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**Jesus**



In a  
Distinctly  
**Jewish Way**

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**50+**  
over 50 years



Rev. Robert and Carrie Specter

## February 2022: Here's an update of the ministry in the past month.

We LOVE encouraging notes! [Rockofisraelministries@gmail.com](mailto:Rockofisraelministries@gmail.com)

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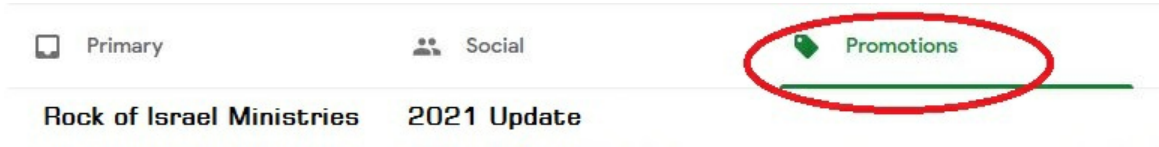
Visit our main Website



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**\*\*\* Special note to Gmail users \*\*\***



Some of you are missing out on our emails each month because Google has been sending our updates into your "promotions" folder instead of your main inbox.

To fix this, simply click on your promotions folder, click on our name "Rock of Israel" and then drag our name to the word "primary" and let go. That's all.

Or just simply check your "promotions" folder the first week of each month for our newsletter.

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**New York City's notorious  
serial killer – "Son of Sam"  
Now a friend of mine  
and a Jewish believer in Jesus!**  
by, Doug Carmel

If you were alive in New York City in the late 1970's, there is no



way you could avoid hearing this name – “Son of Sam.” It was in the headlines constantly: a serial killer who kept New Yorker’s in daily terror, wondering where he might strike next. Young women were especially fearful, as they seemed to be his favorite targets.

“Son of Sam” is the nickname David Berkowitz gave himself during his murderous crime spree. He left a handwritten note at one of his crime scenes that read in part, “I am a monster. I am the ‘Son of Sam’.”

TODAY  
Sun, 10¢  
TONIGHT  
Mon, 15¢  
TOMORROW  
Tue, 15¢  
Briefs, page 1  
TV: PAGE 27

# NEW YORK POST

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1977 25 CENTS

METRO  
TODAY'S RACING

SALE PAID  
CIRCULATION  
25 QUARTER 1977 609,390


## 'NO ONE IS SAFE' FROM SON OF SAM

- **Killer outfoxes cops**
  - 1: MOVES OUTSIDE QUEENS
  - 2: STRIKES AT SHORT HAIR
  - 3: STRIKES AT BLONDE HAIR
  - 4: SPOTTED BY FEW WITNESSES
- **Dowd: City in danger**
- **12 suspects ruled out**
- **Cops at square one**
- **Task force is doubled**
- **Girl clings to life**

FULL COVERAGE OF THE DRAMA ON PAGES 2, 3 AND 4

**HEARTBREAK DIARY: Post reporter  
in hospital vigil with parents**

See the centerfold



Stacy Moskowitz, the latest victim of Son of Sam, in a photo taken at a party last month.

Born Jewish, David was a troubled young man. Even before

his murders, he would often commit larceny and small time arson crimes. He said he heard voices of demons giving him orders to kill.

***David writes in his testimony:***

“Ever since I was a small child, my life seemed to be filled with torment. I would often have seizures in which I would roll on the floor. Sometimes furniture would get knocked over. When these attacks came, it felt as if something was entering me.

My mother, who has long since passed away, had no control over me. I was like a wild and destructive animal. My father had to pin me to the floor until these attacks stopped...

I joined the Army right after graduating high school in 1971, and was honorably discharged in 1974 to start a new life again as a civilian. All my friends had either married or moved away. So I found myself alone and living in New York City.

In 1975, however, I met some guys at a party who were, I later found out, heavily involved in the occult. I had always been fascinated with witchcraft, satanism, and occult things since I was a child.

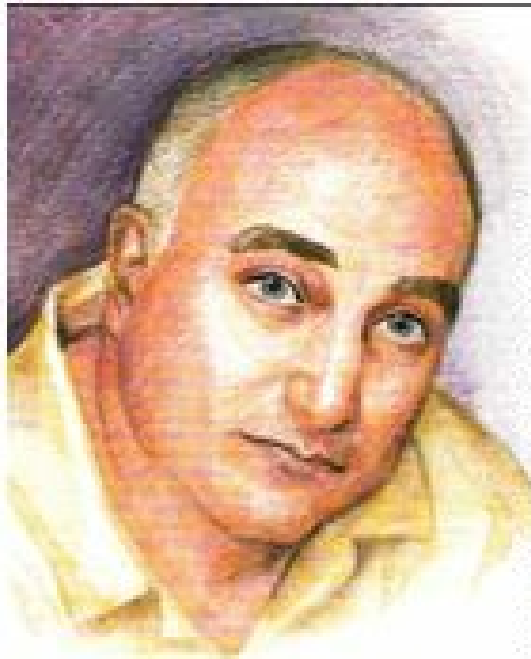
Eventually I crossed that invisible line of no return. After years of mental torment, behavioral problems, deep inner struggles and my own rebellious ways, I became the criminal that, at the time, it seemed as if it was my destiny to become."



He continues: "Looking back it was all a horrible nightmare and I would do anything if I could undo everything that happened. Six people lost their lives. Many others suffered at my hand, and will continue to suffer for a lifetime. I am so sorry for that."

About 10 years ago, I felt impressed to write to David Berkowitz. I had heard that he had accepted Jesus in prison. Long story short – David has indeed accepted Jesus. He is deeply repentant over his past crimes and has accepted Jesus death and resurrection as the atonement for his sins. As a matter of fact, of all the prisoners I have ever corresponded with – David Berkowitz is the strongest and most mature Bible believer I know!

David and I have corresponded via letters for many years now. I can assure you – this is absolutely not the same man who was a notorious serial killer. He is a changed man. He is a repentant man. He is a Born-again man, and he loves the Messiah, Jesus who has forgiven him! Someone even made a gospel tract with his story. Here is the back page of it.



## SOME FINAL WORDS FROM DAVID...

I HOPE TO CONVEY TO YOU THAT GOD IS ABLE AND MORE THAN WILLING TO FORGIVE EVEN THE WORST OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS. I ALWAYS USE MYSELF AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LORD'S GREAT MERCY AND GRACE. THAT IF HE CAN FORGIVE ME- AND HE HAS- THEN HE IS WILLING TO FORGIVE ANY MAN OR WOMAN WHO IS WILLING TO REPENT OF THEIR SIN, AND PLACE THEIR FAITH TOTALLY UPON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND UPON HIS FINISHED WORK ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY.

**"LORD, I ASK YOU TO CONTINUE TO BRING HEALING INTO THE LIVES OF THOSE I HAVE HURT IN THE PAST. TOUCH THEM WITH YOUR LOVE AND HELP THEM TO COPE WITH THE PAIN, LOSS AND GRIEF THAT NEVER SEEM TO GO AWAY, THANK YOU, FATHER GOD. IN JESUS NAME, AMEN."**

IF GOD HAS SPOKEN TO YOU THROUGH THIS PERSONAL STORY AND YOU NOW REALIZE THAT YOU NEED TO TURN YOUR LIFE OVER TO JESUS CHRIST, SIMPLY AND SINCERELY PRAY THIS BRIEF PRAYER. THESE WORDS ARE NOT MAGICAL BUT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO HELP YOU EXPRESS YOURSELF TO GOD:

*DEAR GOD,*

*I REALIZE THAT I'M A SINNER  
IN NEED OF YOUR FORGIVENESS.  
PLEASE FORGIVE ME OF MY SINS, COME  
INTO MY HEART, AND MAKE ME NEW  
INSIDE. HELP ME TO LIVE THE LIFE  
THAT PLEASURES YOU IN ALL I DO  
AND SAY.*

*THANK YOU, IN JESUS NAME, AMEN!*

When I asked, David gave me permission to write this article. Here are his exact words:

"I hope that what you share will clearly show this aspect [grace] of God's character. Multitudes of those who've been exposed to legalistic faiths which base their acceptance to God by not breaking the rules..... Or they [think] have done too many sins. They think God will reject them. Sadly, they know nothing of His character and His mercy, and His desire to forgive."

My answer to David is – yes, I agree! With this article, I wish to show clearly that God has the power to change lives. That His acceptance of us is not based upon our good works, but upon



His grace and forgiveness as we humbly approach him for forgiveness and mercy.

My friend David is currently serving six life sentences in a prison in New York State. He understands his crimes and his need to serve the time; however, his hope is no longer in this world, but in Jesus, the Messiah of Israel.

His complete testimony, including video interviews from Larry King, Inside Edition, the 700 Club and more are available at his website [www.ariseandshine.org](http://www.ariseandshine.org) which is maintained by a local church.

If you wish to write David a short note, just send it to us via email and we will make sure David receives it.

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### **We welcome our newest staff member**



**Sarah Specter**

Sarah Specter, our newest addition to the staff team, is a fourth-generation Jewish believer. As Robert Specter's youngest daughter, she grew up in the Rock of Israel Ministries and was involved in outreaches from a very young age. Her bat mitzvah training and ceremony were both at Beth Messiah Congregation in Cincinnati.

Music has always been a huge part of Sarah's life – she sings on the worship team at whatever congregation she attends (and occasionally in some she doesn't) and has participated in as many as five choirs at once! Sarah began leading worship teams when she was fourteen, and small choirs when she was twenty.

During the summer of 2013, Sarah spent three weeks in Israel with the HaDerekh Youth Israel Aliyah trip. She graduated from Evangel University in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Math and Music. Welcome Sarah!

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### **South Florida Fair Outreach Completed**



In January, we began our 2022 calendar of State/County Fair outreaches. Our first outreach was at the South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach, Florida. We have had a booth at this Fair for sixteen years! Though the fair is not large, the Jewish population in this area is huge. When someone walks up to our booth, there is a very good chance they are Jewish. Robert, Carrie and Sarah manned the booth for the first week, Greg took it for the second week and Doug the third week.





**Above: Volunteers helping us share the Messiah at the booth.**

To the best of our counting ability, we spoke with approximately 153 unsaved Jewish people about the Messiah. Most took literature and some even took a testimony book.

Here are a few highlights from the 17 days the booth was open:

**Robert writes:**

Many times, people take photos of our banner "Jesus made me Kosher" to send to their friends. I wonder how many have read our banner "second hand"? At other times a few Jewish people stop their relatives from coming to our booth whispering "they are Jews who believe in Jesus" as if just looking at our products will infect them.

Here are some of the names of Jewish people we shared with:

Jessica, Taylor, Michael, Daniel and his three Israeli friends, Sue, Alicia, Cathy, Bruce, Robert Steve (three elderly Jewish brothers), Lauren, Adriana, Ryan. And many more.

Dana came to the booth with her non-Jewish friend Ryan. He said I'm the "goy friend!" (Goy means gentile in Hebrew.) I laughed and I explained that I was Jewish but since I believed in Yeshua some Jews thought I am no longer Jewish. I proceeded to talk to him, knowing his Jewish girl friend was listening. I also gave him the book "They Thought For Themselves" and he said "it sounds interesting." I just pray Dana reads it too!

### **Greg writes:**

A Jewish woman was looking at the car mezuzahs. I made my usual joke that I need God the way I drive. I explained what Messianic Jews were. She took Sid Roth's book and the prophecy sheet, and she bought the car mezuzah.

I was opening the Isaiah 53 print to add to our display. Jazz, a vendor, came up to the booth buying the Shema ring. She said she would come back. I told her we are Messianic Jews. She said she went to a Yeshiva (a Jewish school concentrating on Jewish studies) in New York.

Since I had the print of Isaiah 53, I asked her what does it say. She said she didn't want to read from the New Testament. (LOL - She thought what Isaiah wrote sounded like from the New Testament). She disregarded the Bible because it is like the telephone game - changed over time. However, I shared that the Dead Sea scrolls text (written over about 2,000 years ago) are almost exactly like Isaiah text we have in the Bible today. I challenged her to read the New Testament to see if this resonates with her 'inner energy', as she called it.

One Jewish lady told me that she had never sinned before. I told her that she just sinned because she lied. I told her, have you always loved God with all her heart, strength, and might. She said Yes. I told her you were lying to me again, and the Rabbis would agree with me. She then walked away thinking but still believing she had never sinned.

### **Sarah writes:**

Sunday was painfully slow due to the (accurately forecasted) buckets of rain, so when a Jewish man stopped by and hinted that I probably wasn't interested in or prepared for a theological debate, I practically bounced out of my chair with "I'm in, let's do it!!"

He initially implied that he was afraid he would sway my understanding/beliefs, but I told him I was confident in my faith, so we had it out for about two hours. He was raised Orthodox, attended a yeshiva and is a self-proclaimed "Karaite Jew with a Norse sub-religion." He refused to accept a book but agreed to give me his email address so one of us can follow up with him.

### **Doug writes:**

"Avi"- a Jewish man wearing a military cap came up to the booth. He said he was raised in Israel but is now a retired US military chaplain. He said he had Messianic Jews as soldiers and they were very good men. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan. I asked him about Yeshua, but he was not too interested. I guess as a chaplain, he felt like he knew it all.

A couple came up to the booth and the Jewish man showed me his necklace, which was a star with a cross inside. I assumed that he was a believer in Jesus since that is a symbol worn mostly by believers. To my surprise, he said that he was not a believer but the necklace symbolized that he was Jewish and his girlfriend was Catholic. I explained that I was a Messianic Jew, a follower of Jesus, and offered him a free book about the Messiah – which thankfully he took.

Another Jewish couple stopped to look at everything. He asked, "What does the Lion of Judah mean?" I explained how the Messiah Jesus came from the tribe of Judah and His strength is symbolized in a Lion. "Interesting," he said.....





**Above: Newest staff member Sarah (daughter of Robert and Carrie) sharing the Messiah with a Jewish man at the booth**

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**Now Scheduling**





We are now scheduling our spring and summer 2022 calendars for sharing in:

- \*\* Churches
- \*\* Bibles studies
- \*\* Even home groups (if geographically close enough).

If you can gather at least 10 people in your home for a “Christ in the Passover” Seder – we might be able to work you into our calendar, if distance allows.

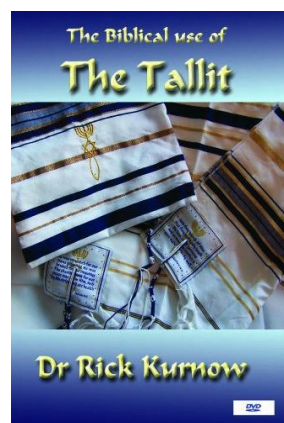
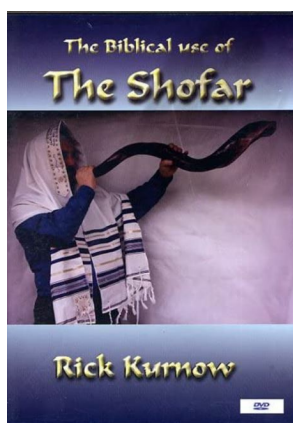
(Or give your pastor a 'holy nudge' and have them reach out to us!)

Contact us for more information - [click here](#)

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## This month's offer:



**The Biblical use of the Shofar - DVD**  
**The Biblical use of the Tallit - DVD**  
**\$9.50 Each**

**The Biblical use of the Shofar - DVD**

A 45 Minute DVD featuring Dr. Rick Kurnow on how the shofar was used in the Biblical times. Note: This DVD does not teach you how to blow it, just the meaning of it.

**The Biblical use of the Tallit - DVD**

A 45 Minute DVD featuring Dr. Rick Kurnow

You will learn

1. The symbolism on the Tallit
2. The meaning of the TziTzit
3. The purpose of the blue thread Techelet
4. Why the New Covenant Prayer Shawl
5. Pronunciation of the Hebrew Prayers

**Normally \$15 - Reduced to \$9.50 each for February.**  
**No discount code needed. Price will adjust automatically.**

Find them here:

Shofar:

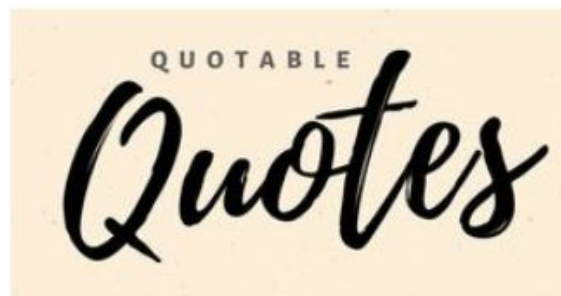
<https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/Shofar>

Tallit:

<https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/the-biblical-use-of-the-tallit>

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"If you do not respect your parents, your children will not respect you."

~~ Maimonides (one of the most important Rabbis in Jewish history)

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# TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

THIS MONTHS TRIVIA:

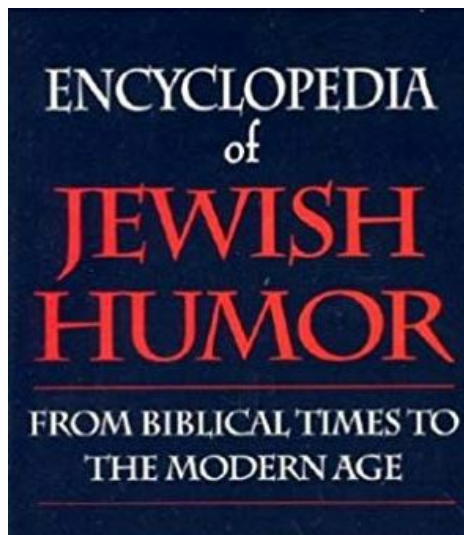
**At what age is a Jewish person - when he or she first receives a blessing asking for a good marriage?**

- A. 1 week old**
- B. 5 years old**
- C. 13 years old**
- D. 18 years old**

**Answer near bottom**

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## **This Month's Jewish Humor**

A pious man who had reached the age of 105 suddenly stopped going to synagogue.

Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of

faithful attendance the Rabbi went to see him. He found him in excellent health, so the Rabbi asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man looked around and lowered his voice. I'll tell you, Rabbi," he whispered. "When I got to be 90 I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105.

So I figured that God is very busy and must have forgotten about me ..... and I don't want to remind Him."

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## What is a Yad?



Did you know that during any Shabbat (Sabbath) service around the world, congregations at Jewish synagogues will all be reading the exact same portion of the Hebrew Scriptures together? In other words, they are all on the same page in Bible reading.

The Torah (5 Books of Moses) is written in Hebrew and is broken down into fifty-four portions. Each congregation will know exactly which portion is to be read out loud on that specific Shabbat morning. When they have finished Deuteronomy 34 at the end of the year-long cycle (usually in late September or early October), they simply start again the



following week at Genesis 1. In this way, the entire Torah is read in completion every single year. Jewish congregations have been doing this “synchronized reading” for thousands of years.



When the Hebrew text is read to a congregation, the Torah scroll is taken out of a protective wooden ark and unrolled on a flat, slightly angled surface, like a drafting table, called a Bimah.

Once unrolled, the reader does not physically touch the parchment because the oils on a human finger will erode the ink. Instead, they use a pointer called a "yad" (the Hebrew word for “hand”) to keep their place. Every Torah scroll will have an accompanying yad, which is often shaped like a pen, with a pointing hand on one end, and a loop of chain to hang on the Torah spool handle at the other end. A match made in heaven: the Torah scroll and the yad.

The yad preserves the ink (God’s Word) so that it is undamaged by human hands. God’s Word has endured for millennia in just this way.

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**QUIZ ANSWER:**

**Answer - A**

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