

May 2019

Dear friends of the Jewish people,

Let me tell you something that should be evident to everyone.

Loving Israel has nothing to do with politics. Now before you react to that statement I want you to think about the issue more deeply. Of course, standing with the nation and the people of Israel is important, if not vital (some might unfortunately disagree). I would say it's a biblical mandate (see Genesis 12:3, Psalm 122:6, Romans 15:27).



However, true independence is not found in politics, or a political party, but in a person.

God never called Israel or the surrounding nations into a political relationship. He never required political support. Never needed a political party. Nor did he call anyone into a political battle. Not at all. And certainly not as we understand politics today.

Ancient Israel was a theocracy (a word coined by Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian who lived in the 1st century). **God ruled. He set the law and the limits.** He needed no polls. Required no votes. Obey him and be blessed. Disobey and there are consequences. Outside “political parties” (the nations) needed to be reached for the true God of Israel.

God passionately called Israel into a spiritual relationship. A relationship based on faith and obedience. A spiritual relationship recognizing his complete unconditional love and his eternal forgiveness.

That relationship was ultimately fulfilled and completed in a deeper, more intimate, and humanly personal relationship. **Exemplified in the life and death of Messiah Jesus.** A glorious life. A gruesome death prophesied in the Old Testament (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53), the Jewish scriptures. Finalized on a Roman cross. Affirmed and sealed by his resurrection three days later.

Because he gave. We give back.

Israel celebrated their 71st Independence Day this month (May 8th). What they truly need is independence from bondage. Not earthly bondage, but spiritual bondage. A bondage that can only be broken by Jesus himself. **The most important kind of independence is not found politically, but spiritually.** My people need him. Desperately.

Sometime in the future his kingdom will be eternally established and he will rule. He will return to Jerusalem. His feet will rest on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14). He will take his throne. The Authority. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords. King over all. Jesus will bring peace and render righteous judgment (Isaiah 11).

Until that time we work. We work hard. Very hard. To help others understand.

We work on many fronts and from many perspectives. Our hope is the same. That his kingdom will be proclaimed to all the nations..."to the Jew first, and also to the gentiles." (Romans 1:16) That through our efforts..."those who will come"...will come to Jesus as Messiah.

- I just returned from a two day gathering of messianic leaders from around North America to discuss how we can more effectively work together and partner for the sake of the message of Jesus to the Jewish people.
- Jewish people are contacting our ministry regularly, asking for help as they ponder the truth of Jesus.
- Christians are reaching out to our ministry to help them more effectively share Jesus with their Jewish friends.
- Churches are contacting our ministry asking for help with people in their church to not only understand the Jewish roots of our faith but to put Israel, the Jewish people, and the Old Testament, into a proper biblical perspective.

We will be traveling to Israel at least twice this year.

In October we have a church mission discovery team joining us in Israel to meet with leaders of messianic congregations, mission leaders, and on the ground ministries to evaluate the possibility of adopting Israel as a mission country.

We need your prayers and support now more than ever. Though summer is one of our busiest seasons of ministry it is also our slowest time of giving. **A special, over and above, gift this month in support of our work, will help us do even more to reach the Jewish people with the message of Jesus.**

The Jewish people have given us so much. If it were not for them we would not have the church, our bibles, communion, baptism, Jesus, or salvation. He said, "salvation is from the Jews," meaning he came to us through them. They have given us so much. **The greatest gift we can give back to them is the gift of true independence, salvation, peace, and hope, in Jesus.**

Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to take Jesus back to the Jewish people locally and in Israel.

Grateful for his independence,



Murray Tilles
Light of Messiah Ministries

