



# The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.  
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## God's Great Name

**There** is only one people-nation in all history to whom the living God revealed Himself and His Great Name (Ex 3, Luke 1:30-33, Luke 2:21). This nation is uniquely designed and established by God Himself, with clearly outlined national boundaries (See Gen 15:18-21), sovereign laws of spiritual and physical governance (Rom 3:2, Ex 20 – Deut 34), as well as a language and specific customs, all painting a beautiful reflection of God in heaven among all the peoples of the earth. This nation is Israel, and its people are known in modern times as the Jewish people.

According to Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, author of The New York Times best-selling book, *The Harbinger*, God's end-time plan will not come through the Gentiles but it will come through the Jewish people, and I could not agree with him more. Rabbi Cahn says that the Jewish people, and more specifically, the Messianic Jews, are the "Alpha" people, and that we are also the "Omega" people. What he means is, salvation **begin** with the Messianic Jews and like a perfectly matched book-end, **the end** of this age will again recognize the significance and anointing of the Messianic Jews. This does not mean that God does not love Gentiles or that Gentiles will not be involved in God's end-time plan. It just means that Rabbi Cahn and this writer would strongly suggest that Christians do not discount or ignore the Messianic Jewish interpretation of God's word and prophetic vision for these times.

### **The Name of God:**

Recently there has been a flood of interest and attention to "God's Name". Many people are being duped into a deceptive false doctrine concerning this concept of being able to use God's "authentic" name. Once again, I reiterate the authority of the Jewish people. In Romans 3:2 Paul says that the Jews were "entrusted with the oracles of God". An oracle is a "divine utterance" according to Webster's dictionary. That means that God entrusted the Jewish people with His word, and this is still true. In fact, the only Bible at the time of Yeshua/Jesus was the Tanach (Five Books of Moses, the Writings and the Prophets)

more commonly known to Christians as "The Old Testament." What was God trying to say to us in Romans 3:2 when Paul said "the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God?" He was saying that in addition to our calling as Jews to be a light to the Gentiles and to restore the tribes of Jacob, (See Isaiah 49:6), we Jews are still called to be entrusted with God's word. It's a calling that is **impossible to undo**, for Rom 11:29 says "The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable". Again, in Rom 11:1-2 Paul warns us strongly not to reject the chosen people. That is to say, that when it comes to the Name of God, we Jews know what it is and what it is not, particularly those of us Jews who believe in Yeshua/Jesus.



In the Old Testament Biblical text, there is a rendering for the "Name" of God, which is usually translated as "Lord" or in Jewish translations, "Adonai". This rendering is called the Tetragrammaton because it is a word for "God" that has no official pronunciation. Over the centuries Christians have taken the Tetragrammaton and come up with names like "Jehovah" or "Yahweh" to refer to God the Father. In the last ten years, a following has sprung up of false teachings about the "Name" where the "Name" is given specific pronunciations and taught that those names should be used instead of "Lord" or "Adonai". It is even taught by some of these groups that Jesus' name is not Jesus, but some other variation. We are seeing this teaching propagated all over the internet, and in many big name ministries. Even "Bibles" have been written where these different versions of the "Name" replace the traditional translation renderings.

In Exodus 3, at the burning bush, Moses asked God for His name so Moses could go back and tell the people who it was that was sending this message of deliverance. "God said to Moshe (Moses), "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh," (I AM What I AM), and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Israel: 'Ehyeh (I Am) has sent me to you,'" Exodus 3:14. That's why Yeshua said.... "I AM the Bread of Life," JN 6:35, 48; "I AM the Light of the world," JN 8:12, "I AM the Good Shepherd," JN 10:14, "I AM the

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*Door of the sheep," JN 10:7, "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM," JN 8:58. "I AM the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me, will live even if he dies," JN 11:25 and "I AM the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me," JN 14:6.*



By repeatedly saying "I AM", Yeshua was equating Himself with the God that Moses met by the burning bush, and the Jews knew exactly what He meant. If God wanted to be called a particular name, Yeshua would have referred to Himself by that Name... but He didn't. The Words for "I Am" in Greek are "*Ego Eimi.*" I have researched this topic with Greek New Testament scholars and nowhere in any of the nearly five hundred Greek manuscripts of the New Testament does the name *Yahweh, Jehovah, Yahua, Yahaveh or YHVH etc... appear as a name for God.* In the New Testament manuscripts God the Father is called "*Kurios*" Greek for "Lord" or what we Jews refer to as "Adonai" (Lord) or "Ha Shem" (The Name). The only other references to "The Father" in the Greek N.T. manuscripts are "Pater," meaning father or "Abba," Aramaic and Hebrew for father or daddy.

Some false Messianic Jewish type groups that often refer to themselves as "**Hebrew Roots,**" "**Hebraic Roots,**" "**Hebrew Christian,**" or even "**Messianic Jewish**" use false names for Yeshua/Jesus. Such false names to beware of are "**Yahoshua (meaning Joshua in Hebrew),**" "**Yahusha,**" (meaning nothing), "**Yashua,**" (also meaning nothing...). Should you encounter groups that use any of these false names for the Savior, avoid them at all cost. Interestingly, such groups tend to avoid the name "Jesus," saying it is a pagan name for Zeus. This practice is simply heretical. The truth of the matter is that the only name by which men are saved is Jesus or Yeshua in Hebrew. Acts 4:12 says, "*there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*" Yeshua is the **only** Jewish way to say Jesus.

יהודה

Religious Jewish people do not refer to God as Yahweh, Jehovah, Yahaveh, Yahua, etc... Nowhere in all of Jewish history or writing is there any discourse or teaching on the pronunciation of such names for God, nowhere. In Hebrew, the Tetragrammaton or The Unpronounceable Name is spelled Yod-Hay-Vav-Hay or in English it is "YHWH".

Religious Jews never even attempt to say this name. Why? First, the key to pronouncing the "Name" would be that you need vowels, but there are no vowels available for this word. Any person who tries to pronounce this word looks like a fool, and shows he does not know the basics of the Hebrew language. Secondly, the vowels have **never** been used or written in all history and in ancient literature. It is literally **impossible** to know how this word should be correctly pronounced! Lastly Jews are taught that it is totally inappropriate to even try to pronounce this Holy word, God's name. In fact religious Jews are offended by Christian attempts to pronounce "The Name" of the Father. If Christians love Jewish people they wouldn't knowingly want to hurt or offend them, right?

The only authentic Messianic Jewish organizations that the writer would recommend are *The Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA.org)* or *the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC)*. Any reputable Messianic Jewish congregation will be affiliated with one of these two groups in some way. Unfortunately our movement has been hijacked by some mostly non-Jewish people who have no real covering or ordination, and who feel they can just make up names for God and call themselves Hebrew-Christian or Messianic, teach Jewish stuff, put on tallit (prayer shawls), blow shofars, and celebrate Jewish holidays. Such people are wolves in sheep's clothing, deceiving people, mostly Christians into thinking it's okay. Many of these groups even teach that if you were born a Gentile and are attracted to Jewish Feasts and things, that you are really one of the "Lost sheep from the house of Israel." They teach that they are physical Israelites. This is "replacement theology." Messianic Judaism and most of Evangelical Christianity teach that a Christian is a "spiritual Israelite," not a physical Jew. I was born of Jewish parents maternally. Therefore I am a physical Jew who believes in Jesus. I am no better than anybody else, I'm just Jewish. If you were born a Baptist or a pagan and believe in Jesus then you become part of spiritual Israel. If you do not have a Jewish parent and were not raised in a Jewish family, you are simply not Jewish.

ישוע

In our opinion such groups as I mentioned above are misleading at best and many are heretical. It would be deceptive and dishonest of me to call myself a Methodist minister and start a Methodist church without being ordained or sent out by a Methodist governing body. If I did it, I would be lying. So, when you encounter a Jewish-Christian group, my suggestion is to ask some questions... 1. Is the leader Jewish? 2. If they say they are Jewish, find out how they were raised. 3. Are they ordained? If so, by who? If it isn't the MJAA/UMJC or a recognized Messianic Jewish ministry, then I would beware...4. What names do they use for God? Do they say "Yahweh," "Yahua," "Yahoshua," or any of the false names given above??? 5. Do they believe that as former Christians, that they have become physical Israelites or spiritual Israelites? 6. Who

is their covering? Who are they accountable too? 7. Where does the money go? Are they 501-C-3? Is there a board of directors? Is there any oversight financially?

In conclusion, God's name is great and holy, and we will only know how to say it when He gives us the knowledge in heaven. We Jews who know the Messiah, know that the most important knowledge is that of the knowledge of Salvation that comes through the name of Yeshua and what He accomplished on the cross. Idolatry of wanting to know what is not given to us is just that.... Idolatry.

**Ministry Update**

Shalom Dear Friends,

In August, For Zion's Sake Ministries along with only twenty three other people in the world received a distinguished award from the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America. The award was for your generous donations to the Joseph Project in Israel which we have collectively worked to raise. For Zion's Sake Ministries has been faithful to keep you aware of the great need in Israel, and you have been faithful to respond. We thank you and Israel thanks you. Needy Israelis may not be aware of your part in their life, but Israel now has come to depend on us here in the Tri-Cities, and I hope that you will continue to stand with us in this mission to bless Israel.... What an honor!!



Our next event to promote the Joseph Project is coming on November 8th. Paul Wilbur is coming to the Holiday Inn on Linden Drive, Bristol, VA for "A Night to Bless Israel", so come out and have a great night of worship as we stand together to bless Israel. See the ad in this letter for ticket information.

We are enjoying our new Messianic synagogue and have had some marvelous concerts here over the past year such as Marty Goetz, Violinist Maurice Sklar and Ted Pearce. It is always good to see different people we know coming out to these events and appreciate those who come regularly as well as those who come to visit on special occasions. You are all in our hearts and we pray for you.

Sadly we have had some vandalism over the summer at our synagogue. Some kids have climbed up on the roof of our fellowship hall and peeled off several shingles. The roof is only 3 years old... About a month ago our shed was broken into by someone with a crow bar. We are not certain what they took, but they destroyed the locks on the doors. There have been a few other incidents of vandalism and many people trespassing on the property. A very gracious Christian couple has come forward with a donation for a security fence to go around the entire property, as well as funds to place a lit sign on the front of our building in place of the



# A Night to Bless Israel

A Joint Project of the MJAA & For Zion's Sake Ministries

## Paul Wilbur

Live in Concert

Friday November 8th  
7:00 pm



**Advance Tickets Only**

**\$14.00**

[www.forzionsake.org](http://www.forzionsake.org)

276 644-1678

**Note: Ticket Sales close Nov 5th**

Location:

The Holiday Inn/ Exit 7  
Linden Drive, Bristol, VA 24202

temporary banner that has been up for two years. This lovely couple has also agreed to help us renovate our lady's bathroom which fell into disrepair. I am reminded of the Roman Centurion who built the Synagogue in Capernaum and God blessed Him by sending His Son to heal this man's servant (See Luke 7).

Folks, we are your local Messianic synagogue and your local connection to Israel. There are many other needs such as electrical, building a bathroom for our fellowship hall, repairing the damaged roof, electrical work, etc... that need to be done. Would you consider being like the Roman Centurion by sending a love gift this month to For Zion's Sake Ministries? Perhaps you've been blessed by a concert or a Christ in the Passover celebration. Or perhaps you just appreciate that the Gospel is being proclaimed through our outreach on State Street, The Manna Bagel Co. We distribute thousands of newsletters and Gospel tracts every year and many books and CD's are purchased there. I believe For Zion's Sake is a fruitful ministry. I believe it is good ground. Together with your help we have raised more funds for the needy in Israel over the past ten years than any other single Messianic ministry!!!

**Boots on the Ground:**

It's wonderful that there are national Messianic Jewish ministries on television and famous books like "The Harbinger," but without congregations and ministries like ours (*Lion of Judah* and *For Zion's Sake Ministries*) in little towns across the country, there would be no national Jewish revival. Jewish revival begins locally, one heart at a time... Will you prayerfully consider partnering with For Zion's Sake Ministries on a monthly basis? God's word says we shall be known by our fruit. I won't share all those verses about how God will bless those who bless Israel, you probably know them by heart. But you can be like the Roman Centurion who built the local synagogue for the Jews in the town where he was stationed. Without foot soldiers for God, there would be no Centurions, no generals, etc... Shalom!

Thank you and God bless you,

In Yeshua's love,  
Joe and Dawn



Synagogue in Capernaum

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| <p><a href="http://www.forzionsake.org">www.forzionsake.org</a></p> <p>Help us get the word out </p> <p>  </p> | <p><i>Congregation Lion of Judah</i></p> <p>Meets weekly<br/><b>Saturdays</b><br/><b>10:30 AM</b><br/>1128 New Hampshire Ave.</p>  |
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