



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Why Don't They Believe?

**W**e have come to the end of another year of ministry. The Lord had blessed our efforts. We have seen several Jewish people give their lives to Jesus. We have ministered to many more through one on one visits. And we have helped countless Christians share their faith with their Jewish friends. **Jewish people are hearing about Jesus. And they are coming to faith. However, most of my people do not yet believe.** Only a small percentage of the Jewish community has accepted Jesus as Messiah. My people, for the most part, have for two thousand years rejected His messiahship.

**As I travel and speak in churches I am often asked the question, "Why don't most Jewish people believe?"** Why have most Jewish people rejected the One who came to bring them into a relationship with God? Why don't they accept Him...it is so clear? The prophets spoke of Him. Most people just don't understand.

**As we come to the end of the year and celebrate the birth of our Savior it is important to know what the scriptures say about the unbelief of the Jewish community.** It is also important for us to remember, that though as a community the Jewish people have rejected Messiah, it is still our obligation to proclaim the message of Jesus to them. They need to hear. And slowly, hearts are being opened. **The Holy Spirit of God is at work and is moving in the lives of Jewish people here in Atlanta and around the world.**

It was during Hanukkah that Jesus was walking in Solomon's temple. He had been busy. During the Festival of Lights He proclaimed Himself the Light



of the World. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and raised men from the dead. **Jewish people were talking about this man named Jesus. Many were amazed.** Some accepted. Others were asking questions. And many did not believe.

The Apostle John writes *"Even after Jesus had done all of these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in Him."* John 12:37 They would not believe. And then He tells us why they would not believe.

### Jewish Unbelief Was Prophesied

*"This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: 'Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'"* John 12:38

**Isaiah saw the glory of God.** He knew that one day Messiah would come to redeem the Jewish people and the world from slavery and bondage to sin. Isaiah spoke of Messiah's birth

(Isaiah 7:14) and spoke of His death and resurrection (Isaiah 53). **Isaiah prophesied that the Jewish community would, for the most part, reject Messiah.** It was prophesied that they would turn their back on the One who came to save them and bring them peace.

**Jesus knew that the Jewish people He loved so much would reject Him.** He knew the words of the prophet Isaiah. He knew that He was born to die on a cross. **Though it was prophesied that the Jewish community would turn their back on Him, He never turned His back on them.** Jesus came to and for the Jewish people first. He had unceasing anguish and pain in His heart over His Jewish brethren. He wept over Jerusalem.

Today, most in the Jewish community still reject Jesus as Messiah and thus have turned their back on the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **My people are a microcosm of humanity.** Lost. In rebellion. Separated from God. In need of salvation. Though it was prophesied the Jewish people would reject their Messiah Jesus, we need to have the heart of Jesus; a heart filled with anguish over those who have rejected Him, but also need to hear.

### Jewish Unbelief Had A Purpose

*"For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: 'He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.'"* John 12:39-40

**God put temporary blinders on the Jewish community for a reason.** The

truth of God had been given to the Jewish people but God's intent was for it to be expanded to non-Jewish people as well. **The blindness of the Jewish community allowed for the inclusion of the Gentiles into the Kingdom through faith in the Jewish Messiah Jesus.**

*"...because of their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring?"* Romans 11:11-12

**God, in His unsearchable wisdom, gave the Jewish people over to a spiritual blindness in order to include Gentiles into the Kingdom of God.** It was then His hope that non-Jewish believers in Jesus would bring the message of Messiah back to the Jewish people from whom it came. To the Jew first, also to the Gentile, then back to the Jewish people! **The spiritual blindness that God placed upon the Jewish people was not, and is not, a blindness that is terminal.** It can be healed. Their eyes can be opened.

**This year we have witnessed 20 Jewish people giving their lives to Jesus!** We are also meeting with Jewish people who are open to the message. We are helping Christians talk to their Jewish friends who are asking questions. **Blindness has "in part" come upon Israel. And the Lord is able to remove the scales from their eyes.** He is able to open their hearts.

#### **Jewish Unbelief Comes From Fear and Pride**

*"Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God."* John 12: 42-43

**The Jewish people are just like everyone else.** Humanity is separated from God because of sin. Most sin has a connection to the sin of pride. My people are no different.



**Jewish rabbis of Jesus' day as well as every other Jewish rabbi until today has a stake in the person of Jesus.** If He is true then they are wrong. If He is Messiah then they have missed the One for whom they are looking. If He fulfilled the prophecies of old then they have misinterpreted the prophecies.

**There were many Jewish leaders and Jewish people of Jesus' day who saw the miracles, witnessed the healings, and heard the message.** They accepted and even believed. But, they were unable to commit their lives to the Miracle Worker because of fear and pride. They were, like many of us, intimidated, scared, and fearful.

**I recently met a Jewish woman and her Catholic husband at a church in the mountains of Georgia.** She and her husband moved here from up north and have found a home at a little Baptist church in a small mountain town. We had a very interesting, deep, and insightful conversation. **She has been touched by Jesus through the people at that church. She has felt His presence, heard His message, and experienced His power.** She was touched by my message on "Jesus in Hanukkah". After the message we spoke for a

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while. She said to me, *"Murray, I believe mostly in Jesus, but I can't accept it all."* I said, *"Helen, you can't believe 'mostly' in Jesus. He wants all or nothing."* Helen was afraid of hurting her parents and scared at their reaction if she gave her life to Jesus. *"I will never do it,"* she said.

As we celebrate the birth of the Jewish baby, Jesus, in the manger, please pray for my people and for our ministry. **Pray for God to remove their blindness, pride, and fear.** Please pray that through our ministry many more Jewish people will come to know Messiah Jesus next year.

## **Thank You!**

**From the staff of Light of Messiah Ministries we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.** We are so incredibly grateful for your prayers and support of our work.

**Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. Remember that your prayers and financial support help to make our ministry possible.**

Rejoicing in Him,

Murray Tilles  
 Light of Messiah Ministries

**Light of Messiah Ministries is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization. We are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. All gifts are tax deductible. All gifts received by December 31, 2009 will be received by January 31, 2010. You may also donate online at [www.lightofmessiah.org](http://www.lightofmessiah.org).**