

Divine Empowerment in an “Inclusive” Age: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2

The Empowerment of followers of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus)

[Acts 2](#) is one of my favorite passages of Scripture:

[When the day of Shavu'ot \[Pentecost\] had come, they were all together in one place. Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues like fire spreading out appeared to them and settled on each one of them. They were all filled with the Ruach ha-Kodesh \[Holy Spirit\] and began to speak in other tongues as the Ruach \[Spirit\] enabled them to speak out. Acts 2:1-4, TLV](#)

I think it is my favorite because it was completely *ignored* by the church I attended growing up.

And I attended faithfully.

Obsessively faithfully.

If the doors of that church were open, I was there. Choir practice, youth leadership teams, bell choir, instrumental ensembles. It was a very large church with a large staff, so there were many opportunities for me, and I'm thankful for that. I probably wore out the pastors with all my theological questions, but they put up with me!

But despite all of those years in the church, I had never heard [Acts chapter 2](#) when the LORD empowered the believers with the power of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*).

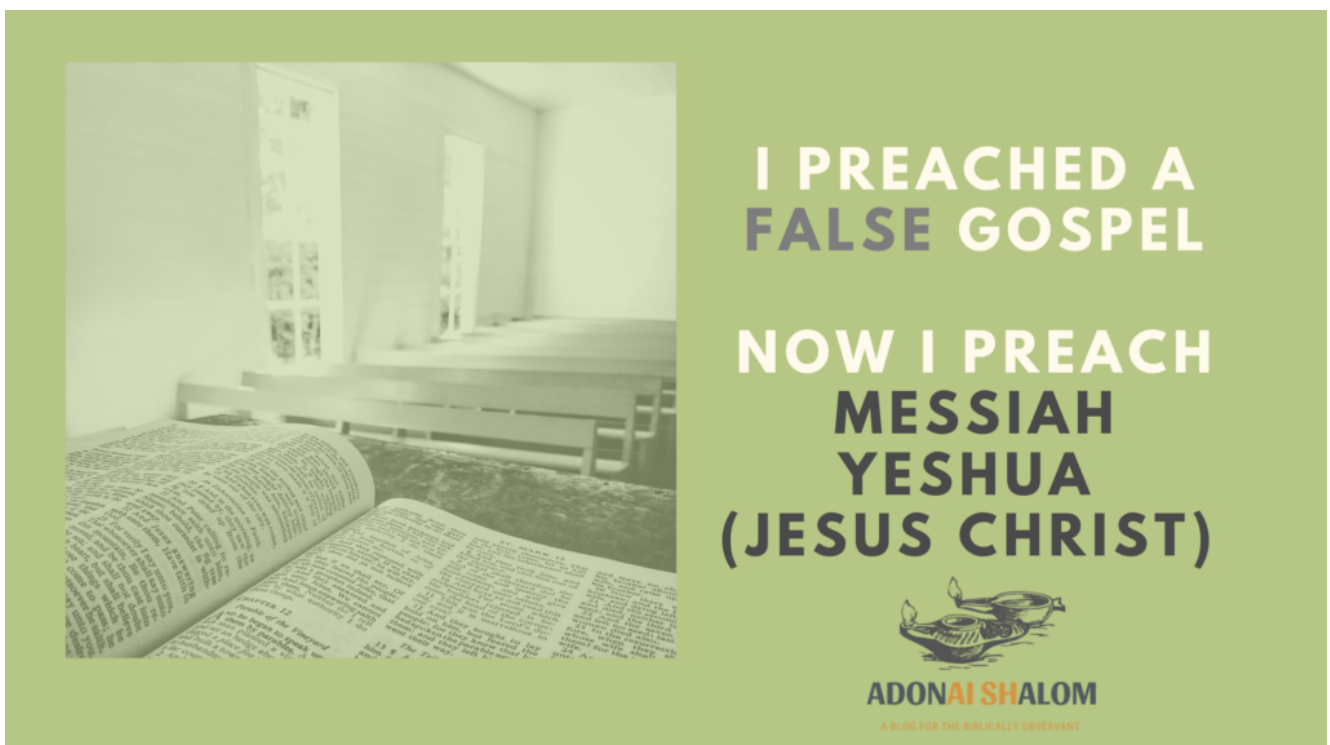
I even learned to preach and lead entire worship services before I went to college.

The problem is, I had learned to preach a false gospel...

I didn't know that, of course.

But when I did figure that out, I felt deceived!

I was angry, hurt, but on-fire for Jesus (*Yeshua*).



My experience in a universalist church

See, I grew up in a universalist type of 'church' in which everything and anything could be considered 'divine' and the deity of Messiah was even questioned.

It was normal to practice 'mysticism' and the congregation built a pagan labyrinth so that they could become 'closer' to God. 'Sin' was explained away through relativism and none of the leaders I knew believed in a literal eternal hell.

Liberal social justice agendas were presented as 'gospel;' and homosexual clergy were not only accepted, but encouraged.

I am a very spiritual person and have been since I was very little, so I was intrigued by the "historical Jesus" debate and the off-center teachings presented to me by my pastors as a teenager. I had the opportunity to travel to France, and walked on the Chartres labyrinth, excited to bring back books and souvenirs reflecting what I know now to be an occult practice.

I had no idea that we were so outside of a Biblical framework, but I did know that the pastoral staff thought ill of evangelicals, calling anyone who took the Bible at its word a "fundie," their pejorative term for a fundamentalist.

There was always talk of "inclusion," but this really meant including only those who agreed with their far left agenda.

I was taught an imitation, but the LORD led me to TRUTH

When I went to college and later to Divinity School, I realized how far the church had strayed from Biblical Truth.

By studying Hebrew, I was awakened to the reality that Scripture is inspired and without error in its original form.

The one nice thing about being raised as a 'Unitarian Considering Christ' was we were always open to Judaism. I never struggled with the concept that Messiah Jesus stood on this earth as a practicing Jew, a Holy Rabbi with the greatest teaching of all time. Eventually, I accepted my Savior Yeshua and the glorious gift of salvation.

Hallelujah!

The Postmodern/Emergent Church is looking for an “experience”

The postmodern and emergent church movements were popular when I was a student. One thing that stands out to me with those who want to start drawing and painting in church is that people are genuinely looking for an “experience.”

The church, as a whole, has strayed so far from Scripture that people don't realize that the experience they are looking for is found within the pages of the Holy Bible and that **everything else is a cheap imitation.**

Well-meaning people add things into worship services, not intending to become idolatrous, yet these extraBiblical practices lead people far far away from what they *actually* need.

Truth vs. Imitation

The church, as a whole, has strayed so far from Scripture that people don't realize that the experience they are looking for is found within the pages of the Holy Bible and that everything else is a cheap imitation. People add things into worship services, not intending to become idolatrous, yet these extraBiblical practices lead people far far away from what they actually need.



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A BLOG FOR THE BIBLICALLY OBSERVANT

Worldly empowerment vs. Divine

empowerment

Inclusiveness, feminism, empowerment – all key words in the liberal agenda, **mask the true need in the world today**. The Gospel is inclusive of all who would be willing to make a change, but **the Gospel isn't going to change to suit humanity's deviant desires**.

It is good to feel empowered! But you have to be empowered with the right thing!

That's why the power from on high is so important. [Acts 2](#) is all about *supernatural* empowerment!

The Holy Spirit will empower you in your calling to do the will of the Father.

The world offers a false empowerment. Feminists and liberal activists don't actually support or love women. They hate Biblical womanhood because they want women to be men.

That devilish agenda says: Go ahead, have children, but make sure you're back on the job in 6 weeks after you have your baby. We wouldn't want you to reconsider and stay home with your children.

When my second son was born, I had been serving as a hospital chaplain on a staff of primarily men. When I informed them I would not be coming back because I was choosing to stay home with our little ones, they told me I was overly traditional and that I would regret my decision.

No regrets here.

To me it was humorous that I had grown up more liberal than any of them, and now they were calling me ultra-conservative.

□

Shavu'ot = Pentecost

The believers gathered in the Upper Room were there on a feast day. It was called *Shavu'ot*, and Jewish believers had celebrated it for years. Our English translations call it "Pentecost," and many Christians today mistakenly believe it was a newly established feast day after the Resurrection, but that's not right.

The word for "Pentecost" comes from Greek, for 50, because *Shavu'ot* referred to the Feast of Fifty Days, better known as the Feast of Weeks. The timing of Messiah is perfect, so on this exact day, 50 days after the resurrection, the LORD poured out His Spirit upon the gathered believers to coincide with the feast.

Are you experiencing a time of waiting?

In [Acts 1:4](#), Messiah Jesus (*Yeshua*) told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Promise of the Father.

Maybe you are waiting. Maybe you know the LORD has something more in store for you, but you're in a waiting pattern. If you are waiting, but with a sense of expectation, with faith that He will work in your life – I assure you, He will.

Don't be afraid in the waiting, nor discouraged.

Make sure you seek Him.

Who was empowered on Pentecost/Shavu'ot?

[Acts 2:3](#) says, "[There appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.](#)"

The last phrase there, in Greek, “upon each and every one of them” is important for those interested in “inclusivity.”

The Greek is *emphatic* meaning that this included men *and* women.

ἐφ’ ἕνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν
eph hena hekaston auton
Upon each and every one of them

The gifts and calling of the Eternal One are irrevocable ([Romans 11:29](#)). He calls men **and** women to share the Good News, and to be empowered by His very Spirit to do it well.

What was going on *before* this moment, *before* the power of Adonai came?

Prayer and supplication. Both men and women were present in an Upper Room prayer meeting.

[These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary \[Miryam\] the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Acts 1:14](#)



All these with one mind
were continuing
together in prayer —
along with the women and
Miriam, Yeshua's mother,
and His brothers.

ACTS 1:14

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There were at least 120 men there ([Acts 1:15](#)), women and probably even children.

[RELATED: 6 Stone Jars, 120 Gallons of Wine, and a Wedding in Cana](#)

The LORD uses men and women. In different ways, yes, but (if you are a woman reading this) don't let anyone tell you that there's no place for you in the ministry. That simply isn't true. If He has given you a voice, you have something to say, so long as it lines up with the Word of God. Most of the people in the Upper Room were men. The women were outnumbered. But they were most certainly included.

God chose this group of men and women to be present to receive the inaugurating outpouring of the fire of the Holy Spirit

because they were faithful in prayer and they were willing to obey!

Comfort will come after pain or loss

I have used this passage with women's ministry groups because women in all walks of life endure all sorts of challenges and pain: Women who have recently lost their own mother, women who have been told by doctors they cannot have children, women who have ended pregnancies due to poor guidance by non-Christian medical staff or women who genuinely felt there was no other option, women who now live with the regret or guilt of any type of past sins.

The most emotionally painful thing to endure might be the mother who lost a child, whether that child was an unborn baby or an adult child. Many times it is out of that pain that the LORD will use you to minister to someone else. If you've been marginalized from the pulpit because you are a woman, you will also understand a hurt others will not understand.

Whatever you relate to as a horrible pain to endure was exactly the kind of pain the women (and the men) endured the day after the crucifixion.

Even though they knew what they had seen and heard and they knew that Jesus was the Messiah, and He told them He would rise again and He promised to send another Comforter . . . even so, there must've been so many questions going through their minds.

We who are filled with the Holy Spirit today cannot now imagine what life would be like without Him, without His glorious presence. One of the most ***distressing(!!!)*** Psalms to me is [Psalm 51:11](#). ["Cast me not away from Thy presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me."](#) Just the thought makes me

shudder!

Maybe you have experienced something earth shattering. Maybe you have watched as something you have loved, dreamed of, or even built seems like it's gone. When we ministered in Alabama and Tennessee, we frequently worked with people who had suffered devastating losses after tornadoes raged through their neighborhoods. Just know that the Spirit of the LORD can help you get through whatever has distressed you or twisted your life upside down.

What is your own personal Sabbath's Day journey?

The verses contained in [Acts 1:12-Acts 2:1](#) describe what occurred in (what most have calculated to be) 10 days from the Ascension described in [Acts 1:9](#).

If there is a situation right now in your life, give it a few days. It might take ten, it might be four . . . it might be more than 10. But like I said earlier, God's timing is perfect. You can trust Him.

[Acts 1:9](#) "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched He was taken up..."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives ([Acts 1:12](#)), a Sabbath's Day journey – meaning it was a fairly short walk. They would not receive the Promise of the Father without resting in Him, without listening for His voice.

Maybe you've been traveling *more* than a Sabbath's Day journey, keeping your agenda jam-packed. Honor the Sabbath, and the Lord of the Sabbath will meet you right where you are. Not everyone who desires to be baptized in the Holy Spirit receives that blessing right away. Think of it as a journey: He will satisfy your hunger and thirst when you need it most.

The Holy Spirit provides anointing so that you can be a Godly example to others

There is nothing more noble than to be an anointed, Holy Spirit-filled servant of God.

We need the power of God to change the way we speak, the way we interact, the way we present ourselves. You know, something that has been lost over time is the art of etiquette. I noticed this particularly when I lived in the south, having grown up in the north. Up North, we don't usually say "yes, ma'am" and "no, sir." It is wise and godly to teach your children, or your spiritual children, the etiquette of God's Word. How to be a Godly example for others. It is more than attending an assembly. It is living the Word in thought, word, and deed, so that the transformation Christ has worked in you will be evident to all.

We need our *etiquette* to be anointed! If you comport yourself with grace, doors will open for you.

The Holy Spirit will empower you to pray for the salvation of your city!

We are not in Jerusalem, but we *can* tarry in our own cities, asking the LORD to intervene in these last days. I know from experience that those who have been immersed in false doctrines CAN be led to the Truth, but it requires prayer!

I am thankful for believers who prayed for me!

Pray, with fervor, without ceasing so He will send an outpouring of His power upon and into you, either for the

first time, or for a new time.

Pray, pray, pray until the yoke-breaking, curse-disrupting and destroying, Almighty Power of the Most High descends upon you and believers around you and ignites your home and your city and your congregation with the Love of Messiah.

The most inclusive wonderful thing you can ever do is pray for someone and welcome them when they decide to become a citizen of heaven, too!

PRAY!

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until the yoke-breaking, curse-disrupting and destroying,
Almighty Power of the Most High
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and ignites your home and your city and your congregation
with the Love of Messiah.



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I look forward to hearing YOUR testimony! share your comments below. If you have not yet met Yeshua, the Promised Messiah of Israel, please reach out. He loves you very much and lived and died so that you could live eternally with Him. I would be so honored to pray for you or with you. If you'd like, please consider subscribing to our email list! Blessings and Shalom!

Dead Bodies, a Red Cow, Snakes, and the King's Highway: The makings of a movie, or an intense Numbers Bible Study?

Parashat Chukat ([B'midbar/Numbers 19-21](#)) 5781 B"H (Updated 7/15/22 5782)

We continue our study through Numbers today.

Most people probably don't count the passages of Scripture in [Numbers 19-21](#) (known as *Parashat Chukat*) as among the most understandable or relatable of the Bible.

This portion of Scripture definitely won't be the favorite of anyone uncomfortable with dead bodies!

The Red Heifer and Bible Prophecy

These chapters talk about a red heifer that is to be burned so that, mysteriously, its ashes can purify an unclean individual who has touched a dead body. Specific instructions are given about how to be purified if you've touched a corpse, what to do if an open container without a lid fastened on was in the tent when someone died there . . . lessons on decontamination, in a sense. Relatedly, the origins of medical advice, [quarantines](#), and cleanliness are all rooted in Torah: even the serpent symbol used today by the medical community was loosely inspired by Moses' bronze snake in [Numbers 21:9](#).

The puzzling role of the red heifer that is described in [Numbers 19](#) is a source of much debate surrounding the Third Temple and the fulfillment of end times prophecy. *PBS Frontline* has an interesting article in its Apocalypse series describing some of the issues around the red heifer in modern context titled, [“Forcing the End: Why do a Pentecostal cattle breeder from Mississippi and an Orthodox Rabbi from Jerusalem believe that a red heifer can bring change?”](#) Perhaps you will find it interesting reading, along with an article humorously titled, [“In Quest of the Holy Cow”](#) from *Israel my Glory*.

While red cows exist, they have not existed in Israel until very recently, 2018 to be specific. That means that for over 2,000 years, there was no red heifer anywhere in Israel. CBN news reported on the [2018 red heifer](#) and since then, there have been other candidates. Ever heard that Crystal Lewis song, [“People get ready, Jesus is coming?”](#) Yeah. It’s true. He’s coming back! Get ready.

[**LINK: Holy cow! Prophecy fulfilled after red heifer is born at Temple of Israel**](#)

A stutterer told to talk . . . to a rock

While it is impossible for us to fully understand the LORD’s reasons for each instruction given in His Word, we can rest assured that He **does** have a reason for everything, even if we don’t understand.

Moshe (Moses) of all people, knew to obey God’s instructions, yet, on one famous occasion, he let his emotions get the best of him. When the people complained that they had no water to drink, *ADONAI* told Moshe to **speak** to a rock, and it would “give out its water” ([Numbers 20:8, TLV](#)).

In [Numbers 20:10](#), Moses called the people “rebels” (an insult in their day) and pounded on the rock twice rather than speaking to it.

We generally assume this is because Moses was angry.

He might also have been extraordinarily nervous.

Speaking was not Moses' *forte*. [REDACTED]



Was Moses indeed a stutterer? Neurologists and theologians don't collaborate as much as perhaps they should, but an article in [First Things](#) looks at the evidence from *neurological science* that CONFIRMS the widely-held interpretation/assumption that Moses stuttered.

The LORD had his reasons for commanding Moses to trust Him and *speak*. The rock contained water and could respond to verbal command. What's more, Jesus Christ the Anointed One, *Messiah Yeshua*, warned the Pharisees that rocks would cry out if the

believers ceased from praising their Father ([Luke 19:40](#)). But ultimately, the command to speak to the rock in Meribah was not so much to prove that such a feat could be done as it was a test of faith! Moses failed to obey, and it cost him: he and that generation would not live to see the long-awaited Promised Land.

In any case, water *did* gush out of that rock, quite a sight to see.

Something out of a movie?

The LORD provides for the Israelites' needs, but the people can't seem to shake their grumbling addiction.

They complain there is no bread, no water, and that they are sick of manna.

By [Numbers 21:6](#), ADONAI's patience had grown thin. He sent poisonous snakes which started biting people and many died. God is long-suffering, so even after all of this He makes a way for healing and restoration. Moses is instructed to construct a bronze snake on a pole (*nehushtan*), which would provide healing whenever a bite victim looked at it.

So many supernatural occurrences! These accounts in the book of Numbers really seem like something out of a movie!

Unlike a movie, however; all of what is written in Scripture is completely true. The Author is your Creator, and He will be your Savior if you will turn to Him in faith!

The King's Highway

If all of this wasn't enough trial and tribulation, the Israelites had to traverse land that was controlled by enemies.

In ancient times, there was a highway that connected the north to the south for purposes of travel and trade. This highway was known as the "King's Highway," and it was rightly named, because different *kingdoms* controlled access to the main road.

The King of Edom would not allow Israel to pass through their territory, nor would King Sihon and Og of the Amorites.

Israel had to wage war.

Israel won and began to live in the land which had belonged to the Amorites.

Israel's history is full of struggle and strife, but ultimately, **Israel wins.**

Today, as believers, we are part of Israel. We, too, have rebelled and fallen short of the expectations set out for us by the Word of God. Yet, in His infinite grace, mercy, and love, the LORD God of Israel has made a way for us.

We do not deserve permission granted to walk upon His Holy Road, but we walk the True King's Highway, and He gives us victory along the way.

I am reminded of a hymn we sang growing up:

The King's Highway

I know not where the road will lead
I follow day by day,
or where it ends: I only know
I walk the King's highway.
I know not if the way is long,
and no one else can say;
but rough or smooth, up hill or down,
I walk the King's highway.

And some I love have reached the end,
but some with me may stay,
their faith and hope still guiding me:
I walk the King's highway.
The way is truth, the way is love,
for light and strength I pray,
and through the years of life, to God
I walk the King's highway.

King's highway, Evelyn Atwater Cummins

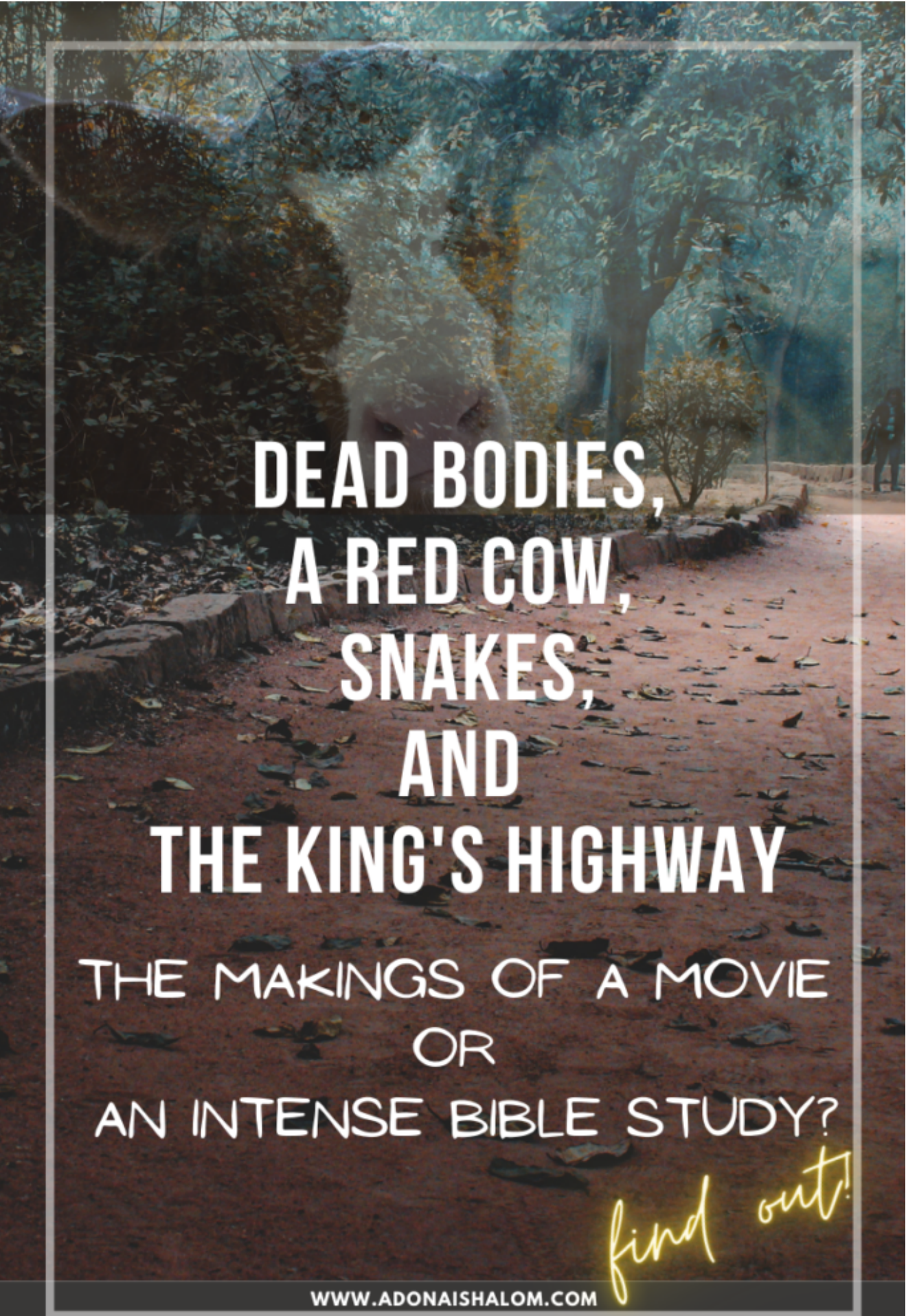


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King's highway, Evelyn Atwater Cummins

Let's continue walking along our King's Highway together as we study the book of Numbers together!

A misty forest path with a large white bull in the background. The path is dirt and covered with fallen leaves. The trees are tall and thin, and the overall atmosphere is ethereal and somewhat somber.

DEAD BODIES, A RED COW, SNAKES, AND THE KING'S HIGHWAY

THE MAKINGS OF A MOVIE
OR
AN INTENSE BIBLE STUDY?

find out!

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Shabbat Shaḷom!

May you have a restful and blessed Shabbat with your family!

“So there remains a Shabbat rest for the people of God.

For the one who has entered God’s rest

has also ceased from his own work,

just as God did from His.”

Hebrews 4:9-10

Korah: the Rebellious Social Influencer

Today, we have social media “influencers.” Korah was the social influencer in his day. He didn’t get YouTube awards or Facebook fans, but he had enough followers to cause a major disruption. That generation would never make it to the land of milk and honey.

Sticks and Stones on Sabbath

Underneath that pile of stones laid a man who had no understanding of his need for a relationship with his Maker. Bruised and buried, that man represents all of those who do not yet understand that Messiah has come – that Messiah was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities.

Memorial Day: The Memory of the Righteous is a blessing

What comes to mind when you think of Memorial Day?

If your family is anything like ours, you've probably got outdoor plans and a grill to light up. Memorial Day weekend is a wonderful time to enjoy being with family as most people have extra time off of work, and there is certainly nothing wrong with extra family time!

But while you are preparing to barbecue your burgers and Hebrew National hotdogs, I hope you have taken some time to reflect and thank HaShem for the gift of freedom that we have in the United States.

Just a few weeks ago, Israel was attacked by Hamas rocket fire. Safety, security, and freedom are not without cost. We must be thankful for all of those who have defended the United States, U.S. allies including Israel, and U.S. interests around the world.

Just a few weeks ago, Israel was attacked by Hamas rocket fire. Safety, security, and freedom are not without cost. We

must be thankful for all of those who have defended the United States and U.S. allies including Israel. So many soldiers and their families have sacrificed so much for our freedoms, and of those many have been faithful servants of the Eternal One.

Let their service be honored and never forgotten, and as Proverbs 10:7 says: “The memory of the righteous is a blessing.”

Tzedek, Tzadik, & Tzedakah: Matthew 6:3-4 through a Hebraic lens

Charitable giving is tracked, graphed, sought-after, solicited, pleaded for, telethoned for . . . and for good reason – there is a healthy motivation when all parties involved win. But how charitable is our charitable giving, if it is done for a reward?

How Genesis 1:2 can help you lead a friend to the LORD (and away from the Jehovah's

Witness movement)

Parashat B'reishit ([Genesis 1:1-6:8](#)) (Updated 10/13/2022 5783 B"H)

Beginning at the Beginning

Each year after [Sukkot \(The Feast of Tabernacles\)](#), it is customary to begin re-reading through *Torah* (the first five books of the Bible). I personally believe it is vital to supplement *Torah* reading with readings from the rest of the Bible, including the Prophets and the rest of the *Tanakh* as well as, of course, the New Testament (*B'rit Chadasha*).

So it is the time of year when we begin back at Genesis (known in Hebrew as *B'reishit*).

Beginning at the beginning of time.

We do well to understand that in every undertaking in life, we ought embark only with our understanding framed by the history of creation. If we know our Creator and are in right relationship with Him, then we will understand our role as the created and realize our need for restoration and salvation.

Those who do not yet live in right relationship with the LORD, the Creator of All, cannot be called His children.

But there is Good News!

["See how glorious a love the Father has given us, that we should be called God's children—and so we are!" 1 John 3:1](#)

As God's children, it is imperative that we share this Good News so that those who are perishing around us would be able to repent and know our Savior, too, and so, too, become children of the Most High God.

I will show you today a very simple method to share your

faith, beginning at the beginning.

Are you confident in your ability to share and defend your faith?

As followers of Messiah Yeshua (the Lord Jesus Christ), it is our joyous duty to share with others the Good News of salvation.

We also need to be able to defend our faith.

Demonstrate that our faith is unshakeable!

It is so important to be equipped to share with others the Truth!

This is often called "apologetics."

But rather than *apologizing* for what you believe, your task is to share it!

And be able to explain why you believe what you believe! Be confident! The LORD is with you and will give you the words and wisdom when you need it.

Today, I will focus on how one simple verse from Genesis can be used as a powerful spiritual weapon against one of the fastest growing cults: *The Jehovah's Witness organization.*

The Jehovah Witness sect presents both a challenge and opportunity to Bible-believing Christians.

Are you ready to challenge yourself to share your faith?

Check out a simple and straightforward way to lead a friend to the True LORD of the Bible!

First, we must recognize that Truth is superior to cult religions and teachings

The Jehovah Witness **cult** continues to grow around the world. It is highly likely you will encounter a Jehovah's Witness follower at some point.

You might think I am being very harsh calling it a cult.

However, given the high level of deception and falsehood, softer terms will not do.

Believers: we need to be educated about sects and cults in order to ask the Spirit of Truth to help us evangelize and minister to members of these erroneous organizations.

We also need to pray that the Spirit of all Truth, God's Holy Spirit, the only True God would help us **show genuine love, kindness, and compassion toward all of those who are trapped in confusion.**

In order to properly witness to a member of a cult religion, we must ourselves be confident in Whom we have believed and know the Truth of Scripture for ourselves.



Genesis 1:2 can help you lead a friend to the LORD (and away from cult doctrines!)

Second, it is wise to have a solid understanding of *trustworthy* Bible translations

My husband and I [pastored](#) a mission congregation in the southern USA for many years.

The influence of the Jehovah's Witnesses in the area astounded us.

It was a region impacted by true spiritual darkness.

The Jehovah's Witness cult members were particularly

successful in sowing their seeds of confusion among the Latino/Hispanic community in that area.

The JW movement convinced many Spanish-speaking farm workers in the community that an adulterated bible, their “New World Translation” was superior to any standard (*ie. reputable*) English or Spanish language Bibles such as the King James Version or Reina Valera 1960.

It is important to educate new believers about trustworthy Bible translations.

We had our work cut out for us teaching the Truth of Scripture as many lay folk didn't seem to really care about the scholastic origins of the Bibles they were reading.

Third, be familiar with the unsettling founding of the Jehovah Witness Movement

If you have ever studied comparative religion or sects, you may know the founding of the Jehovah Witness movement sounds more like a **business enterprise** than a revelatory experience.

A group of men (most say about 30) reportedly gathered in a Brooklyn, NY building and invented the religion.

They produced a “translation” of the Bible without knowing the Biblical languages Hebrew or Greek. Again, this is known as the “New World Translation” or NWT.

The men **changed** generous portions of Scripture to suit their doctrinal inventions (in complete defiance of the command in [Revelation 22:18-19](#) to never add to or take away from the LORD's Book):

[“I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of](#)

[this book. If anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his share in the Tree of Life and the Holy City, which are written in this book.” Revelation 22:18-19](#)

It is true many of the first followers of our Messiah Jesus were **not** highly educated men.

However, it is **not** true that folks should wholeheartedly trust translations from people who cannot at least rudimentarily engage the languages they are working to translate.

The sinister nature of the NWT “translation” becomes obvious from the very beginning of the tarnished text: right there in Genesis.

How to use [Genesis 1:2](#) as a Perfect Starting Point for Effective Evangelism (particularly with Jehovah’s Witness followers)

I discovered an easy way to strike up a conversation with Jehovah Witness followers.

Simply ask them about the Holy Spirit:

I would ask a Jehovah’s Witness to open their Bible to [Genesis 1:2](#).

A well known verse, it tells us the Spirit of God hovered over the waters at creation:

[“Now the earth was chaos and waste, darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the *Ruach Elohim* was hovering upon the surface of the water.” Genesis 1:2, TLV](#)

Ruach Elohim is Hebrew for the “Spirit of God.”

You may be more familiar with the New King James Version's phrasing:

["The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2, NKJV](#)

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"Now the earth was chaos and waste,
darkness was on the surface of the deep,
and the Ruach Elohim was hovering
upon the surface of the water.

GENESIS 1:2

Help people recognize the spiritual danger:

In the false translation used by the Jehovah's Witness organization (the New World Translation), the word for the Holy Spirit (*Ruach Elohim* in Hebrew) has been completely **eliminated** and replaced by a lower-case and non-personal term, the "*active force*."

Those who have participated in the JW organization for a long time may be more hostile to you trying to help them, but I found that for those who are newer to the JW ranks, **many would talk to me.**

Many were open to discussing the glaring issue related to [the unpardonable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit of God \(Matthew 12:31\)](#).

The Holy Spirit gives believers the words we need when we need them.

And I can assure you, He is faithful.

The LORD of Truth can help you to reach those who have been falsely indoctrinated with the lies of the enemy that have been adopted by the Jehovah's Witness organization.

He can save those who have been deceived.

[Nothing is impossible for God! Matthew 19:26](#)

So there is great hope!

The Jehovah Witness cult has injected a stronghold of deception and confusion into vulnerable people looking for answers to life's questions.

There are **SO MANY** false doctrines in the JW religion!

Another easy place to start is with the nature of God.

God has been revealed to humanity as the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We can discuss semantics on "echad," the doctrine of "Trinity," or the "Oneness of God" another time.

But the point is, we believe in the Holiness and Deity of God. We do not diminish the Son's standing by denying His divinity – He is Fully God, and we certainly do not take away our reverence and respect for the Holy Spirit of God.

The Simple Truth

For today, rejoice that you know the God of all Truth!

He is the Eternal One, Heavenly Father, the Prince of Peace, Lord of All, and the Mighty Comforter!

Our LORD is the one who saves, fully God and fully human revealed in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ our LORD)!

He is the Conquerer of death and the Conquerer of Confusion. He is King forever!

Do not shy away from sharing your faith!

There are SO many people who are hungry for the TRUTH!

You just might be the very person the LORD wants to use to bring others to know Him.

Are you reading this and have questions about the Truth of our Savior Jesus Christ (Yeshua haMashiach)? Please reach out! We would love to help you know more about the True Savior and Messiah who loves you and died for you so you could live eternally with Him. Pray today for members of the Jehovah's Witness organization, that they would come to be free from the lies of the enemy.

Are you a member of the Jehovah's Witness organization? Are you seeking to know the Truth about the Messiah, the Son of God? Please contact us, we would love to help you walk with the LORD:



GENESIS 1:2

*Now the earth was chaos
and waste, darkness was on
the surface of the deep, and
the Ruach Elohim was
hovering upon the surface
of the water.*

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"Since you were
precious in My sight,
you have been honored,
and I have loved you."

ISAIAH 43:4

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“Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you.” Isaiah 43:4

How you can be blessed in your daily routine

Updated 5/25/22 B”H

Do you want to be blessed in your daily routine? Here are some practical ways you can receive God’s blessing in your life:

1. Approach God directly through prayer

Some world religions teach that God is far-off, distant, and unconcerned with the daily activities of human beings.

Some people believe that they **cannot** personally talk with Him: that they need an intermediary or someone “holier-than-thou” to speak to the Almighty on their behalf.

Countless times have people asked me to pray for them, but it becomes clear **they have no intention of doing so themselves.**

Prayer on the behalf of another is never wasted, but **it would be more effective if the requester would join in with true faith of their own.**

You can pray any time! Start your day off right, by approaching the throne of the LORD with a humble prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

Why not listen to this song, [“Awake, O Israel, put off thy slumber”](#) and start giving Him praise right now!?

2. Reject American Christianity's dangerous flirtation with yoga and kundalini in your exercise routine

If you have a morning exercise routine, keep at it! Incorporate praise and worship music when you're on your elliptical or treadmill. Thank the LORD for the ability to move the body that He gave you. **If you've ever had to recover from an injury or medical intervention, you know not to take exercise for granted.**

Pray today for strength. That He would strengthen your every limb and muscle and tendon, that His strength would be made perfect in your weaknesses.

Do NOT follow the New Age movement's suggestions to "look inward," attempting to empty the mind in order to find enlightenment, self-actualization, or nirvana.

More and more Americans turn toward Eastern religion, incorporating yoga and kundalini worship practices into their lives and joining the pop culture fascination with anything decidedly **nonChristian**.

My advice to aspiring yogis: yes, stay healthy, eat some yogurt, but skip the yoga.

Let me explain why:

My friends (natives of northern India) who happen to be evangelical missionaries to that same region attest that yoga **is** indeed rooted in Hindu religion and they are saddened (*appalled, really, but they are shy to show it*) by the Western embrace of these dark influences. **They risk their lives preaching the Good News of Messiah and rejoicing when bondages are broken as people reject idolatry and come back stateside only to be bombarded by American Christians who get all**

defensive about their exercise routines.

[Missionaries in India] risk their lives preaching the Good News of Messiah and rejoicing when bondages are broken as people reject idolatry and come back stateside only to be bombarded by American Christians who get all defensive about their exercise routines.

The Scriptures used by thousands of believers around the world instruct plainly what ought be done.

Rabbi She'll (Paul, the Apostle) wrote to the Romans that believers should "renew their mind," ([Romans 12:2](#)) and assured the Corinthian believers that by the power of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) and faith in His Name, they now had the "mind of Messiah" ([1 Corinthians 2:16](#)).

Followers of Jesus (*Yeshua*) are to set their minds on things above ([Colossians 3:2](#)). We must choose to live differently. Rather than empty our minds, we must fill our mind with the Truth of God's Word.

There are plenty of ways to demonstrate our faith without compromise. After all, there are plenty of stretching exercises that we as believers can do that are not rooted in yoga's practices. Let us honor our LORD and not invite Hindu spirits into our lives.

3. Meditate on the Psalms

"Meditation" isn't anti-Biblical.

The Bible **exhorts** us to meditate! Meditate as a child of God, on the things of God. Do not meditate as the world does.

["Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever](#)

things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”
Philippians 4:8, emphasis added

I always recommend that people meditate on the Word of God as a whole but also specifically on the [Psalms](#). This is timely because I very recently reviewed an excellent devotional resource on the [Psalms](#) that uses some of the famous minister Charles Spurgeon’s writings called [“Spurgeon and the Psalms.”](#) You can read that review [here](#).

It is a sad reality that so many people do not realize that their Maker, their Creator, will hear them (and answer them!) if they would call upon His Name. Too many think that spiritual meditation is reserved for Buddhists and Hindus. Too many people appear to feel ashamed by the knowledge that they are sinners that they are afraid to speak to the God of Heaven. **Many choose not to overcome this barrier**, embarrassed that their peers or family will judge them for choosing to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (*Yeshua haMashiach*).

Many echo David’s wonderings that we find in [Psalm 24](#):

[“Who may stand in His Holy Place? \(Psalm 24:3b\)](#)

How can I receive a blessing from the Almighty One?

How can I know He will touch my life?

How can I know He will heal a loved one?

[“Who may go up on the mountain of ADONAI?” \(Psalm 24:3a\)](#)

It is easier than you may think.

David was inspired to give the answer:

[“One with clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted his soul in vain, nor sworn deceitfully.” \(Psalm 24:4\)](#)

The next verse assures us of this:

["He will receive a blessing from ADONAI, righteousness from God his salvation." \(Psalm 24:5\)](#)

"He will
receive a
blessing from
Adonai,
righteousness
from God his
salvation."
(Psalm 24:5)



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If you sincerely come before Him, bearing no agenda, lifting your soul not to the idols of this world but to the Prince of Peace, **He will bless you.**

May it be said of you, like of Nathanael in [John 1:47, "in him there is no deceit."](#)

But if you have failed and your hands are unclean due to dishonest dealings and impurities in your heart, let this be a message of hope for your life.

You *can* be clothed in righteousness if you choose to be

wrapped in the garments of His salvation ([Isaiah 61:10](#)), the greatest blessing available to anyone on this earth. May nothing impede you from the blessing that is yours if you will receive it.

Here is a song by worship leader [Robin Mark](#) that may truly encourage you today called ["Garments of Praise."](#) I love the lyrics:

["Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness;
Let the oil of gladness flow down from your throne!
Put on the garments of praise, for the spirit of heaviness;
Your joy is my strength alone, my strength alone!"](#)

Make these broken weary bones rise to dance again,
Wet this dry and thirsty land with a river!
LORD our eyes are fixed on you and we are waiting,
For your garland of grace as we praise your Name!

Hallelujah, sing hallelujah!
We give all honor and praise to your Name!
Hallelujah, sing hallelujah!
We trade our sorrows for garments of praise!"

If you begin your day focusing on the LORD and His goodness, the rest of your day will be full of blessing, too. And when there are hard times, you will be spiritually prepared to endure the battle and win. Receive the blessing that He has for you – it is yours, just for the asking. He is willing to give you unmerited favor: what we call, "grace." And His grace is more than sufficient for you, today.

Also, remember this: we may have our daily routines, but with God, life becomes much more than routine! It becomes full of meaning and joy!

4. Make the decision RIGHT NOW to follow the Savior of mankind and you will certainly receive the blessing and favor of God Most High.

And when you do, let me be the first to say, welcome to the family!!

If you have questions about Messiah Yeshua (Jesus the Christ), please send a message or leave a comment. We would be overjoyed to help you in your spiritual walk. Shalom!

I'll leave you today with another song that will minister to your heart based on [Psalm 24, "Who will Ascend to the Mountain of the LORD?"](#)

Haman's wife Zeresh was right about this 1 thing

From Haman to Hamas, Israel is all too often surrounded and attacked by enemies, but fear not, the enemy will never prevail! Baruch HaShem Adonai, the Guardian of Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps.