



The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.

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The Promise of the Father A Shavuot/Pentecost Message

Years ago back in 1995 I felt compelled to read the Jewish Bible known as the Tanakh (an acronym for the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings such as Joshua, Judges, Ruth and Psalms, etc.); Christians call it the Old Testament. I had attained early success in my life as a salesman as I had doubled a \$700,000 territory to 1.4 million dollars in one year and was making pretty good money for a 23 year old back in 1989. Still something was missing in my life and my journey eventually led me to read the Tanakh when I was 28. Though I owned my own house and my car was paid off, I felt empty and without direction. One day while I was reading the Scriptures, I got on my knees and began to pray to God for direction. I remember specifically asking Him for power, for His power to come into my life, to show Himself real, and to help me find my purpose. Boy did He ever answer that prayer! I had my own Damascus road experience with Yeshua/Jesus in February of 1996, February 14th to be precise. No it is not a Jewish holiday, nor is it a Christian holiday, but I knew the Lord was my Valentine that year and that He chose it knowing I would get the symbolism. When I prayed that first prayer, I had no idea that power is one of His promises to us. In fact, the Bible calls it "**The Promise of the Father**"; read on...

Friends I have had years of suffering with cancer and spine problems among other side effects from chemotherapy, but I have also had many fruitful years of ministry singing and preaching the Gospel around the world in nine countries and traversing 47 states here in the U.S.A.! I married, raised a family, ran a couple businesses, helped build the

largest Messianic Jewish/Christian charity in Israel "The Joseph Project" and led a congregation for twenty-three years. There are too many wonderful stories to tell, but I sure am glad I asked God for His power at the beginning because I couldn't have done any of it without it. The word for power in Greek is Dunamis; it is where we get the word for Dynamite. In Luke 24:49 we read, "**And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**" We see Yeshua speak of the Father's Promise again in Acts 1:4, "**Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, Which He said, you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**" According to Yeshua, this promise of the Father is "power" and it is also referred to as "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit". **Let me be clear, the power of God is much more than speaking in tongues; it is the power to preach the Gospel like Peter (the**



coward of Passover) did on the day of Pentecost to thousands! It is the power to lay hands on the sick and see them healed; it is the power to prophesy and give words of knowledge; in Samson's case it was physical strength that enabled him to kill 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. The Father's power can also stop the rain for three years like Elijah did or to raise the dead like Yeshua, Elijah, Elisha, Peter and Paul did! And yes, it may also include the gift of speaking in tongues, something Paul said he did more than any-

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Your local connection to Israel!

body; but that is not the focus of this message. I don't want you to miss the Father's promise of power because some of you may have a problem with speaking in tongues. The Promise of the Father is for all believers. My son is quite a football player. I was telling him about the power of God the other day, and about the power that came upon Samson. My point was that my boy can lift weights, run touchdowns and he can tackle the best of them, but only by the Holy Spirit could Elijah outrun chariots. Only by the Holy Spirit could Samson destroy the Philistines. Only by the Holy Spirit's power could Peter raise Tabitha or Paul raise the young man who fell out of the window! I told my son Josh that with God's power he would be a faster, stronger, better football player than he already is! He liked that... In Acts 1:8 Yeshua says again, "**but you will receive power when the Holy**

Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest parts of the earth." Perhaps the most used gift of power is evangelism. I know that I have led far more people to the Lord with His power than in my own strength. Have you?



The Holy Spirit not mentioned until late in the Gospels: You might say our salvation experience is when we are Baptized (immersed) into Jesus. Many theologians and pastors teach that believing in Jesus is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but is that what the Bible teaches? John 14:23 says, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and my Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him.**" John says nothing about the Holy Spirit here; he only mentions the Father and Yeshua/Jesus. John 3:16 *doesn't* say "for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Holy Spirit so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life..." it says, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.**" The word *baptism* comes from the Greek word meaning to immerse, so when we come to Jesus and believe in Him and He and the Father then come and dwell with us, we are really being immersed into Yeshua/Jesus. That is baptism #1, salvation. Baptism #2 is John's baptism or water baptism; water baptism is an outward baptism for those who have repented of sin. Immer-

sion in water is God's requirement as a testimony to the world that the old man has died to sin and the new man rises out of the water a new creation, washed and forgiven by the blood of Yeshua. John's baptism is an outward baptism, a testimony of new faith for others to see!

Remember, Yeshua left so that He could send us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Each of the three persons of the Godhead is separate and unique: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. I did not know anything about a Holy Spirit when I repented; I asked Jesus for forgiveness and invited Him into my heart back in 1996. There is a scripture about this: In Acts 8, Philip went down to Samaria to preach the Gospel, "**The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were**

coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and men who had been paralyzed and lame were healed... But when they believed Philip preaching the Good News about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike." "**Now when the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who**



came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Yeshua." Acts 8:14-16. These people believed in Yeshua, repented and were water baptized, but had not even heard about the Holy Spirit! Just like me... Sure there are verses about Yeshua being conceived by the Holy Spirit, Matthew 1:18, and about the Holy Spirit descending upon Yeshua as a dove when He was baptized, but mostly, the Ruach Ha Kodesh is mentioned later in Acts and the Epistles.

The Promise of the Father:

Then there is Baptism #3, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is such a big deal and independent of being born again that God devotes several chapters and verse to it (including verses I mentioned above). I believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or "**The Promise of the Father**" **Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4,8** is a baptism of power, the power of God through the Holy Spirit; the power to do mighty deeds such as I mentioned above. Do

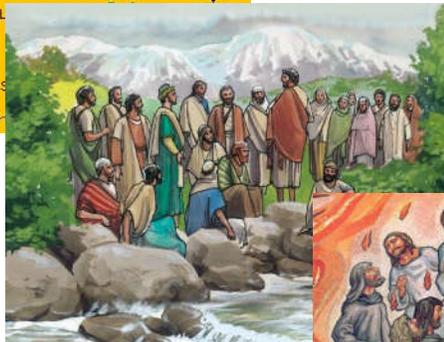
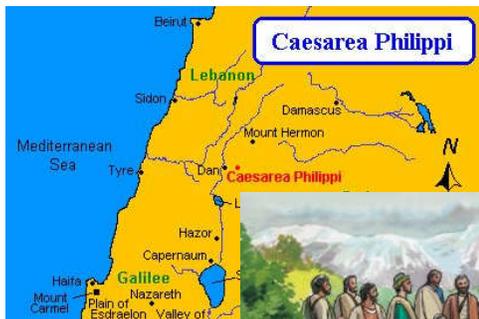
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you really think people would have been healed walking in Peter's shadow if he did not have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Do you really think people would have been healed by touching Paul had he not had the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Read about the Apostles before they received power from on high (Luke 24:49) and tell me you don't see a major change in them after they have received POWER! Friend, you may be like the widow and her mite or you may be called to be a great preacher or evangelist. Either way, the Promise of the Father is for every believer! It is not a pick and choose, it is the gift of God; the Promise of the Father! Do you want to stand before Him on judgment day and be explaining why you rejected His promise? I sure don't, so let's recap. To believe in Yeshua/Jesus is to believe in the Gospel, and to repent and be born again. Those who do this have forgiveness of sins

and the gift of eternal life and no man can take that away from you, but it says nothing about power. Water Baptism is a Holy sacrament and a command of God for those who have believed; it represents the death of your sinful self and your resurrection in Messiah, fully washed and ready to serve; then comes the Baptism of Power, or the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If Acts 1 and 2 or the deeds of the Apostles that I have spoken of is not enough to convince you, then read on...

The Father's Promise of Power:

John the Baptist said, ***"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire"*** **Matthew 3:11.** Luke 3:16 says, ***"I indeed baptize you with water but one mightier than I is coming whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*** Friend, when you were born again was there fire and lightning, or was there warmth, peace, love and joy? As an evangelist I have traveled the world preaching the Gospel, even in churches with as many as ten thousand people. Though I have led many to Messiah, I have rarely if ever seen fire or lightning when someone is born again. The Greek word for fire and lightning is



"pur" and it means just that; fire and/or lightning. The first time we see fire connected to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is in Acts Chapter 2, yet the Apostles had believed long before that day. It was at Caesarea Philippi **in northern Israel that** Yeshua asked Peter and the disciples, ***"who do you say that I am?"*** **Simon Peter answered, "you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."** **Yeshua said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven!"** **Matthew 16:15-17.** Yeshua is clearly dealing with the disciples about their salvation here, beginning with Peter. Why Caesarea Philippi? Because it is a starting point. It was at the head waters of the Jordan River that Yeshua took care of the disciple's salvation (except for Thomas). Then as they traveled down the valley along the banks of the Jordan River, Yeshua baptized them one by one. I believe Yeshua was making sure the disciples were born again. Believing Yeshua to be the messiah was credited to the disciples as salvation just as

Abraham was credited with righteousness by simply believing. On a later occasion, Yeshua deals with the Holy Spirit. After the resurrection, when they were all gathered together in a locked room, the risen Lord appeared and said, ***"Shalom! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*** **And when He had said this He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive**

the Holy Spirit". Then, the disciples received the Holy Spirit a second time at Shavuot/Pentecost in Acts Chapter two. So were they born again two or three times? Not quite; you see, when Elijah was about to depart this world in 2 Kings 2, his disciple Elisha asked him for a double portion of Elijah's Spirit. Reading the chapter we see that Elisha clearly was granted his request. Once he had the double portion of the Spirit of Elijah, Elisha began to perform miracles like parting the Jordan River, healing the sick, raising the dead and much more. Read it and you'll see; the story of Elisha is a pattern of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and in the same manner the Disciples received a second portion of the Ruach Ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit) on Shavuot/the Feast of Pentecost. For more on Elijah and Elisha see my article at www.forzionsake.org.

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Conclusion:

I am sorry, but the teaching that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit takes place at salvation is nowhere to be found in the Bible. You cannot find it because it is not there. The Promise of the Father is a promise of power, an extra or second portion of the Holy Spirit given after salvation that empowers the believer to do greater things for God than we can do in our own strength. It was given to Elisha; it was given to the Disciples and The Father wants to give it to you. The second portion of the Spirit is not required for a person to go to heaven, but those who reject it will spend more time arguing about its validity than bearing fruit for God; of that I can assure you. Brothers and sisters, is there anyone among us who understands all things or do we only see in part? I urge you to be open minded about that which you do not know of or have not experienced. I yearn for a time when the body of Messiah will walk in unity believing in miracles, signs, and wonders, believing in the promise of the Father, and receiving the power of God personally, expecting the supernatural to manifest. That is my heart for every congregation including mine! The prophet Joel said God would pour out His spirit on all flesh in the Last Days (Joel Chapter 2), but we have to receive it. Have you received the Promise of the Father?

Love, Rabbi and Dawn

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Messianic Congregation*



Meets weekly on **Saturdays**
11:30 AM
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