cherries with chocolate protein
- etc etc

These smoothies have about 370 calories, 35 g protein, 45 g carbs. They will really take your sweet tooth away and you won't want to snack.

Add supplements to your diet. This is one choice that over the history of your life, you will never regret!

Mark and Margaret  
[www.hueyhouse.com](http://www.hueyhouse.com)

A new addition to TNN Press' **confronting issues** series:

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