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Favor Zion Ministries

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Shalom Haveirim-
Blessings to you, my friends:

Purim, the Feast of Esther, is a celebration first observed in Iran and recorded in the Book of Esther. It is a joyous time, and one of my favorites. When I was a kid, the local Yonkers, NY Jewish Community Center, (JCC) would hold a Purim Carnival. At the JCC we would throw bean bags into Hamen's mouth, race a jagged electric circuit to Shushan, and perhaps get to win a kiss with the lovely Queen Esther. There would be costumes and plays, special pastries called Hamentashen (triangular- shaped and poppy filled), noisemakers, and yelling in schul (the synagogue).

It was a Biblical occasion, but not a somber, dour-faced, serious downer. Purim is a time of joy. We are commanded to be of good cheer: the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants *and all who would join them* (emphasis mine!) That Purim would be celebrated every year ...and these days should be remembered. (Esther 9:27-28) It was to be a day of *feasting and gladness* (9:18) and a time of sending presents.

Present giving was not restricted to family and friends. Because it was a time to celebrate when our sorrow was turned to joy, from mourning to a holiday, that day was a day set aside for sending presents to one another and to give *gifts to the poor* (vs: 22). Jewish people really are community minded, and it's in part from the Biblical perspective – the Hebraic view of life.

Part of what we at **Favor Zion Ministries** wish to restore is that Hebraic worldview: of community, and covenant relationships. A major message we have to communicate to the Jewish people is the need for a personal covenant relationship with Messiah, which includes a connection with other believers and the community. It is such a divine tension, and balance. There's not an either/or- it's both.

God Blesses Arab People as Well as Jews

Many of you have heard me preach how God is not against the Arab people. Some of you have been present when Ramzi (my Palestinian friend) and I have spoken on the solution to the Mid-East problem. In those times I am always certain to say that our stingy prejudices and world-views need to die with the old man. We need to have the mind of Messiah: a vision that while the covenant promises are for the Jewish people- the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob- that Adonai also has blessings for the Arab people (Genesis 17: 19 & 20):

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Then G-d said, Aval (but), Sarah your wife shall bear you a son. And you shall call his name Isaac: I will establish my **covenant with him, and with his descendants as an everlasting covenant**. And as for Ishmael (the father of the Arab people) I have heard you: **Behold I have blessed him**.

Abba is El Shaddai- the all-sufficient one, and His thoughts and ways are far above ours. Our job is to get on with His plan, and not expect Him to bless our ideas. Here at **Favor Zion** we desire to hear Yeshua's voice and a voice of another we won't follow.

Be Discerning Over Media Reports

To safeguard our hearts and minds we must be true to the Biblical account. News reports gave only part of the story on the day of Saddam Hussein's hanging, which really made me angry. If you remember many Muslims were upset that he was hanged on a religious holiday. The news reports then went on to say that the holiday commemorated Abraham's sacrifice of his son. Wow, that sounds so Bible esque. SO Christian, so are we all on the same page! No, No, NO a thousand times NO!

The Koran does talk about Abraham sacrificing his son, but the Koran says that the son is Ishmael! Ugh! Do you see the deception? The Word says the son of the covenant is Isaac – not Ishmael. By ascribing to Ishmael the status of Isaac, the Koran negates the Biblical Covenant, which promises land and the coming Messiah (Yeshua) to come from Abraham to Isaac and from Isaac to Jacob, down through generations to follow.

If there's no Covenant with the *people of Israel*, then there's a very limited basis for the Jewish people to be in Eretz Yisrael. When the Covenant is twisted or negated, then the foundational reasons are mortally weakened.

That's why I was so angry about the news reports. Giving legitimacy, even parity, to the manufactured and untrue account of Abraham and Ishmael is calling the Scriptural account false, and a lie. *But, remember in Genesis 17: 19 & 20 quoted above, there are promised blessings for the Arab people.*

Speaking of things written that have made me angry (very angry) recently: I read Jimmy Carter's book on Israel and the Palestinian problem. Again while issues are raised that need to be addressed and debated, the majority of the book was derogatory and so biased as to be unbelievable. Recent reports indicate that people, who subscribe to the teachings and slant of the Koran and not the truth of the Bible, fund his center.

As I have emphatically said before, there is a solution to the mid-east situation, but it doesn't come from twisting the Truth. Peace will come through the person of Yeshua – Jesus, our Messiah, not through a road map or by ignored peace treaties. For while we have a Hebraic world-view, we fully realize that salvation through Messiah is an experience that is intended to bless all people, one person at a time. And while "all Israel will be saved", such salvation will occur person-by-person, individual-by-individual.

Truth Is The Answer

When we experience righteous indignation, we have weapons against the lies of the enemy. Our weapons are biblical truth and waging war against powers and principalities- being fully armed with the full armor of God ---the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the sword of the Spirit, the shield of faith, and being ready and willing to go with the Gospel to whomever and wherever we are called.

Update on Messianic Minutes

Oy- *Messianic Minutes* didn't win. It's not a super oy, however. The fact that *Messianic Minutes* was nominated as the best teaching show on Christian radio, made us mighty happy, and has brought notoriety to our mission of restoring the Hebraic View of Scriptures and encouraging the Church to witness to the Jewish people. Because we didn't win, only Jeffrey D. Miller went to Orlando to attend the National Religious Broadcasters' Convention. Jeffrey D. is a schmoozer gadol, and because he is the former general manager of a television station, he does connect well with others at NRB.

Our hope is that next year we'll again be nominated and this time win! I do thank each of you for praying I know that the effective and fervent prayers of the righteous do avail much- so those prayers have helped to advance Yeshua's Kingdom. Keep praying! We've been recording *Messianic Minutes* for 14 years and like Esther, we've been called to the kingdom for such a time as this!

Specifically pray that *Messianic Minutes* would be aired on more radio stations and we could also pod-cast worldwide.

TRIP TO ISRAEL

I want you, my friends, to be the first to know of our plans to lead a group back to The Land this year for THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES! WOW!

Israel, at Sukkot. Now Purim is joyous, but the rabbis say that you haven't really experienced joy until you've celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. So let's experience this *simcha* together on September 27.

As I write we're working out the details, but here's what we do know already:

We'll be leaving right after Yom Kippur. (So that will be September 23/ 24 or 25). We will be in Jerusalem celebrating with believers from around the world. We will visit all of the important sites where Yeshua walked and ministered, and we will visit places where He is walking today – fellowshiping with believers in The Land.

Begin saving your *shekels*, now. We'll get full pricing details and scheduling to you in our next newsletter. But your first priority is to pray. My friend Carl (of blessed memory) always used to remind me: Pray first! He, of course, was right. Pray first.

Don't go by the sight of your eyes or the hearing of your ears. Some of you might say there isn't enough money. Some may say that you don't have the time!

I've never gone to Israel when I've had enough money or enough time. Never! But God!

So begin to pray now. Diane and I would love to host you on the spiritual celebration of a lifetime. Jerusalem- The Feast of Tabernacles – this year late September through early October 2007.

With all of the planning and with the stand we take for Biblical Truth and Favoring Zion, **this is a particularly excellent time to support us financially and with prayer.** Send your tax-deductible gift to TIKKUN International, P O Box 2997, Gaithersburg, MD 20886. Make checks out to TIKKUN and include Favor Zion on the memo line.

Also we really enjoy hearing from you- so drop us a line or email us. If you'd like for me to come and share at your church or to a group of friends who wish to learn how better to support Israel let us know- we'd very much enjoy being with you in person.

Remember to celebrate! This is a season of rejoicing, which continues with Passover and Resurrection. Rejoice in the Lord always and again, I say, **rejoice!**

Favoring Zion together,

Rabbi Ted Simon

PS- Please pray fervently about joining us in Israel this Sukkot.

“COME”

