



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

Volume 27 Issue 11



November 2019

Thanksgiving, Tabernacles, the Pilgrims, and the Jewish People

Thanksgiving could have had a more interesting beginning than what you might have been taught in school.

Its starting point connected to the Bible, Israel, and the Jewish people. Read on...

The existence of the Jewish people and Israel is a central theme in biblical and world history. Nations clash, people wage war, but ultimately God is the author of the past, present, and future. He sets rulers in their place. He establishes and tears down.

War, hatred, and geopolitical strife, only makes sense in light of the fallen nature of humanity. The reality of Israel and the Jewish people only make sense, as well, in light of scripture.

There is no other nation on the planet, no other group of people in existence today, who have been dispersed around the world and targeted for annihilation, as have the Jewish people.

For thousands of years my people have been the scattered scapegoats, targeted, attacked, enslaved, expelled, blamed, hated, murdered, ghettoized, shipped away, and marginalized. As we are to this very day.

However, God made a covenant with one nation. Israel. The Jewish people. His promises and covenants are true. He is faithful. Otherwise we (Jewish people) would be gone. Our existence is a testimony to his faithfulness. And to his covenants.

We have survived, not as an empire, but as a distinct ethnic nation, because of a promise that God made with the people of Israel. **The fact that we are here makes no logical or natural sense. And so we must look beyond the logical and past the natural.**



In Deuteronomy God chose the nation of Israel,

“The Lord did not set his affections on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all the 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. Know therefore that the Lord your God is Lord; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.” Deuteronomy 7:7-9

In Jeremiah he guaranteed we would never disappear,

“This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and the 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.” “Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done.” Jeremiah 31:35-37

God’s eternal plan realized through a disobedient nation. A nation through whom Messiah Jesus ultimately came.

Every year we celebrate festivals to remember what God did for us. The festivals acknowledge God’s hand in our lives. **We give thanks for his providence, protection, and provision.**

- **Passover** celebrates God protecting us from attempted destruction by Pharaoh in Egypt.
- **Unleavened Bread** celebrates our delivery from Egypt.
- **First fruits** celebrates his provision of food. It is the early spring harvest festival.
- **Shavuot (Pentecost)** is the same, only later in the spring.
- **Trumpets and Atonement** celebrate God’s grace, mercy, and forgiveness.
- **Tabernacles** celebrates his protection while wandering through the wilderness.
- We celebrate **Purim** because Haman wanted to get rid of all the Jews (read Esther) but, even though God is never mentioned in the Book of Esther, his invisible and unrelenting hand of protection was on Mordechai and Esther. **We were saved. Our enemies destroyed.**
- **Hanukkah** celebrates God’s hand of protection and provision. One

hundred and sixty five years prior to the birth of Jesus the Assyrian emperor Antiochus wanted to get rid of the Jews. He invaded Jerusalem and set up, in the Temple, his own memorial. Proclaiming himself God, Epiphanies (meaning God manifest). **His desire was for the Jews to bow down and worship him. He wanted to rule them. And destroy them. He lost.**

Our American holiday, Thanksgiving, is a day set aside to thank God for his protection and provision. **We are here in America because the Pilgrims saw freedom in front of them.** Running from religious persecution and authoritarian oppression they fled England with the hope of being able to worship God freely. In a new land. A place of peace and safety.

Many believe that the Puritans modeled that first Thanksgiving after the Jewish celebration of Sukkoth (Tabernacles), the fall Jewish festival of thanksgiving set aside to bless God for his provision and protection during the Israelite's wanderings in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. (Lev. 23: 39-43)

The Puritans saw themselves as God's covenant people (just like the Israelites) being led out of oppression by the Church of England into the promised land of freedom and plenty. When they reached their destination they gathered together to thank God for his deliverance.

This feast actually occurred sometime between Sept. 21 and Nov. 11, according to historians, and unlike modern traditions, it was three days long. Just as the Israelites were, by His grace granted freedom, so were they, and so are we!

For many today Thanksgiving is lost in food, football, and family. Many gather together not knowing the One who has provided and protected. **The stark reality of the lost is apparent here in America as it is with most Jewish people around the world and in Israel.**

While in Israel last month we celebrated Tabernacles with the rest of Israel. **As we did we prayed that their eyes would be open to God's freedom in Messiah.** We were able to talk to many Jewish people about Jesus. Explaining to them



how hope, forgiveness, and peace can be found in Yeshua the Jewish Messiah. In him and him alone.

We visited with representatives of Israel College of the Bible/One for Israel, Chosen People Ministries, Jews for Jesus, Little Hearts Montessori School just out side of the Damascus gate in Jerusalem, the Baptist Village, and All Nations Messianic Congregation in Tel Aviv. We partner with them all.

We did surveys at Tel Aviv University and, in 45 minutes, had 17 conversations with students about spiritual issues, 12 of whom were Jewish. We also shared Jesus with several Muslim students.

We worked in a soup kitchen in Tel Aviv reaching out to the homeless, prostitutes, and drug addicts. **We visited a different side of Israel with prostitutes standing in doorways and needles on the street. We gave sandwiches to the hungry and hugs to the lonely.**

Israel is God's land, not always a godly land. They desperately need their Messiah, their Savior.

Thank you for sending us to them.

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**

Thank You!!

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

During Thanksgiving and into the New Year please remember us. Pray for us and pray for God to open more Jewish eyes to Jesus!

With Thanksgiving and gratefulness,

Murray Tilles...for the staff and for those in Israel



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

Year End Giving

Light of Messiah Ministries is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS. We are also members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

All gifts to Light of Messiah Ministries given by December 31, 2019 will be received by January 31, 2020.

Please know that all gifts are greatly appreciated. Please contact your financial advisor for any gifts of stocks or other assets.

Thank you for standing with us to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus!! God bless.