

OIM UPDATE

January 2016

Per my annual January rite to establish goals for the coming year, I am delighted to report that I have not seen my calendar so full of things to do since the year 2004. That was when a younger John McKee and I spent the year on our “Two by Two” tour, to share with Messianic Believers all over the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, culminating with a tour to Israel. At that time, we understood the Biblical principle employed by Yeshua (Matthew 21:1; Mark 11:1, 14:13; Luke 19:29), John the Immerser (Luke 7:19), and even the disciples of Yeshua (Acts 9:38, 19:22), that sending two to minister was God’s method for taking the gospel to the Kingdom or simply sharing the Word of God with others. After all, it is by the testimony of two or three witnesses that truth can be declared, and when we came home from our journeys, our two reports gave Margaret a good idea about what transpired. Also we discovered, while one was sharing, the other could be praying and listening for any potential error in speaking which could be readily and lovingly corrected—and any potential temptations on the road were never given a second thought!

Needless to say, it was a great experience to be traveling with John, but when the three of us jointly assessed where we were and where the Lord wanted us to be most useful in His Kingdom’s work, we decided to discontinue the physical rigors of journeys to minister in person. Instead, I increased my work as a stagehand at the Orlando Convention Center to make ends meet, so that John could attend Asbury Theological Seminary and continue to focus on the books he was being led to write. I will never regret those decisions, because as a result of allowing John to pursue the call upon his life, the Messianic community of faith today continues to receive volumes and volumes of his meticulously researched writings and publications! In the past two years alone, he released a 450 page commentary on Romans, coordinated a 674 page *Messianic Kosher Helper* and 670 page *Messianic Sabbath Helper*, and has just finished a 410 page commentary on 1 Corinthians.

As lovingly noted by Margaret over the years, my personal angst, to ask people to financially support our ministry, has kept us widely living month-to-month for the past twenty years. We always appreciate watching how the Lord will provide for us to do His work. And, in not feeling “entitled” as some others are, we have been prevented from making a whole host of mistakes as many others have! But, as you will read in my article this month entitled, “A Synergistic Convergence,” I think I am finally “over” my failure to ask, because I sincerely believe that God’s re-

sources can be better stewarded by those whose needs are not unreasonably overwhelming—meaning that monies do not need to go to those flying around in their own aircraft, convincing their supporters through costly “theotainment” methods to continue to support their lavish lifestyles.

What I cannot understand sometimes, is how thousands of people around the planet, can readily take our teachings—and as I have personally encountered—have mockingly told us how much they appreciate what we do, as they just repackage our teachings for their congregation or fellowship every week. Some have even said that “We steal stuff from you all the time...” as they take up offerings for themselves. Now I have certainly been willing and able to work in the marketplace—whether laying carpet or selling commercial real estate—but because I can ask for others instead of myself, my request of you is that *you seriously consider supporting Outreach Israel and Messianic Apologetics*, so that the work of John McKee will continue to bless untold thousands around the world, who are coming into an understanding about what God is doing through this move of His Spirit. A young man like him should not have to have any financial pressure, in a season when spiritual and theological pressure will be exponentially rising. He has a very unique discipline and work ethic, and has made many personal sacrifices, that very few of his own peers *in Messianic ministry* are willing to make.

Over the years we have established the **Theological Defense Trust**, seeking to have knowledgeable people, who appreciate what we do, support our ongoing efforts. In addition, we continue to supply books and materials to those incarcerated in penal institutions with the **Prison Ministry Free Book Fund**. So with these ministries in mind, I want to encourage you to prayerfully consider making a contribution to our ongoing efforts for 2016, so that we can continue to bless the seekers and those in need of sound instruction from the Word of God. In so doing, we believe the Father of Lights will not only allow you to co-labor in our endeavors, but bestow upon you His favor in the anticipated restorative-revival year to come (James 1:17)!

“The LORD bless you, and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

Advancing His Kingdom, until the restoration of all things...
Shalom and blessings,
Mark Huey

SYNERGISTIC CONVERGENCE

by Mark Huey

On December 28, 2015, as the year was coming to a close, I had the unique opportunity to be in attendance at a convocation which gathered together some of the most recognizable names in American evangelical Christianity. While the predominance of individuals were from the Pentecostal and charismatic segments, there were also a number of more “conservative” Christian people, who have become enthralled in the American political arena. After all, the primary reason for the occasion was to hear a stump speech from a presidential candidate, and then pray for success in his campaign to secure the Republican nomination. As principally an observer to what was transpiring, I was fascinated by how many people I actually knew from previous interactions with them over the years. Quite frankly, I do not know if I or they were more surprised to see each other in the billionaire’s mansion, where this diverse collection of notable personalities convened. Nevertheless, for the two hours before and an hour after the formal presentation and prayers, my conversations with “famous religious folks,” had me in major discernment mode. Then after a two hour drive to return a prominent rabbi to the airport, I simply relaxed and asked the Father: “**What was that all about?**”

His answer did not come until the next morning, when in prayer I queried again and saw in my mind’s eye an image of a reunion of former Confederate generals in a Southern city around 1900, thirty-five years after the conflict was over. These frail men in their aged ways were reminiscing about the “good old days” of the Civil War, with exclusive emphasis on the years 1861-1862, when the South’s efforts were succeeding against the North. In my brief vision, there was no mention of the critical defeats at Gettysburg or Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, or the devastating blow at the Battle of Franklin, on November 30, 1864, when the South essentially lost its brain trust of remaining general officers. Needless to say, the period of Reconstruction in the 1870s, was not a topic of discussion. Instead, the focus of fogged memories and brittle back slapping was totally on the victories that preceded the humiliating surrender.

In many respects I got my answer through these images, because what I had witnessed the previous day, over an eleven-hour excursion, was very much like a reunion of defeated leaders, who despite their ministerial efforts since the 1980s, **had essentially lost the culture war for the soul of America.** The plaudits and speeches were effusive with recollecting how in 1980, the evangelical Right or silent majority had risen up and miraculously defeated the Left with the election of Ronald Reagan. This revolutionary reversal in the trajectory of the United States, brought in the prosperity of the 1980s, which precipitated the collapse of the Soviet Union. Sardonicly as they expressed often, “happy days were here again,” with the distinct possibility of a 2016 remake of an old movie.

Now as the exclamations resounded, perhaps the nation has yet another opportunity to restore Judeo-Christian principles and conservative governance to the nation reeling from decades of poor stewardship from the elected presidents of the 1990s and 2000s. Such was the emphasis of hope for these religious men who personally

benefitted immeasurably from the relative prosperity of building their own “spiritual kingdoms” here on Earth. After all, the local airport tarmac was jammed with Lear jets and Gulfstream aircraft which were symbolic of their “ministry success.” In fact, one of the religious leaders in attendance actually had a security detail of a dozen men, who patrolled the lavish estate in order to protect their boss. Needless to say, I was not impressed, but instead, deeply saddened by what I had to witness. My thoughts ranged from thankfulness that the Word of God had been cast (somehow) to seeking hearts via these mega ministries, to remorse that these people had built huge religious enterprises which were the embodiment of serving God and mammon, a contradictory mixture that Yeshua warned His disciples against:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth**” (Matthew 6:19-24).

It was not difficult to conclude that if these wealthy and ostensibly successful ministries had their eyes focused on the Lord Jesus and His Kingdom, with their resources invested in the Heavenly realm, there would be considerably more productive use of their monies. I could not help but reflect on how the Lord formerly dealt with idolatrous Ancient Israel, when the mixture of Baal worship impeded upon the pure and exclusive praise and worship of the Holy One of Israel. The history of how God punished even the anointed kings of His people in past history—when they permitted and even participated in the worship of Baal and other false gods—is something that has to be remembered and considered in light of these conflicting attempts to serve two masters. Most poignant is the corrective actions taken by Jehu, and how he was called to exact God’s judgment upon the Divided Kingdom as found in 2 Kings 9-10. For further reading, note how when God is ready to bring His justice down on a corrupt society, He shows very little mercy. In fact, my serious concern for these merchants of God’s Word, as we embark on a season of revival and restoration in 2016, that the Apostle Peter’s warning is about to manifest among those who are trying to serve God and wealth:

“**For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?** AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER [Proverbs 11:31]? Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right” (1 Peter 4:17-19).

But take note that when Peter wrote this statement about judgment, he was focused on some additional truths found in the Book of Proverbs:

“**He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.** He who troubles his own house will inherit wind, and the foolish will be servant to the wisehearted. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, **and he who is wise wins souls. If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!**” (Proverbs 11:28-31).

Here, we see a heavy admonition to the foolish ones who have used the gospel to

enrich themselves. They will eventually fall and become servants to the wisehearted, those whose focus is actually on winning souls for the Kingdom of God during their time here on Earth.

Thankfully, I believe the Holy One is currently in the process of raising up a generation of wise young people, who know one thing without reservation: **every kingdom has a king!** And by God's grace, they are circumventing the ecclesiastical powers which have the resources and institutional structures in place, and instead, appealing to King Yeshua/Jesus for their marching orders. Hallelujah! With that being said, I truly believe 2016 is going to be an incredible year of souls harvested and righteous fruit for God's Kingdom here on Earth.

From my extremely limited perspective, I want to share what I see happening in the first six months of 2016 here in North Texas, where our family resides, despite my concerns noted above. While I attempt to keep up with what is happening in the world through media reports, following a variety of Messiah-oriented ministries, and friend's e-mails from years of relationships developed in the evangelical and Messianic communities of faith—my primary focus today is on what I am involved with locally. At this point in time, after 38 years of pursuing the Holy One of Israel with the blood covering of the Messiah Yeshua, I have never before witnessed a convergence of mostly Spirit-led events which I suspect (Lord willing) may in many respects be a significant resurgence of His presence, through the planned efforts of a variety of godly people.

Provisionally, my calendar is already highlighted with unique planned activities and events that I believe are the culmination of years of prayers that have been offered to the Holy One of Israel to bring transformation and revival to the North Texas area. I personally have had the privilege to participate in many of these prayers since 2010, and the golden bowls in Heaven full of incense (Revelation 5:8) seem to be positioned to be poured out upon this region. Could this perhaps be yet another occurrence of what Peter and the other disciples experienced on what is commonly referred to as Pentecost, *Shavuot*, or the Feast of Weeks—some ten days after the ascension of the Son to sit and rule from the right hand of His Father? A brief description of what happened nearly two thousand years ago follows:

“And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our *own* tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.’ And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others were mocking and saying, ‘They are full of sweet wine.’ But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: ‘Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: “AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,” God says, “THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT and they shall prophesy. AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,

BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED [Joel 2:28-32]” (Acts 2:8-21).

Peter and his companions witnessed the initial fulfillment of the Joel 2:28-32 prophecies. From our perspective in 2016, we understand that the Day of Pentecost was an outpouring of the Spirit of God, which supernaturally enabled the faithful followers of the Torah commands (Exodus 23:14-17), who were gathered in Jerusalem on *Shavuot*, to return to their respective countries with the gospel of the Kingdom. The Lord ultimately used their Holy Spirit led empowerment and zeal for the Kingdom, to literally turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6), as the greater Mediterranean basin heard the good news of the sacrificial death of the Messiah of Israel. Since the First Century, Peter further noted that there would be “times of refreshing” (or revivals or awakenings) which are a result of repentance and returning to God, in order for people to be delivered from the condemnation of transgressions committed against Him:

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, **in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**; and that He may send Yeshua, the Messiah appointed for you, whom heaven must receive **until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time**” (Acts 3:19-21).

Perhaps with all of the events planned and scheduled for this year, another “time of refreshing” is part of the Father’s will for this region and beyond? Time will certainly tell. But once again from my incomplete viewpoint of what is scheduled, I am aware of **far too many** planned activities from different entities, *all wanting* to bring transformation to the people of the region. Without sounding too optimistic, is it possible that the Lord does want to bring repentance and revival to the thousands of souls, who are secretly seeking answers to the complexities of life that only He can solve?

December’s OIM article entitled, “**Revival: A Generational Shift,**” was an effusive attempt to forewarn others about what I personally perceived when event after event started popping up on the horizon for 2016. I did not elaborate upon what precipitated my joy, with reservations about some of the challenges ahead, because I did not want to cast any shadows upon the zeal and enthusiasm evident in the hearts of those called to take the good news to the highways and byways of the region.

With many synergistic collaboratives planned in the Dallas area for 2016, let me share what I experienced when the first organizational meeting for the **reviveDALLAS** leadership group gathered on November 16, 2015. At that time, I had just been studying *Toldot* (Genesis 25:19-28:9) in the weekly Torah portions, which includes Genesis 26. As I sat in the room with about 40-50 other invited pastors and ministers, the meeting coordinator asked the audience if there were any “words” on their hearts that needed to be mentioned before the meeting commenced. As I listened intently, the first word that came forth was simply “wells,” without any significant explanation in my recollection. But that word had me immediately reflect upon the “wells” which are extensively referred to in Genesis 26. As the presentation proceeded, the overhead projection showed a map of the region which was identical to the printed materials we had been handed to follow along. The greater Dallas area on the map had seven distinct districts that looked like broad spokes on a wheel. The plan was to begin in the northern reaches of the city with the major highways as boundaries, and for each week of the seven-week outreach, move clockwise from

north to east to south to west and back around, to complete the circle and cover the entire area depicted.

Provisionally, the first area to be evangelized was the most affluent area in the Dallas Metroplex. It was bounded on the west by the North Dallas Tollway and on the east by North Central Expressway (US 75). This just happens to be the area where the greatest concentration of wealth per capita is located, and naturally where the most influential churches and ministries are located. As I pondered the obvious generational shift I discerned was in the offing, I noticed a pattern described in Genesis 26, when Isaac was in the midst of returning to Gerar in the Promised Land, to reclaim the area where he, Rebecca, and his father Abraham and mother Sarah formerly resided. But as the following passage reveals, “blessed and wealthy” Isaac and his entourage were not welcomed by the current residents, who had taken possession of the territory, and the wells that were originally dug up by Abraham and his servants:

“Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. **And the LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy;** for he had possessions of flocks and herds and a great household, so that the Philistines **envied him**. Now all the wells which his father’s servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines stopped up by filling them with earth. Then Abimelech said to Isaac, ‘Go away from us, for you are too powerful for us.’ And Isaac departed from there and camped in the valley of Gerar, and settled there. **Then Isaac dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of his father Abraham, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the same names which his father had given them.** But when Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and found there a well of flowing water, **the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with the herdsmen of Isaac, saying, ‘The water is ours!’ So he named the well Esek, because they contended with him”** (Genesis 26:12-20).

As I pondered this set of circumstances and reflected on the region to be evangelized in Week One of *reviveDALLAS*, I received the strong impression that the young generation of zealous evangelists just might run into similar problems with the ecclesiastical institutions which have prospered in this territory. After all, for whatever reasons, there has developed in Christianity a “silo mentality,” which is contrary to the Lord’s admonition to take the gospel to the “fields” which are ready to be harvested. In other words, despite all of the good works which have been done by churches and ministries in whatever their specific call for the Kingdom was or is, there is a human tendency to build “silos” for self-preservation in the very fields which are ripe for harvest. Budgets to meet, and overhead to cover and buildings to maintain, becomes a primary focus. And since these people are all doing “good works” as unto the Lord, who is to say that the methods they have been employing to minister to the souls in their respective region is not what He intended? And on top of all of that, these “young upstarts,” wanting to come into their areas of influence and use radical measures to take the gospel to the highways and byways—without going through the established institutions with their resources—was presumptuous. Immediately, I thought of the potential for **quarrels** (or “Esek”) among the old guard and the upstarts. But there was more.

The second week of outreach and sharing the gospel continued, in a wheeling movement to the east, and covered the territory between North Central Expressway (US 75) and Interstate Highway 30 to the east. This happens to be the area where we reside, and I was curious that the pattern of quarreling seemed to apply. After all, the region’s Muslim community (Islamic Center) was located smack dab in the middle of

this designated area! When I returned to the Genesis 26 passage, I was astounded that Isaac continued to have additional problems with those who resided in the area, and in addition, the second well he tried to secure to water his numerous herds and livestock, had an ominous name attached to it because of the adversarial challenges which ensued:

“Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over it too, so he named it *Sitnah*” (Genesis 26:21).

It just so happens that the name of the second well that was in dispute is *Sitnah* (סִטְנָה), which can mean “accusation” (BDB, 966), and is related to *satan* (שָׂטָן), which generically means “accuser” but more formally is the term for Satan (cf. Revelation 12:10). Again, I concluded that the second week of outreach had the potential, if the pattern holds from the ancient incidents, that the first two weeks of the outreach is going to be rife with quarrels and attempts by the Enemy of our souls, whether through sincere, but jealous, religious people or even those completely opposed (Muslims) to the gospel of Yeshua. *My concern that these young people needed to be apprised of these possible issues to contend with continued.* But as the passage from Genesis 26 went on, eventually Isaac found the open areas (Rehoboth) which could handle the influx of livestock that needed the waters provided by the many wells, and the grazing areas they can irrigate:

“He moved away from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it; so he named it Rehoboth, for he said, ‘At last the LORD has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land.’ Then he went up from there to Beersheba. The LORD appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you, and multiply your descendants, for the sake of My servant Abraham.’ So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well” (Genesis 26:22-25).

Needless to say, as I was noticing these patterns, I was led toward the end of the meeting to stand up and read the salient parts of John 4, describing Yeshua's encounter with the woman at the well in Samaria. I wanted to share the significance of the wells of Beersheba, and a connection between the wells of salvation and the living waters referenced, *and* the living waters that will usher forth from the innermost being of the redeemed (John 7:38). Clearly with wells on my mind, this seemed appropriate. But before I could make my concluding remarks about how the seven weeks were significant in relation to the seven wells of Beersheba, and the 42 stops for the six churches in each region for seven weeks, I was rudely interrupted by an older gentleman, who literally cut me off while I was reading the passage from John 4. **“Whoa,” I thought.** **Have the attacks already begun, or is this just a forewarning that they are yet to come?**

Finally, if the pattern holds, by the third week of the seven-week outreach to share the gospel, the area from IH 30 swinging south to IH 45, just happens to be where the lowest land with the most water is located. In fact, this is where the three forks of the Trinity River finally come together, and where the White Rock Creek watershed finally enters into the Trinity River basin. These are indeed broad and heavily watered lands which I believe will be a welcome relief to all of the quarreling which takes place during the first two weeks. In fact, because I take the study of the Torah seriously, if you fast forward to the Torah readings for the first week of the outreach (*Shimini*, “Eighth”: Leviticus 9:1-11:47), then the second week (*Tazria*, “She Conceives”: Leviticus 12:1- 13:59), and finally the third week (*Metzora*, “Unclean/

Leprosy”: Leviticus 14:1-15:33), I believe that there are some additional interesting patterns that the Lord is trying to communicate to His beloved children, who have a heart to share the good news with others.

But rather than elaborate on all of this, let me share what Yeshua declares to His Disciples when He encourages them to take the gospel of the Kingdom to all:

“They went out of the city, and were coming to Him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, eat.’ But He said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples were saying to one another, ‘No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?’ Yeshua said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, “There are yet four months, and *then* comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.** Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; **so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, “One sows and another reaps.”** I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor” (John 4:30-38).

In the case of all the good work which has been done in the greater Dallas area to spread the gospel, there is no doubt that a great deal of seed has been sown. For scores of years, the laborers in the fields have been doing their jobs to share the good news and disciple others to repeat their efforts. The harvest has been plentiful, and by far, this region has a higher percentage of people familiar with and educated on the truths found in the Bible, than many others in America. This is a good report. But as indicated in Yeshua’s words above, those who have done the good works have widely already received their wages. The key is to understand that no matter whether you sow or reap, the blessing to laborers is that souls are won to the Lord. Still, it is imperative that we all rejoice together! *This is the work of the Kingdom.* And until the Messiah returns to rule and reign from Jerusalem, it is our charge to take the gospel to whomever, whenever, and however, as the Spirit of the Lord leads.

I believe the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) is leading many of these efforts in the Dallas area (and even around the world from reports I am receiving) at this point in time. **In my opinion, the synergistic convergence is beyond mere chance.** The questions before me and you are whether God will have mercy on America, so that we can restore our culture to the Judeo-Christian principles upon which it was founded. Or, whether these unique Spirit-led collaborative efforts are designed to bring in a final harvest before times get even tougher. We need and request the intercessory prayers of the saints from around the globe! Please, as you are led, pray that the harvest is done in a way which brings glory and honor to our King, Messiah Yeshua, and our Heavenly Father, the Holy One of Israel. But be warned: oftentimes as history has shown, revival is coupled with judgment. Therefore, we need to also pray for those who might be intimidated or feel imposed upon by what I have discerned is a much needed generational shift. Pray that those who have faithfully labored are able to see what the Spirit of God is doing at this hour. For as the earlier referenced proverb clearly states with resounding clarity,

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls. **If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!”** (Proverbs 11:30-31).

May God have mercy on those who are blind or deaf, or even partially blinded and hard of hearing to what the Spirit of God has done, is doing, and will do—as He continues to advance His Kingdom until the prophesied Messianic restoration of all things...

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS UPDATE

January 2016

Dear Friends:

2016 begins a little different than 2015 began. At the beginning of 2015, much of my attention was spent preparing for an upcoming Wednesday Night Bible Study on 1 Corinthians. 2016 begins with the post-production



of *1 Corinthians for the Practical Messianic* in paperback and eBook, meaning that the subsequent 2 Corinthians Bible Study will likely not begin until sometime in February. Still, a sixteen chapter letter like 1 Corinthians was completed in just under a year! I certainly feel a great deal of excitement as 2 Corinthians will be the last of the Pauline Epistles I have to address.

2015 was not the year all of us expected it to be. While I had anticipated the legalization of homosexual marriage in the United States for quite some time, and knew that it was going to have a negative impact on the future generation of evangelical Christianity—something quantitatively “died” inside of me to evangelicalism this past year. *I know some of you do not want to hear this*, because we are all the beneficiaries of the positive virtues and legacy of much of evangelicalism (whether we admit so or not) from the 1980s and 1990s. **But these are now the mid-to-late 2010s!** We are in a different time—and while I will freely admit that evangelicalism might have a few proverbial “tricks up its sleeve” left—it is approaching an “expiration date” sometime in the 2020s. A mature Messianic movement, which has benefited from seeing a generation of Jewish people come to saving faith in the Messiah of Israel, as well as many non-Jewish Believers embrace their Hebraic and Jewish Roots in a very tangible way—has a responsibility *today* to learn the fuller dynamics of the salvation-history trajectory of “all Israel will be saved” (Romans 11:26) and the consummation of the Messianic Age. We are going to *step into the forefront* as some time in the future, as humanity enters into the “final stretch” before the Messiah’s return.

The great advantage for me is that this next year, everything that I am doing is quantitatively “new.” The upcoming Wednesday Night Bible Study on 2 Corinthians will be the primary task I will be working on. On the other writing track, I will be continuing to work on *Salvation on the Line: The Nature of Yeshua and His Divinity*. I have catalogued literally hundreds of Bible passages, needing some analysis, for this resource. I have purposefully kept the exact number ambiguous so I do not feel overloaded. Writing this massive resource is very much like having to write scores of FAQ entries. And, it may end up being two volumes when completed due to size! Finally, it is my intention to utilize YouTube video podcasts far more frequently than I ever have before, with a personal goal of seeing a directory of up to 150 videos completed by the end of 2016. As they say, we will see...

Until next month...

J.K. McKee