

RABBI TED SIMON
Favor Zion
P.O. Box 160
Timonium MD 21094

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Shalom Havairim (Peace and Greetings to you, my friends.):

The month of October this year contains the three Feasts on the Biblical calendar: Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and Sukkot (Tabernacles). In light of that I will add a second greeting to this letter, a greeting that you may use this season with any Jewish person you know:

“L ’Shana Tova, (Happy New Year)
May your name be inscribed in The Book of Life.”

Biblically, we are in the seventh month (Exodus 20:20). What is called the “Jewish New Year” or Rosh Hashanah is really the Feast of Trumpets, which occurs on the first day of the seventh month described in Leviticus 23: 24.

The Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, occurs 10 days later. In synagogues around the world it is a full 24-hour period of prayer and fasting that centers on introspection and evaluation of personal sin. Everywhere, my Jewish brethren are wondering if this truly will be a good year. Will good deeds outweigh the bad? Will the future bring peace? What is in store for us as individuals and for Israel as a nation?

This holiday is no longer commemorated biblically with a scapegoat carrying the confessed sins of all the people outside the camp, or with the blood of a sinless sacrifice being brought into the Holy of Holies. (Leviticus 23:27, Exodus 20:20) The prescribed Biblical ceremonies brought the community assurance of forgiveness. Today, however, the issue of personal sin for many is unresolved. There is sadness, a wishing and longing, a pleading and a somewhat morose feeling that permeates the religious services and a lack of assurance in the hearts of many. The Day of Atonement in Biblical times ended with jubilation, but today there is not that sense of assurance leading to gratitude and rejoicing.

The third festival this fall, The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), falls on October 18 and retains many of the Biblical elements. There is much rejoicing with luscious fruit (etrog) and branches of palms and myrtles and willows (Lulavs). When Diane and I travel to Israel during this season, we’ll see Sukkot (booths) erected on the balconies of apartments in Jerusalem. People do dwell outdoors for a week. This is a reminder that even in a land where the homes are made of concrete and steel, we are really pilgrims and wanderers in need of Divine protection.

SO, while we can wish our friends a good new year and that their names will be inscribed in the book of life, there is a way to make certain they can have that blessed assurance.

Because of Yeshua, we know that our sins are forgiven and our names are inscribed in *The Lamb's book of Life*. It is the blood that makes atonement for our souls according to (Lev 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22). That blood did not come from sacrificed bulls or goats, but it came from the sinless Lamb of God, who was sacrificed once and for all time, once and for all people. At the sound of the final trumpet (shofar), we will rejoice at the coming of our Messiah and King.

We rejoice at this season, and always, celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles with people from all nations, worshipping the King of Kings in Jerusalem. *And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.* (Zechariah 14:16).

Friends, the heart of our ministry is to fulfill Abba's will that no one should perish, but all come into eternal life. **Now is the time to favor Zion.** We Favor Zion by getting behind ministries in Israel and emissaries in The Land who are not ashamed of the Gospel- those people who boldly proclaim Yeshua huAdonai- Jesus Is Lord.

We do this also by broadcasting *Messianic Minutes*, now in its 11th year, continuously encouraging believers around the country to share Jesus with their Jewish friends neighbors and relatives, and equipping the Church for this vital work of ministry. Our goal is to bring the Good News of Messiah to the Jewish people, and to see their liberty and joy flood the land.

It is time to turn from just helping Jewish people or Israel in general (and in maintaining the status quo). Now is the time to actively Favor Zion with the trumpet of Truth, a clear call to repentance for sin and faith in Messiah. Your ongoing prayers and ongoing financial support are vital to give hope to the hopeless and to open blind eyes to the truth that is in Yeshua.

Please contact me at the address listed above if you need materials or help in personal witnessing to someone you know who is Jewish. I am also available to speak to you privately or to your group or congregation about the ongoing needs of outreach to native Israelis in Israel. I am looking forward to addressing denominational gatherings where I can help pastors and leaders understand the times in which we live and what we are Biblically mandated to do.

In June of 2006 Diane and I will host a trip to Israel. We would love to have you plan to come with us so you can see first hand the fruits of your partnership with us.

I will close quoting the passage in Matthew 6:19-21:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Each of you is a treasure to me.

In Messiah's love,