

Proclaiming
Jesus



In a
Distinctly
Jewish Way

Rock of Israel Ministries



PO Box 18038 Fairfield OH 45018

Call us: 513-874-2566

Since 1971

Celebrating
50
YEARS
1971 - 2021



February 2021: Here's an update of the ministry in the past month.

We LOVE encouraging notes! Rockofisraelministries@gmail.com

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STARTING OUT SLOW

West Palm Beach mini-Fair complete

(Above: Lynn speaking with college students who stopped at our South Florida fair booth in January.)

Well, our first outreach of 2021 is complete.

The South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach is typically one of our smaller fairs. Nevertheless, we usually have many Jewish conversations there due to the high concentration of Jewish people living in that county.

However, due to this year's pandemic, the full fair was rescheduled for later in the spring. Instead, they had what they called a "mini-fair".

No big rides were set up; only agriculture events, shows, food vendors, and retail vendors – all in an outside tent. Since we have not done an in-person outreach in about a year, we went ahead and rented a booth. We have been itching to get out there and share the gospel!

As expected, our number of booth visitors and conversations were markedly lower, but we did have a few.



Robert with a Jewish man "David" who stopped to talk one evening.

Robert Specter writes:

"At our outreach at the South Florida Fair, David (not his real name) would not take the book of Jewish Testimonies I offered (he said he didn't like to read). At least he heard that I, and other Jewish people, believe that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah! Please pray for him, and for other Jewish people like Jody who did accept the book of testimonies."

Greg Savitt writes:

"An Israeli unbeliever came by our booth. I asked him if he has read Isaiah 53, which points to the suffering servant Messiah Yeshua. After reading the verse, he said, "Some words translated from Hebrew to English are not correct." I asked him to show me what part of Isaiah 53 is wrong. He looked at me puzzlingly and walked away. I pray this scripture remains in his memory and prompts him to pursue the depths of its truth.

Another unsaved Jewish inquirer, Carrie, remarked that she is very spiritual. I asked her if she was open and tolerant to examine the truth about Jesus. She took a testimonial book of 10 amazing stories of Jewish people who have come to faith in Jesus. She agreed to read a few chapters. Please pray that the truth of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection will be revealed to Carrie."

The Fair ran from January 15th – 31st. We spoke to approximately 76 unbelieving Jewish people – many of whom took gospel literature. We also spoke to a number of gentiles at this mini-Fair as well. Our next Fair outreach, Lord willing, will be in April.

Sharing from a very special Pulpit



Another part of what we do at Rock of Israel is share in churches across the country. We teach Christians about the Jewish roots of their faith, God's plan for Israel, Jesus in the Feasts, etc.

During a normal year, we would speak in hundreds of churches, to thousands of church congregants. However, we had tons of cancellations after the pandemic started. Thankfully churches are opening up again and we are resuming a good calendar of sharing in churches.

Last month, Robert had the opportunity to share at a Florida church that had been a very beautiful synagogue in ages past. Many of the ornate features have been preserved. Here, Robert is at the pulpit getting ready to share with the church.

If you would like to have us come and share with your congregation in 2021, please let us know! You can call us, email us or just fill out this form on our webpage.

<https://www.rockofisrael.org/schedule-a-service/>

This month's special offer:



Have your coffee in a Hebrew Alphabet mug each day. Learn your Aleph's & Bet's (A's & B's). Makes a great gift. Use coupon code - MUG - at check out for 15% off.

Was \$10 now \$8.50

<https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/hebrew-letters-coffee-mug>

**ISRAELI POLICE CLASH WITH ULTRA-ORTHODOX OVER
COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**





In late January, police clashed with large crowds of ultra-Orthodox protesters in several cities around Israel. In one city, an officer fired into the air to keep a large crowd at bay.

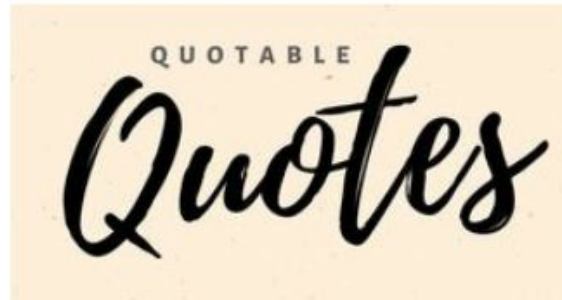
Throughout the pandemic, many major ultra-Orthodox sects have flouted safety regulations. They have continued to open schools, pray in synagogues, and hold mass weddings and funerals, openly disregarding broader lockdown orders. This has contributed to a disproportionate infection rate: the ultra-Orthodox community accounts for over one-third of Israel's coronavirus cases, despite making up just over 10% of the population.

In Jerusalem, police fired tear gas and putrid-smelling water to disperse hundreds of ultra-Orthodox residents outside a reopened school. Demonstrators called the police "Nazis."

"I expect all citizens of Israel to respect the safety guidelines. That includes all the sectors, including the ultra-Orthodox," Netanyahu said.

To read more click here:

<https://apnews.com/article/pandemics-israel-coronavirus-pandemic-religious-communities-jerusalem-c83aec91d6ed9935921f6109a161a409>



“I will insist the Hebrews have [contributed] more to civilize men than any other nation. If I was an atheist and believed in blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the most essential instrument for civilizing the nations ... They are the most glorious nation that ever inhabited this Earth. The Romans and their empire were but a bubble in comparison to the Jews. They have given religion to three-quarters of the globe and have influenced the affairs of mankind more and more happily than any other nation, ancient or modern.”

- John Adams, Second President of the United States
(From a letter to F. A. Van der Kemp [Feb. 16, 1808]

Pennsylvania Historical Society)

TRIVIA

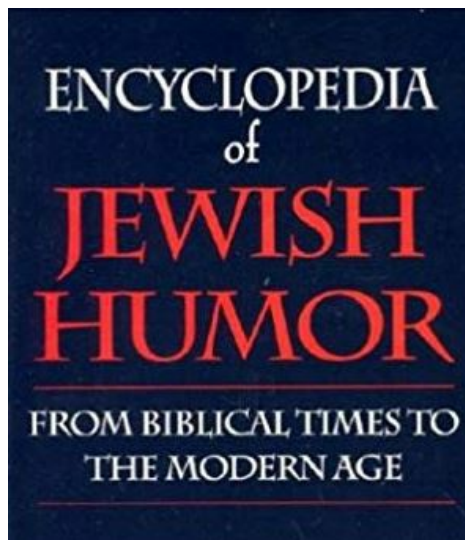
C H A L L E N G E

THIS MONTHS TRIVIA:

The Dead Sea Scrolls are...

- A. important historical, religious texts
- B. ancient maps of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt
- C. special reed beds for lying by the side of the Dead Sea for spa treatment
- D. a form of ancient Jewish tattoo art

Answer near bottom



This Month's Jewish Humor

A Jewish man went to eat at a Chinese restaurant and started to wonder if there were any Chinese Jews. So, when the waiter came over to take his order, he asked, "Pardon me, but I'd like to know if there are any Chinese Jews?" The waiter said, "I don't know. I go into kitchen and ask manager."

After taking his order, the waiter went to the kitchen and returned in a few minutes. He explained to the man, "No. No Chinese Jews. We have orange Jews, tomato Jews, grape Jews, and pineapple Jews, but no Chinese Jews."



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

If you are reading this newsletter, it means that you are probably already informed about the Jewish roots of your faith.

It goes without saying that the English language, was unknown to the first century Bible writers.

As a matter of fact, the names of the Apostles, the places in the Bible and even the Name of our Savior Himself were all in Hebrew (or Aramaic – a sister dialect).

So what were these names?

Let's start at the top.

"Jesus" is the name we use for the Messiah in English, (and we have no problem with that), but did you know that if you had lived in the first century, you would have heard people call him Yeshua (ישוע)? This was a shorter form of the name "Yehoshua" or Joshua. And that name Yeshua has a meaning: it means "salvation", "to rescue" or "to deliver".

Similarly, the Jewish Apostles had Hebrew names as well. For instance:

Peter:

Peter's original name, according to the Greek text, is Simon son of Jonah (John 21:15). However, being a Jew, his Hebrew name would have been שמעון בן יונה (Shimon ben Yonah – Shimon son of Jonah). This is the same name as the second son of Jacob, from the book of Genesis. The name שמעון (Shimon, Strong's #559) means "heard."

John:

John's name was יוחנן (Yohhanan) in Hebrew and it means "God is gracious".

James:

Ok, hold onto your hat for this one. If you look at the actual Greek text, the name "James" is not there. The name written in the New Testament is יעקב (Ya'akov) and in Hebrew, that is the

name "Jacob". When was the last time you heard someone say, "Open your Bibles to the Epistle of Jacob"? Rather than "the book of James", what they really should have been saying is Jacob, for that is what the author calls himself. "Jacob, a servant of God...." (James 1:1)

Matthew:

If you look in Mark 2:14, you will see Jesus calling Matthew, the tax collector. And what was Matthew's Hebrew name? It was Levi, which is also one of the tribes of Israel.

And don't forget Yeshua's earthly mother. Mary is greatly respected for being a young, humble Jewish servant of God who was chosen to carry the physical body of the Messiah for nine months. But her name was not actually Mary. It was Miriam (Myriam is an alternate spelling), probably pronounced in Aramaic as "Maryam". This was the exact same name as Moses' sister in the book of Exodus.

So do you see how translating the names of the early followers of Yeshua into English takes away from the Jewish roots of the gospel message? And when you take away the roots, it makes it much easier for the Jewish people to dismiss the message of the gospel as "a faith for the Gentiles, not for us."

If all the centuries of Christians had spoken of YESHUA, His mother MIRIAM (Mary) and His disciples such as LEVI (Matthew), SIMON / SIMEON (Peter) and JACOB (James), what a powerful connection people would make between the Messiah and His Jewish roots. But today, the Jewish people hear from their rabbis how Jesus and His followers are "not for us." Nothing could be further from the truth. The gospel is a Jewish message with Jewish names.

So are we saying you need to stop using the English names of all these people in the Bible? Of course not. We are saying this: When speaking to a Jewish person (or an unaware Christian), simply remind them that the Bible has Jewish roots.

QUIZ ANSWER:

Answer - A

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered between 1946 and 1956 at Khirbet Qumran on the West Bank.

They were found inside caves about a mile inland from the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, hence their name. The texts are written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Nabataean, mainly on parchment, but some were written on papyrus and bronze.

They are housed in the Shrine of the Book at the Israeli Museum, Jerusalem.

We need your support each month to do this work.

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with millions of donors.**

We are **a small ministry seeking to do BIG things** for the Kingdom of God.

Our office staff is waiting and ready to help you with any questions you might have. 513-874-2566.



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