

Proclaiming
Jesus



In a
Distinctly
Jewish Way

Rock of Israel Ministries



PO Box 18038 Fairfield OH 45018
Call us: 513-874-2566

Since 1971



Celebrating
50+
over 50 years



Ministry President Robert and Carrie Specter

**Dec. 2025: Here's an update on the ministry
in the past month.**

We LOVE encouraging notes! Rockofisraelministries@gmail.com

PLEASE CONSIDER supporting our work:

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***** Special note to gmail users *****

1) Please check your spam or promotion folder each month. Sadly, sometimes email servers send our newsletter there.

2) Gmail sometimes shortens us. If so, then click this at the bottom.

[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)

Our Annual Staff Conference 2025

Last month we had our annual Rock of Israel Staff Conference. Each year we gather as a staff (we are a small staff of just three ministers and an office manager) to pray, review our past year and plan for the next year. (Of course, the Lord may change these 'plans' at any time.)

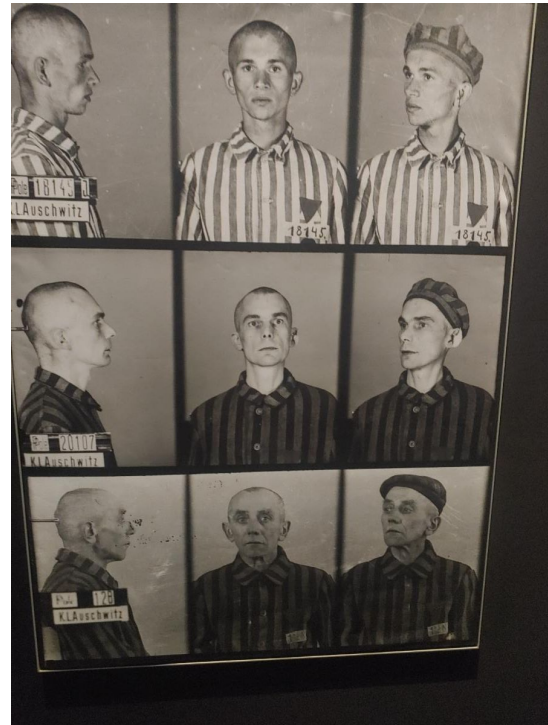


Our staff conference L-R (Doug, Sarah, Robert, Carrie, Debbie, Pat)

We also got to go on a "field trip" of sorts. In downtown Cincinnati

there is a Holocaust exhibit, and we took Friday morning to visit there as a group. It was very moving. If you have never visited a Holocaust exhibit before, let us encourage you to do so.

As we approach 2026, please remember to PRAY for us and our outreaches. We appreciate you all!





'There are now two sorts of countries in the world, those that want to expel the Jews and those that don't want to admit them.'

Chaim Weizmann, 1936
President, Zionist Organization



Pray for this young man asking questions



In addition to our fair outreaches, one of our staff goes online daily to witness, defend the faith, and answer questions from atheists, Jewish non-believers, and others who post onto this very popular worldwide forum.

So last month he got a note from someone (not Jewish) who read his answer to someone else's question. Our staff member responded with a list of resources this seeker could read. Here's their interaction:

Thank you so much for sharing your resources! I am going through all of them. I am enjoying frank [Frank Turek] and lees videos and I have books coming in the mail.

So I have concluded from most all this so far that there's great evidence for Jesus death and resurrection. Therefore the New Testament is a history book? So is the Old Testament a history book too then would you say? I'm just trying to determine the best way to read it and understand it. But it is very confusing.

You really have helped me start to see these things more clearly with how you defended your beliefs on a post I saw and seem real smart. Honestly I always thought Christianity seemed silly but it actually makes a lot of sense! Did you always believe in this stuff?

Our reply:

Hey, thanks for your encouragement. It means a lot. And to answer your question, nope. I did not always believe in Jesus, the Scriptures, etc. I grew up in a Jewish family. Definitely an atmosphere where faith in Jesus was not allowed.

But I broke the mold bc I became convinced my own faith (Judaism) was wrong. (It rejects Jesus as the Messiah). After tons of study, I became convinced it's true: Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. And my

family had me visit this rabbi and that rabbi. Nothing worked, so they eventually asked me to move out. That was at 21 y/o, just after college.

It's been 39 years now, and I'm more convinced than ever. (Btw, my family and I reconciled about a year later.)

I find atheists just do so many mental gymnastics to avoid the obvious. This world could not have just happened without a mind behind it all. I mean, the science screams, "Natural forces could not have made everything we see in regard to life."

Anyway, I'm sooooo glad I can help you. Walking with the Lord is the most important thing in life.

Also, let me encourage you with a few other things to do:

- 1) Talk with the Lord. We call it prayer.
- 2) Listen to praise and worship music on YouTube.
- 3) Find a good church you can visit in person.
- 4) Read the Bible daily. Even if it's just one sentence. Make it happen.
- 5) If you have never done this, tell the Lord, out loud, "Jesus, I am sorry for all my sins. I trust you to save me. Remember me."

December reminder:



This month's offer:



A Mezuzah for your door!

Start the year 2026 with a reminder of God's Word right on your door.

Has the Hebrew "Shema" (Deut 6:4) with the English translation underneath it.
** 5 inches tall.

The Mezuzah contains a small scroll of a Biblical Hebrew text from Deuteronomy chapter 6.

"And you shall inscribe them on the doorposts (mezuzot) of our house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:9, 11:20).

It goes on the doorpost. As you see it when entering the home - it is a visual reminder that God's Word is honored in this home.

Mechanically printed Hebrew text from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 included.

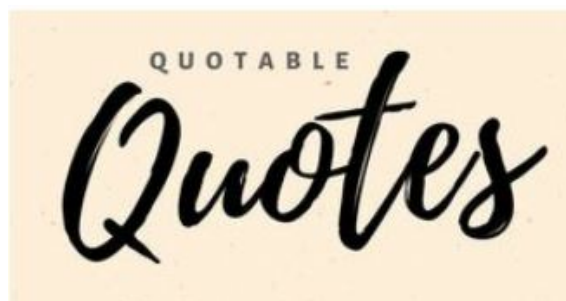
About 5 inches tall

Choice of color: Brass or Pewter \$15 each

Find it here:

Brass - <https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/brass-mezuzah>

Pewter - <https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/hebrew-shema-english-pewter-mezuzah>



""Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths,
but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."
~~ Anne Frank

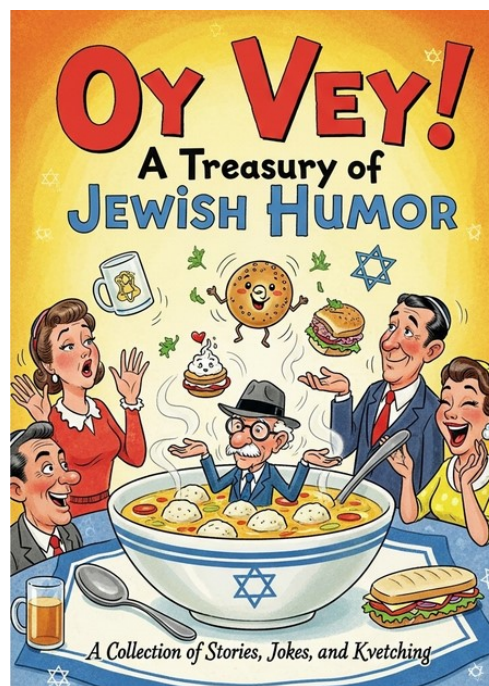


THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA:

The most sacred annual Jewish Holiday for the Jewish people is _____?

- A. Hanukkah
- B. Passover
- C. Yom Kippur
- D. Christmas

Answer near bottom



This Month's Jewish Humor

Mrs. Moskowitz, a very old senior citizen, left the synagogue to drive home. As she was driving down the freeway, her cell phone rang. Answering, she heard her husband's voice urgently saying, "Shirley! I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on I-75. Be careful." She answered her husband, "It's not just one going the wrong way...there's hundreds of them!"

**When worlds collide or
"The Intersection of Hanukkah and Christmas"**



This month, let's look at the intersection of **Hanukkah and Christmas!** While the two holidays represent distinct religious traditions, their co-occurrence in the Western calendar creates a unique cultural synergy and often leads to confusion or comparisons, particularly in modern, secular settings.

Timing

The most immediate connection is **timing**. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, is based on the Hebrew lunar calendar and typically begins in late November or December, often overlapping with the Christmas season. This proximity has led to the term "**holiday season**," encompassing both festivals.

- **Christmas: Commemorates the birth of Jesus (c. 4 BCE).**
- **Hanukkah: Commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem (164 BCE) following the Maccabean revolt.**



The Growth of Gift-Giving

Historically, **Hanukkah** was a minor holiday focused on lighting the **menorah** (a nine-branched candelabrum) and reciting special prayers. **Christmas**, on the other hand, developed into a major gift-giving event.

As Jewish families lived in predominantly Christian societies, the sheer cultural dominance of Christmas, especially the emphasis on gifts and secular celebration, influenced Hanukkah customs. In North America and Europe, many Jewish families began to increase the tradition of giving **gifts on one, two, or even eight nights of Hanukkah**, a custom no doubt influenced by the surrounding Christmas culture. This was to make the Jewish children not feel inferior.



Shared Themes of Light

*Despite their different origins, both holidays share a powerful thematic element: **light** in the darkness of winter.*

- **Christmas: Uses lights (candles, strings of lights) as a symbol of Jesus as the "Light of the World" and to visually celebrate hope and joy.**
- **Hanukkah: The central commandment is the nightly lighting of the menorah, symbolizing the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days instead of one.**

As Messianic Jews, we can rejoice in BOTH events. The Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated during the time of the Maccabees. And to that very Temple, walked the very Light of the World, Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah.

PLEASE REVIEW US

If you would ever wish to leave us a good review on Google, AND Facebook we would appreciate it!

For Google: Simply Google these five words: "Rock of Israel in Ohio" and there will be a link on the right that says, "Google reviews". Thank you!

For Facebook - The link is: [Here](#)



QUIZ ANSWER:

Answer - C. Yom Kippur

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

**We are not a big "world-wide" TV ministry
with tens of thousands of donors.**

We are a small ministry - seeking to do BIG things for the Kingdom of God.

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



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