



Dear Precious Friend,

*December, 2015*

## **PATERA and PATRIA**

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. *Eph. 3:14-15*

There is a profound connection in Greek between the words for "Father" and "Family." Father (πατέρα/patera) is the root word for family (πατριά/patria). Patria cannot stand without its root, patera. The family/patria of God originates, holds together and grows as it is rooted in the Father/Patera. The Family and the Father are inseparable.

Fathers hold families together. When fathers and families are severed, there are disastrous results as we see in our world today. When the enemy wants to destroy the foundations of our civilization, all he has to do is to attack the foundational link between father and family.

**One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all...**

*Eph. 4:6*

Paul bows his knees to the Patera of Yeshua (Jesus), who is also our Patera, and from whom the whole patria in heaven and earth is named. We are linked in sonship with Messiah. The Father of our Lord Yeshua is the God and Father of us all. The whole human race has one common origin. Paul the Apostle proclaims that God made of one blood all nations of men. *Acts 17:26*

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

*Eph. 4:6*

But to every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

*Eph 4:7*

In vs 6, Paul first affirms humanity's fundamental origin and unity in the Father before he focuses on individual graces and gifts, vs 7. Yet in our oneness in God, individuality is never overlooked, but focused, so that we will use our gifts and callings for the good of the whole family, for His namesake.

*Eph 4:13* Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Our origin is the Father. The goal is unity of the faith and experiential knowledge of God's Son. God's ultimate purpose is for the whole family to become a perfect man, filled with the fullness of Christ, recreated in His image.

### **Good News from the Land:**

I and a few of my Messianic friends have been visiting a well-known Catholic site in Jerusalem that has a hotel, several restaurants and a museum. We have been sharing the gospel with many of the Catholic and Muslim Arab staff there and have had incredible results. Many have received prayer and a few have asked Yeshua to come into their hearts as Lord. Last Shabbat, I prayed for one of the waitresses, a sincere Catholic Arab who opened her heart to become born of the Spirit. We all felt His powerful presence and this lovely lady almost fell over! She asked us to bring her a book in Arabic to learn about Jewish believers and their faith. She was so inspired to know that there are Jews who believe in Yeshua. It is time for traditional "Christians" in the land to take a stand for the God of Israel and for His people.

I will be joining the yearly Christmas Eve outreach in the Old City of Jerusalem again this year. Thousands of Israelis come seeking to find out why we are so joyful during this season and desiring to partake of it. We are there to share the true reason for the season: God became a perfect Jewish Man to take our sin. What a special day in the history of Israel and for the whole world! Please pray for many to find their Messiah and for protection for all of us who will be celebrating and sharing in the Old City. Pray for no terror attacks!

I so appreciate those of you who respond with encouraging notes and prayer requests of your own. Thank you for your friendship. I truly see us standing together as one body fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In the Father's Love,

*Greta*