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Jesus



In a
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Jewish Way

Rock of Israel Ministries



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50+
over 50 years



Rev. Robert and Carrie Specter

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

We LOVE encouraging notes! Rockofisraelministries@gmail.com

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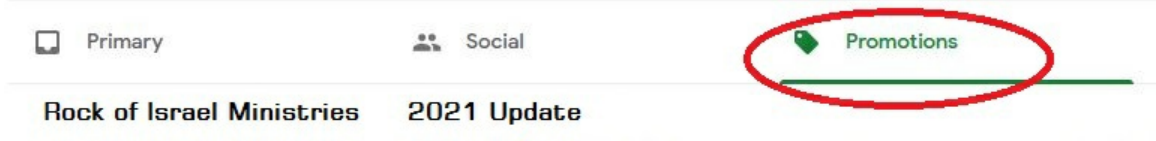
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***** Special note to Gmail users *****



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, on a desktop computer 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.

Florida State Fair Outreach Completed



Last month we had our booth up at the Florida State Fair from February 10th - 21st.

Robert and Carrie Specter and their daughter Sarah manned the booth for the first half of the Fair. Greg and Doug took over for the second half.



Robert, Carrie and Sarah manning the booth

To the best of our counting ability, we spoke with approximately 107 unbelieving Jewish people. Many took literature about the Messiah when offered.

Here are a few memorable conversations that our staff had:

** A young Israeli boy (looked about 20) came to the booth. He was young and athletic. He asked me what proof there was for God existing. I asked him if there was an architect for this building. He said yes. I asked if he ever met him. He said no. I asked how do you know he exists then? We know minds make things that are complex. Random chance does not do that. He seemed to understand the point. I explained that the Messiah fulfilled the prophecies in the

Hebrew Bible. I gave him Isaiah 53 in Hebrew to read. He read it but said it is "old Hebrew". I said the Messiah came to forgive us of our sins. He said what is a sin? I explained about sin including sex before marriage. He said why is that a sin? He said why can't I have many girls, who says not to? I said, "God who created all things including laws." He said who created God? This went on for 20 minutes at least. I gave him a website for Hebrew speakers to learn about Yeshua. I am not sure he will look at it. I also told him to go home and ask God to show him why sin is wrong and if He exists. Pray for him.

** There was a guy who walked by saying "Free Palestine" and another day a Muslim woman with head covering came up to the booth and with her finger, air crossed out our sign and said "Palestine, not Israel" twice. However, about 30 minutes later, a different woman who spoke Arabic came up to the booth and said with a big smile that her best friend was a Jewish woman. So you never know....

** There was the couple with beers in hand who came up to the booth and said he was Jewish, she was not. I explained what a Messianic Jew was and they both listened well and took a prophecy flyer. She even went over and signed up for the newsletter on her own.

** There was an Israeli woman who came up with her young daughter and bought her a pair of inexpensive earrings. I gave them a discount. I told her I was a Messianic Jew and she said she had heard of that. I told her my father was from Israel and she gladly took a Hebrew book when I offered it to her.

** Then there were a group of four young Israeli men in their 20's. I said "Ma-nish-ma?" (typical Israeli greeting) and so they started speaking in Hebrew. I had to explain that I only know a little Hebrew LOL. I mentioned the town in Israel my father was from and they knew it and gave me a knuckle connect. They looked at all the items and I explained that we were Messianic Jews. I held up the t-shirt in Hebrew that said Jesus loves you and they went ohhhhhh. I gave them literature in Hebrew, but they gave it back politely.

** Two older women stop to look at the jewelry. I asked them if they were Jewish. One said pointing, "she is, I'm not".... so I explained what a Messianic Jew was and I offered her (the Jewish woman) a free book and she took it.

** A family of three Jewish youth came up to the booth. The oldest was about 18 so I spoke with him but I didn't speak much with the younger ones directly. He said he was born in Jerusalem. They all lived there for thirteen years. I explained that I was a Messianic Jew. He said he grew up as an Orthodox Jew, but he wasn't religious anymore due to some trauma. I don't know what that meant and I didn't want to ask.

** The president of a Jewish Temple came to our booth to look around. His big shtick was I am tolerant of what you do, so be tolerant of me. I told him I was, but I challenged him on the truth. Three times I mentioned reading Isaiah 53, but he was not listening. So much for being tolerant of what I was saying. I then said, "Either Jesus rose from the dead, or he didn't. What is the truth on that?" He said, "That didn't matter to him."

** A Jewish woman very religious was engaged to a Greek Orthodox guy. She was familiar with the faith and seemed very open to hearing a Messianic perspective since her husband is active in the Greek Orthodox Church. I told them that the best thing for their marriage was to be equally suited for each other with the same view. I believe this got this women's attention because they are getting married soon. She took a book about the 10 Jewish people who came to faith and the New Testament.

** A mom and Jewish daughter came to the booth. They gave the typical "I am not religious" response. I then said "neither am I, it is about a relationship with God." I offered her a book, tract, etc. She said no. I asked her if anything could open her thoughts that Jesus might be the Messiah. I have never done this, but I asked her can you tell me why I, as a Jewish man, should not believe in Jesus." She looked at me and walked away.

** One young lady had blue hair, and she was Jewish. She had a friend. I am not sure if this person was male or female. It was an interesting union of two people. They looked like they were some couple. She took one of our tracts. She said she would read it. It was an enjoyable conversation.

Pray for the seeds planted at this outreach!

Thank you for your support which helps pay the bills so we can keep doing these outreaches.



Greg at the booth talking to people who stopped.

What is a Kippah / Yarmulke



Have you ever seen Orthodox Jewish men wear a small cap on their head? This item is called a "kippa" (in Hebrew) or a "yarmulke" (in Yiddish). The root of the word "*kippah*" means "dome."

Jewish men only started wearing Kippas about 1800 years ago (Moses, King David and other biblical heroes probably didn't

wear it). The Talmud tells us that one of the Talmudic Sages, Rabbi Nachman began to wear a head covering to remind himself that God is always above him (figuratively). The fad quickly caught on, soon all Jewish men were wearing the cap.

Orthodox (very religious) men generally wear a Kippah at all times. Some Orthodox Jewish men wear a larger hat over their yarmulke; members of the Ultra-Orthodox, for example, traditionally wear a fancy hat over theirs. Reform and Conservative Jews mostly wear them at religious services or only during prayer.



Kippas are typically thin and small, but may be made in a variety of fabrics, colors, and designs.



Did you know, there is no command to wear one in the Bible. The Jewish command to wear one during prayer comes from

the Oral Law (Talmud). The Talmud states, "Cover your head in order that the fear of heaven may be upon you." One ancient Rabbi never walked 4 cubits (about 6 feet) with his head uncovered. He explained: "Because the Divine Presence is always over my head."

However, in the Hebrew Bible covering one's head seemed to be associated with mourning:

"And David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went, and his head was covered and he walked barefoot. Then all the people who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went." 2 Samuel 15:30

This month's offer:

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Jewish Carpenter**

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Are you a good driver?

If so, show the world your faith in the Jewish Messiah!

It says "My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter"

It also has Rock of Israel web address in small letters on bottom.

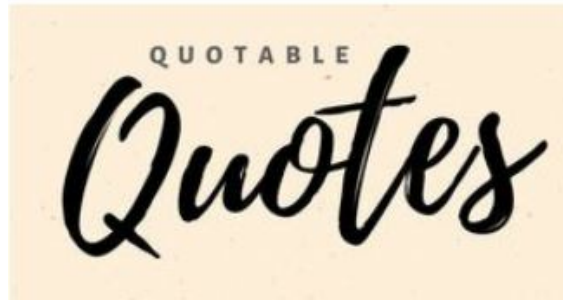
The sticker is approximately. 3 x 10 inches.

Only \$4 - with FREE SHIPPING

No discount code needed.

Find it here:

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"Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance you must keep moving."

- Albert Einstein
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TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

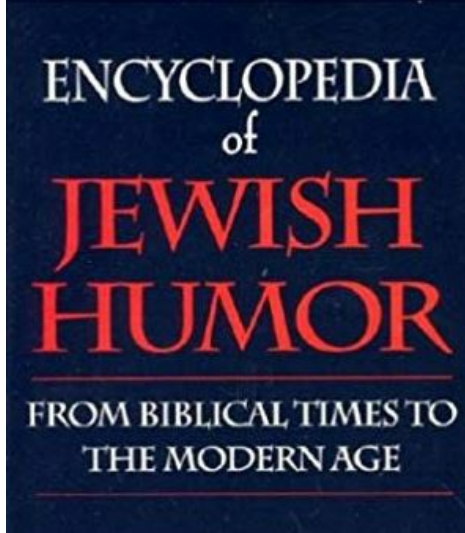
THIS MONTHS TRIVIA:

NOTE: We are repeating last month's quiz since in February the computer mistakenly 'blacked out' the answer at the bottom.
Several of you wrote to us about that. Sorry :)

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



This Month's Jewish Humor

Moishe is driving in Jerusalem. He's late for a meeting and looking for a parking space but can't find one.

In desperation, he turns his face upwards and says, "Lord, if you find me a parking space, I promise that I'll eat only Kosher and will respect Shabbat and all the holidays."

Miraculously, a space opens up just in front of him. He turns his face back up and says, "Never mind, I just found one!"

Purim and Antisemitism

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a crown. The crown is ornate, featuring a gold base with several large, faceted red gemstones and smaller clear diamonds. The hand is positioned palm-up, supporting the crown. The person's sleeve is visible, showing a dark, sequined fabric. The background is a solid dark color.

**BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Antisemitism. What is it?
Where does it come from?

This month, on March 17th, the Jewish community will be celebrating the Feast of Purim.

This is basically the retelling of the story from the Book of Esther. This is a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, but a significant one. Why? It is a victory (God's victory) over an Anti-Semite named Haman. Wicked Haman hated the Jewish people, but more on that later.



Hatred towards the Jewish people is nothing new.

For instance, last month in New York City, multiple Yeshiva (a Jewish learning school) School Buses were sprayed with swastika graffiti. Thankfully this incident did not result in anyone getting physically hurt, but emotional hurt is just as

real.

This incident is just a sample of the anti-Semitic actions which still happen monthly around the world including, but not limited to, something as horrific as a synagogue shooting.



So what does antisemitism actually mean?

Very simply, it is a form of racism. Antisemitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs or police forces, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities. Sadly this is nothing new.

As mentioned before, our people have been experiencing this since the days of wicked Haman in the book of Esther.

"When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes."

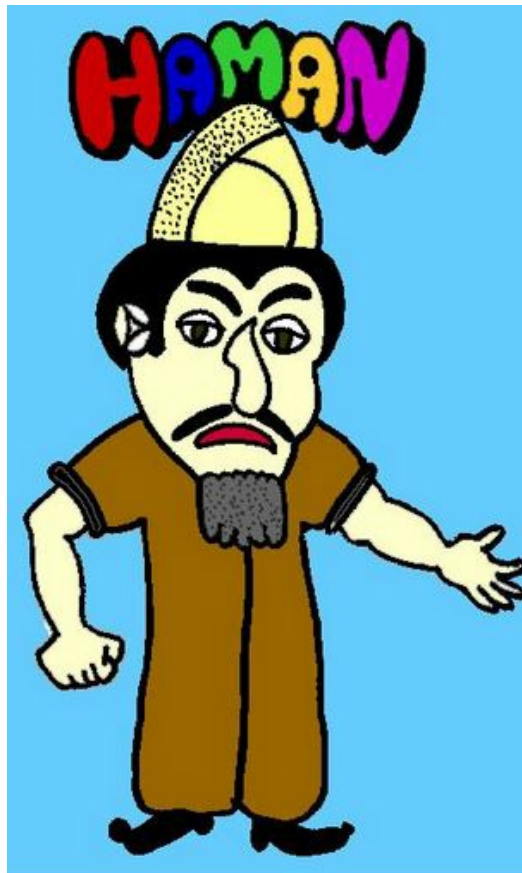
Esther 3:5-6

So why do some people hate Jewish people?

There are several rationales that have been popular throughout history:

1. Economic -- "We hate Jews because they possess too much wealth and power."

2. Chosen People -- "We hate Jews because they arrogantly claim that they are the chosen people."
3. Scapegoat -- "Jew are a convenient group to single out and blame for our troubles."
4. Deicide -- "We hate Jews because they killed Jesus."
5. Outsiders -- "We hate Jews because they are different than us." (The dislike of the unlike.)
6. Racial Theory -- "We hate Jews because they are an inferior race."



Whatever Haman's motives were, there have been a thousand more like him since then. The most infamous one being Adolph Hitler who murdered 6 million men, women and children in World War 2. That was two out of every three Jewish people in Europe alive at the time.

This is the desire of every Anti-Semite whether they complete the task or not. Wait? You think that pent up hatred is not as guilty as murder? Yeshua would speak differently:

"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not murder,' and 'Whoever murders shall be guilty before the court.' But I say to you that everyone who continues to be angry with his brother or harbors malice against him shall be guilty before the court;" Matthew 5:21-22 (Amplified Version)

To have such a level of anger or hatred of the Jewish people (or any people for that matter) so as to act out against them is a dangerous thing.

So where does this hatred come from?

We know that Satan and his demons hate anything to do with God and the Jewish people remind the world of God. So that is definitely a source of some antisemitism.

However, it is ultimately it is a product of the sin nature that we have all inherited from Adam. Sin can manifest itself in many ways. Hatred is just one of them. Remember, without Jesus, we are no better (or worse) than a person who is anti-Semitic. We are all guilty before God whatever the "flavor" of the sin might be.

And that is why we all need Jesus.



Getting back to the book of Esther. Well it is a long story (and we highly recommend reading through it), but suffice it to say, in the end God wins. The anti-Semite gets his just rewards and the Jewish people continue to survive. They will always survive because this is God's plan.

Do you struggle with anger or hatred towards another? Leave justice in God's hands. Just like in the Book of Esther, God is in ultimate control.

QUIZ ANSWER:

Answer - A

In Jewish tradition, a baby boy is circumcised when he is eight days old, assuming he is healthy. After the procedure, the guests say, "Just as he has entered into the Covenant, so may he enter into Torah, marriage and good deeds".

Similarly, at the baby-naming of an infant girl, which is usually within the first week or so following her birth, the parents are told, "May your merit bring her up into Torah, marriage and good deeds".

We are thankful for your support each month to do this work.

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Our office staff is waiting and ready to help you with any questions you might have. 513-874-2566.



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