



Light of Messiah Ministries

.....proclaiming Jesus, the Jewish Messiah!

Volume 13 Issue 7



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Where Do They Go?

Last month's letter elicited quite a response. In last month's letter I published some e-mails with questions from different people asking us to help them minister to their Jewish friends. **The purpose of the letter was to let you know that our ministry helps many different people, with varying issues, and we are here to help you.** No question is too simple or too bothersome for us. **We are here, as a ministry to help you reach your Jewish friends.**

One lady wrote an e-mail to us posing a very difficult question. **Several people wanted to know the answer.** Let me reprint the e-mail one more time and answer the question:

"I had the great fortune to hear Murray speak at Perimeter this year. My children attend _____ School and have a good number of Jewish friends. Their question: "Will Jewish people who do not believe in Christ as the only way to heaven still go to heaven because they are God's chosen people?" Can you please provide some passages for our referral?"

One of the questions that is most often asked of our ministry is, **"Where do Jewish people go after they die if they don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah?"** It is not an easy question to answer, but the answer is very clear. Let me explain.

Some Christians assume that because the Jewish people are "God's Chosen People" that Jewish people will go to heaven apart from knowing Jesus as Messiah, or that they will get a second chance after they die. Either one of these assumptions is false.



First we must ask ourselves the question, **"Why were the Jewish people chosen by God?"** They were chosen to be God's messengers to a lost world, and to bring the truth of the One True God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to the nations around them. **The issue of salvation, or going to heaven, was not a part of their "chosen ness".** Faith and obedience to God in His provision for a relationship with Himself has always been the prerequisite to eternal life. In the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament, God's provision was extended through obedience and faith in the Mosaic covenant and the sacrificial system (when the Tabernacle/Temple were standing).

No one is given a second chance after they die. Scripture says, *"...man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment..."* (Heb. 9:27) If someone knew they had a second chance to accept Jesus after they died, then what would be the reason to live for Him now? If God gives Jewish people a second chance, He has to give everyone a second chance. No one, good or evil, if given a second chance, would reject it. **There is no scriptural support for anyone being given a second chance after they die.**

In the New Covenant God ushered in His new provision for a relationship

with Himself. That relationship comes through the promised Messiah of Israel, Jesus. Jesus, the Suffering Servant of God, became the final sacrifice, took the sins of Israel and humanity upon Himself, thus fulfilling the Mosaic law and opening the door to a relationship with God through faith and faith alone.

Jesus is the only way to heaven. He said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6) Peter said, *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men, by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12) When Jesus and Peter spoke those words, there were no Gentiles around. The words that Jesus and Peter spoke were spoken to other Jewish people. Jesus came as the Jewish Messiah, born in a Jewish land, and was raised by two Jewish parents. **He came to the Jewish people first.**

Given God's love for the Jewish people it is **easy to think** that Jewish people may have a special way into heaven. *"How could God send one of His Chosen People to hell?"* is an understandable question. However, **Scripture is clear that we are all separated from God because of our sin (Isaiah 59:1-2), and are all in need of atonement.** Jewish people are no different than anyone else in that regard.

Jesus did not come do die for non-Jews only. He came and died for everyone. Jewish people need Jesus, just like everyone else.

The short and difficult answer to the question, **"Where do Jewish people**

go after they die if they don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah?", is that Jewish people who do not know Jesus as Savior spend eternity separated from God and apart from His presence, just like anyone else who rejects God's provision for salvation in Jesus.

As believers in Jesus, our comfort is knowing that God does not wish anyone to perish but all to come to eternal life. And, we do not know what God might do in a person's heart even the minute before they die.

So what should we do?

- **Understand the Gospel.** The Gospel, the Truth of God, is wrapped up in the person of Jesus. He is God's only provision for salvation. If anyone says that there are many ways/other ways to God, or that any group of people do not need Jesus, then they do not understand the Gospel. **Our ministry will never compromise on this issue.**
- **Share your burden with your Jewish friends.** Those who say Jewish people do not need Jesus are saying that either Jesus is not good enough for the Jewish people or that the Jewish people are not good enough for Jesus. **If you have a Jewish friend, please contact our ministry.** We will help you share your faith with them in a sensitive and gentle way. **Remember, we are here to help you.**
- **Pray that more people will be concerned about the salvation of Jewish people.** One of the most difficult aspects of our ministry is helping Christians understand the urgency and importance of Jewish ministry. Please pray about how God wants you involved, whether it is calling us to help you minister to a Jewish friend or helping us out financially. **The Jewish people gave us our Bible and Jesus. The most important thing we can do in return is bring the truth of Jesus back to them.**



Shalom Baskets

Our most exciting outreach is quickly approaching and this outreach involves you. Our Shalom Basket Outreach will take place the week before Rosh Hashanah (September 27th – October 4th). A **Shalom Basket** is a basket filled with holiday goodies for your Jewish friend. They are beautiful. You may order them through our ministry and we will deliver them for you, right to your Jewish friend's door. **We are only taking the first 120 Shalom Basket orders and will only be purchasing enough materials to make that number.** This is to ensure prompt delivery and follow-up on all of the contacts we receive. **So, get your order in soon.** Order your Shalom Baskets by calling our office (credit card orders only), order online at our web site, or send \$25.00 per basket to our P.O. Box made payable to The Shalom Store. When ordering Shalom Baskets please give us delivery information as well as **your phone number and mailing information.** **Orders must be in by September 10th.** You may also order Jewish holiday cards from us. Just give us a call.

How to Contact Us

Light of Messiah Ministries
 P.O. Box 501179
 Atlanta, GA 31150
 Phone: 770-642-4706
 Fax: 770-642-0319
 E-mail: lightofmessiah@yahoo.com
www.lightofmessiah.org

2005/2006 Calendars

We are again carrying Messianic Calendars to help you keep track of the Jewish holidays, pray for the Jewish people, and learn about the Jewish roots of our faith as believers in Jesus. This year our calendar is again being printed in Israel by a messianic ministry there, so we are supporting their ministry as well. The calendars are beautifully illustrated with pictures from Israel. If you desire to celebrate the Jewish holidays in your home, or want to pray for the Jewish people, this calendar is invaluable. **They make beautiful gifts as well.**

Call our office to order one by phone (credit card orders), order online at www.lightofmessiah.org, or send \$12.00 per calendar to our P.O. Box made payable to **The Shalom Store.**

Thank You!

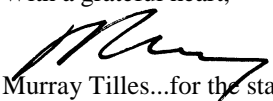
I have personally committed my life to help bring Jesus back to my people. Like Paul my heart breaks over the fact that the Jewish community has, for the most part, rejected their Messiah. However, it is incumbent up on us to make sure that the Gospel of Jesus is returned to the people who have given us so much. **We are all indebted to the Jewish people. Let's not forget to bring Jesus back to them.**

"I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." (Romans 1:16)

Your prayers and financial support make our ministry possible.

Thank you for caring enough to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of Jesus.

With a grateful heart,


 Murray Tilles...for the staff
 Light of Messiah Ministries