

MESSIANIC MINUTES

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“As we closely examine the Biblical High Holy Days, we see unmistakable links to Yeshua (Jesus), the Jewish Messiah!”

CELEBRATION OF THE TORAH

By Rabbi Ted Simon

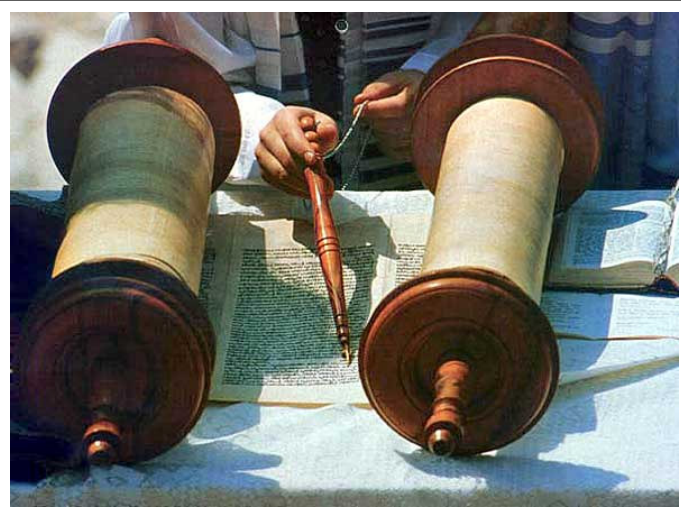
Each week in every synagogue around the world a different portion of the Torah is read. This yearly cycle guarantees that the entire five books of Moses will be read each and every year. In fact, on the very day that the last chapter in Deuteronomy is recited, the first chapter in Genesis is begun, again. No wonder Jewish people have been referred to as “people of The Book.”

All over the world Jewish people are studying the final chapters of Deuteronomy and preparing for the celebration that accompanies the reading of Genesis. The day on which the scrolls are re-rolled and the cycle is started over is called “Simchat Torah” or celebration of the Torah.

HIGH HOLY DAYS

By Jeffrey D. Miller

They are called the High Holy Days — two biblical feasts commanded by God to be celebrated in the Fall of the year by Jewish people. And yet as we closely examine them, we will see unmistakable links to Yeshua (Jesus), the Jewish Messiah!



The Torah, the first five books of the Bible, is written on scrolls like this one and read by Jews everywhere in weekly sections

The final portions of Deuteronomy contain summaries of all of Moses’ teachings. If we want to understand the minds and hearts of Jewish people, we’ll want to extract some key concepts from these Scriptures. If we want to understand the heart of our Heavenly Father toward us,

reading in Deuteronomy is enlightening. And if we want to know more about what we could be doing in these “Last Days,” then again, Deuteronomy is instructive.

Each portion or “parsha” (plural parshot) is made up

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The Hebrew Calendar

To understand these feasts, first we need to remember God spoke to Moses about a different calendar than we use today. The Hebrew calendar is based on the revolutions of the moon around the earth. Therefore, the months start at different times than our calendar, and there are fewer days in

the year (creating the need for an extra month every few years).

When God explained these feasts to Moses, He told him they were to be celebrated in the seventh month (*Tishri*) which of course is in the Fall. You’ll find this clearly explained in Leviticus

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All your prayers and donations are a great blessing to our work. Donations are tax-deductible, and go toward furthering the ministry.

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TORAH

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of a few chapters from the Bible. The name of the *parsha* is usually taken from the first words of the opening sentence. The portions called *Re'eh* — beginning with Deuteronomy 11: 26, “See (*Re'eh*) I present before you today a blessing and a cursing,” and the portion called *Shoftim* — “Judges (*Shoftim*) you shall appoint in your cities” — contain vital information to help us understand Jewish people and how better to share Messiah.

In *Re'eh* — Deuteronomy 13: -11 we read: “If your brother, or your son or daughter or your wife or even your friend will entice you secretly saying ‘Let us go and worship the gods of others’... you shall not listen... Rather you shall surely kill him.”

God hates idolatry, and while no one is advocating the death penalty for such proselytizing today, you’ve got to know that Moses was very serious in conveying God’s heart. That’s why even today, in some orthodox Jewish families if a person becomes a follower of Yeshua, the family considers them as dead and actually holds a funeral service.

Now, in America, this taboo has broken down, and largely been carried away by the flood of humanism and new age that has spread over the intellectual land, especially the colleges. And while a lot of strange

practices are tolerated in the Jewish community, from transcendental meditation, to Buddhism, to belief in reincarnation, the passage we just read, about destroying the idolater, is mainly applied not in physical harm, but by socially cutting off and shunning those Jewish people who recognize Jesus as Messiah.

It’s in the Jewish psyche. God was trying to protect

“Moses is telling the people to be ready because God Himself will bring His Voice to the people. The Word will become flesh and dwell among them.”

His people, but the very laws meant for good have been perverted and misapplied.

Now turn over a few pages. In the next *parsha*, in Deuteronomy 18:15-17 we read: “A prophet from your midst, from your brethren, like me, THE LORD your God will establish for you — and to Him you should listen!”

Moses is telling the people to be ready because God Himself will bring His Voice to the people. The Word will become flesh and dwell among them.

Of course we know that Yeshua, Jesus our Messiah, fulfilled this prophecy from Moses. And this prophecy is read every year at this time in every synagogue around the world.

Do you see the problem? Jewish people are to be wary of foreign gods. Jewish people are to be looking for a Messiah — but the Messiah must be from their own midst! The problem is that the church has presented Jesus as a foreign god. They’ve divorced Him from His Jewish roots — actually cutting Him off from His brethren, and making Him seem “goyish” or foreign.

At *Messianic Minutes* we teach you the solution to this two thousand-year-old dilemma. By presenting Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah, the one prophesied by Moses, the one raised up from His own brethren, we are adamant against following the “gods” of this world, while equally strong in advocating sold out belief in the One who fulfills the Torah.

You, of course, are vital to this work. You who listen to *Messianic Minutes* are well equipped to share these simple truths with everyone — including Jewish people! You also provide us with the money we need to produce and expand the radio ministry.

As we approach the end of a cycle and the beginning one new, would you consider giving a special gift to the ministry?

HOLY DAYS

(Continued from page 1)

Chapter 23 which outlines all the feasts for the Children of Israel.

Happy New Year!

Jewish people refer to the first feast, which is to occur on the first day of the 7th month, as *Rosh Hashanah*, the New Year. But isn't it odd that God would celebrate the New Year in the seventh month? Well, it is not only odd, it's not scriptural. You can search the entire Bible, you'll not find one reference to this feast as New Year's Day. What you will find is *Yom Teruah*, the Day of the Blowing of the Shofar. The *shofar* is a ram's horn - the trumpet of God! And has great significance in scripture both in the Original (Old) and New Covenants.

We all remember how the Lord commanded Joshua to use the sound of the shofar and a great shout to bring down the walls of Jericho, but look how God promised to use the shofar in the future: "Then the seventh angel sounded the seventh trumpet: And there were loud voices in heaven saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever.'" (Rev 11:15)

In ancient Israel the shofar had many uses, including the heralding of the King. With that in mind read how God uses the shofar in 1 Cor. 15:52 and 1 Thess. 4:16. Now maybe that's why God commanded a separate

feast day just for the blowing of the shofar... so Jewish people would know the sound announcing the return of King Jesus!

The Day of Atonement

On the tenth day of the seventh month, God established Yom Kippur, the one day in the year when all the sins of the nation of Israel were forgiven, the one day in the year when the High Priest was allowed to go behind the veil into the Holy of Holies, the very presence of God.

The key to Yom Kippur, as with all atonement from our Heavenly Father, is blood. It's made clear in Leviticus 17:11, "It is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." That's why animals had to be sacrificed, so their blood would be shed unto death for the atonement of sinners.

The Scapegoat

So it was on Yom Kippur the High Priest was to sacrifice a goat, taking its blood into the Holy of Holies and sprinkling it on the mercy seat of God for the atonement of Israel. But God also required a second goat, the scapegoat. This goat was kept alive so the High Priest could lay his hands on its head confessing all the sins of Israel and imputing those sins onto the goat which was then taken away into the wilderness never to return again.

Here is the startling reality of Yeshua. He of course shed His blood for the atonement of our souls, and in doing so took care of the blood requirement of Yom

Kippur. But He didn't stop there. On the cross He also took our sins, becoming the scapegoat. That's why the Jewish Apostle Peter wrote, "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree." (1 Peter 2:24) And the Jewish Apostle Paul wrote, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin...." (2 Cor. 5:21) They were describing how Jesus fulfilled the requirements of Yom Kippur.

Now look at Hebrews 9:12, "with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place..." Again a reference to Yom Kippur, but this time the perfect blood of Messiah paid the price "once for all," Hallelujah! And the perfect scapegoat not only took our sins out of the camp, but at His resurrection He came back without them, breaking the bondage of sin and death in our lives!

"Yeshua shed His blood for the atonement of our souls, and in doing so took care of the blood requirement of Yom Kippur. But He didn't stop there. On the cross He also took our sins, becoming the scapegoat."



Jeffrey D. Miller blows the Shofar, a ram's-horn trumpet. It is traditionally blown on Rosh Hashannah, the Jewish New Year

Messianic Minutes

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Visit our Website at
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Messianic Minutes is a five minute daily radio program (with seasonal half-hour specials) aimed at bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people through Bible believing Christian listeners. The good news is that the Kingdom is available to you now! The program is hosted by Jeffrey D. Miller and Rabbi Ted Simon, two Jewish men who love Yeshua (Jesus), the Jewish Messiah.

Rabbi Simon and Mr. Miller also travel to various congregations all over the country in order to teach the church about its Jewish roots. They speak on a variety of subjects concerning Israel, the Church, and these last days, offering a Jewish perspective many Christians may have never experienced in the past.



AN UPDATE FROM RABBI SIMON

This summer was one of recovery and growth. My wife Diane and I really enjoyed many precious hours together, in prayer and just hanging out. In part, necessity forced us to slow down; recovering from open-heart surgery is a serious business. In part we've needed to hear Abba's Voice.

I don't think that we would have imagined the goodness of God in the midst of a crisis. We are blessed to be alive, and to know that Abba still has plans for us here. Part of His plans include the ministry of *Messianic Minutes*.

Messianic Minutes is now

finishing its tenth full year of radio ministry. Some of you have been with us since the beginning while some listeners are brand new to the show. It is only through your faithfulness in prayer and giving that the program is sustained and we can broadcast each day. We really need your support, and really appreciate your standing with us.

There are so many seasons in our lives. In Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon wrote: "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." You are part of the ministry of *Messianic Minutes* at a most important season. At the same time we teach the Church about its

Jewish roots, and how best to witness the Good News to Jewish people, the world is convulsed in anti-Jewish prejudice. There is great pressure, a flood of hate and hostility and bad doctrines, that is trying to keep Messiah from His own people. But God is raising up a standard!

The standard of His blood!
The standard of His Word!
The standard of righteousness and people made righteous by His blood! By joining with us in the ministry of *Messianic Minutes* you are part of that godly standard. Each of us, by hearing His Voice and obeying, is part of the standard of righteousness

that is preparing the way for our soon coming King! You are vital to Jesus' Kingdom.

We are so blessed that you are part of what God is doing through *Messianic Minutes*. As you press in and follow Yeshua, Jesus our Messiah, I am sure that you will continue to be a vital part of advancing His Kingdom. I trust that your prayers for us and your giving to *Messianic Minutes* will continue, and in fact increase, as we all press on to the mark of the high calling in Messiah. May you be blessed in this season and in the times to come!