

OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

monthly newsletter of Outreach Israel Ministries
and MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS



JUNE 2021

EXAMINE YOUR CHOICES

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STATEMENT OF BELIEF

*Outreach Israel Ministries
and Messianic Apologetics*

There is One Almighty Creator God of the Universe, who has revealed Himself to us in the manifestations of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came in fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies of the Scriptures and is fully God. It is mandatory for us to believe in a Divine Redeemer to be saved. Salvation is a free gift of God to all who receive Messiah Yeshua into their lives and confess of their sins. Those who reject Messiah will be consigned to eternal punishment.

The Holy Scriptures, Genesis-Revelation, are the inspired, infallible Word of God as revealed in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts

All Believers in Israel's Messiah are to be regarded as a part of the Commonwealth of Israel. Jewish and non-Jewish Believers are to respect one another in mutual love as brothers and sisters, and are to work together for the salvation of the Jewish people and return of Israel's Messiah.

The Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) is the foundation of all Scripture, was followed by our Messiah Yeshua, and is to still be studied and heeded by Believers today.

Yeshua the Messiah is coming to gather the Believers after the Tribulation period.

OIM is an *agapē* ministry, freely and benevolently giving the vast majority of its teachings and resources, without charge, to those who desire to be spiritually nourished.

For a fuller Statement of Faith, consult the OIM website

Outreach Israel News is the monthly newsletter of Outreach Israel Ministries, a non-profit organization with an emphasis on reaching, teaching, and encouraging the Messianic community. Subscription to **Outreach Israel News** is without cost and supported only by donation.

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OLM UPDATE

June 2021

“For everything there is a season and a time for every activity under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, TLV).

Occasionally in life’s journey, it is beneficial to reflect upon where one has been, where one is, and where one is going. The life **choices** made and taken during a person’s

Earthly sojourn determine exactly where one is located physically, but most importantly spiritually. Of course, the path one takes from the womb to the tomb varies, because of the free will **choices** made by individuals reacting to unique circumstances and environmental situations that naturally arise. Therefore, the consequences of those actions, initiated by **decisions** to do whatever, always result in reactions. It is the simple principle explained by Newton’s third law, **“to every action there is always an equal reaction.”** This is a physical description of the Scriptural axiom found in Paul’s letter to the Galatians, where a more profound explanation includes the spiritual dynamics in play:

“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught doing something wrong, **you who are directed by the *Ruach***, restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness—looking closely at yourself so you are not tempted also. Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you fulfill the *Torah* of Messiah. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is fooling himself. **Rather let each one examine his own work.** Then he will have pride in himself alone and not in comparison to anyone else. For each one will carry his own load. Now let the one who is taught the word share all good things with his teacher. Do not be deceived—God is not mocked. **For whatever a man sows, that he also shall reap.** For the one who sows in the flesh will reap corruption from the flesh. But the one who sows in the *Ruach* will reap from the *Ruach* eternal life. **So let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we don’t give up.** Therefore, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good toward all—especially those who belong to the household of

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faith" (Galatians 6:1-10, TLV).

Here, the apostle exhorts all Believers to not only be mindful of what others are doing to lovingly correct wrongs, but most importantly, challenges the faithful to **"examine"** their own actions. This is especially true when the weariness of "doing good" appears less productive from a limited human perspective. Nevertheless, it is imperative that the **"examination"** process be a regular part of a person's walk with the Messiah. After all, according to Qohelet or the Preacher in the Book of Ecclesiastes, there is a time and season for everyone to actively **examine** where they have been, where they are, where they are going, and make wise **choices** accordingly.

Many times, throughout the Apostolic Scriptures, the writers refer to personal **examination** to make sure that Believers are **"working out [their] salvation with fear and trembling"** (Philippians 2:12). In other words, never take salvation for granted! And most assuredly, keep short accounts with the Lord when thoughts, words, or life **choices** veer from His Word (1 John 1:9). Two personal examples come to mind.

First, when I was a new Believer in the Messiah, I attended a New Testament "Bible church," that had a traditional weekly Lord's Supper remembrance, during a second meeting on Sunday evening. Quite frankly, this was my favorite gathering of the week, which I always **chose** to attend. After three hours of a main service and Bible class in the morning, where the Gospel was preached and the teaching was edifying, the purpose of the evening assembly was purposely far more "Spirit led." **This was when the most serious Believers attended for personal spiritual nourishment.** There was **not** a prepared message, but simply an opportunity for anyone in the congregation to offer a prayer, suggest a hymn, or proclaim a word or exhortation. Most times, the presence of the Holy Spirit hovering over the assembly was very evident. Toward the end of the meeting, there was an opportunity to participate in the Lord's Supper, generally begun by a prayer. Typically, the main elder quoted part of the following verses to remind the congregants of the solemnity of the moment, with particular emphasis on the need for each to **examine** themselves before taking the elements:

"In the same way, He also took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in memory of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Therefore whoever eats

the bread or drinks the Lord's cup in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. **But a man must examine himself, and then let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup.** For the one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and quite a few have died. **For if we were judging ourselves thoroughly, we wouldn't be coming under judgment.** But when we are judged, we are being disciplined by the Lord so that we might not be condemned along with the world. So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. If anyone is hungry let him eat at home, so that when you meet it doesn't lead to judgment. And the rest I will put in order when I come" (1 Corinthians 11:25-34, TLV).

For the first thirteen years of my walk with the Messiah, ever since my salvation experience in the Fall of 1978, and my marriage to a woman I met at that church in 1979—I faithfully took my family, which eventually included two daughters, to the evening services, and seriously sought to **examine** myself every week. But then in 1991, circumstances in my marriage began to unravel. I could not understand what was happening because we were relatively comfortable. I had a successful real estate business, we owned a house with no debt, our children were attending a private Christian school, and I was simply constantly imploring the Lord for direction on what He wanted to do with my life. Discovering that answer was of paramount importance to me, and became a consistent supplication in my prayers.

In my morning devotionals, where I assiduously journaled my thoughts and prayers, I remember contemplating and then writing this on August 28, 1991:

*Lord, if I were a young Hebrew child of thirteen (the number of years I had been a Believer), I would be at the point in life where I would be having my Bar Mitzvah and become a son of the commandments. And yet, rather than having the fruit of the Spirit, **"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control** (Galatians 5:21-23), instead, I am physically depressed, relationally challenged in my marriage, and despondent about our family finances. **"Lord, please flush my flesh!"** (Clearly, the three areas where God had gotten my undivided attention, physical, relational, and financial problems had snowballed into my cry for help. In a desperate call for change I **chose** to ask for God's intervention.)*

Obviously, I was at my wit's end, and my cry for help from my Heavenly Father was very sincere. Of course, when you ask for and give permission to God to alter your circumstances, He occasionally responds to your request. In my case, it was not what I expected, but instead four more months of a deteriorating marriage to the point of finally getting some desperately needed Biblically-based marital counseling. But even after two sessions, when my wife declined to continue the joint counseling, the counselors suggested that we then counsel individually, which I anxiously agreed and **chose** to do. After all, my commitment to the vows of marriage were absolute. There were no "Biblical grounds" (adultery, abuse, lack of support, or abandonment) for divorce. Obviously, I was not a "perfect husband," but I was totally willing to do anything to maintain our union, especially for the wellbeing of the children because I knew that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16), I sincerely believed that two people who professed belief in the Lord could work things out. But lamentably, my former wife was unwilling to pursue marital counseling, but her refusal did not stop me. I willingly **chose** to do whatever it would take to remedy our marital problems.

Over the course of several weeks of visits, the suggestion that I was being oppressed by some unbeknownst demons surfaced. My horrified reaction to that revelation was to immediately **choose** to seek deliverance from those oppressors! Thankfully, my heart was in the right place, and God was supernaturally answering my request to "**flush my flesh.**" After two incredible deliverance sessions, I was completely set free of the oppressors, who had legal access to my soul from doors opened prior to my salvation experience at twenty-seven years of age. I knew very little about the possibility of being demonically oppressed, because it was not taught at the "New Testament Bible Church." But I learned from these godly counselors, that even though I was born again, I still needed to confess and recant of my previous lawless transgressions (as seemingly innocent as consulting horoscopes), to slam shut the "doors to my soul" and terminate any legal access the demonic realm had to my inner man. This Biblical means of cleansing my soul utilizing and verbalizing the Word of God, had awesome results.

As a positive byproduct, I learned to regularly **examine** myself on an ongoing basis over the past thirty years of my walk with the Messiah. When and if thoughts, words, or actions come to mind that are contrary to His Word, *then* I **choose** to take them to the Lord in prayer with con-

fession, ask for forgiveness followed by repentance, the forgiveness and purification is received, as noted in 1 John 1:9: **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."** Over time I have realized that any recognized and acknowledged instances of disobedience to the laws of God are generally discovered by introspection and **self-examination**. Hence for spiritual maturation and growth, it is imperative to take the time to **examine** oneself. Then, **choose** to make this practice a regular aspect of walking on the narrow path, with our eyes fixed upon the Messiah. **But the willful choice is always ours to make.**

A second memorable **examination and choice** in my life arrived in the Fall of 1997, when I was now married to Margaret (the love of my life), and responsible for three adopted children and the two from my previous marriage. With four teenagers to educate through their college years and the financial mountain we were facing, I had no idea how the Lord was going to provide. Providentially, Margaret and I were both entrepreneurs, and with Margaret's exceptional gift of faith, we were challenged with a **decision** to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to a foreign country. This would include the uprooting of three children under our constant care from their primary and secondary educational circumstances, sell our home, and move lock, stock, and barrel to Honduras. I had never had a vision or serious thoughts about missionary work. But when the strong impression to my pleas for direction from the Lord came that we should **"sell everything but what we could fit into two twenty-foot containers, and move to Honduras,"** my supplication intensified. My arguments back and forth with the Lord kept bringing up all the pros and cons of such a dramatic relocation. This **"Ur of the Chaldeans"** type of request made to Abram by God came across my mind as our dialogue continued (Genesis 11-12). As I counseled with many, attempting to discern what the Lord was saying and asking, I was led to talk with a Messianic Jewish acquaintance who happened to live in Hawaii, my birthplace. In my conversation with Daniel, as I was describing the challenges of uprooting from all my business connections, altering the education of three children, leaving two daughters behind with their mother (my former wife), the difficulties of how to earn a living in a foreign country, and on and on, he paused and asked me to look at a Scripture that came to him. So, I turned in my Bible to this passage from the Gospel according to Luke:

"As they were traveling on the road, someone said to Him, 'I will follow You wherever You go.' But *Yeshua* said to him, 'Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.' He said to another, '**Follow Me.**' But that one said, 'First let me go and bury my father.' But *Yeshua* said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Then another also said, 'I will follow You, Master, but first let me say goodbye to those in my home.' But *Yeshua* said to him, '**No one who has put his hand to the plow and looked back is fit for the kingdom of God**'" (Luke 9:57-62, TLV).

As I read it aloud back to Daniel, when I got to the final sentence, my heart sank like a rock. Immediately, I replied to my advice giver, "*Wait a minute, what is that passage saying? If I **choose** to follow the Lord's leading, and essentially, **put my hand to the plow** in service to Him, if I as much as **look back** at my previous ways to make money, I am **NOT fit** for the Kingdom of God? Wait a second Daniel, that is such a hard saying to digest, what are you saying?*" Daniel responded soberly with a simple comment that "*It is not what I am saying, but what *Yeshua* is saying to anyone who is called into His service.*" "Wow!" I thought. "I am really going to have to meditate and pray about this word from the Lord and discuss it with my wife." The conversation ended. Now the **choice** was mine to make with the complete agreement of my wife Margaret. What would we **choose** to do? Would we ignore the call? Did we hear from the Holy Spirit? Did we have the faith required to follow Him on this journey He was asking us to take, and **NOT** look back? After a series of confirming words to our prayers, and the rapid sale of our house at substantially more than we were even asking, as a couple united in our desire to serve the Lord, we mutually **chose** to make the move. This initiated what we have euphemistically referred to as our "**spiritual scavenger hunt**" over the past twenty-three years of following the cloud and pillar of fire of the Lord.

Hence, as this 28th of May arrived, the 28th anniversary my reacquaintance with Margaret after a twenty-one-year hiatus at a college reunion, was recalled and contemplated. What were the odds that two earlier marriages would end by a premature death of Margaret's first husband, and an unwanted divorce of my marriage, would make us both available for the next chapters of our life together as one in the Messiah? Neither one of us foresaw the circumstances that would allow us to

lose a spouse, become eligible for remarriage, and **choose** to marry one another. But God did. He knew it before we were even created. We just had to move through time to arrive where we are now. He had to gift us first with His Son's saving grace, and in addition, grant us the measure of faith to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Quite frankly, it has had its challenges over the years. But our faithful Heavenly Father has been and will always be our Provider along the journey! I cannot imagine depending on anyone or anything else, even though there have been temptations to do so. After all, He is the Provider and we are simply the workers, attempting to the best of our ability to be led by His Spirit, and serve Him, no matter what the task assigned. As a result, we have been blessed immeasurably with health and a continuing desire to serve Him and **never look back** at what could have been, given the **choices** of life.

On the 10th of June, we celebrate the 27th anniversary of our marriage in 1994, when a time of remembrance and **reexamination** of the **choices** we have made is appropriate. Naturally, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge, and 2021 is vastly different from 1972 when we first met, or even 1993 when we got restarted in our relationship culminating in marital bliss. This past year we have been somewhat sidelined by the privilege to take care of my 94-year-old mother, as we rescued her from the independent/assisted living care facility in March 2020 because of COVID-19 issues, and have had her living with us since that time. The labor of love to attend to her needs during her declining years has reduced our ability to leave the home with her unattended. A small inconvenience to consider, but a definite restriction on our movement or travel. But those circumstances simply allowed us to get better acquainted with FaceTime calls with relatives, Zoom or Skype" calls for ministry and business, and the introduction of new podcasting opportunities. The venues that have opened up to us, during this unique season, have been quite exciting!

With this, and many other things, in mind, we are anticipating a new season of ministry efforts in the coming chapter of our spiritual scavenger hunt and journey! Our expectations are cautiously optimistic, but absolutely tuned into the dramatic changes coming to the world in the post 2020 era. The challenge is, as Yeshua puts it, to "not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me" (John 14:1), and be anxious for nothing and rejoice in His providence, as stated in this exhortation to

the Believers in Philippi:

“Rejoice in the Lord always—again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. **Do not be anxious about anything—but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.** And the *shalom* of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah *Yeshua*” (Philippians 4:4-7, TLV).

In conclusion, I would be remiss in not including a wonderful admonition written by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians, which summarizes what I have been trying to convey in this update. Here, Paul’s warning is to willingly **choose** to test and **examine** yourselves on a frequent basis to positively ascertain that you are “in the faith” and have **not** failed the test:

“This is the **third** time I am coming to you. ‘By the testimony of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.’ I spoke a **warning**, when I was with you the second time. Though now I am away, I am again speaking a **warning** to those who have sinned before, as well as to all the rest, that if I come again, I will not spare anyone—since you are demanding proof that Messiah is speaking through me. He is not weak toward you, but powerful among you. For He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives through the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we shall live with Him by God’s power toward you. **Test yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Examine yourselves! Or don’t you know yourselves—that Messiah *Yeshua* is in you?** Unless of course you failed the test. But I hope that you will realize that we haven’t failed the test” (2 Corinthians 13:1-6, TLV).

Three times Paul warned the purported Believers in Corinth to regularly test and **examine** themselves regarding their walk of faith. Therefore, when it comes to times of anniversaries or appointed times or simply when prompted by the Holy Spirit, it is critical to **choose** to make sure that your relationship with the Holy One is sound and secure. Certain questions might arise. Am I maturing in my walk in the Messiah? Is my intimacy with Him growing? Can I discern His voice more clearly? Am I being led by the Spirit and walking in the Spirit? Do I understand more about His ways? Do I see Him working His will in all circumstances, be they personal, familial, communal, national, or even international? These are interesting times, and whether we accept it or not, many things that are happening in the world can potentially have an impact on our lives in the future. Nevertheless, some of the most profound advice

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ever given to the children of God comes from the Sermon on the Mount, where the Messiah Yeshua comforts His followers with these words:

“So I say to you, **do not worry about your life**—what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your Father in heaven feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by **worrying** can add a single hour to his life? And why do you **worry** about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. Now if in this way God clothes the grass—which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow—will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore **do not worry**, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For the pagans eagerly pursue all these things; yet **your Father in heaven knows that you need all these. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own**” (Matthew 6:25-34, TLV).

So, what is Yeshua recommending? He is offering His followers a **choice**. One can either spend time worrying about all the cares of the world, or instead, **choose** to first seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness—with the confidence that the “needs” of life will be supplied by our Heavenly Father. Upon considering these words from the Messiah, the correct **choice** should be obvious. The challenge after frequent **examinations** of the heart is to **choose** wisely. After all, we only have one life to give during our Earthly sojourn. **Choose** to give it back to Him!

Finally, we at Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics are extremely grateful for your prayers and financial support of our efforts to minister to the Body of Messiah. May the Lord bless you, and keep you, and may His face shine upon you, and give you His peace, for the **choices** you make.

Until the restoration of all things. . .

Mark Huey