



# The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.  
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## Occupy Till I Come!

Dear Friends,

In Luke 19:13, Yeshua/Jesus told us to **"occupy till I come."** He meant a couple things by this. 1. Remain where he puts you, and don't give up your territory. 2. Occupy means to do business, or to operate and take care of His business until He comes back.

Let's take Israel for example. What stops Hamas from freely sending thousands of terrorists through their network of tunnels into Israel to reek havoc and mayhem, maim and brutalize, and to freely administer the horrors of suicide bombs, kidnappings and killings? These things would be happening to Jews in Israel if the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) wasn't on the other side of those tunnels defending them. Look at the picture of the terrorists. Can you tell the difference between the Hamas terrorists and the ISIS terrorists? What if there was no Israel to occupy the land? Is "occupation" really a dirty word, as the media and anti-Israel voices want us to believe? The land of Israel was promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants forever in the historical record



called the Bible, (See Gen 15:4-7, Gen 17:1-8, Joshua 1:1-7). In that record, it is written that when the Jews leave the land because of disobedience and sin that God would still bring the Jewish people back from their exile to re-establish them as proper custodians of His land. This inheritance, it says, will take place at the end of days, and it will be a sign of God's sovereign ownership and control of the land we know as Israel! (See Ezekiel 36:24, Ezekiel 37:21, Ezekiel 34:13). Meanwhile, Israel "occupies" with God's blessing.

God's election and sovereign love for the Jewish people is amazing. The Jewish people are so blessed by God that even in the midst of their exile from Israel because of their sin (Deuteronomy 28), He is using them to bless the world. In fact, the scattering of the Jewish people in and of itself is a sovereign act of blessing to the nations, and an even greater blessing comes to the peoples of the world when Jews find their Messiah!! (See Genesis 12:3, Romans 11:11-13). In Romans 11, God says that if our Jewish ancestors who rejected the Messiah brought riches to the Gentiles, how much more (riches) will our fulfillment (return to Yeshua) bring to the Gentiles and to the world. In other words, we who were once under a curse, would one day



through the Messiah become an ultimate, over the top blessing to all the nations! We are the Messianic Jews, and we are here in your town or nearby city to "occupy till He comes," and to bring blessing to the na-

tions!!! We Messianic Jews are not a threat to the Church. The Bible says God made us to bless the nations, so we are here to bless the church!

### Occupying here in America:

Our President is reluctantly learning that when American troops are pulled out of places like Iraq, Egypt, and Libya or when we help take down governments and leaders such as Egypt's Mubarak, and Libya's Qaddafi, something has to fill that vacuum or that void. In Egypt, the Muslim brotherhood has caused incredible upheaval. Libya is in a state of chaos. In Iraq, when ISIS came in from Syria, the Iraqi army simply dropped their guns, took off their uniforms and ran, leaving half of Iraq without defense against these barbarians. It seems as if the Arab Muslims are unable to success-

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fully fight the radical jihadist terrorists, even when American forces leave behind a substantial arsenal, including artillery, tanks, and armored vehicles. **Only the U.S. and Israel appear to have the anointing to fight and defeat terrorists, and Israel is more prepared to deal with terrorism than we are.** Look how porous our southern border is. I read a statistic that one out of ten illegal aliens who cross into this country from Mexico is an Arab from the Middle East. Why are they coming into America through our southern border? Are they coming to sell Persian rugs? Yeah right... Get ready America, because what Israel has been fighting for over 60 years (suicide bombers, kidnappings, killings, hostage dramas, mass shooters, etc... is coming to America! It's already here... Do you recall that the 9/11 terrorists were living in the U.S. before they hijacked those planes? More is coming.

### **What if the Messianic Jews left America?**

**"Occupy till He comes!"** What would happen if all the American Messianic Jews moved back to Israel today? Who would fill the spiritual void if Messianic Jews were not around? Who has the anointing, the spiritual ability, and the strategic plans from heaven to fight and defend against the forces of evil threatening our country today? **I believe we Messianic Jews have been given the anointing to fight against this nasty, ugly, heinous anti-God spirit, just as the nation of Israel is anointed to defend against it physically.**

Right now Christians are being slain, beheaded, crucified, raped, and expelled from their homes in Syria and Iraq. 1600 year old churches are being burned, torn down and destroyed in Iraq and even older ones destroyed in Egypt. I'm sure they would not mind Israel coming to their rescue at this point, but Israel has its own problems. Nevertheless, the IDF is stronger than ever, and I believe part of the reason is that Messianic Jews are an increasingly significant part of the IDF. The more that Messianics become a part of the fighting force of Israel, the tougher and more immovable Israel will become. All the while, our army is being weakened and undermined because of the incompetence and indecisiveness of our government. Our leaders are confused, distracted, and seemingly perplexed about what to do.

The Messianic Jews are the spiritual force ***"occupying"*** here in America and the nations, educating Christians not just about Jewish things, but also about the rise of worldwide anti-Semitism and truth of its connection to the radi-



cal Islamic agenda, which is to convert us all to Islam and practice Sharia law or die... no matter if you're Christian, non-Christian, Jewish, or anything else, they're coming for you. **If you take the Messianic Jews out, who will take our place? I tell you, we would be replaced by a spiritual ISIS and possibly a military one. Christians in the Middle East can't stand against ISIS because they don't have the spiritual authority and anointing to deal with this monster spirit that is the driving force behind the physical aggression. Do you think Americans and American Christians will be able to stand against this same spirit without the partnership of Israel through the Messianic Jews (Romans 11:11-12)?**

Think about it. A lot of Christians say they support Israel, but what are they doing to support Israel? Supporting Israel is not just a political position but rather the idea of "support" implies action and intentional help to accomplish common goals. **There would be no national Messianic ministries without the support of the local Messianic Congregations. So I am letting you know that we need YOU TO OCCUPY TOGETHER WITH US.** Those who create their own "Pseudo-Jewish" groups only hurt the work God is doing for Israel here, and what a work He is doing:

- He has used this ministry to raise over a million dollars for Israel. (See the award pictures). ***For Zion's Sake Ministries and Lion of Judah Messianic Congregation*** is the **only Messianic ministry in the United States to receive the awards Dawn and I are holding in the picture. Those awards represent giving \$200,000 to help the poor in Israel from 2011-2013.** In addition, folks who have been introduced to supporting Israel through ***For Zion's Sake Ministries*** have given in the millions of dollars, and one gracious Christian couple recently renovated a 25,000 SQ foot warehouse in Israel for the Joseph Project, bringing aid and comfort to tens of thousands of Israelis (Jewish and Arab) during the current Gaza conflict.
- When ***"The Joseph Project"*** was about to close in the summer of 2009, our local team here in the Tri-Cities had raised well over a hundred thousand dollars with a goal of building a larger warehouse in Israel. Joel Chernoff, CEO of the Messianic Jewish Alliance, came to us and asked our local team for \$50,000 to keep the Jo-

seph Project operating. We gave them the funds. Then once more, as the recession progressed in 2010, the Joseph Project ran out of operating funds. Mr. Chernoff came to Bristol a second time and asked us for \$60,000. We gave it to him. **God used us to save the Joseph Project from closing until major donors began giving in 2011. Now the Joseph Project is**

**standing on its own two feet.**

Amazingly, it was a little team of Messianic Jews and Christian friends here in Bristol, TN/VA who helped save "The Joseph Project."



- We have dug three wells for impoverished Ethiopian Jews and Muslims who were drinking from the same foul water farm animals and people were bathing in and drinking. Now thousands of Ethiopians are drinking fresh, clean well-water because you helped us raise \$30,000.
- We have sent four Jewish families (16 people) back to Israel from America! These 16 people needed help answering God's ancient call make "aliyah" or return to Israel, and we helped make that happen!
- We (The Manna Bagel Company) have fed more than **400,000** people locally through our partnership with **Second Harvest** over the past 12 years.
- Our Messianic book store in the Manna Bagel Company is the only retail source for Judaica and Messianic resources in the region.
- The Manna Bagel Company is huge outlet for the Gospel, where outreach is done on festival days, and tracts and Zion Letters are available to all thousands of people every year. Over 300 Zion Letters are taken every month from between the salt shakers.
- For Zions Sake has led seven tours to Israel, introducing groups of people to the Messianic community in Israel, and giving them opportunities to serve in Israel.

These are just some of the good works in Messiah that God has enabled us to do, not to mention teaching Passovers, Feasts and Jewish roots, and seeing hundreds of people saved and healed in services and revivals. In one camp for underprivileged children, we saw as many as a hundred come forward for an altar call to receive salvation and healing!

#### **Conclusion:**

Friends, in order to do the fruitful work God has called us to, we need allies to occupy with us. **I want to personally thank those of you who pray for and give to For Zion's Sake Ministries on a monthly basis, some for fourteen years!!!** You know who you are, and God sees your good deeds. But to others I exhort you to ***pray about how you can occupy with us***, and **I ask you to prayerfully consider adding us to your monthly giving budget; whether \$10, \$20, or \$100 / month, any amount will help us to accomplish the work God has called us to.** Your alliance makes us that much more effective.

The spiritual battle is already ramping up, and there is work to be done in preparing for the return of the Messiah. We are your local connection to Israel, sent by God and called to bless you. We do not make appeals every week, but I am asking if you would consider and pray about what I have said in this letter. I have battled cancer that has caused terrible back pain and stiffness, and praise the Lord, I was declared cancer-free in May 2012! This summer I am battling a congenital heart issue that was just discovered, and I've also had two root canals with an ongoing tooth infection that has been very difficult to resolve and is still an issue. At times I have to admit that I have felt like giving up because of the overwhelming problems we have faced in the last 5 years, but the Lord is showing me that these obstacles and difficulties are part of the battle that is associated with the war that is going on in the spirit realm concerning Israel. If we stand together now, when the fight gets tougher, you can bet we will be able to save lives and souls together. I believe that ***For Zion's Sake Ministries*** is good ground, and I know that our greatest works are still yet to come! Thank you and may Elohei Avraham, Elohei Yitzchak and Elohei Yaakov (the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) bless you with all the blessings of the patriarchs as you **"Occupy with us till He comes!"**

In Yeshua's Love,  
Rabbi Joe