



Oasis

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FROM TEXAS WITH LOVE:

A Plea to My Messianic Brothers and Sisters

By Pastor David McQueen

✧ *Editor's note: Pastor McQueen and Beltway Baptist Church are beloved covenant partners with Tents of Mercy.*

I was born and raised in the state of Texas in the USA. As a Christian since the age of 13, I had never been directly taught the Christian church replaced Israel in the promises of God. It was just assumed - a given.

Ten years ago God arranged for me to be the pastor of a wonderful church - Beltway Park Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas. Prior to my tenure, Beltway had suffered through ten years of turbulence and turmoil. As our situation improved we began to dream of what God might do if we would only follow Him. Early on in this journey God showed us we were not giving to others for the sake of the gospel. We knew He was challenging us to sow "abundantly" even if we thought we couldn't afford it. So we began looking for a place to sow ourselves and our finances.

At the same time I was looking for a mentor in ministry - a spiritual father. Don Finto was an acquaintance of mine and I was hoping he might assume that role for me. We were from the same Christian denomination and contrary to our denominational tradition, had both become Spirit-filled believers - but Don had a lot more experience walking in the Spirit than I did.

I knew Don had this strange love for Israel and the Jewish people. I didn't understand it. Honestly, I didn't want to understand it. I thought it all stemmed from some slightly skewed eschatology. But he also was the pastor of a great church, so, even if I had to put up with this strange "Jewish piece," it would be well worth it to learn from a skilled and experienced leader.

To accomplish this, I asked Don if on occasion I could travel with him to various events. He not only agreed but very quickly asked me to attend a conference with him in Pennsylvania. The conference just happened to be hosted by the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America. I can honestly say, being from rural Texas, that I'm not sure if I had ever met a Jewish person. But that did



✧ not matter. I would learn about Spirit-filled ministry from Don.

At some point during our flight to Pennsylvania, Don asked if I would read his yet to be published manuscript of *Your People My People*. I was young and arrogant enough to think he actually wanted my input on the manuscript before it went to press. I think The Holy Spirit prompted Don to ask me for a very different purpose.

While I was reading, I gazed upon a quote that Don attributed to Romans 11:11-12; I was perplexed. A little background might help you understand my consternation: I went to college to study the Bible. I have both an undergraduate and graduate degree in Biblical Studies. I had read Romans 11 many, many times. I had actually worked my way through this passage in the Greek.

I had never seen this - not like he was using it. I reckoned he had to be misquoting it somehow,

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possibly using a loose translation. I stood up to get my Bible from the overhead bin. Don asked me what I was doing. I said, "Getting my Bible. I think you've misquoted Romans 11." "I don't think so," he replied. I am sorry to say I quipped back, "Well Don, I've read Romans 11 many times and I think I would have seen something like what you are saying if it was really there." He just smiled.



David McQueen and Eitan at Haifa Bay

I opened my Bible and read Romans 11:11-12: **"I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness."**

It was exactly as Don quoted in his book. I sat down, eyes wide open in astonishment, and I thought, "Oh, God, how could I have not seen this?" At that moment it was like a switch turned on inside of me. I had read this passage many times but I had never truly seen it before. The Church had not replaced Israel regarding the promises He made to her. But even more astounding; the salvation of the Gentile world is linked to the salvation of Israel! Greater riches (obviously meaning greater numbers of people being saved) are promised for the entire world as the Jewish people of the world come to believe in their Messiah.

We went to the conference and I could no longer say I never met a Jewish person! God had another surprise for me; a few days later, after we returned to Don's home in Nashville, we picked up Don's guest speaker for Belmont church...not only another Jewish believer but a Messianic leader from Israel: Eitan Shishkoff. Almost immediately something within my heart connected to Eitan, I knew God was saying to me, "Here is the one you are to partner with. Sow into his ministry."

When I returned home I took our elders through my journey, and they agreed this was God. That was a little over eight years ago but I never thought our sowing into Tents of Mercy would reap such a harvest of blessing for us in Abilene. Early on in our partnership with Tents of Mercy, I told Eitan: "Eitan, I have a strange love for my city. I want to see them all reached with the gospel. If you don't mind, I want to use you to help me reach my city. Our body of believers would like to help the leaders and people of Tents of Mercy reach the Galilee with your Messiah. And I am convinced that as you reach them, it will bring a great harvest in my city."

The Bible says salvation is first to the Jew then to the Gentile. It says if we bless Israel, God will bless us. The Bible says

that as the eyes of a Jewish man or woman are opened to their Messiah, the eyes of many Gentiles will be opened around the world. When I came to Beltway Park ten years ago, we had a little over 300 people coming to our church. This past spring we had a little over 3000. We have immersed almost 1000 people in that time period as a confession of Jesus as their Savior and Messiah. It is a beginning of greater riches.

So here is my plea to my Messianic brothers and sisters in Messiah at Tents of Mercy, in Israel and around the world - I need you to hear something clearly. It is difficult - almost impossible - to convey to you how important a role you are playing in the world today. You are a greater part of what is happening in Abilene than you can possibly know.

Galatians 6:7,9 says, **"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows...Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."** We will reap a harvest IF we do not give up. A harvest has begun among Jewish people around the world. And it is growing. And as it grows, greater riches are being seen not only in Abilene, but throughout the world.

Though at times it seems that things are happening slowly among your own people, and the price for your faith in Messiah is high, for the sake of my city (and the cities of the world), please, please - don't give up! ✡

Eitan Shishkoff's Summer 2008 Itinerary

July 24th & 25th:	Meetings at Pan de Vida Church in Mexico City, Mexico
July 26th & 27th:	Meetings at Amistad Christiana in Chihuahua, Mexico
July 28th - Aug 1st:	Teaching at Praise Chapel Conference in Phoenix, AZ
Aug 3rd:	8:30 & 11am Services at Belmont Church in Nashville, TN (615-256-2123)
Aug 8th & 9th:	Teaching at Melody of My Heart in City of Industry, CA (626-330-3232)
Aug 10th:	9 & 10:45am Services at Valley Vineyard Church in Reseda, CA (818-776-9696)
Aug 12th:	7:30pm Meeting at Ohev Yisrael Congregation in Newington, VA (703-550-0888)
Aug 13th:	7:30pm Meeting at El Shaddai Congregation in Frederick, MD (301-695-4496)
Aug 14th:	6:30pm Meeting at Son of David Congregation in Wheaton, MD (240-403-2138)
Aug 16:	10:30am Service at Brit Hadasha Congregation in Memphis, TN (901-685-9267)
Aug 17:	10:30am Service at Knollwood Church in Mobile, AL (251-661-8383)

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Our Vision:

Tents of Mercy - to participate in today's historic exodus by assisting Israel's returning exiles.

No spectators in the Kingdom - to be a worshiping, sharing community based in homes, equipping each one for service.

Come back Yeshua - to welcome Yeshua home to Israel, by restoring the Jewish roots of New Covenant faith.



WHO IS THE SERVANT OF THE LORD?

To commemorate Israel's 60th anniversary the nation's antiquities department has set the famous Isaiah scroll on display at the Israel Museum. Discovered in 1947, this 2,100 year old manuscript is the only complete book of the Bible found at Qumran. Because of its inestimable value it has not been on

The identity of the Servant of the Lord described in Isaiah remains a nexus of controversy for our people. As a rallying point against the startling correspondence to the life and ministry of Yeshua, many of our leaders have dismissed these claims by emphasizing those servant passages that clearly define Israel as The Servant of the Lord. Such a claim is too simplistic and ignores the clear overlay of Servant Israel with "The righteous Servant", Messiah. Let's look at a few passages that delineate between the two.

Isaiah 41:8,9 admonishes God's servant, who is clearly identified here as the corporate nation of Israel, not to fear the myriad of enemies that surround them. The Lord will not forsake His servant. He promises victory over those that come against Israel. Ironically, this same word ends with a rebuke. God cannot locate anyone within the nation to intercede on its behalf - Israel has been completely corrupted by idolatry (Isaiah 41:28, 29).

The character of the servant and his *job description* is found in 42:1-7. He is appointed "**as a covenant to the people, and a light to the nations. To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon.**"

This description of the servant is very different from chapter 41. There is a universal dimension to the servant's ministry that Israel has never fully accomplished.

Corporate Israel will yet accomplish this calling, but only in conjunction with this singular servant who is the Messiah. The purpose of Messiah is not to replace Israel, but to empower Israel to fulfill their call as a light to the nations.

Who is as blind as my servant?

This chapter ends with a dramatic reversal. Instead of opening blind eyes, the servant is described as both blind and deaf! (Isaiah 42:18) How can Israel fulfill the will of God when they cannot see or hear Him? In verse 22, Isaiah says "**this is a people plundered and despoiled, trapped in caves, hidden away in prisons, having become a prey with none to deliver them.**" Because of their sins, Israel is given over to this tragic condition. This is the message that is found everywhere God affirms Israel's call as His servant: the shifting back and forth between rebuke for their sins and the amazing promises of full restoration. (Note especially chapters 43 and 44.) All this generates a deep awareness that something must be done to rectify Israel's condition so they can fulfill their calling.

The servant Messiah Himself provides the remedy. Description gives way to proclamation as the Servant declares his mission to restore the nation. "**And now says the Lord, who formed me from the**

womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him. For I am honored in the sight of the Lord and my God is my strength." God answers the servant: "**It is too small a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make you a light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to end of the earth.**" (Isaiah 49:5, 6)

This servant will restore Israel and deliver them from their abject condition. This one will also be a testimony to the nations. This is God's servant, chosen by God, called by God, honored by God, and highly esteemed by God. With all that clearly stated, verse 7 really comes as a shock. "**Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and its holy one, to the despised one, to the one abhorred by the nation...**" The one that God has called to save the nation is abhorred by them!

The Suffering Servant

However, this abhorrence and rejection was a necessary part of the process leading to Israel's redemption. There is no more powerful image of this than Isaiah 53. Here is the graphic description of exactly how Yeshua would fulfill His role as the servant of the Lord. Verse 3 says, "**He was despised and forsaken of men. A man of sorrows and acquainted with**

display since 1967. The Isaiah scroll is one of the seven scrolls found by the Bedouin shepherd boy looking for a stray goat among the barren cliffs overlooking the Dead Sea. He had no idea, that on the eve of Israel's re-birth he was to find the words of the prophet announcing, "Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth." In less than a year's time, the world would have an answer to Isaiah's brash challenge, "Can a nation be born in a day?"

Isaiah looked forward to an even greater event than the re-gathering of the nation; in the Spirit he saw the coming of "the Root of Jesse, the Prince of Peace, the Righteous Servant who will justify many and bear their iniquities." Who is this Righteous servant? In this article, Moshe Morrison prepares the way of the Lord by removing the stones of misunderstanding surrounding His identity.

grief, like one from whom men hide their faces. He was despised and we did not esteem him." Our people have not wanted to look at Him. They are afraid of what they might see.

"Yet it was our pains he bore, our sorrows that he carried." (53:4) As a nation, we have carried so much pain and sorrow for so many generations. We have borne so much suffering, not realizing that He came to take that upon Himself on our behalf. We believed that He was suffering punishment for His own sins but, **"He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities, the chastening for our well-being fell upon him and by his scourging we are healed."** (53:5) What is repeatedly emphasized in the preceding chapters is again pointed out here. We have suffered for our wanderings, our rejection of God's purposes and for not heeding the call to be a holy people. We have been unwilling to be His witnesses, to be the servant of the Lord because we like sheep have wandered off our own way. He became the innocent lamb that took the blow of death for us guilty sheep.

Isaiah 53:8 asks: **"...as for his generation, who considered he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people ...?"** Not only His generation, but the generations that fol-

lowed, even to this day have refused to acknowledge Him. Consider these modern examples: The Chassidic Jews who regularly stand and curse outside the homes of believers in Arad, the Rabbis who called for a boycott of the annual Israeli Bible quiz because one of the finalists was a Messianic Jew, the religious forces in the Interior Ministry that want to keep Messianic Jews from receiving Israeli citizenship, those who sent a bomb disguised as a holiday gift package to the home of a Messianic family, severely injuring their 15 year old son, the yeshiva students who gathered up New Covenant scriptures and publicly burned them, the religious Jews who lobby for legislation to make it illegal for us to **"speak or teach at all in the name of Yeshua."** (See, Acts 4:18)

All these have never considered that He was the spotless Lamb of God, and we were the guilty ones, who needed His blood to cleanse us. Instead they call Him names and say horrible things about Him, making accusations of illegitimate birth and claiming He did evil magic to lead people astray.

He shall see the labor of His soul

But they are wrong. Verse 9 says **"He had done no violence nor was there any**



**By Moshe Morrison
with Marty Shoub**

deceit in his mouth." It was the will of God that He would be the perfect guilt offering to expunge our guilt. And if He would do this there would be offspring, there would be fruit. We are the offspring; those of us who love Him. We enter our place as a corporate servant of the Lord. We have been justified because He bore our iniquities, **"because he poured out his soul unto death."** (Isaiah 53:10-12)

But justification in the eyes of God also puts us in a negative place in the eyes of men, especially among our people. 1 Peter 2:4, 5 explains we too will be rejected by men, though choice and precious in the sight of God. Peter calls us living stones, because Yeshua is the chief cornerstone. Upon Him we are being built as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. While it is painful to be despised and rejected, especially by our own people that we love, it is part of God's plan. We are confident we have the ultimate victory, birthed out of the anguish of His soul: **"All Israel shall be saved."** (Romans 11:26) ☆