May this find you well in our Lord and Savior Yeshua-Jesus!  
As I write the world climate towards the God of creation seems certainly on its continued way to imminent distortion and destruction.

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who change darkness into light and light into darkness, who change bitter into sweet and sweet into bitter!

Yeshayaahu-Isaiah 5:20

Often I discuss the coming of the Lord Jesus for us and frequently with Christians tired of the changing world moving away from the real God. They are tired as many I talk to state, “things are so depressive, so bad politically, financially they pray for His coming, to be today if not sooner! Yes He will soon come for us but “at any moment”. So the question now is “are our attitudes and actions reflecting our unconscious answer that we are willing to leave this earth right now...or is there something standing between us and our Lord at the moment?”

Now I am increasingly hoping for His coming for His Body, the Church. Come Lord Yeshua/Jesus! I believe there is no condition that must be met before He will do just that: no revealing of the Anti-Christ, 7 year signed peace treaty nor the start or finish of the Tribulation is needed. Yes, like those near Him during His first coming who were told He would return for them, I too look daily as the times are heatedly getting worse all around us. Are you? Are you ready? Really? Ready?

As a full time minister and missionary I think our opportunities to share the Gospel Hope (www.menorah.org/savior.html) has never been keener, more listenable. Not that most people have changed their hearts toward God but in that more are seeing they and the human race have not been able to change the world into a better place. This is never more of a hope than in traditional Judaism, called Tikun Olam תikkון עולם. A phrase that means "repairing the world" (or "healing the world") which suggests humanity’s shared responsibility to heal, repair and transform the world.

But any hope for the world that is not solely in God’s power and in His redemption plan vested only in the Messiah Yeshua-Jesus is bankrupt. God’s sovereign plan for His followers should today until Jesus comes, renew our love and commitment to the Lord. Let’s look up for our redeemer to come. His future is our promised hope.

Shalom and thank you for your prayers,

Pastor Re’uben Drebenstedt, director

If you want to join our Prayer Team and receive regular reports about people we witness and minister to please email us: menorah@menorah.org

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Has God Forsaken His People?  

Yeshua/Yeshuah (Jesus) — Variant of “Y’hoshua” (Joshua; see below). In the Tanakh (O.T.) nine persons and a city have the name Yeshua, usually transliterated as “Jeshus” or “Jeshuah.” In the Septuagint and the Brit Hadashah (the New Testament) the name was brought over into Greek as Jésous and then into English as “Jesus.” It means “Y-H-V-H saves” (Matthew 1:21) and is also the masculine form of Yeshua’ah (“salvation”). (1) The Messiah of Israel, Yeshua from Natzeret. In modern Hebrew Yeshua’s name is pronounced and written “Yeshu,” which may have been the ancient pronunciation in the Galil (Galilee area). However, reflecting two thousand years of conflict between the Church and the Synagogue, it is also an acronym for Yimach Hashem v’zikrno (May his name and memory be blotted out”) However, the late Yosef Vaktor, a Messianic Jewish Holocaust survivor, took it as an acronym for Yigdal sh’mo umalkhuto (May his name and kingdom grow”)  Matthew 1:1+. (2) A Messianic Jew in Rome, “Yeshua, the one called Justus.” Colossians 4:11.

Ye-shu-ah — salvation; used in a word play on Yeshua’s name at Luke 2:30

Y’ho-shu-a (Joshua)— leader of the people of Israel, led the conquest of Eretz-Yisrael (land of Israel) after Moshe’s (Moses) death.

Both Yeshua & Yoshua are based on same root word (yud-shin-ayin—(יְשׁוֹעַ) which means: “he will save.”

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Dr. David H. Stern

COMPLET JEWISH BIBLE & glossary p. 1600-1601
Messianic "baton" now passes to Jesse's son David. This is confirmed by the following word spoken by Nathan, the prophet, and directed toward David: And when thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall all proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name. (1)

The immediate cause for this prophecy was David's desire to build a "house for the Lord." He communicated this desire to Nathan, who was inclined to agree that David should build the temple. Nevertheless, contrary to David and Nathan's desire, God spoke through Nathan and said, "No." God's reasoning for not selecting David to build the Temple was that David was a warrior and had "shed blood abundantly." (2) Instead, it was David's son, Solomon, "the man of Shalom" (peace), who was destined to build God's house. Nathan's prophecy, however, extends much farther than the building of an earthly home to house the Ark of God. Nathan continued: I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father and he shall be my son. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee. (3)

This prophecy did not find fulfillment even in David's son, Solomon. Solomon did not reign as king forever. In fact, Solomon is well known as the king who committed many sins by marrying pagan wives and succumbing to their idolatrous influence. (4)

The eternal throne would be held by Messiah himself, who would establish eternal peace. The prophets who spoke centuries after David's death, when speaking of the latter days, often invoked the name of David as a reference to this Messiah. For example, the prophet Hosea said, "Afterward shall the children of Israel return [to their land], and seek the Lord their God, and David their king ... in the latter days." (5) Since David was no longer alive, it is obvious that the prophet is speaking of the "greater David" - the Messiah.

Similarly, the Lord spoke through Ezekiel saying, "... And I will set up one shepherd over them ... even my servant David...a prince among them. ..." (6) The prophet Amos recognized the need to "raise up the tabernacle of David." (7) And, of the latter days, the prophet Jeremiah assigned the ineffable name to this Branch of David when he prophesied, "I will raise unto David a righteous Branch ... and this is the name whereby He shall be called, Adonai Tseidkeynu (The Lord our Righteousness)." (8)

Finally, the prophet Micah confirms that Bethlehem, the birthplace of David, will also be the birthplace of the "greater David," when he was inspired of the Ruach HaKodesh to speak: But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be the ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (9)

The prophet here could not have been speaking of David since this "ruler" is one who was "from everlasting." Also, the prophet speaks of the future and David was dead and buried by the time Micah spoke.

The Psalmist, Ethan the Ezrahite, also recognized that the throne referred to in Nathan's prophecy was not simply an earthly throne but one which would be occupied eternally by a "greater David": ...I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. ...His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. ...My covenant will I not break ... . I will not leave unto David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established forever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. (10)

The Psalmist here is no doubt longing for the "greater David." For he was expecting a Messiah who would endure forever, and who is God's firstborn. A Midrashic portion has this comment about the psalm: Rabbi Nathan said that God spoke to Israel, saying, As I made Jacob firstborn for it is written 'Israel is my son even my firstborn' (Exodus 4:22), so also will I make Messiah my Firstborn as it is written, 'I will make him my Firstborn.' Psalm 89:27) (11)

Accordingly, Messiah is both David's descendant and God's begotten Son. This is a most amazing revelation, yet not one that was confined to this psalm. Other scriptures reveal details about the fact of the sonship of the Messiah. Another psalm tells us that Messiah, God's begotten Son, will rule the nations and they will worship him; otherwise they will be punished.

Why do the nations rage ... against the Lord, and against his anointed...? ... Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. ...Kiss the Son, lest he be anointed, and yet perish from the way when his wrath is kindled but a little. (12)

Agur Ben Yakeh, one of the writers of a portion of the Book of Proverbs, further identifies Messiah as the Son of God when he poses a riddle: Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? ...Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name and what is his Son's name, if thou can tell? (13)

The prophet Isaiah who lived several centuries after David also referred to the Son of God who would sit upon the throne of David forever when he said: For unto us a child is born, and unto us a son is given. ... Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with justice -

Cont. on p. 3

Was the New Testament (Brit Chadashah) written in Hebrew? - Fuller theological Seminary (an outstanding Semitic scholar) has said, "With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, it now seems highly probable that the language Jesus spoke was Hebrew and not Aramaic." An impressive amount of evidence points to the use of Hebrew in first-century Israel: the testimony of the church fathers, the Dead Sea Scrolls, coins, and inscriptions from the first centuries B.C. - A.D., the writings of Josephus, and Rabbinic Literature.
Contrasting Jesus & Muhammad

NOTE: Authoritative Islamic texts are the Qur’an and Hadith. Muslims believe that the Qur’an is the revealed word of Allah (verse numbers differ slightly in different versions). Sura always stands for a chapter in the Qur’an. Islamic belief is that Muhammad is the perfect example to be followed by all Muslims. Whatever he said, practiced or approved is called Hadith. There are six different sets of authentic ahadith (Hadiths): Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, Tirmizzi, Sunnan Ibn Majah and Sunnan Nasa’i. This pamphlet is intended to show the teachings and examples of Muhammad, and is not intended to be offensive to Muslims; many Muslims may have little real knowledge of what their god, Allah and their prophet has said on this topic.

Many people believe that all religions are equal and that the founders of the religions all taught much the same thing. Let us take a moment then to examine Christianity and Islam to see if this is true. The best way, in fact, to evaluate a particular religion is to look at the life, practice and teaching of its founder.

Jesus: The birth and life of Jesus were foretold by the Old Testament in more than 300 prophecies. He was born of a virgin and led a pure and sinless life. He commenced his ministry at 30 years of age and preached a message of repentance, peace and love by pursuing the righteousness of God. His ministry was attested to by miracles. As He died on a Roman cross 3½ years later, He asked God to forgive His enemies; He was buried but came back to life and was seen by more than 500 people before He ascended into Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:6). Jesus claimed to be the Son of God (e.g. John 5:25; 11:25-27; Matthew 3:16-17; 17:5), and He received worship due only to God (John 5:23; 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 5:5-13). Note also the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6.

Muhammad: Muhammad was born about 570 years after the birth of Jesus. At the age of 40 he began to receive revelations from an angel called Gabriel who had six hundred wings (Bukhari Vol. 4; Hadith 455). He preached a message of peace for the first 13 years of his ministry in Mecca. When he fled to Medina, he prayed toward Jerusalem (Bukhari Vol. 6; Hadith 13; Vol. 9; Hadith 358; Vol. 1; Hadith No. 39) to win the favour of the Jews. However, when the Jews rejected him he began to receive more violent revelations, e.g. Sura 8:67. Throughout his life, he planned and participated in 27 battles (Ibn Kathir, Albedayyah wa-Nehayah, Vol. 4, p. 179) and he encouraged his people to fight in battle (Sura 4:84; 8:60; Bukhari, Vol 5. Hadith No. 288 amongst many others) and assassinate opponents including nursing mothers (Ibn Ishaq, p. 676; Bukhari, Vol. 5. Hadith No. 369). Muhammad died in A.D. 632.

The life, teaching and practice of Jesus Christ and the life, teaching and practice of Muhammad stand in stark contrast. In fact, it is impossible to follow the teachings of Jesus and Muhammad at the same time: they are diametrically opposed. Christianity teaches its followers to bless and not to curse (Romans 12:14) and that one cannot praise God and curse others with the same mouth (James 3:9-13); Muhammad cursed his own uncle for opposing him (Sura 111:1-5; 3:61; 108:1-3; Muslim Vol. 4; Hadith 7150; Bukhari, Vol. 5, Hadith No. 397). Jesus did not even curse those who crucified Him, but asked the Father to forgive them (Luke 23:34) while Mohammad ordered people killed because they mocked him (Muslim Vol. 3; Hadith 4436 and many others).

Jesus teaches that Christians’ love for one another will show the world that they are His disciples (John 13:35). Muhammad taught that he was made victorious through terror (Sura 3:151; 8:12; 8:67-68; 33:26; Bukhari, Vol. 4, Hadith No. 220). Jesus won people through love, Muhammad won people through fear. The difference cannot be clearer. When it comes to the life, practice and teachings of Jesus, no one can compare. Which religion are you following?

Since both Jesus and Muhammad claimed to be following God, they must believe in different Gods.

Which God do you want to follow?

Both Islam and Christianity preach that Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5; John 5:22, 27 and Bukhari Vol. 3, Hadith No. 425) Which standard will Jesus hold you to? The life and practice of Muhammad or His own life and practice?

Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins - as affirmed by Matthew 20:28: “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”. He did this because we can never, by our own efforts, reach God’s perfect standard. He died so that our sins may be forgiven. He rose again after three days, victorious over death, surviving nursing mothers (Ibn Ishaq, p. 676; Bukhari, Vol. 5. Hadith No. 369).

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Messiah is son of David and son of God

and with righteousness from henceforth even forever.

(14)

Finally, the prophet Daniel “saw in the night visions” of the Messianic Son coming “with the clouds of heaven”(15): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. (16)

Messiah was to be the Son of David. He was also to be the Son of God. This concept has puzzled the rabbis from the first century down to this very day.

References for Chapter Nine


mentators interpret the psalmic passage as Messianic. They note rightfully that the faithful witnesses in heaven are the sun and the moon mentioned in the psalm. Hence, they link it to a prophecy in the book of Jeremiah where God takes the sun, moon and stars to be messengers with the same mouth (James 3:9-13). Muslims believe that the Qur’an is the revealed word of Allah and their prophet has said on this topic.

The best way, in fact, to evaluate a particular religion is to look at the life, practice and teaching of its founder. Since both Jesus and Muhammad claimed to be following God, they must believe in different Gods.

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**Contrasting Jesus & Muhammad**

Winning the ultimate victory in history; but each one of us must choose to accept this free gift. If you refuse to accept the gift, you cannot enjoy the benefits of the gift. A gift is given, not earned—indeed, the giver would have the right to be offended if you attempted to offer some form of payment. God desires us to humbly receive his gift with a thankful heart.

> “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

To “confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord” means that you must agree with God that:

1) you are a sinner and that you deserve to die;
2) you cannot save yourself from hell fire;
3) the Lord Jesus paid the penalty for your sins on the cross and He bought you with His precious holy blood;  
4) you need Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour.

If you wish to receive the forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ by faith, you need only to open your heart and ask God in your own words similar to the following:

> **Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I admit that my good works can't take away my sins and I accept You as my Lord and Saviour. Cleanse me from my sins with your precious blood, and help me to walk according to your will. Thank you for providing a way for me to draw near to You. Amen.**

Now you have an opportunity to find out more for yourself—as God has given you the means and the ability to search for the truth.  

**Mizan ul Haq**  
amorequestions@gmail.com

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**Jesus — The references given are not exhaustive. — Muhammad**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jesus</th>
<th>Muhammad</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>His birth and death were signified by signs in heaven (Matthew 2:1-2, 7-10; Luke 2:4-15; Matthew 27:45; Luke 23:44-46)</td>
<td>Muhammad always obeyed Allah’s inspirations (Sura 53:2-4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus was sinless (Matt 27:4-19, 24; John 8:46; 9:16; see also Sura 19:19)</td>
<td>His birth and death were not signified by signs in heaven and are not even mentioned in the Qur’an</td>
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<td>Jesus forbade violence and preached peace throughout his whole life (John 13:34; Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27, 35; 1 Thessalonians 5:15)</td>
<td>Muhammad commanded peace when he was weak at the start (Sura 2:256; 109:1-6; 6:107-109), but violence when he grew powerful (Sura 9:29; 2:216; 8:39; 9:5; 5:51 The Noble Qur’an)</td>
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<td>Jesus healed all sicknesses (Luke 13:11; 17:11-19; 22:50, 51; John 4:46-54; John 9; Matt 8:5-13; 15:29-31; Mark 3:1-5; 6:56)</td>
<td>Muhammad performed no miracles, according to the Qur’an (Sura 13:7). Muhammad made people lame (Bukhari, Vol 8, Hadith 794; Vol. 9, Hadith 37 and many others)</td>
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<td>Jesus raised people from the dead (John 11; Luke 7:11-17; 8:49-56; Sura 3:50; Sura 5:110)</td>
<td>Muhammad didn’t raise anyone from the dead, rather in scores of battles/holy wars he caused death of thousands.</td>
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<td>Jesus ascended into heaven (Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:1-11; Sura 3:55; 19:33)</td>
<td>Muhammad stayed where he was buried</td>
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<td>Jesus won people by love, truth and miracles (e.g. Matthew 4:23ff)</td>
<td>Muhammad won people by fear, the sword, violence, threats and booty (Sura 8:39, 41, 67; 9:5, 56-57; 2:216; 59:13 etc).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus had power over nature (Mark 4:35-41; John 6:1-14; 6:15-21; Matthew 14:22-36)</td>
<td>Muhammad had no power over nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus cast out demons (Mark 5:1-20; Luke 4:31-37)</td>
<td>Muhammad was visited by jinn/demons who promised to promote Islam (Sura 46:29-31; also see 72:1-15); he was also afraid of demons (Sura 114:1-6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus protected women (Matthew 26:10, John 8:1-11)</td>
<td>Muhammad brought pain and suffering to women (Sura 4:34, 4:20; 2:223; 33:52; 64:14; 2:228-230)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus forgave people’s sins (Luke 5:17-26) and interceded for His people (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)</td>
<td>Muhammad didn’t know his eternal destiny or anyone else’s (Sura 46:9; Bukhari Vol. 5 Hadith No. 266; Muslim Vol. 1 Hadith No. 398 and No. 402); stoned for adultery (Bukhari Vol. 2; Hadith 413; Vol. 8; Hadith 805)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus guarantees heaven for His people (John 14:2; 1 John 5:12; Luke 10:20).</td>
<td>Muhammad guarantees hell for His people for an unspecified period of time (Sura 19:71-72)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus forbade adultery &amp; violence (Matthew 26:52, 5:28)</td>
<td>Muhammad married his adopted son’s wife, allowed temporary marriages and commanded violence (Sura 33:37; 4:24, 74, 76, 3, 34), Muhammad was not foretold by the Prophets, he performed no miracles, did not ascend into heaven, and he tortured and killed people, but still claimed to be the perfect example to follow. (Sura 3:31-33, 132; 4:13, 59, 69, 80; 5:92; 7:167; 8:24, 46; 24:54; 26:108, 110, 126, 144; 33:36, 71; 47:33; 49:14; 64:12.)</td>
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HAS GOD FORSAKEN HIS PEOPLE?

He gave His oath to Abram, and reiterated it six more times to Abraham, to his son Isaac, and to his grandson Jacob. On one occasion, “When God made His promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for Him to swear by, He swore by Himself” (Hebrews 6:13).

Why did God speak so decisively? It was because He “wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, [so] He confirmed it with an oath” (Hebrews 6:17). God Who cannot lie bound Himself by an oath! His covenant with Israel was reiterated through Moses, repeated by the prophets and rehearsed by the psalmists. Jesus Himself affirmed it (Matthew 19:28), Paul articulated it (Romans 9-11) and the gates of the New Jerusalem announce it forever (Revelation 21:11-12). God has chosen Israel as His covenant people.

What if Israel broke the covenant? What would then happen to them? Listen to these unmistakably clear truths: “Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished” (Jeremiah 30:11). God will completely destroy other nations, but He will not completely destroy Israel! He treats His people differently from other people; they are judged more strictly, but they will never be wiped out.

No matter what Israel does, God will never forsake them as a distinct people. In Jeremiah 31:31-34, the Lord declares that He will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah. But He doesn’t stop there. It’s as if He’s saying, “Now, don’t get me wrong! Don’t think that this new covenant means that I’m abandoning My people. No!”

This is what the LORD says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – the LORD Almighty is His name: “Only if these decrees vanish from My sight,” declares the LORD, “will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before Me.” This is what the LORD says: “Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,” declares the LORD (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

As long as there is a sun, moon, stars, earth, and sea, there will be a distinct people of Israel – no matter what they do. It’s God’s promise! It’s true! “Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I shall remember him. Therefore My heart yearns for him, I have great compassion for him,” declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 31:20)

Look at how relevant God’s prophetic word is to our day and age. For centuries the Church, in arrogance, because of ignorance, claimed that she alone was the true Israel, that she had replaced the ancient covenant people. The Church taught that it was the Christians alone who were the true Jews. (How strange that these Christians were not claiming to be Jewish during the Holocaust!) The Church taught emphatically that the physical people of Israel (those who were ethnically Jewish and those who joined the nation through conversion to Judaism) were eternally rejected.

This is not some worn-out old doctrine. It is on the increase again in our day. Yet the Lord is not surprised. Twenty-five hundred years ago, He already addressed this issue:

The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

*Have you not noticed that these people are saying, ‘The LORD has rejected the two kingdoms He chose? So they despise My people and no longer regard them as a nation. This is what the LORD says: ‘If I have not established My covenant with day and night and the fixed laws of heaven and earth, then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them’“* Jeremiah 33:23-26

People are still murmuring against Israel and despising the people and the nation. God’s answer is still the same: “I will never reject them!” What exactly did God promise Abraham and his descendants? How long are His promises good? Psalm 105 has the answer for us. He remembers His covenant forever, the word He commanded for a thousand generations, the covenant He made with Abraham, the oath He swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: “To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit” (Psalm 105:8-11).

Did God make himself clear? The Scriptures speak of God’s covenant, the word He commanded, His oath which He confirmed as a decree forever, for a thousand generations, as an everlasting covenant. The Lord is trying to make a point! Not only did He promise to bless Abraham and make him into a great nation; not only did He promise to multiply his seed; not only did He promise to make him the father of many nations; not only did He promise to bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him; He also promised Abraham the land of Canaan, with clearly defined borders, as an everlasting inheritance to his natural descendants – until this earth is no more.

Amazingly, some teachers have tried to get out of this perpetual land promise to Israel. They claim that in the New Testament, neither Jesus nor the apostles ever reiterate this particular aspect of the covenant. But why should they reiterate it? When almost all of the New Testament was being written, about one million Jews were living in the Land, Jerusalem was the spiritual and national capitol and the Temple was still standing. And Jesus made it clear that, despite Jerusalem’s soon-coming destruction – a destruction that would last “until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” – He would come back to a Jewish Jerusalem (Luke 21:24; Matthew 23:37-39). Obviously Jews would be in the Land!

But there is another reason why Jesus and the apostles did not explicitly stress the land promise to their people. The specifics of God’s covenant with the patriarchs were so clearly stated in the Scriptures that it would have been a waste of words to repeat them all! David Brown, the respected nineteenth century Bible commentator, was correct when he said: “What is permanent in the kingdom of God under the Old Testament is PRESUMED in the New.”

And let all believers who question Israel’s rights to the Land, based on the New Testament, take note of this: The New Testament doesn’t state that Israel would be exiled from the Land either! Both of these Old Testament truths, Israel’s scattering and Israel’s regathering, are presumed in the New.

The covenant God made with Israel is just like the covenant He made with David. The Lord declared to David that He would es-

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Your enemies, ADONAI, have flung their taunts, flung them in the heart and set him free if he takes such delight in him!"  

Tehillah 22:7-8

Your enemies, ADONAI, have flung their taunts, flung them in the footsteps of your anointed one. Blessed be ADONAI forever. Amen. Amen.  

Tehillah 89:51-52

The plowmen plowed on my back; wounding me with long furrows. Tehillah 129:3

I am estranged from my brothers, an alien to my mother's children, insults have broken my heart to the point that I could die. I hoped that someone would show compassion, but nobody did; and that there would be comforters, but I found none.  

Tehillah 69:8-20

My God! My God! Why have you abandoned me? Why so far from helping me, so far from my anguish cries? My God, by day I call to you, but you don't answer; likewise at night, but I get no relief.  

Tehillah 22:1-2

I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart has become like wax it melts inside me; my mouth is as dry as a fragment of a pot, my tongue sticks to my palate; you lay me down in the dust of death. Dogs are all around me, a pack of villains closes in on me like a lion [at] my hands and feet. I can count every one of my bones, while they gaze at me and gloat.  

Tehillah 22:14-17

my mouth is as dry as a fragment of a pot, my tongue sticks to my palate...  

Tehillah 22:15

in my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink.  

Tehillah 69:21b

They divide my garments among themselves; for my clothing they throw dice.  

Tehillah 22:18

He protects all his bones; not one of them gets broken.  

Tehillah 34:20

for you will not abandon me to Sh'ol, you will not let your faithful one see the Abyss.  

Tehillah 16:10

He promised to ADONAI, so let him rescue him! Let him set him free if he takes such delight in him!"  

Tehillah 22:7-8

You control the raging of the sea; when its waves rear up, you calm them.  

Tehillah 89:9

Please, ADONAI! Save us! Please, ADONAI! Rescue us!  

Tehillah 110:1

I have sworn by my holiness once and for all; I will not lie to David, his dynasty will last forever, his throne like the sun before me. It will be established forever, like the moon, which remains a faithful witness in the sky."  

Tehillah 89:35-37

I will proclaim the decree: ADONAI said to me, 'You are my son; today I became your father.'  

Tehillah 2:7

I will speak to you in parables and explain mysteries from days of old.  

Tehillah 78:2

I will proclaim the decree: ADONAI said to me, 'You are my son; today I became your father.'  

Tehillah 2:7

You will proclaim the decree: ADONAI said to me, 'You are my son; today I became your father.'  

Tehillah 2:7

I control the raging of the sea; when its waves rear up, you calm them.  

Tehillah 89:9

I will proclaim the decree: ADONAI said to me, 'You are my son; today I became your father.'  

Tehillah 2:7

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Tehillah 2:7
HAS GOD FORSAKEN HIS PEOPLE?

would establish a lasting dynasty for him. He gave this promise to David’s son who would succeed him on the throne: When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But My love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever. (2 Samuel 7:14-16)

What a wonderful word! In spite of David’s terrible sin and Solomon’s tragic backsliding, in spite of the godlessness of Davidic kings like Ahaz and Manasseh, the kingdom would never be taken from his physical descendants. When the kingdom was divided and God gave Jeroboam the ten northern tribes, He did so to humble David’s descendants, “but not forever” (1 Kings 11:39). He still left one tribe with the sons of David, “so that David My servant may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put My Name” (1 Kings 11:36). The King of kings and Lord of lords is a direct descendant of David! God was faithful to keep His word to David, and He is just as faithful to keep His word to Israel.

His covenant with Abraham is just as unconditional and everlasting as His covenant with David. Read Genesis 15 carefully. In ancient days, that is how covenants were made. Sacrificial animals were cut in two and their severed bodies placed in two lines. Both parties entering into the covenant would then walk between the carcasses. By doing so they were symbolically saying, “if I break this binding agreement, if I fail to uphold my side of the pact, then let me suffer the same fate that these animals have suffered.” But something was different in Genesis 15. Only God passed through the pieces! This was a one-way deal (see Genesis 15:17-21)

The Land belonged to other nations. But at the proper time it would be given to Abraham’s seed. If they violated the terms of the covenant – especially as expressed through Moses – then they would be punished and even driven temporarily from the Land. But just as God’s word to David stands firm, His word to Abraham endures, no matter what Israel does. This is what He said through Moses.

When the Israelites are…in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking My covenant with them. I am the LORD their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD (Leviticus 26:44-45; see also Deuteronomy 4:27, 30-31) Even today, when “As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on [our] account; [yet] as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable” (Romans 11:28-29). Could anything be more plain?

Right now the great majority of the Jewish people are our “enemies” as far as the gospel is concerned. They reject our message (the Orthodox Jews reject it most strongly), and some even actively oppose it. As individuals, they forfeit their covenant blessings when they turn from Jesus the Messiah. But as a people, they are still elect and loved “on account of the patriarchs.” Otherwise, God’s promises have no meaning and election has no significance. “Abraham, I’m swearing by Myself, I’m putting My reputation on the line. I will bless your offspring always – no matter what. (But I may replace them with someone else one day)” That is not the Lord that we serve.

God’s covenant with Abraham is just as unconditional and everlasting as His covenant with the Church. The Lord “saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy” (Titus 3:5). Praise God, we were chosen by grace! But we are not the only recipients of the Lord’s unmerited favor. To Israel, Moses said: The LORD did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath He swore to your forefathers that He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt (Deuteronomy 7:7-8).

Sounds familiar, doesn’t it? God’s covenants with Israel and with the Church are based on His promise, not our performance. Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church both stood, and still stand, by grace. Both received God’s eternal promises. Together we make up the family of God: The faithful ones of Israel and the chosen ones from every nation become one new man out of the two, one body, one people. “For through Him [Jesus!] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit” (Ephesians 2:18). Great is the wisdom of God.

This is not what the Muslims believe. It is a fundamental tenet of the Koran that both Israel and the Church failed. Moses was a prophet. Jesus was a prophet. But Muhammad was the seal of the prophets, the messenger of the final revelation. The Jews are not the people of God – they failed! The Christians are not the people of God – they failed! It is Muslims who are the people of God.

Of course, this is preposterous. But, in the event that you are still uncertain about the calling of Israel, consider this simple truth: If God could forsake Israel, in spite of His unconditional, everlasting promises, then He could forsake the Church! If God could replace Israel, in spite of His unconditional, everlasting promises, then He could replace the Church! So, if you hold to a theology that says, “God has forsaken physical Israel,” or “The Church has replaced Israel,” you had better be extremely careful. Maybe the Koran is right!

Michael L. Brown, Our Hands are Stained with Blood, chapter 12
**God’s Faithfulness**

by Donna Drebenstedt

*Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way broad that leads to destruction.* Matthew 7:13

Santa Clause, the Easter Bunny and God? Sandra’s mother taught her about all three while she was a child. When she realized the first two were only pretend she put God in the same category. Now that she is raising her 3 little ones she is rethinking God! PTL! Sandra recently stopped at Menorah’s campus table to ask me why I believe God and the Bible are real! She told me the Gospel message I shared gave her heart much peace and she wanted to repent and receive God’s gift of salvation! We gave Sandra a Bible and she plans to attend our Bible study!

The Muslims planned a rally next to us to loudly proclaim their twisted view of peace. (see if Islam is a Religion of Peace www.menorah.org/jihad.pdf) We passed out tracts with web sites to check out the factual evidence proving otherwise. Our posters pointed them to our table to find real peace. I was taken back by the strong non-Muslim students against this challenge and also the fear that gripped the administrations heart about what the Muslims might do. Two men from the administration came in the afternoon to ask us to remove our posters. I had over a 30 minute good conversation with them about Islam and the real peace that the ‘real’ Jesus offers!

By caving in to Muslim lies, Denver University has broken the court settlement agreement made 18 years ago. The Rutherford Institution and our attorney Jim Rouse have a July 2013 court date with them to reinstate our table & all privileges. Please pray for this! Meanwhile we are “still” pressing on exercising our campus rights, passing out tracts & talking to students outside!

We praise God for bringing us such a variety of people in a variety of ways that need to know His truths! Our street ministry, distribution of Gospel tracts, the varied and many Gospel conversations, along with Menorah’s tent outreaches and table events keep us excited about Jesus, eagerly waiting for when the nets are full and Jesus calls all Believers home!

God makes Menorah’s ministry fruitful as students and people everywhere are hungry to hear the only Truth that satisfies their soul! Thank you for your prayers and support,

Donna Drebenstedt
donna@menorah.org  Campus-Street Ministry Co-Director

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**Was the New Testament (Brit Chadashah) written in Hebrew?**

Many scholars in Israel are now convinced that the spoken and written language of the Jews in the Land of Israel at the time of Jesus was indeed Hebrew; and that the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) were derived from original Hebrew sources. These scholars, fluent in both Greek and Hebrew, have proposed impressive solutions to major problems of New Testament interpretation. Important discoveries which they have made serve to illuminate the very Hebrew style of speech used by Jesus and his first followers, and to make possible a more accurate translation of the Gospels. With a new understanding of the language Jesus spoke, they are now able to correct numerous mistranslations in the English text of the New Testament.

Professor David Flusser of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the world’s leading Jewish authority on the New Testament and early Christianity, holds strongly to the view that the life of Jesus was originally composed in Hebrew. Dr. Moshe Bar-Asher, also of Hebrew University and their foremost Aramaic scholar, agrees. He thinks the Synoptic Gospels go back to a Greek translation of an original Hebrew (not Aramaic!) document. Outstanding scholars from outside Israel also have arrived at this conclusion. Harris Birkeland, a Norwegian, states, "The Language of the common people in Palestine in the time of Jesus was Hebrew." William Sanford LaSor, professor emeritus at

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**Articles In This Publication**

- **The Whole History of Salvation in the Light of the Tehillim-Psalms**

  Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled.

  Luke 24:44

- **Messiah is son of David and Son of God**

  The Messiah was to descend from the seed of Eve, of Seth, of Abraham -

- **Has God Forsaken His People?**

  — life, practice and teaching —