

Good News for Israel

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The Messiah in Hanukkah



The Light of Bethlehem is the True Light of Hanukkah

My Two Shekels

Dear Friends,

I have to be great full for having thrived and survived thru our 129th year. We have been approached by 3 different national regional Christian radio groups to air our show. We are weighing our options and seeing if it makes dollars and sense for us to do this. We also just had our best annual meeting ever with app. 300 participants to see the great demonstration the temple sacrifice service by Dr. Terry Harman. It was awesome to see what God was teaching Israel all those years about the sacrificial Lamb. I've had more invitations to speak then ever before. Hallujah! People are hungry for reality about what's going on and the role that Israel has to play in the End times. I am actually invited to speak to an entire town in northern Minnesota at the local and only theater about what Jews, Christians and Muslims believe about the "Last Days". I am very excited about that. There are signs



all around us that things are getting worse and not better as some Christian leaders would have you believe. I don't know what planet they live on.

I would like to end on a high note from the prophet Linus- *Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, [b] an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone*

around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,

who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" better known as Luke 2:8-14

*Shalom,
Chris Heeb*

What We Believe...

We are not a church, denomination nor synagogue. We are the oldest evangelical outreach in the nation to the Jewish and Christian communities (129 years!). We come alongside everyone who desires to have a penetrating understanding of their Biblical heritage in our Lord and Savior, Yeshua/Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.

We strongly believe in the Scriptural mandate of Romans 1:16, spoken by the apostle Paul, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to the Jew first, then the Gentile (everyone else)." That's why, "Good News for Israel means good news for everyone!"

We also believe in the heart of Ruth 1:16, which says, "Your people shall be my people and your God my God." Your people refers to Jesus' physical family of Israel, the Jews and your God refers to the Father God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jesus. Ruth 1:16 and Romans 1:16 are Scriptural bookends the Author of the Bible, Yeshua wants you to know!

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Notes to GNFI

Thank you for the radio voices and the work put into historical research. As a former teacher, I really appreciate the time everyone at GNFI puts in. Bles-sings, Bob

Keep up the good work. I wish I were closer so I could visit, but I don't drive any more at 88. It is a blessing to have money to give; we will leave it behind; Jesus loves you and I do, too. Vi

Thank you to all of the men and women of the armed forces who are giving their lives for this world conflict.

The Messiah in Hanukkah

By Robin Sampson and Linda Pierce*

The law did not require Jews to be at the Temple in Jerusalem, as this was not one of the pilgrimage festivals. Every one observed it in his own place, not as a holy time. Jesus was there that He might improve those eight days of holiday for good purposes.

Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch when the Sadducees asked him "How long dost Thou make us to doubt? If Thou be the Christ tell us." They pretended to want to know the truth, as if they were ready to embrace it; but it was not their intention.

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in My Father's Name, they bear witness of Me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of My sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me," John 10:25-27. He had told them, and they believed not; why then should they be told again, merely to gratify their curiosity?

Miracles

Hanukkah's theme is of a miracle. During Hanukkah, Jesus spoke of His miracles: "If I do not the works of My Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not Me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me, and I in Him", John 10:37,38.

Jesus wanted the people of His day to see His miracles and believe in Him as a result. His miracles point to His divine and Messianic identity. In this way Yeshua personifies the message of Hanukkah: God actively involved in the affairs of His people. Hanukkah reminds us God is a God of miracles, not just of concepts and religious ideals. He has broken through into human history and continues to do so today. All of us who know Yeshua can speak of God's working in our lives.**

Jesus is the Light of the World

Jesus preached three sermons in which He declared Himself the "light of the

world," and all three could have been during Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. It is not clear from the text when this incident happened, but it was some time between the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah); both of these celebrations focused on light.

Then Jesus said unto them, "Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide Himself from them, John 12:35-36.



Just before Jesus announced He was the Light of the world, He had shone upon the conscience of those who accused the adulteress. Read the story in John Chapter 8. John also records Jesus healing a blind man in 9:1-12 at about the same time Jesus declared Himself Light of the world: "When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.' He went his way and washed, and came away seeing," John 9:5-7.

End Times

The story of Hanukkah can be compared with end-time happenings described in the books of Revelation and Daniel. Antiochus is a type of the antiChrist. Just as

happened under the rule of Antiochus, Daniel prophesied in 9:27, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

The same powers promoted by Antiochus are in the world today. Worldwide immorality, and idolatry are the norm. We must come out and be separate. And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. The deceiver stands waiting to devour in this present culture," 2 Corinthians 6:16-17.

Was Jesus Conceived on Hanukkah?

Many believe our Messiah, the "Light of the world," was conceived on the festival of lights, Hanukkah. The Bible does not specifically say the date of Jesus' birth. It was not during the winter months because the sheep were in the pasture, Luke 2:8. A study of the time of the conception of John the Baptist reveals he was conceived about Sivan 30, the eleventh week, Luke 1:8-13, 24. Adding 40 weeks, for a normal pregnancy reveals John the Baptist was born on or about Passover, Nisan 14. Six months after John's conception, Mary conceived Jesus, Luke 1:26-33; therefore, Jesus would have been conceived six months after Sivan 30 in the month of Kislev—Hanukkah. Was the "Light of the world," conceived on the festival of lights? Starting at Hanukkah, which begins on Kislev 25 and continues for eight days, and counting through the nine months of Mary's pregnancy, one arrives at the approximate time of the birth of Jesus at the Festival of Tabernacles.

*Excerpt from *A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays with Activities for All Ages*, by Robin Sampson and Linda Pierce, Heart of Wisdom Publishing, Virginia, 2004, available at Good News for Israel book store for \$40. This 500+ teaching manual is great for home schoolers or Sunday school teachers.

MEET MIKE DECKER – our Jerusalem Correspondent

Testimony:

Michael Decker's Parents came to Israel in 1980 as a Christian Zionist couple, intending to bless the Jewish Nation and to see and experience the Biblical prophecies concerning the Jewish people fulfilled.

Michael and his four brothers and sisters were born and raised in Israel, attended Israeli public schools, and two of them have served in the Israeli army. Michael's father was employed at the Israel Weather Service in Beit Dagan and in 1990, after the Gulf War, Michael's family was granted permanent residency status.

Even though, Michael's parents raised him to be a believer and explained to him many of the Biblical prophecies fulfilled in Yeshua, proving He is the Jewish Messiah, Michael never wanted to believe.

As an Israeli, he was influenced by the mainstream Jewish secular belief Yeshua is not the Messiah and God is a vague, philosophical concept and not a divine Friend desirous of a personal and individual relationship with mankind. In 1996 when Michael was in 10th grade, he decided to fulfill the Israeli dream of making money, driving a nice car, having rich friends and living a sensual lifestyle of parties, drugs and the fulfillment of the lusts of the flesh.

Three years later, while falling into a pit of despair and hopelessness due to the sensual and meaningless lifestyle he was leading, Michael received a supernatural revelation. In his despair, Michael prayed to the God he was told about in his youth and reached out in faith toward Yeshua, the one who Michael's parents claimed to be the Messiah. At this point, Michael looked and saw a bright light which made a great spiritual significance in his heart.

During the following year Michael invested his time in studying the Word of God in order to determine, without a shadow of a doubt, the belief whereby Yeshua is the Messiah and the Son of David is true.

In his research Michael was amazed to discover the prophets all pointed to Yeshua in an amazing way, which included, among other things, the place where He would be born, the

way He would be born, the position He would play, His lineage, and the exact time He would fulfill His mandate. Subsequently, Michael joined a local Messianic congregation called "Shemen Sasson" and decided to study at the Israel College of the Bible to strengthen the foundations of his faith.



Profile:

After studying Theology and Biblical studies at the Israel College of the Bible, Michael noticed there was a great lacking within the local community of Israeli believers in the market, in business and in the legal and political fields of society. Not long after in 2003, Michael began studying law at the Academic Law College of Ramat Gan and finished his legal studies in 2007. During his studies Michael was accepted to work at one of the top ten prestigious law firms in Israel, Yehuda Raveh & Co.

Michael majored in constitutional law focusing on the relationship between religion and state within the Nation of Israel, a Jewish and Democratic nation, and the protection the Israeli courts and governmental institutions are obliged to grant the various minority groups within the nation of Israel, including the local Christian and Messianic Jewish communities.

Today Michael is an activist at the Jerusalem Institute of Justice, and assists many Christian and Messianic families in immigrating into Israel and in receiving various visas in Israel. Furthermore, Michael desires to educate the local and foreign Messianic and Christian communities regarding their rights in the Israeli democratic state, with the objective of advancing freedom of religion and equality to all sectors of society.

He also wants to encourage Christian Zionists from around the world to invest in Israel's real estate, commerce and business. He is willing to instruct them in all of the associated legal aspects.

In addition to his professional activities, Michael serves on the board of several Messianic and Christian non-profit entities and as one of the leaders of Shemen Sasson, a congregation of Israeli believers in Yeshua, where he also teaches regularly and leads a home-cell group.

Hi!

Enjoy your program. (I don't like to have it called a "show")

I have been working on getting our church to include a Jewish mission in our mission budget.

Now they are working on having a Conference Baptist in our budget. At least they are becoming interested in the Jewish people. I'll do my push for the Jew with you "characters" by sending you a little. Keep up the good work. I wish I were closer so I could visit, but I don't drive that far any more. I'm 88 and have about 28 doners. It is a blessing to have money to give. We will leave it behind.

Jesus loves you and I do, too.

Vi Tabb

Messianic Jews and the “Law of Return”

By Mike Decker

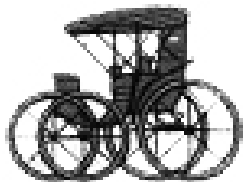
The nation of Israel has the right to define itself as a Jewish nation. Unfortunately, a Messianic Jew is not considered Jewish for the purposes of the “Law of Return.”

The Messianic Jewish community claims it is another stream within Judaism resurrecting after 2,000 years of silence. The Messianic Jewish community explains its legitimacy by historical and theological claims.

Theologically, Messianic Jews claim Yeshua is really the promised Messiah according to the Messianic prophecies revealed in the Jewish scriptures, and historically they claim all the first followers of Yeshua were devout Jews.

With the establishment of the Jewish nation, many Jewish people have been convinced Yeshua is truly the Messiah according to the Jewish scriptures and have consequently begun to believe in Yeshua, while insisting on keeping their Jewish identity.

Today, the Messianic Jewish community consists of approximately 15,000 members within the nation of Israel and approximately 300,000 members world wide. This is a religious community, which believes both in the Tanach and in the New Testament, and that Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel, according to the many prophecies revealed in the Tanach.



The Messianic Jewish community is recognized as having a Zionistic and pro-Israel approach, among many other reasons, because they see the re-establishment of the nation of Israel as the fulfillment of scriptural prophecy. Therefore, the members of the Messianic Jewish community as loyal citizens of Israel are prompt to serve in the army and to fulfill all their legal obligations.

Even so, this personal definition of the Messianic Jewish community is not yet accepted by many within the Jewish nation and is thoroughly rejected by the different orthodox streams within Judaism.

The “Law of Return,” a secular law, is the central, legal expression of the nation of Israel, a nation for all Jewish people. This law was made in the Knesset July 5, 1950

and it grants every Jew, secular or religious, the right to immigrate into Israel and to receive an Oleh Certificate, which according to the Law of Citizenship, is an immediate prerequisite before receiving an Israeli citizenship.



In the year 1970 as a result of two famous constitutional court decisions, *Roffeisen v. the Minister of Interior* and *Binyamin Shalit v. the Minister of Interior*, an amendment was made to the “Law of Return” which defined a Jew is a person born of a Jewish mother and is not part of a different religion.

After an additional amendment granting the right of return also to family members of Jews, this right was conditioned to the ones who **did not willfully change their religion**. Now, and subsequent to the amendment of the “Law of Return,” I wish to review all the court decisions which have determined a Jew who believes in Yeshua is part of a different religion, according to the definition given to a Jew in the “Law of Return;” and as a person who willfully changed his religion according to the section which grants family members of Jews to immigrate into Israel.

Hatshins v. the Minister of Interior court decision deals with a family, belonging to the Christian religion, who decided to convert to Judaism in order to immigrate to Israel, by virtue of the “Law of Return,” and to establish a congregation to teach Jews it is possible to both believe in Yeshua and to remain Jewish. Once their plot was discovered, their conversion was cancelled, along with their right to immigrate to Israel.

Justice Berenson wrote in his decision, words which echo in all similar court decisions made thereafter: “Concerning Yeshuim who are considered and recognized as Jews. This is absolutely unacceptable; ask any Jew on the street if this phenomena is probable and their definite answer will be ‘no.’”

Two years later an additional case transpired in *Dorflinger v. the Minister of Interior*. A Jewess named Ester Dorflinger requested to

immigrate to Israel and to receive an Israeli citizenship as a Jew, but was rejected since the Ministry of Interior decided she is part of a different religion.

Ms Dorflinger fervently insisted there is no contradiction between being Jewish and believing Yeshua is the Messiah.

However, to the regret of the members of the Messianic Jewish community, she did not succeed in convincing the judges. In the wording of Justice Victon, “She has raised many extended and tortuous claims as to the possible link of a Jew believing in Yeshua as the Messiah, as if we are living today in the beginning of the first century, and as if since then nothing has transpired as it relates to different religious structures established and have disconnected themselves from Judaism, and for all those who choose to join those different paths.”



After very solid and broad precedents had already been determined, as it is related to Jews who believe in Yeshua, an additional court decision was made.

In *Beresford v. the Minister of Interior*, a Messianic Jewish family attempted to immigrate into Israel by virtue of the “Law of Return” and was denied. Despite the fact this issue had already been settled and negative precedents had already been set, this family decided to appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice.

In a court decision spread over many pages given by Justice Elon, a Religious Judge, it was unquestionably determined any Jew who believes in Yeshua in any shape or form and/or any Messianic Jew is part of a different religion and has decided to willfully change his/her own religion.

A short time later, an additional court decision was made in *Kendel v. the Minister of Interior* wherein the Beresford family, along with several other families who belong to the Messianic Jewish community, appealed before the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice, claiming they are now inactive in Messianic

Jewish activity and a separation needs to be made between their inner beliefs and their external activities.

Justice Netanyahu rejected their claims. As it relates to the other families, Justice Netanyahu also rejected their appeal for different reasons.

The most recent court decision was made in 1995 in *David Yochanan v. the Minister of Interior*. Justice Aharon Barak said David Yochanan, who did not have any documentation to prove he was Jewish, was denied any right to immigrate into Israel as he claimed to be a Messianic Jew.



As we can now examine, all the abovementioned decisions created a negative precedent for the Messianic Jewish community. These are being reviewed in almost every constitutional discussion in Israel, wherein the important question is raised, “**Who is a Jew?**”

Consequently, there are several suggested drafts for basic laws indicating the “Law of Return” does not apply to Messianic Jews, such as in the treaty between Professor Ruth Gabizon and Rabi Ya’akov Madan, and which can be found at www.gavison-medan.org.il.

The legal situation has been created, as it relates to Messianic Jews: a Messianic Jew, whose mother is Jewish, is considered a **Jew who willfully changed his/her religion**, but is part of a different religion, is not entitled to immigrate. Yet, a Messianic Jew whose father, grandfather, or spouse is Jewish, according to the definition in the “Law of Return” is entitled to immigrate to Israel.

Such a Messianic Jew immigrates into Israel because he is a family member of a Jew and therefore such a Messianic Jew has never changed his religion and the fact he is part of a different religion, as defined by these court decisions, is altogether irrelevant.

Many obstacles have arisen for the Messianic Jewish community regarding these decisions, the major one being a wrong implementation of the precedent made.



The registration clerks at the Ministry of Interior are not required to be educated about all of these legal matters. Therefore, being “an average Jew on the street,” according to *their* understanding, **every person** who is part of the Messianic Jewish community is not entitled to immigrate into Israel by virtue of the “Law of Return.” This understanding is felt and interpreted as a decision being made in an exclusive manner.

This particular obstacle is intensified and deployed when one considers the information regarding the various members of the Messianic Jewish community is, for the most part, being communicated to the registration clerks by activists of extreme fundamental religious groups who purpose to prevent Jews from believing in ways different from *their* laws, from immigrating into Israel.

In other cases after some Messianic Jews have already immigrated into Israel, the Ministry of Interior can refuse to renew their passports, refuse to register their newly born children, and in extreme cases revoke their citizenship. In essence, the above situation reveals an illegal alliance between a governmental office obligated to operate in a non-discriminative, legal and equal manner and between fundamental religious groups, their core values being to advance their main objectives of preventing Jews from believing in ways different from theirs.



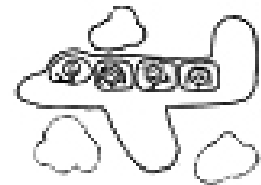
An appeal attacking this wrong implementation of the precedents made in the aforesaid court decisions is *Sean Stakbak and others v. the Minister of Interior*.

This appeal, which was submitted before the Israel Supreme Court of Justice in February 2005, deals with a group of petitioners who belong to the Messianic Jewish community, are not considered Jewish according to the definition in the “Law of Return,” but who are requesting to immigrate into Israel as family members of Jews. A decision to

this appeal has not yet been given. It must be emphasized, however, the Messianic Jews who are Israeli citizens, have the potential to greatly influence the nation of Israel as a group is expanding and as of today consists of 15,000 members.

All these appeals were made by foreigners who have attempted to immigrate into Israel and were refused by the Ministry of Interior. The nation of Israel has the right to define itself as a Jewish nation and the definition given is a Messianic Jew is not considered Jewish for the purposes of the “Law of Return.” However, most of the court decisions, which have dealt with discrimination against the Messianic Jews who are citizens of the nation of Israel, were in favor of the members of the Messianic Jewish community who have been harassed simply because of their beliefs.

These acts of harassment stand in opposition to the laws of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. In this Jewish and democratic state, the character of the nation has been formed by its activist citizens.



It seems one of the main problems is the Messianic Jews in Israel have not been active enough in Israel society.

Perhaps they do not realize their voice could have a strong influence on the decisions made by Israeli leaders and even on the nation of Israel as a whole. It seems they also may be greatly intimidated by the real threat of ostracism and persecution by those who have proven to be vehemently against their beliefs. It is also likely the Messianic Jewish community does not know its legal rights as citizens of Israel.

The government of Israel certainly has the right to define itself. Yet the citizens of the nation also must have the opportunity and right to have a part in forming this aforesaid definition as well.

This article first appeared in Kivun Magazine, Israel.

The Jewish Grinches Who Stole Christmas

By Burt Prelutsky

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I never thought I'd live to see the day Christmas would become a dirty word. You think it hasn't?

Then why is it people are being prevented from saying it in polite society for fear it will offend? Schools are being forced to replace *Christmas vacation with winter break* in their printed schedules. At Macy's, the word is verboten even though they've made untold millions of dollars from their sympathetic portrayal in the Christmas classic, *Miracle on 34th Street*.

Carols, even instrumental versions, are banned in certain places. A major postal delivery service has not only made their drivers doff their Santa caps, but ordered them not to decorate their trucks with Christmas wreaths.

How is it, one might ask, in a Christian nation this is happening? And in case you find that designation objectionable, would you deny India is a Hindu country, that Pakistan is Muslim, that Poland is Catholic? That doesn't mean those nations are theocracies. But when the overwhelming majority of a country's population is of one religion, and roughly 90 percent of Americans happen to be one sort of Christian, only a fool would deny the obvious.

Although it seems a long time ago, it really wasn't, that people who came here from other places made every attempt to fit in. Assimilation wasn't a threat to anyone, it was what the Statue of Liberty represented.

E pluribus unum, one out of many, was our motto. The world's melting pot was our nickname. It didn't mean any group of people had to check their customs, culture or cuisine at the door. It did mean they, and especially their children, learned English, and they learned to live and let live.

That has changed, you may have noticed. And I blame my fellow Jews. When it comes to pushing the multicultural, anti-Christian agenda, you find Jewish judges, Jewish journalists, and the

American Civil Liberties Union, at the forefront.

Being Jewish, I should report, Christmas was never celebrated by my family. But what was there not to like about the holiday? To begin with, it provided a welcome break from school. The decorated trees were nice, the lights were beautiful, *It's a Wonderful Life* was a great movie, and some of the best Christmas songs were written by Jews



But the dirty little secret in America is that anti-Semitism is no longer a problem in society, it's been replaced by a rampant anti-Christianity. For example, the hatred spewed toward George W. Bush has far less to do with his policies than it does with his religion.

The Jews voice no concern when a Bill Clinton or John Kerry makes a big production out of showing up at black Baptist churches or posing with Rev. Jesse Jackson because they understand that's politics. They only object to politicians attending church for religious reasons.

My fellow Jews who often have the survival of Israel heading the list of their concerns when it comes to electing a president, only gave 26 percent of their vote to Bush, even though he is clearly the most pro-Israel president we've ever had in the Oval Office.

It is the ACLU, which is overwhelmingly Jewish in terms of membership and funding, that is leading the attack against Christianity in America. It is they

who have conned far too many people into believing the phrase "separation of church and state" actually exists somewhere in the Constitution.

You may have noticed, though, the ACLU is highly selective when it comes to religious intolerance. The same group of self-righteous shysters who, at the drop of a "Merry Christmas" will slap you with an injunction, will fight for the right of an American Indian to ingest peyote and a devout Islamic woman to be veiled on her driver's license.

I happen to despise bullies and bigots. I hate them when they represent the majority, but no less when, like Jews in America, they represent an infinitesimal minority. I am getting the idea too many Jews won't be happy until they pull off their own version of the Spanish Inquisition, forcing Christians to either deny their faith and convert to agnosticism or suffer the consequences.

I should point out many of these people abhor Judaism every bit as much as they do Christianity. They're the ones who behave as if atheism were a calling. They're the nutcakes who go berserk if anyone even says, "In God we trust," or mentions the Declaration of Independence refers to a Creator with a capital "C." By this time, I'm only surprised they haven't begun a campaign to do away with Sunday as a day of rest. After all, it's only for religious reasons – Christian reasons – that Sunday, and not Tuesday or Wednesday, is so designated.

This is a Christian nation, my friends. And all of us are fortunate it is and that so many Americans have seen fit to live up to the highest precepts of their religion. Speaking as a member of a minority group – and one of the smaller ones at that – I say it behooves those of us who don't accept Jesus Christ as our Savior to show some gratitude to those who do, and to start respecting the values and traditions of the overwhelming majority of our fellow citizens, just as we keep insisting they respect ours.

Merry Christmas

Christmas in Jerusalem

by Daniel Rogov

When General Allenby entered Jerusalem in 1917, the Jews of the city were celebrating Chanukah and the Christians were preparing for the feast of Christmas.

Allenby, leading the British expeditionary force that expelled the Turks from the Holy Land was welcomed enthusiastically by the Jewish and Christian residents of the city and, because it was close to Christmas, he was asked if there was a special dish he would like prepared for his own celebration.

Allenby did not pause at all before replying he would gain great pleasure from a plum pudding.

It was at the Convent of the Sisters of Zion, also known as the Ecce Homo convent, that Dominican nuns prepared this treat for the general.

In various parts of the world, different dishes are considered *de rigueur* for Christmas dinner. Englishmen and women could probably not survive the holiday without turkey and the French would find life most trying on this special day if deprived of their roast goose. Germans demand duckling with apples and Americans have settled in comfortably with baked ham served with yams.

Because Christians from each of those nations reside in Jerusalem today, each of these dishes is well known in Israel. But, regardless of whether one is in Madrid or London, Jerusalem or Weisbaden, there is no dish more highly valued as a Christmas dessert than plum pudding.

The origins of this delicacy are found in the 10th Century when it was served as a first course, porridge-like dish. The dish as we (and General Allenby) know it was devised by Guillaume Tirel or Taillevent, as he preferred to call himself, the personal chef of King Charles V of France.

In 1375, the king informed his chef he would be hosting a Christmas party for 600 of his subjects and specifically requested that some "new and exciting sweet course be set forth for my pleasure." Taillevent, one of the first great

chefs of France, proved more than up to the challenge when he devised plum pudding for his monarch.

Taillevent's pudding has undergone a variety of fortunes over the last six centuries. The Pilgrims who settled in America outlawed the dish because it was "so sinfully rich it distracts man from his proper thoughts of the Creator."

Nineteenth-century Baptists declared it "unfit for the consumption of moral churchgoers" because of its alcoholic ingredients.

England's Queen Victoria, who dearly loved sweets, insisted it be served not only on Christmas "but on all the holidays worthy of our royal note."

Robert Kennedy ate it in the company of Marilyn Monroe; Henry VIII sent one to Anne Boleyn while she was awaiting execution; and France's Cardinal Richelieu declared it "worthy of Paradise."

It may shock the British, who always thought an English cook devised the dish, to realize the first recipe for the pudding appeared in Taillevent's own book *Le Viander* in 1375.

It may come as somewhat of a surprise to others to learn the dish most universally prized at Christmas tables was invented by a Jew. Taillevent was born of Jewish parents from the city of Lyon. His cookbook, from which the following recipe is adapted, is probably the oldest French cookbook extant. It enjoyed a phenomenal reputation not only during his lifetime but in succeeding centuries, when it became one of the first books to be printed on the Gutenberg printing press.

When Taillevent died in 1395, at the age of 69, he was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Lyon. His tombstone, although considerably worn still stands and portrays him in the honorary dress of a royal sergeant at arms, complete with helmet and mace, and his shield emblazoned with three cooking pots inscribed with a Star of David.

Plum Pudding

Sauce

1½ cups butter, softened
2½ cups confectioners' sugar
2 egg whites, beaten lightly
1 Tbsp. cognac or rum

Pudding

1 cup flour, sifted before measuring
1 tsp. each baking powder and powdered cinnamon
½ tsp. each salt and powdered nutmeg
¼ tsp. each powdered cloves and allspice
1 cup brown sugar, packed
1 cup fresh breadcrumbs
5 eggs, beaten until frothy
¾ cup milk
8 ounces suet, chopped finely
juice and rind of 1 lemon
3 cups raisins
¾ cup mixed candied rind, chopped
½ cup slivered blanched almonds
½ cup hard sauce for serving (recipe follows)

Make sauce by creaming together butter, sugar and egg whites until thick and fluffy. Flavor with cognac and chill well before serving.

Resift ¾ cup flour together with baking powder, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg, cloves and allspice. Combine these with brown sugar and breadcrumbs. Into this mixture add, alternatively, eggs and milk. Add suet, lemon juice and lemon rind.

With remaining flour combine raisins, candied rind and almonds and add to the mixture. Add cognac folding in well. Transfer pudding to a 12 cup mold or bowl, cover with a double layer of aluminum foil and set on trivet in a pot with about one inch water. Cover and steam for about 4½ - 5 hours, adding water as necessary to maintain the 1" level. Serve with hard sauce. Serves 12.

Hard Sauce

1½ cups butter, softened
2½ cups confectioners' sugar
2 egg whites, beaten lightly
1 Tbsp. cognac or rum

Cream together butter, sugar and egg whites until thick and fluffy. Flavor with cognac and chill well before using.

What's So Great About Christianity?

by Dinesh D'Souza*

Is Christianity obsolete? Can an intelligent, educated person really believe the Bible? Or do the atheists have it right? Has Christianity been disproved by science? Debunked as a force for good and discredited as a guide to morality?

Best selling author Dinesh D'Souza in *What's So Great About America* looks at Christianity with a questioning eye, but treats atheists with equal skepticism. The result is a book which will challenge the assumptions of both believers and doubters and affirm there really is something great about Christianity.

D'Souza reveals:

- Why Christianity explains what modern science tells us about the universe and our origins, that matter was created out of nothing, that light preceded the Sun, better than atheism does.
- How Christianity created the framework for modern science so Christianity and science are not irreconcilable, but science and atheism might be.
- Why the alleged sins of Christianity: the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Galileo affair (an atheist's fable) are vastly overblown.
- Why atheist regimes are responsible for the greatest mass murders of history.
- Why evolution does not threaten Christian belief, but actually supports the *argument for design*.
- Why atheists fear the Big Bang theory and the *anthropic principle* of the universe, which are keystones of modern astronomy and physics.
- How Christianity explains consciousness and free will, which atheists have to deny.
- Why ultimately you can't have Western civilization and all we value from it without the Christianity which gave it birth.

Provocative, enlightening, a Twenty-First Century successor to C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*, Dinesh Do'Souza's *What's So Great About Christianity* is the perfect book for the seeker, the skeptic and the believer who wants to defend the faith.



Dinesh D'Souza

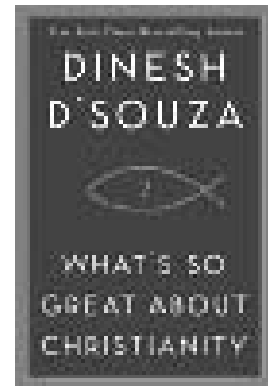
He is the best-selling author of *What's So Great About America*, *Ronald Reagan: How an Ordinary Man Became an Extraordinary Leader* and many other books

Francis Collins, The Human Genome Institute Director:

Responding to the current epidemic of atheist manifestos, Dinesh D'Souza applies just the right balm for the troubled soul. Assembling arguments from history, philosophy, theology and science – yes, science – he builds a modern and compelling case for faith in a loving God. If you're seeking the truth about God, the universe and the meaning of life, this is a great place to look.

Stanley Fish, *How Milton Works* author:

The great merit of this book is it concedes nothing. Rather than engaging in the usual defensive ploys, D'Souza meets every anti-God argument head on and defeats it on its own terms. He subjects atheism and scientific material



ism to sustained rigorous interrogation and shows their claims are empty and incoherent. Infinitely more sophisticated than the rants produced by Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens, What's So Great About Christianity leaves those atheist books in the dust.

Dinesh D'Souza, a former White House domestic policy analyst, is currently the Rishwain Research Scholar at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

Editor's Note: If you only read one more book before you go to Glory, this would be it. It's chock full of easy to read, easy to understand, practical Christian apologetics. This is an ideal book for anyone from a high school senior on who wants to be able to rationally, practically engage their relatives, friends and co-workers. It addresses almost every major issue of our day. This is the first time in my 10 years of ministry I have endorsed reading and giving any book to a skeptic, which shows Christianity has dramatically improved the quality of life for everyone on the planet. Chris.

Dr. D. James Kennedy, 76 Leaves Legacy of Faithfulness



Dr. D. James Kennedy, who founded and led Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Coral Ridge, Florida for nearly half a century and reached 3.5 million people weekly by radio, went to be with the Lord in September. Kennedy suffered a heart attack last year and announced his

retirement just two weeks before his death.

"The Church has lost one of its truly significant figures, and American families have lost one of their most passionate and effective defenders," said Dr. James C. Dobson, founder and chairman of Focus on the Family.

"For decades, Dr. Kennedy has been a passionate defender of Biblical truth in a culture that increasingly forgot it. He was a giant in the battle to restore traditional values in our nation.

"Most importantly, I believe, Dr. Kennedy would want to be remembered as a man whose greatest desire was to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Believers around the world are indebted to him for holding firm to that important calling."

Beverly LaHaye, Concerned Women for America founder and chairwoman, knew Kennedy as a man of remarkable faith and a friend for many years: "Jim Kennedy left a legacy of profound spiritual leadership and effective evangelism," she said.

"His dedication to spreading the Gospel and discipling the nations touched the lives of millions. I was honored to work with him to restore a culture of life to the nation we both love so dearly," LaHaye said.

In 1974, Kennedy started Coral Ridge Ministries to share the Gospel through radio and television and he is the author of more than 50 books. His radio ministry is expected to continue.

Kennedy is survived by his wife Anne of 51 years and a daughter, Jennifer Kennedy Cassidy.

GOOD NEWS FOR ISRAEL goes to the Twin Cities Christian Fair!

Good News joined the fun at the Twin Cities Christian Community Fair at the St. Paul River Center last month. This year's two-day event showcased more than 200 family-friendly churches, ministries and businesses.

The event, created by Rich Branham, was heavily promoted by The Minnesota Christian Chronicle, KTIS-FM, KKMS-AM, Relevant Radio, The Salvation Army, Minnesota Teen Challenge and the Greater Minnesota Association of Evangelicals.



Wally the Shark LOVED our Good News newsletter!



Susan Tanner greeted every visitor passing by

Visitors were eager to experience many special attractions including, a Teen Zone and music stage; a large petting zoo complete with camels, kangaroos, reindeer, reptiles, and a bald eagle courtesy of the Minnesota Raptor Center; even a 22-foot inflatable earth where "kids can learn about God's wonderful creation."

Good News' volunteers, Clayton and Susan Tanner, Alan and Julann Schubert and Paul Carlyon had hundreds of meaningful contacts with a true cross section of the Christian community. They distributed news

letters and offered our books and CDs for sale. And many folks joined our newsletter and email mailing lists.



Julann and Alan Schubert distributed newsletters to every booth visitor.

Needless to say it was a lot of fun. We made some new friends and ran into some old friends. We considered the endeavor extremely worthwhile as an outreach to ministries and community, and plan to return next year!

1878 *Good News For Israel* 2007

The Oldest Evangelical Jewish Outreach in North America

Annual Meeting - The Director's Report

November 17, 2007 - Emmaus Lutheran Church

Guest speaker: Dr. Terry Harman

We are thankful for God's Amazing Grace during this challenging year of 2007. Our exposure has dramatically improved and it is apparent from our loyal and growing radio audience, which is very encouraging to this oldest Evangelical Jewish outreach in North America.

GNFI Milestones:

- More than 1,000,000 hits in the past two years, averaging more than 50,000 hits a month on our ever improving web site.
- Aired the 750th Faith Roots radio program on KKMS 980 AM, Mon. - Fri., 10:30 AM.
- Very informative speakers at our special events like Marty Goetz and Dr. Terry Harman.
- Michael Decker, a lawyer and Jewish believer who lives Jerusalem and writes for the "Israel Today," contacted us, he loved our website and wants to be our "Man on the Street" in Jerusalem! So expect to hear a lot more from him.
- Started my 11th year with GNFI. Hallelujah!
We have many people to thank for the success of this year's ministry:
- 1st Year Chairman, Bob Schoenbaum, for his leadership.
- Board members stepping up when we had financial and personal challenges to keep us steaming ahead.
- Larry Kutzler of City Sites for his radio media help and expertise.
- Ron Hedberg continues to bless our socks off with his web-site expertise.
- Thom Berkowitz, longtime faithful friend and former board member of the ministry, is returning to serve the ministry. (PTL!)
- Faith Roots co-host, Messianic Radio Rabbi, "Mr. Ed" Rothman.
- All of our friends, partners and board members for your prayers and support.

Goals /Dreams for the future include:

- We would LOVE to take your "Faith Roots" radio show to a national level. We have been approached by three regional networks who think we would be a great fit for their audiences.
- Translate our books, *A Rabbi's Search for Messiah* and *Rabbis Who Found the Messiah - Testimonies of 13 Rabbis*, into Russian and Hebrew. For distribution in Israel to the 2 million+ Russian/Hebrew speaking Jews: We've found a fair rate of \$10,000 per 3,000 copies for publishing in Israel. Total needed: \$20,000.
- Larry Kutzler and I would LOVE to be able to go to Israel to interview the people on the street on various hot topics for our radio show, Faith Roots. I don't think the average Christian has any idea of the struggles Israelis have in coping every day in the process of surviving until His return. \$7,000 per 2-week media trip for two.
- We would LOVE to be able to go to Israel to collaborate and fellowship with Meno Kalisher, the "Billy Graham" of Jerusalem and surrounding congregations.

Most Christians don't know, less than 5% of churches have anything on their budgets for Jewish outreach and only one out of ten believers has ever given to a Christian Jewish ministry like ours.

*Jesus said, "Salvation is from the Jews," John 4:22.
Ruth 1:16 Your people shall be my people!
Romans 1:16 To the Jew First!*

In HIS service,
Chris Heeb



Upcoming Events

New Years Open House

Come to Faith Roots' Open House Monday, Dec. 31 between 3 and 9 pm! We'll have plenty of pizza and popcorn to go around. We'll also have a free book give away just for showing up! You can't beat that offer! Be there or be square!

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GNFI Fellowship Times

Stop by for some java and conversation, Monday through Friday, nine to five.

Good News for Israel
PO Box 26067
St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55426
952-926-7369
www.gnfi.org

Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad calls President George Bush and tells him, "George, I had a wonderful dream last night. I could see America, the whole beautiful country, and on each house I saw a banner."

"What did it say on the banners," George asks. Mahmud replies, "United States of Iran."

George says, "You know, Mahmud, I am really happy you called because believe it or not last night I had a similar dream. I could see all of Iran, and it was more beautiful than ever, and on each house flew an enormous banner."

"What did it say on the banners," asks Mahmud.

George answers, "I don't know. I can't read Hebrew."



FAITH ROOTS Radio!

Tune in to KKMS AM 980 every Monday thru Friday, 10:30 a.m. to hear about your Faith Roots with the other half of your family tree, Israel and the Jewish people!

Shalom!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Being 3 **wiseMEN** the journey to baby Jesus took longer than expected because they refused to stop and ask directions.

