

FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS

Preface

This booklet has been written primarily to those who are struggling with a fear of the Jews and because of it, have not been able to boldly and effectively witness in the Name of Jesus Christ and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

I have also written this booklet for those who have been bombarded in recent years with myriads of opposing and inconsistent messages on how to witness and not to witness to the Jewish people and have become confused, disheartened and stagnant. I have not written this booklet to those who have been forerunners in Israel and around the world in suffering the heat of the day and for bearing a reproach for His Name. Some of you have even begun to bear on your body the marks of Yeshua.

To those of you who have already gone before us, I say, bless you and thanks for your Messiah-like example to the rest of us who have gleaned from your sacrifice. For those who are in the process of getting there and need help, I say, keep going, you are on the right track, and for those who need a push, I say, fear not, for he who loses his life for Christ's sake, will find it.

For Fear of the Jews

On my first day of Ulpan (*Hebrew classes*) in Jerusalem, I noticed a couple, dressed in full Orthodox attire, tzitzit, head covering, kipah and all. The woman looked so familiar to me, that I could not take my eyes off her. I finally realized that she was a Jewish believer in the Messiah that I had known while living in the States. My first thought was, "*she is backslidden and married to a Jewish Orthodox man who is not saved.*" She finally recognized me too and motioned to me that we would talk after class. As we shared, I quietly asked her if she was still in Him. She assured me that she was, but I noticed that she did not hang around fellow believers too much, but spent most of her time with the religious Orthodox in the class.

One day after class we had a meal together and she and her husband revealed that they believed in Yeshua, but did not want to be labeled or identify with Christians, did not want to pray with believers in public and did not want to disclose who they were. They had not attended a

congregation since coming to the land. This is an extreme case, but I want to use it to demonstrate a point that is deeply on the Lord's heart.

Shortly after this, another Jewish believer in the class who I had known quite well, had fellowshiped and prayed with, took me aside to forewarn me that he did not want to talk about spiritual things in class, or in other words, was going "*undercover*" too. I sensed fear all over this brother. This warning came right after an evening of prayer with some godly women who had prayed about this very issue of both Jews and Gentiles in the land, "*coming out of the closet.*"

In fact, there was a woman at the prayer meeting who had immigrated with her husband some years before through an arduous struggle that had included their being sent out of the land, a court case and finally an open door to become residents of Israel without hiding their true identities as Jewish believers. It had been an ordeal, but the Lord was faithful through their refusal to hide their identity in Yeshua. One might say through these three different life stories that there are many different callings and many different ways to be a witness of Yeshua, but I continued to feel very stirred in my Spirit and it would not let up.

I want to share with you what the Lord has shown me about His heart in this matter of sharing the gospel to the Jew first, to all men, and especially for any follower of Yeshua who might be struggling with fear. While praying one day, the following scene from John chapter 20 came as a vision and I received a quickened word from the Lord.

After the crucifixion, the disciples were in a room with the doors shut for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "*peace to you.*" When He said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus again said to them, "*peace to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you*" (John 20:19-21). Now please hear this in your Spirit: The doors were shut for fear of the Jews. These were Jewish believers, but they were afraid that their own people would kill them if they continued to openly identify with their Savior.

Does the Lord want us to fear man? Is it not true that the one you fear becomes as God to you, obeying his will rather than the will of God? Can we fear man and fear the Lord at the same time? Did Yeshua fear His own people? Could He have willingly laid down His life for His own flesh and blood if He had feared them? Yet the disciples had their doors shut for fear of the Jews. So Jesus showed them his hands and his side to assure them that their last enemy, death, had been dealt the final blow and was under His feet forevermore.

Jesus came into their locked room to first impart His peace to these chosen disciples, quell their fear of death, fill them *with the Holy Spirit and then send them out to walk as He walked on the earth. Jesus was saying, "I give you the same peace I had while here in the flesh, the same peace that got me through, the same peace in the Holy Spirit that enabled Me to stay on that cross until all was finished!"* He was giving them the peace of God that surpasses all the realm of natural thinking, the peace that is not of this world.

God spoke to my heart, "*many believers are in the land with the doors shut for fear of the Jews and because of it, the nation and the world is suffering a darkness that would be dispelled by their light.*" Jesus wants to come inside our locked rooms, but when He does, He will commission us once again to come out into the light and walk as He walked. He said, "*As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.*" What was the sending of the Father? Was it not to Calvary? Was it not to give His life for the sake of the world? Jesus had already prepared His chosen ones: You will be persecuted, rejected, hated by all because of Me, even your own household will be your enemy.

For how can the eternal love of God be displayed if not through these sufferings? How can one turn the other cheek if there is no one to strike it? How can one love an enemy if there is no contention? How can one say, forgive them, if there is no wound? How can we be transformed into the image of Christ if not through real life identification with the Crucified One? Death must work in us for life to work in them. Was Jesus giving His disciples a temporal peace just to get them through the fear of the moment or was He imparting the everlasting peace of God to get them over the finish line into eternity bringing their sheaves with them, truly a job well done?

Jesus showed the disciples His wounds, not only to prove that it was He and that He was alive from the dead, but to show them that they too would soon be empowered to walk as He walked and that they would also make it over to the victory side. He said we receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon us to be His witnesses ("*martyrs*" in Greek). Paul, in his identification with the Crucified One, said, "*I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.*" He determined to know nothing among us, but Christ crucified, which he said was the power and the wisdom of God.

During Succoth (*Feast of Booths*), no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews (John 7:13). There was a fear of the Jews among the people during Jesus' whole ministry on earth. This fear is a demonic spirit sent to keep the true witnesses muzzled. Its source is the fear of death and it is still operating in Israel and throughout the believing community to a greater or lesser degree depending on the level of

maturity and identification with the Crucified One.

This spirit of the fear of the Jews is sent to paralyze the true witnesses who turn the case in the eternal court of heaven to the winning side and set captives free. For how will they believe in Him whom they have not heard and how will they hear without a preacher? This fear is a demonic counterfeit for the true "*fear of the Jews*" that has rested upon true believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob throughout history who walk in the fear of God, the fear that causes many to turn to the Living God and to His Son, Yeshua.

"And fear not them who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28

When the healed man's parents were questioned about Jesus, for fear of the Jews, they told the religious authorities to ask their son (John 9:22). They passed the buck, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him as Messiah, they would be put out of the synagogue. Is there not a fear even today of being put out of the "*synagogue*," a fear of being isolated, and ostracized by one's own flesh and blood, even a fear of having to "*leave the land*?"

Yet when Jesus heard that they had put out the man whose blind eyes were opened from the synagogue, He found him and disclosed Himself to him. The healed man came out from among his own people who were entangled in the fear of man and he identified with the Man who had healed Him. Will we be as the parents ensnared by the fear of man, passing the buck, or like the son who, though rejected by the authorities, gave honor to the One who had healed Him and in so doing, encountered Him face to face?

"Blessed are you when men hate you and ostracize you and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and leap for joy; for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way." Luke 6:22-26

God's word says that even though many of the rulers believed in Him, because of the Pharisees, they were not confessing Him for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue for they loved the glory of men rather than the glory of God (John 12:42). Jesus said, "*these things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue.*" (John 16:1-2).

He said that when we are cast out, we should remember that He told us before so that we will not be ensnared at that moment in the fear that

makes us shrink back from trusting God, for “*my righteous one shall live by faith and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*” Paul said that if he still was looking to please men, he would not be a bond-servant of God.

When Esther shrunk back in fear and doubt, Mordecai said, “*Do not imagine that you in the King's palace can escape any more than all the Jews.*” There was a season when Esther was counseled to hide her identity, but that season was over. She now had to trust God to keep her, no longer through hiding her identity, but in revealing it. Esther had to disclose who she was as a Jew in order to deliver the Jews. I believe that God is saying to the Messianic believers who are in the King's palace that if they continue to remain silent at such a time as this, they will not only forfeit their great eternal calling to be light to the whole world, but also their own lives:

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish And who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14

Are we in the King's palace to be safe and secure or to lay down our lives so that others may live? Esther finally said, “*if I perish, I perish.*” Have we come to that same point of no return?

What fear has you locked up in a room? Are you “*locked up for fear of the Jews?*” Are you shut in because of an inordinate fear that has replaced the fear of God? Now please hear this: any fear that takes the place of God will lock you up in a room. It may be a beautiful room (*acceptable religion can be very good-looking*), but it will lock you out of experiencing the power and glory of His kingdom. Jesus wants to come into your room to reveal His wounds to you afresh and free you from the fear of death. He wants to come inside to breathe His peace upon you and restore you to the fear and joy of the Lord. He wants to send you out of that room empowered to do the same works He did. He wants to bring you over to the victory side of faith where no fear can touch you, but the fear of God alone.

“Behold, I put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept my word, and have not denied my name. Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie- I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.” Revelation 3:8-9

There is a company of overcomers in Israel and around the world who are walking through this open door, not denying His Name, and are beginning to see the manifestation of this great promise. God says to these forerunners and to any other overcomer, that if you continue to

keep His word and not deny His Name, the very demon-inspired ones who harassed, intimidated and mistreated you, will soon turn to you, humble themselves and acknowledge that you are true Jews and the beloved of the Lord.

Perfect Love Casts out Fear

The word of God says, "*the one who fears has not been perfected in love.*" God's perfect love displaces all fear. If we yet fear man, if we fear anyone who has the authority to harm us, even to the point of death, it means that we do not have perfect love for them yet. We may have admiration, or affection, even idolatry, but it is not the perfect love of God, the love defined by God's word, that lays down its life for the other. The fear of death and the perfect love that lays down its own life in obedience to God cannot co-exist. "*And this is how He demonstrated His love for us, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" We cannot demonstrate the love of Yeshua if we fear the very ones who need to see this love in and through us.

Jesus did not lay down His life because of the fear of man. Even the fear of God was not the principle cause. He came because His love for the Father and for the man He created compelled Him to do so. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

Did Jesus struggle with the fear of man? The scriptures say that in all points He was tempted like us, yet without sin. I believe that Yeshua's struggle at Gethsemane was the same one that we face between the will to continue on in this temporal life ruled by our instinct to survive which is energized by the fear of death, and the God-given will to give ourselves for our friend, and our neighbor, which is the only scriptural and eternal definition of love.

Our human will is always directed towards self-preservation, but the divine will towards self-sacrifice. When Jesus said, "*not my will, but your will,*" He had overcome the fear of death. "*For love is as strong as death and many waters cannot quench it.*" For the love of Christ constrains us; because we judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead. And that He died for all, that they which live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose from the dead.

When we willingly lay down our fear of man in faith, an amazing flood of God's sacrificial love begins to replace the self-centered love that tries to preserve it's own life. This is the same love that compelled Jesus to

come to the earth and lay down His life for the world. This is what began to happen to me when this hidden fear of the Jews was exposed and lifted from me, a fear towards the very ones I carried a God-given burden and love for.

For some time, I had wondered why the depth of love I felt for the Jewish people did not have a more open, natural and free flowing expression. It was as if an invisible wall was holding back a greater love than my own which was God's love in me. Suddenly, as the fear that hindered the flow was removed, the amazing super-natural love of God began to manifest.

Many wonderful things took place. First of all, an Israeli that I had shared the gospel with, started reading the New Testament, and gave his heart to the Lord. In the Ulpan where I studied Hebrew in an Orthodox area of Jerusalem, a wall began to crumble in the Spirit. The Jewish believer in my class who was hiding his testimony suddenly told the whole class that he wanted to teach the New Testament, a public declaration that he was a believer in Yeshua. He told me that several demons of fear had been cast out of him and he was free.

On Christmas day, one of my teachers asked me to share how I felt about being in Israel for Christmas. I shared, using the name of Yeshua, in front of my Orthodox class and there was a hush. I thought that I would be isolated and rejected by the Orthodox students the following day, but the contrary happened. Everyone was more open to me and several students deliberately started sitting next to me. The invisible wall of fear that had kept us at a distance from one another was now gone.

I had the opportunity to share my testimony with several of my Orthodox classmates. Not only that, but one of my Orthodox teachers told me that she noticed that I had something special inside and I told her it was Yeshua. One day, as we walked down the road together, I shared my life story with this amazing woman who was so open to hear. She kept saying, *"This is very interesting. This is amazing."*

We shared and hugged so spontaneously and transparently through the grace of the One we are warned against speaking openly about by the fearful ones. Yet just the opposite happened. Why? Because the wall of fear came down and the sacrificial and eternal love of God began to flow freely through me in spite of the dangers or consequences. Since then, I have witnessed to Jews (*and Gentiles*) everywhere I go without this invisible wall of fear and have seen many people give their lives to the Lord including Holocaust survivors, a professor, an ultra-orthodox man, and many others. I can testify that there is absolutely no fear where the

perfect love of God is flowing freely through a heart. This is true not only in the heart of the preacher, but flowing through him unhindered, this same love reaches the heart of the hearer so that he can receive and embrace God's perfect gift of life. Truly God's pure love untainted by fear never fails.

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.

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 defraud, amend, 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.

“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

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.

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