

Dear Precious Friend,

April, 2021

Preaching the Gospel to the Jews

When I heard the news about the deadly stampede* at Mt. Meron where 45 ultraorthodox Jews were crushed to death recently and over 150 were injured, the Lord immediately reminded me of a booklet I wrote in 2006, called For Fear of the Jews. I am sending you one of the articles, Preaching the Gospel to the Jews, during this tragedy, as a reminder that the gospel is first to the Jew. Personally, I am as burdened as ever for Israel's

salvation. I hope this article will awaken in you the same concern to pray and preach the gospel to the Jew first! We are preparing for a flood of Israeli tourists to Greece this season. We desire to share the gospel with many of them. We have been praying for a year on our Power Line Zoom Prayer Initiative and we believe we are on the cusp of a breakthrough for revival in this region: to the Jew first and to the Greek. We are also participating in 40 days of prayer for Israel with a global team. We are experiencing an unusual presence of the Lord in our ministry-prayer house. We believe the Lord is at the door.....

* See short video "Israel mourns victims of stampede on Mt. Meron" (DW News) here

Preaching the Gospel to the Jews

Sometime in 2005, I had a shocking vision. Actually, to call it a vision, is to minimize the experience. I believe that I was in a biblical trance, like Peter experienced on the rooftop while fasting in Acts chapter 10. This trance was not to bring me into a revelation of the one new man like it did for Peter. This trance was to bring me to a deeper understanding regarding preaching the gospel to the Jews.

Let me give you a bit of my background:

I came to the Lord after having a full-blown revelation in 1982 that I was on my way to hell, having broken all of God's law. Glory to God, that as I deeply repented, the blinding light of God's love and the awesome forgiveness of Christ flooded my room and my soul and I was released into His eternal life. I was miraculously set free and I have never forgotten both the terror and the joy of this experience. In fact, knowing the terror of the Lord, I persuade men. (II Corinthians 5:11). During this intervention of God, I was shown just a tiny minuscule of what it will be like for a soul to stand before God without the atoning blood of the Messiah, Jesus. After all these years, it is still an excruciating thought!

This time, my vision of hell was very different. It was not about me. As I stared into the dark chasm before me, I saw numbers of people, one after another being sucked into this horrible pit. They were

being pulled down so fast that no one could stop it. As I looked closer, I noticed that most of the people being dragged into this horrible dark hole were Jewish! In fact, many of them had kipahs on their head and other religious garb. Many of them were religious Jews! Then I saw Yeshua, rush over to the dark chasm and frantically begin pulling them out one by one, with such a passion and desperation, that I was undone! It was then that I heard these words that I shall never forget in the Spirit: "the law is killing them." I knew immediately what Jesus meant. By the works of the law no man is justified. The law imputes sin. It condemns us to death. And there's no way out except through the atoning blood of Jesus the Messiah.

"What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already charged that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin." Romans 3:9

There is not one righteous, not even one. The penalty for sin is one, for both Jews and Gentiles. "All who sin apart from the law will perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew and then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism." Romans 2:9-12

So, why in this vision I was given, did God show me Jews going to hell and not Gentiles since both are condemned and since I preach the gospel to both? After living in Israel for a number of years and being a part of the Messianic movement there and in the States, and after hearing many perspectives on how to reach the Jews and how they will be saved, I understand that it was for one reason alone. God wanted to etch within me a truth that could not be refuted, even though believers as well as unbelievers would try to compromise or dilute it. He wanted to zoom me in on the truth that like Gentiles, Jews also stand condemned before God.

"Now we know that whatsoever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin." Romans 3:19-20

God wanted me to have no doubt whatsoever that all men stand condemned before Him unless they have the atoning blood of Christ. There is no difference between the Jew and the Gentile. As Paul says: "We who are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners, know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So, we (Jews) too, have put our faith in Jesus Christ that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, for by observing the law no one will be justified." Galatians 2:15-16

As I stood pondering this vision, I heard God speak to me: now that you have the revelation and the light that Jewish people (*even those who observe the law*) are in danger of hell fire, you must do something about it. You must tell them (*the same thing you would tell a Gentile*).

There are many in the Body of Christ who refrain from preaching to the Jewish people for one reason or another. Some say that because of the horrendous history of the Church in persecuting the Jews, we must now refrain from preaching to them and focus our attention more on healing the rift and reconciling our differences. In other words, because of our horrible historical record and our ruined reputation as followers of the Messiah, we have forfeited our right as the Church to address the issue of Jewish salvation in Jesus alone.

Others fear the rejection and consequences in preaching and prefer to make friends to win the approval of the Jewish people, supporting and standing with them in their efforts to simply survive the daily attacks on their nation and lives. To an observer, and to the unbelieving Jewish community that might seem commendable, but only in the temporal. What about eternity?

Will these "friends of Israel" who solace and support the Jews in the here and now be ready to give an account for not preaching the full gospel of the Son while they see their Jewish "friends" being dragged down into eternal hell-fire, as was previewed in my vision? Will these fleeting "friends of Israel" be ready to be reckoned with for not laying down their own lives so that Jewish people would be spared theirs through the blood of their own Messiah?

But hear the words of Brother Paul, a Jew, who said "I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ (instead of them!) for the sake of my brothers". Romans 9:1. Have you experienced this agony in your own souls for the Jews? Has that agony pushed you out of your own comfort zone and your own safety, even at the expense of losing your own reputation, in order to rescue them?

Paul continues to say:

"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." Romans 10:1-4

"How then shall they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard. And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Romans 10:14. Are these verses for Gentiles and not for Jews? Is preaching the gospel only for Gentiles? Quite the contrary, preaching the gospel is to the Jew first!

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew and also for the Gentile." Romans 1:16

The preaching of the gospel is the power of God to salvation. Neither Jew nor Gentile can be saved any other way. There are many in the Body of Christ who do not preach the gospel to the Jew first even though the word declares that the preaching of the gospel is first to the Jew! There are others who go to the Jew first, but not with the true gospel. Instead, they become quasi-Jewish, joining them in Torah observance, celebrating with them in feasts, new moons and Sabbaths, but not with the intention of preaching the true gospel that has the power to save their eternal souls!

It is true that Paul said he became all things to all men. To the Jew, he became as a Jew, but he did it so that he might win them to Christ. He did not withhold the full gospel from his brethren in the flesh. God's word teaches that not only are we to preach first to the Jew, in terms of order, but we are to preach the full, uncompromised gospel to them first and not a watered-down version. Could it be that in God's great wisdom, He foresaw that if we preached a watered-down gospel to the Jew first, we would no doubt also preach it to the Gentiles? As it goes with Israel, so also with the nations.

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Do you hear this? By revealing the truth that the law cannot save anyone, through the very ones who are under the law (*the Jews*), God witnesses to the whole world that we are all sinners with no way out except the blood of the Messiah. This is the light that the Jews were commissioned to be to the Gentiles, letting the whole world know that not even the law can save us. Only Christ! When we fail to preach the true gospel to the Jew first, so that he may be saved to take up his calling as this crucial witness, the whole world suffers.

I believe the kindest, and most loving thing that we could do is to preach the "full gospel" to the Jew first. In preaching the uncompromised gospel to and through the Jew first, we will be demonstrating to the whole world that there is no way out, except through the atoning blood of Jesus and in so doing we will be loving and saving the whole world.

Shalom and Agape,

Greta