



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

Volume 28 Issue 6



June 2019

Homosexuality, Gay Pride, Jewish People, and Israel

June is “Pride Month.” I don’t celebrate it. Nor do I affirm it. But I do love people. All people. I think Jesus did as well. **I don’t think Jesus loved all people... I know he did.**

The month of June is set aside by those who are a part of the LGBTQ community, or who are supportive of that community, to celebrate same sex relationships and attractions. **The LGBTQ community is important to me because many of them are Jewish and homosexuality is an accepted lifestyle by a majority of the Jewish community.**

I’ve personally attended pride parades in San Francisco, New York City, Chicago, several times in Atlanta, and we were in Tel Aviv for pride week last year. I’ve gone to their events to talk to attendees about a relationship with God in Jesus, true freedom in Messiah, and God’s yearning for all to live according to his standards, regardless of one’s personal desires or attractions.

When I tell people in church that 80% of the Jewish community worldwide are secular, liberal, and humanistic in their worldview and outlook towards life many are shocked. They are even more stunned with these statistics:

Tel Aviv, Israel is, according to many popular surveys, the number one destination in the world for the LGBTQ community.

The Gay Pride Parade in Tel Aviv is the largest in all of Europe and Asia. The parade has only gotten bigger over the years, having reached a whopping 200,000 attendants in 2017, over 30,000 of which were tourists.

Jerusalem has hosted a Gay Pride Parade since 2002. This year’s parade was at-



tended by over 10,000 on June 7th.

This year’s parade came hours after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed Likud lawmaker Amir Ohana as justice minister, making him the first openly gay cabinet member in the country’s history

25% of the population of Tel Aviv identify themselves as homosexual. 79% of Israelis support same sex relationships.

Israel is working hard to make the country more open and accepting of the homosexual community. Rights for homosexuals to marry and adopt are some of the most liberal in Europe, Asia, and certainly the Middle East.

While same-sex marriages are not performed in the country, Israel recognizes cohabitation between same-sex couples, as well as same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. Adoption by same-sex couples was legalized in 2008, while previously allowing stepchild adoptions and limited co-guardianship rights for non-biological parents.

The statistics are staggering and

shocking. **Most people ask me why? Most just don’t get it. Israel is the “Holy Land” is it not? THEY should know better. Right? Here are some points to ponder as you pray for our ministry and for my people.**

What You Should Know From a Sociological Perspective

Jewish people, as a persecuted people, don’t want to be accused of persecuting anyone. **One of the reasons why the Jewish community tends to support a more liberal agenda is because they see liberalism as socially progressive, accepting of others, and helpful for those on the fringe of society.**

Jewish people don’t want to be persecuted either. From their perspective loving others will promote a loving attitude in return. Openness promotes openness. Hatred promotes hatred. Judging others brings judgment. So it goes.

I was recently speaking to a rabbi, one who is a part of a more religious sect of Judaism. He is Chassidic and a leading Talmudic scholar. He said to me, “*Murray, Judaism is the only main religion in the world that allows all other people to come to God and go to heaven in their own way.*”

We discussed the difference between the religion of Judaism, as taught by the rabbis, and the teaching of scripture. However he made his point. **Judaism today is an inclusive religion.** As a religious rabbi he rejects the homosexual lifestyle, yet embraces the idea of religious and social inclusivity.

What You Should Know From a Spiritual/Biblical Perspective

Israel, my people, throughout history were obedient at times, and disobedient

ent at other times. Biblical history gives us the record. God would not have sent his prophets to Israel if my people were obedient as a nation. **Israel consistently worshipped false gods, followed the ways of the nations surrounding them, and turned their back on God.** Those practices were not unusual. They were the norm.

There have always been faithful Israelites, Jewish people, who have followed God and obeyed his ways. Always.

However, as a nation of people, my people, generally, have failed. Despite this failure, God has always been faithful to them.

In I Kings 18, which is one of my first teachings on our tour to Israel as Mt. Carmel is our second stop, Elijah confronted the gods that Ahab and the Israelites were worshipping. **He called Ahab and the Israelites to repentance. To turn from following the prophets and gods of Jezebel and to cease worshipping Baal and Asherah.** My people were worshipping false gods, and following false prophets thousands of years ago. Sexuality, humanism, liberalism, secularism, and the gods of this world, are still worshipped by many, if not most of my people to this day.

You need to know so your heart will break like mine. Like God's. **Jesus wept over Jerusalem for a reason.**

From a spiritual perspective my people are just like everyone else. Lost and in need of a Savior. Not much has changed over the millennia.

What you Should Know From a Jewish Outreach Perspective

The Jewish community has a special place in God's heart and plan. Their existence as a nation and as a people, stand as a testimony of God's faithfulness to his covenant promises.

God says through the prophet Ezekiel, *"It is not for your sake people of Israel that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone"* Ezek. 36:22

My people were chosen for, the nation of Israel was chosen for, a purpose.



Everyone needs to be reached for Jesus. He went to those in need despite their personal convictions or failures. Jesus hung out with outcasts. He did not operate within the parameters dictated by his own religious culture.

Jesus sought the crippled, the disease ridden, and any whom his (religious) society deemed unworthy, disreputable, and morally corrupt in their lifestyle choices. They were the ones lost, lonely, and in pain. Jesus went to them.

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have not come to call the righteous, but the sick." Matthew 9:12-13

Many years ago I was in attendance at the Gay Pride Parade in Atlanta distributing literature and talking to people about God, spirituality, and sexuality. A young lady ran up to me obviously excited to see me. She explained that she was Jewish and had recently given her life to Jesus. She was attending a church in Carrollton at the time.

Her struggle...she was afraid to tell her parents that she was a believer in Jesus and at the same time afraid to tell her church that she was gay. Such a dilemma! Sad, but true. I encouraged

her to come out to them both. And to get support and aid from those who could not only help her grow in her faith in Jesus, but also live obediently for the Lord despite her sexual attractions. Isn't that what we are all called to do?

"Thou shall not..." and "Obey." has not changed. Neither has "Go." "Tell." and "Love."

Because a majority of the Jewish community is a part of, or supports, the LGBTQ community we will be there to love them and to show them truth and mercy. To hold their hand. And to attempt to guide them to Jesus.

At some time in the future Jesus will return to establish his kingdom! He will judge Israel and the nations (see Zephaniah). He will restore Israel back into relationship with himself. Righteousness will rule.

Until that time we work to reach Jewish people, no matter their sexual preference, with God's mercy, grace, forgiveness, love, and salvation, in Messiah Jesus and in him alone.

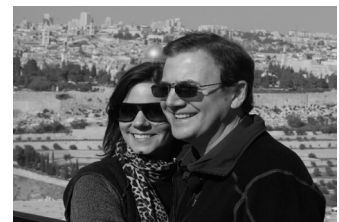
Thank You!!

Our ministry is here to encourage you to pray for the Jewish people and to help them hear the message of Jesus.

As always, thank you for caring enough, and trusting us enough, to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of our Savior!

In His service,

Murray Tilles...for the staff and for those in Israel...we're looking to the future!!



JOIN US FOR A LIFE CHANGING TOUR OF ISRAEL IN MAY OF 2020!! VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS...

How to Contact Us

**Light of Messiah Ministries
P.O. Box 501179
Atlanta, GA 31150
Phone: 770-642-4706**

E-mail:

**lightofmessiahmin@gmail.com
www.lightofmessiah.org**