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In a  
Distinctly  
**Jewish Way**

Rock of Israel Ministries



PO Box 18038 Fairfield OH 45018  
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YEARS  
1971 - 2021



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**May 2021: 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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## Florida State Fair Outreach Completed!



Above: Volunteer Tamar arrives at the booth to share the Messiah.

Our first full outreach of 2021 is now complete. For twelve consecutive years now, we have had a booth up at the Florida State Fair. Some people remember us so well that we hear them say, “We come here every year just so we can visit your booth.”

The fair attendance was down a bit, but we still had plenty of good conversations letting people know that we are Jewish and believers in Jesus.

Greg, Doug, Lynn and Tamar (all Jewish believers in Jesus) manned the booth at various times for 11 days. We also shared that we are “*Jewish believers in Jesus*” with 97 unbelieving Jewish people who stopped to see our Judaica store. Some bought items and many took a gospel bookmark.

**And one Jewish person even prayed with us to be saved - to receive Jesus as Messiah / Savior right at the booth. Hallelujah.**

Here are some of the conversation/photo highlights that we had at the booth over 11 days:



Doug speaking with people at the booth

\*\* Doug spoke with a young woman (not Jewish) about 18 years old who said she was an agnostic, but open. She said that as an 11-year old, she prayed for certain things and they did not happen. She was also told by older church people "not to question God." That response pushed her away even more. Today she said she believes there is something out there, but it's more like Karma. She took a gospel pamphlet.

\*\* One Spanish family stopped by the booth and said, "We

have been waiting all year to come to this booth again!"

\*\* While taking a break and walking around looking at the other booths, Doug was looking at a poster booth and the vendor/owner was Jewish and saw Doug's t-shirt, which said: "Jesus is the Rock of Israel." The vendor said to Doug, "If Jesus was the Messiah, why isn't there peace in the world?" Of course, Doug responded and they had a good, quick conversation. Turns out that Jewish vendor is married to a Catholic woman, so he said "I already know what you believe." He also laughed and said, "I pray to whatever god answers, the lotto god, Jesus, whoever." To which Doug replied, "S'hema Yisrael" (The declaration that there is only one God, which every Jewish person knows what those words mean).



Above: Greg speaking with a Messianic couple from Argentina

\*\* Greg writes: One lady had a Dublin T-shirt on. I thought she was gentile while she looking at our Arks of the Covenant; then she told me that she attends a Reform Jewish Temple. I asked her if she would read a pamphlet. She said ."Sorry, I only read books." Then I gave her a testimony book of Jewish people who believe in Jesus. She said." I will read this."

\*\* Greg writes: I was witnessing to a man and a woman about Yeshua. The man said that "I do not like to talk about religion." To that, I said, "I love talking about God." I was sharing Isaiah 53, and the man was not convinced. Then his wife said to me, "I believe what you said." She told him that He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, and the

punishment that boar us peace was upon him, and by his stripes, we are healed. The woman was a Jewish believer, and she said she has been witnessing to him for years. The unsaved Jewish husband said that she had been softening him up so that I could witness to him.

\*\* Leah said she is Jewish but searching for the truth. She took a Sid Roth book and the prophecy book. She said that she would read the New Testament. I encouraged her to start with John. She seemed very open and sincere.



Greg speaking to a family who stopped at our booth

\*\* From Lynn: On Wednesday, we had many conversations, including a few Israelis. The vendor across from us, asked about our shirts. I asked him if he was from a Jewish background. He said yes, and his last name is “Weiss.” So, I had a great light conversation with him.

\*\* In the evening, Tamar walked around outside, and met a young woman (not Jewish) whom she prayed with to turn her life back over to Jesus. While that was happening, I was doing the exact same thing in our booth with a young vendor, who was raised attending a Messianic synagogue. She said that was the best time in her life. But she walked away from God,

as did her mom. So, I prayed with her to recommit her life to Yeshua, and that her mom, once a very strong believer, would come back to the Lord as well.

\*\* On Thursday, we had more Jewish conversations. One young man came to our booth, who was a Mormon, and told us that his wife would think we were nuts. His wife joined us a moment later, told us that she was raised with a Jewish father and a Southern Baptist mother, and confused about how it all fits together. I gave her Greg's testimony and asked if she would like to chat with me further. She quickly agreed, and hopefully, we'll meet by facetime.



Lynn sharing the gospel at our booth

\*\* From Tamar: A young woman came to the booth and shared that she just found out she was 50% Jewish on her father's

side through DNA. Although she was raised Catholic, she didn't feel much connection to God or church, so she hasn't been that involved. I shared the gospel with her, and she seemed very open.

As I proceeded to ask her questions about her thoughts on Yeshua and the Bible, she seemed intrigued and ripe to accept the Messiah and establish a relationship over religion with Him. **I asked if she would like to receive Him into her life and she said "Yes." We prayed right then, and she then shared her decision with her husband!**

I'll be keeping in touch to follow up and help provide any guidance and resources that I can as she grows in her faith. Praise God!



Lynn and Tamar praying for healing for a believer who stopped at our booth.





A few moments later



Lynn with Miss Clay County Fair 2021 stopping by our booth

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## This month's special offer:



### Tiny Anointing Oil Flask

This unique bottle of anointing oil is one of a kind. It only stands about 2 two inches tall (about two-quarters high), but is very elegant and ornate. Comes pre-filled with oil.

Normally \$10 - use promo code "oil" for a discounted price of \$9 (plus shipping).

<https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/anointing-oil>

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## Emails last month



Each month we receive many e-mails. Some are good, some are not so good. Here are just two that we received last month, each looking at our work from a completely different angle.

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**Message:** Stop this dangerous lies of yours please, before natural consequences set in to consume you. Please stop it.

The Potential servant spoken about in Isaiah 53 is nobody than the children of Israel.

(Note: Most likely a response to our internet ads about Isaiah 53.)

Hi Doug,

When we are reaching out to people to share Christ's message we don't always know if our sharing truly touches someone's life. Your presentation on Palm Sunday had a profound effect on one faithful lady who never misses Sunday service.

Mike noticed for some time that she *never* takes communion. She told him she didn't think it was for her and had always thought it was a Catholic ritual. Not sure why she thought we Baptists took communion as well. Mike did try to explain to her the meaning of communion. He noticed she still did not partake. He urged her to make sure she didn't miss your presentation. She [was] there on Palm Sunday.

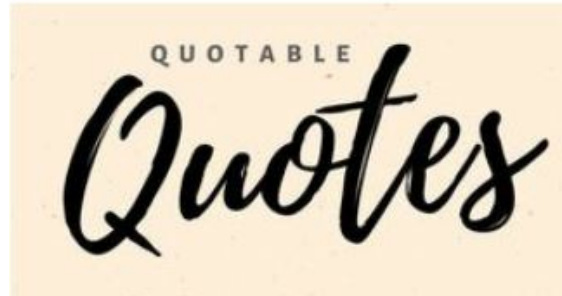
Last Sunday was our first communion since you explained the relationship between Passover and the Last Supper. **Gail took communion for the first time in her life.** She told Mike she now understands, after you explained, what it means and is so happy to partake.



Praising God for your message,  
Gretchen

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“A person should always act [in a dignified manner] as if he is a Torah scholar..”

—The Talmud.

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THIS MONTHS TRIVIA:

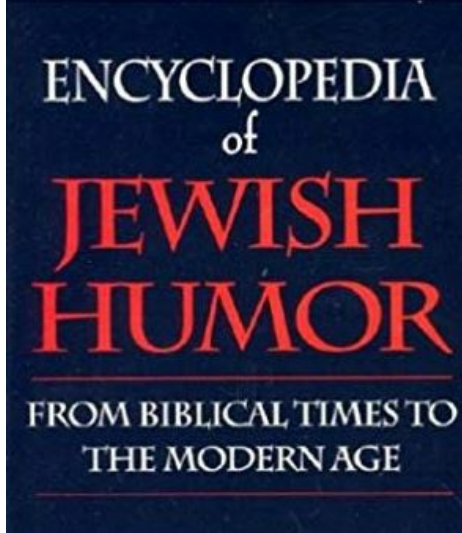
Which famous woman said, “Your people shall be my people and your God my God.”

- A. Ruth
- B. Naomi
- C. Madonna
- D. Esther

**Answer near bottom**

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## This Month's Jewish Humor

Yaakov Solomon, a Jewish immigrant who spoke Yiddish, was taking an oral exam applying for his citizenship papers. Yaakov was asked to spell "Cultivate" - he spelled it correctly.

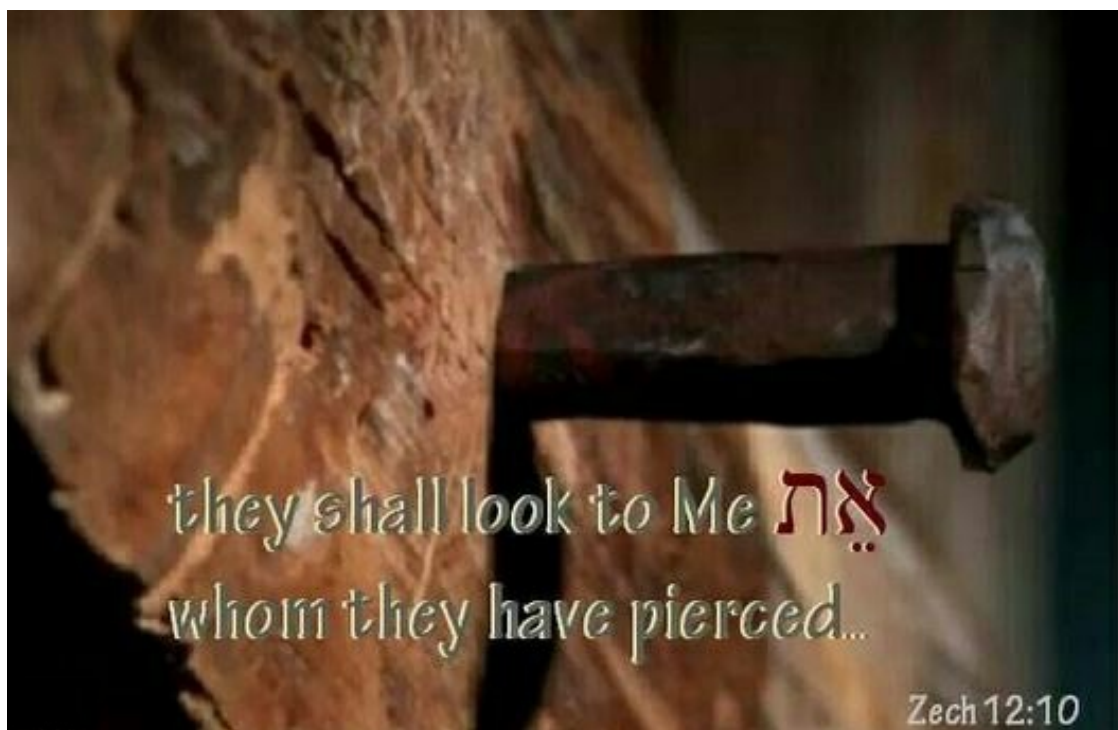
He was then asked to use the word in a sentence.

He thought about it for a moment and then said, "Last vinter on a very cold day, I vas vaiting for de bus, but it vas too cultivate, so I took the subway home."

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## Who was pierced?



So who was pierced?

A very interesting passage that is often overlooked is Zachariah 12:10. Before we even begin to look at it, you need to know there is a debate among Jewish and Christian scholars as to how this verse should be translated.

First the traditional Jewish view.

If you read a Jewish translation of this verse it will appear as follows:

“And I will pour upon the house of David, And upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, The spirit of grace and of supplication; And they shall look unto Me because they have thrust him through; And they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, And shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born.” (JPS)

So their interpretation is as follows. There will be a suffering Messiah who will be “thrust through” and this will cause the Jewish people to “look unto” - towards God.

The Babylonian Talmud says about this verse:

“One holds that it was for the Messiah the son of Joseph who was killed, as written in Zechariah 12: When they look on me, whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child.” [Tractate Sukkah, Chapter 5]

You may not have known this, but in traditional Judaism, there are TWO Messiahs who are spoken of, a Suffering Messiah (called Messiah ben [son of] Joseph) and a Reigning Messiah (called Messiah ben [son of] David.)

Just as Joseph, in the book of Genesis, suffered in his life, so too Judaism believes there will be a suffering Messiah who will die in battle. However, his death will not atone for sins, according to their theology. He will just be a great military leader who will die in battle and Israel will mourn for him.

So Zechariah 12:10 is used in Jewish theology to support this

concept of a suffering Messiah. Of course, most Jewish people have never even heard of a 'suffering Messiah' in Jewish theology since it is not stressed one hundredth as much as the 'Reigning Messiah' is stressed.

Getting back to Zechariah 12:10. Christian Bibles translate it in this way:

"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."  
(NASB)

So this translation has God Himself being pierced – "they will look on Me whom they have pierced."

Do you see that?

The Jewish translation has them looking "unto Me", in other words, they look **\*\*unto God\*\*** after this one has been pierced.

The Christian translation has them looking "on Me" who was the One pierced.

(Note: the "Me" refers to God in either translation.)

So which one is right?

Well, since this is not an exhaustive article, it is important to see several quick points:

1) Either way, the Jewish people are the ones who did the piercing. The "they," earlier in the verse, refers to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. So if God was pierced or the suffering Messiah was pierced, either way, **it seems to point to someone very significant being pierced.**

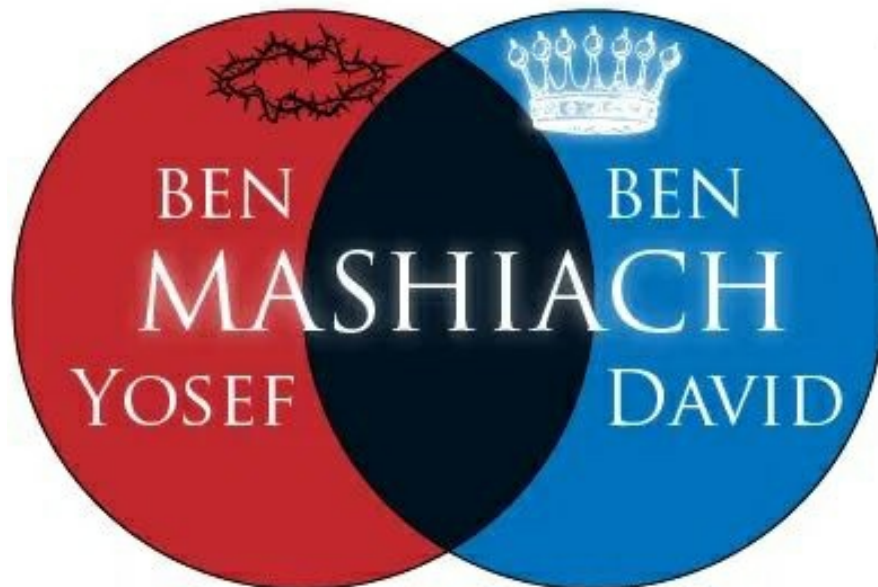
2) The realization of the piercing will cause deep, deep mourning. The text says the mourning will one day be like a parent who loses their only son. That is some deep bitter mourning. I could not imagine losing an only son, yet this is

exactly what the mourning will feel like when they realize it.

3) Zechariah 13 continues what happens after this mourning (remember, there are no chapter breaks in the Hebrew text), “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.” (Zechariah 13:1) **So the ultimate result is a happy one!**

So was God pierced or was the Suffering Messiah pierced?

The answer is BOTH! Yeshua/Jesus is both.



In conclusion, the complete fulfillment of this verse awaits the last days, when the Jewish people realize that Yeshua/Jesus is the One they have pierced.

Remember, the term “Messiah the son of Joseph” comes from Joseph’s character in the Torah. Joseph was rejected by his own people, exiled to the Gentiles, believed to be dead and forgotten entirely.

Meanwhile, among the Gentiles, Joseph was welcomed and became a great and important leader. He performed wonders in their midst and eventually, Joseph appeared before his brothers again. And this time – they didn’t reject him, but accepted him and mourned for him with bitter tears.

This is a mirror image of what will happen in the future when the Jewish people acknowledge Yeshua/Jesus as their



Messiah.

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**QUIZ ANSWER:**

**Answer -**

Answer: A - Ruth

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