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**SEPTEMBER 2019
DEPARTED FAMILY AND
THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

OIM UPDATE

September 2019

Inevitably, the work of the ministry that we have been called to walk by faith, always seems to be full of unexpected twists and turns—where the Almighty One is consistently teaching us more about Him and His ways, so we might come to know Him even more intimately. For whatever reasons over the past several decades, the last few weeks of August and the beginning weeks of September, typically have major life altering events occurring within our family. This past month and into September is no different, especially with the homegoing of Margaret’s one hundred year and nine month old mother, Mary Ruth Franklin Jeffries, on August 30 in Jacksonville, FL, and followed by her burial in Birmingham, AL on September 9. **An epoch definitely closed in our family, that we are significantly reflecting on!**

In a beautiful way, the Lord allowed “M.R.” to slip into His presence on the seventy-ninth anniversary of her wedding eve, where on the next day in 1940, she entered into “marital bliss.” But now she has been reunited with her husband and her predecessors, and will forever enjoy “celestial bliss” with her Savior and a host of saints. Additionally, her funeral took place at the very church in Birmingham where she was married on August 31, 1940 by her father, Bishop Marvin A. Franklin, the senior pastor. Amazingly, the Believers in the crowd were in awe of not only her godly life example, but how the Lord timed her numbered days so that all of the signposts of His fingerprints were evident throughout the transition from life, to death of the physical body, and entrance into Paradise with Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel.

Contemporaneous to these events, ministry ventures never cease, as John continues to expand and refine the outreach of Messianic Apologetics, utilizing many of the tools available at our disposal. This year, with the 2020s on our doorstep, Outreach Israel Ministries has begun another “volume” in our efforts to help the Messianic Jewish community mature and grow, as the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21) moves along at the Father’s foreordained pace. In addition to

and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, NASU).

In recollection, the vision I had was simply that of an extremely high radio tower (like what one used to see in broadcasting ads about "Radio Free Europe") towering over the planet and emanating concentric circles of radio-like waves that were traveling with penetrating power in every direction throughout the universe. Down through the centuries, whether in Shanghai, London, Johannesburg, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, or where ever a synagogue was located, whenever a Jewish businessman attended a *Shabbat* service—since he would typically know what was being studied that week—the local rabbi would often ask that traveler to share his thoughts or insights on the weekly portion, with the congregational members during the course of the Sabbath rest. Hence, current news and events from around the world were being shared.

In addition to general information, God was also communicating His Word throughout the created order and speaking His voice to those who had properly tuned into His broadcast, like the old analog radio receivers. The revelatory impact was available, if one was focused and listened to the designated "channels," in order to recognize and interpret events or issues that were happening globally, or in their nation, state, county, city, neighborhood, congregation, family, or even individual setting. Such a revelation made me appreciate and better comprehend how the scattered Jewish people have been able to maintain some relative cohesion among themselves, despite the many attempts to eliminate their existence! Consequently, five years of study resulted in the **TorahScope** series of commentary books. Now, after about a decade since completing these volumes, I simply marvel at God's desire to instruct His children from the weekly portions, and contribute a weekly "mini-drash" on the Torah reading at our local congregation when I am in town.

Currently through August and September, the Book of Deuteronomy is being studied, as the Hebrew civil calendar year is winding

translated as authority, power to act, domain, et. al., that the Holy One has purposed to be a part of His created order and delegated as He chooses. Naturally, this led to meditating upon Yeshua's Great Commission recorded in the last words of the Gospel of Matthew, the temptation of Yeshua by the Devil, the distribution of Earthy powers, and how God expects His children to obey what He has put in place:

"And Yeshua came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority [*exousia*] has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:18-20, NASU).

"And the devil said to Him, 'I will give You all this **domain** [*exousia*] and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.' Yeshua answered him, 'It is written, "YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY" [Deuteronomy 6:13]'" (Luke 4:6-8, NASU).

"Every person is to be in subjection to the **governing authorities** [*exousia*]. For there is no **authority** [*exousia*] except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists **authority** [*exousia*] has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of **authority** [*exousia*]? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake" (Romans 13:1-5, NASU).

presence of the Lord; and that He may send Yeshua, the Messiah appointed for you, whom heaven must receive **until *the period of restoration of all things*** about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time” (Acts 3:19-21, NASU).

In fact, if we are perceptive, and follow the further advice of Peter, the Holy One will open up even more of His secrets and remind us of His hand upon all things we are entertaining in our respective walks with Him. Now how awesome is that!

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. **Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.** For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah. **For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Yeshua the Messiah will be abundantly supplied to you. Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them*, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.** I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder” (2 Peter 1:4-13, NASU).