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Jesus



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Jewish Way

Rock of Israel Ministries



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Celebrating
50+
over 50 years



Ministry Pres. Robert and Carrie Specter

April 2024: Here's an update of the ministry in the past month.

We LOVE encouraging notes! Rockofisraelministries@gmail.com

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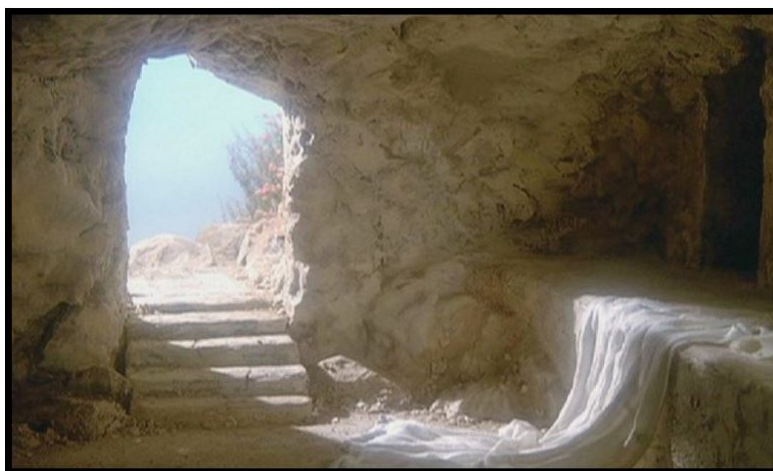
***** Special note to Gmail users *****

1) Please check your Spam or Promotions folder each month.
Sadly, sometimes email servers send our newsletter there.

2) Gmail sometimes shortens our newsletter!
If so, then click this at the bottom.

[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)

Resurrection Day



We hope that you had a wonderful Resurrection Day service wherever you attend worship services. Remember, the tomb in Jerusalem is empty. The Messiah has Risen! He is still alive today.

Snapchat outreach



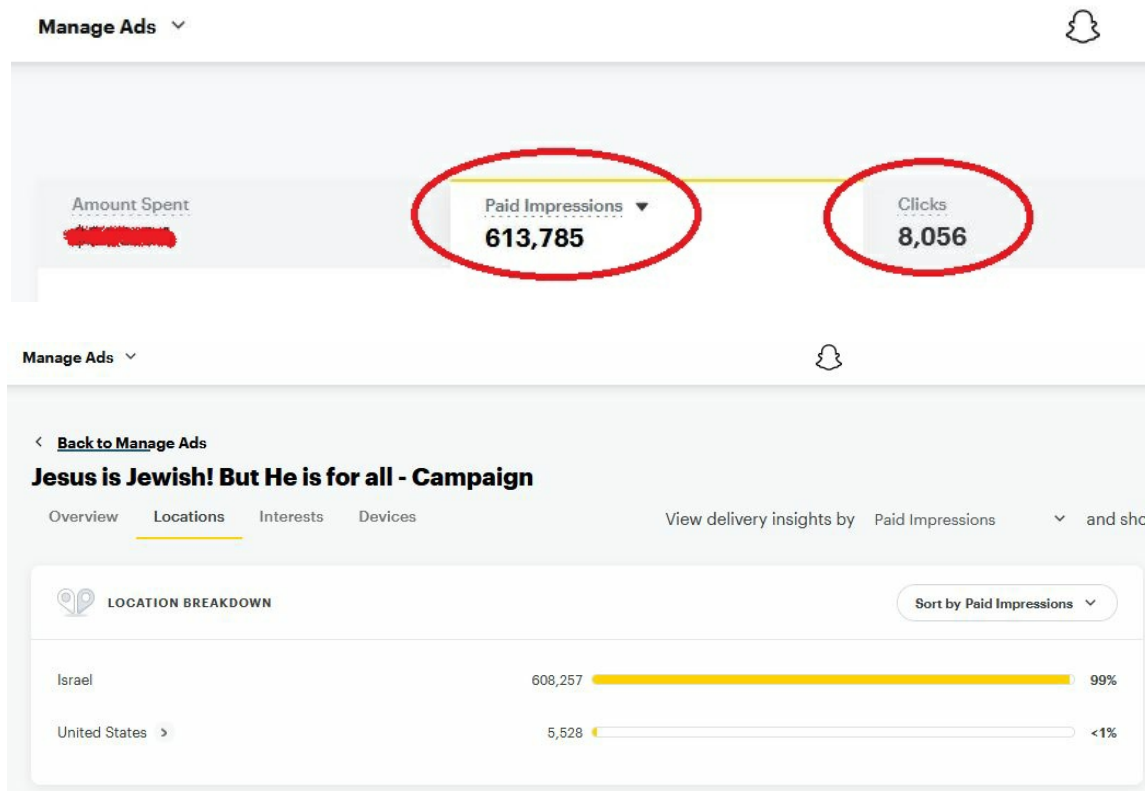
We have a new avenue that we are pursuing to share the Messiah online. It is called "Snapchat," and if you are under 35 years old, you most certainly have heard of this app.

While Facebook is the preferred means for 'older' people to be online, Snapchat is one of the most preferred apps for the younger generation to be online. As a matter of fact, it is one of the most popular apps on the planet for 15 - 35 year olds. It has 750 million monthly active users worldwide.



Our actual Snapchat ad

So in the past few weeks, we have bought ad space on this app. We limited the locations to only Israel and the USA. The ad only appears for a few seconds on their screen, but the user can click on it if they find it of interest, and they will be taken to a special evangelism page on our website.



Here are the stats we have so far in only seven weeks. Over 600,000 people have seen the ad on their phones. Over 8,000 have clicked through. And almost every one of those views and website visits (99% of them) are from Israeli youth!

We are excited about this new avenue of evangelism. We hope to keep you posted as the year continues.

March reminder:

Religious Jew, Soldier, and Muslim side by side.

This is Israel.



Did five red cows help cause the October 7th attacks? Apparently so.



A number of weeks ago, a Hamas spokesman gave reasons for the October 7th attacks. Among them was **something that most of us all missed**. They said the “red cows” coming to the Holy Land were one of their reasons for the attack.

You see, last year ranchers in Texas shipped five perfect red heifers to Israel because religious Jews in Israel, hoping to establish the third Temple, knew that a spotless red heifer was needed to be a sacrifice

before any Temple functions could begin.

This is according to the Torah in Numbers, chapter 19.

“A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp. They are to be kept by the Israelite community for use in the water of cleansing; it is for purification from sin.” (Numbers 19:9)



The ashes of a spotless red heifer are to be mixed with water and sprinkled on objects and people, which would make them ceremonially (symbolically) pure. Without this sprinkling, the Temple could not function. *(We believe the red heifer symbolizes Jesus 'blood red' strong sacrifice, that cleanses us, but that information is for a different article.)*

Of course, the Temple could only be in one place, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. But there is a slight problem. The 'Dome of the Rock' is there. So apparently, Hamas, (perhaps driven by their backers, Iran's mullahs) didn't like where this whole Jewish Temple thing was headed. They thought that it could end up with their Dome being destroyed by religious Jews. So they considered this just one more reason to attack on October 7th. They said it themselves.



The religious Jews who ordered the delivery of these red heifers have a goal of sacrificing one before Passover begins on April 22nd. What's interesting is that the Jewish Talmud (*not that we hold it to be gospel truth*) states that there were only nine red heifers sacrificed in all of Israel's history.

The tenth one, it states, will be in coordination with the Messiah arriving. In short, the Jewish hope is: If we breed it, He (Messiah) will come.

Even secular CBS News picked up on this story. Read it [here](#).

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/israel-war-hamas-red-heifers-from-texas-jerusalem-jewish-temple-al-aqsa/>

And more [here](#):

<https://allisrael.com/blog/what-do-five-red-heifers-have-to-do-with-the-oct-7-massacre>

This month's offer:



Bumper Sticker
Show your support for Israel.

Size: 10" long and 3" tall

\$4 plus .99 shipping

<https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/bumper-sticker>



“A Jewish woman had two chickens. One got sick, so the woman made chicken soup out of the other one to help the sick one get well.”

~~ Henny Youngman

TRIVIA

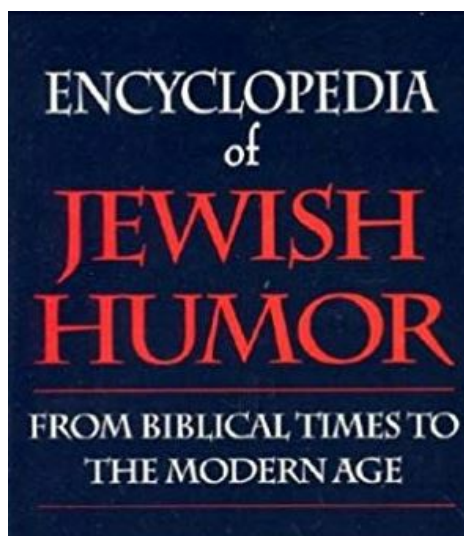
C H A L L E N G E

THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA:

What book of scripture is traditionally read in Synagogues at some point during the Passover season?

- A) Joshua
- B) Song of Songs
- C) Isaiah
- D) Ruth

Answer near bottom



This Month's Jewish Humor

David and his wife Sarah went to visit a Rabbi known for his powerful

blessings. "Rabbi," David said. "We really want children, and the doctor just told us we might not be able to have any. What should we do?"

The Rabbi told them to find a certain poor widow and give her some charity money. "Because of the good deed, God will bless you with children."

Ten years later, David ran into the Rabbi on the street. David had about twelve kids in tow. "Baruch Hashem!" (Praise God!) the Rabbi cried out. "But tell me, where's your wife?"

"Oh, she's trying to find the widow. She wants to ask for our money back."



What is the Afikomen and why is it important?

On April 22nd, the Jewish community will be celebrating Passover with a "Seder" service in the evening. The Jewish people will gather together with their families to have a commemorative meal—to remember their deliverance from Egypt. This meal is called a Passover Seder. This was precisely the setting for the Last Supper in Jerusalem as well. (Mark 14:12-16)

But this month, we wanted to 'zero in' on a custom that most Christians have no idea the Jewish people do each year at Passover. It is called hiding and finding 'the Afikomen.'



You see, the "Passover Seder" has a very specific order that the father leads them through each year. During the seder, they will assign four cups of wine to each of the four parts of the Passover story. Two cups come before the meal, and two cups after the meal.

However, something interesting happens between the first and second cups. There is a pouch on the table that contains three layers of matzah (unleavened bread). It is called a 'Matzah-Tosh.' During this time, the father removes the middle layer of unleavened bread from the pouch. He shows it to everyone and then proceeds to break it in half.

Half gets put back into the original pouch. The other half is wrapped in a white cloth and then gets (are you ready for this?) hidden / buried! None of the children at the table can see where the father hid it, so that makes this time extra special for the children. This hidden piece is called the "afikomen." The word afikomen is from the Greek epikomen or epikomion, meaning "that which comes after."



As the seder continues, eventually the delicious Passover meal is served. Then it comes time to clear the table. Dessert comes last. But the afikomen is supposed to be eaten for dessert. But where is it? It was buried/hidden. So the children are now called upon to find the afikomen! A big (and fun) search ensues until one happy child finds it.

It is returned to the father, and sometimes a gift is given as a reward to the finder. The afikomen is then broken into smaller pieces, and each family member eats it.

The Mishnah (ancient Jewish writings) instructs that the Passover lamb must be the last food eaten the night of the Seder. However, since the destruction of the Temple in the year 70 CE, the afikomen has become a symbolic reminder of the Paschal lambs they used to eat.

This custom has been happening for centuries (if not millennia) in Jewish homes. So what does it mean?



As Messianic Jews, we delight in this ceremony. Why? Because this is a beautiful picture of the Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus)! We know that our Messiah's sinless body was 'broken' in death, wrapped in a cloth and hidden as in burial, then brought back and resurrected by the power of God. And He is still found by children (like us) who actively look for Him!

As the afikomen is eaten by some Jewish families as a remembrance of the Pascal lamb, so too, believers in Jesus, also eat bread as a 'remembrance' of our Passover Lamb. When Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples in the upper room, He broke the unleavened bread and distributed it to His Jewish disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (1 Corinthians 11:24)



What about the meaning of the 3-layered pouch where the afikomen came from? No one has a definitive answer. Some say it represents the Priests, the Levites, and the rest of the Israelites. Others say it

reminds us of the three patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But why would the Levites be broken? Or why Isaac?

However, Messianic Jews again rejoice at this. Why? Because we believe there is only ONE God, (like there is only one pouch), yet this ONE God has three distinct areas/persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So the middle matzah being broken, buried, and brought back is a beautiful picture of the Messiah of Israel. He left heaven and came to earth. Broken, buried and brought back! He was the God of Israel visiting us in human form! (Which has happened before, see Genesis 18:22, Genesis 32:30, Exodus 24:11, Judges 13:22 to name a few...)

So if you happen to speak to any Jewish person who has been to a Passover Seder, ask them about this curious tradition of hiding the 'afikomen.' Then mention what Messianic Jews think of this tradition and see what they say.

Note: If you desire to have a Passover Seder at your church or with your Bible Study group, let us know! We may be able to come out and share this with your group, in person.

<https://www.rockofisrael.org/Schedule-A-Service>

QUIZ ANSWER:

Answer - B) Song of Songs

Why? Because Passover is a time of love between God and Israel, who entered into a covenant and became betrothed to Him through the Exodus from Egypt.

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



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