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Jesus



In a
Distinctly
Jewish Way

Rock of Israel Ministries



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50+
over 50 years



Ministry Pres. Robert and Carrie Specter

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

We LOVE encouraging notes! Rockofisraelministries@gmail.com

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

2) Gmail sometimes shortens our newsletter!
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The Florida State Fair Highlights



Last month, we completed our annual outreach at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. We have been at this fair the longest (about 17 years now), and people there know us very well. We had good conversations with believers who loved seeing the biblical items we carried. Our staff also had good conversations (at least 75) with many unbelieving Jewish people, including the ones below:

* A lady came by to tell us her daughter was in the military in Israel. Of

course, she expressed concern for her, and she wanted to take a photo of our booth to encourage her daughter, seeing that there were people in the USA who supported Israel.



Staff member Pat working at the booth

* A lady came by with her husband (they live in Michigan). I asked the husband if he was Jewish, and he said, "No, Baptist." I asked the wife if she too was Baptist, and she said, "No, Jewish." I said, "Well, you can be both Jewish and a Christian at the same time." She took a testimony book and promised to read the testimony of a Holocaust survivor who came to believe in Jesus. She said she had relatives who died in the Holocaust.

* A Jewish lady and her teenage daughter were looking at the star of David bracelets. She said, "I've never seen Jewish products at the fair." I asked if she was Jewish, and she said, "Of course." She then told me that she did the DNA testing, and it found 99% Ashkenazi and 1% African. I asked if she had heard of Messianic Jews, and she said, "No." I told her what they are (believers in Jesus as Messiah), and she said, "Well, I'm not one of those." I told her I was and offered a free book about others who found their Messiah, Jesus. She thanked me for the book. Pray she and her daughter read the book.

* I talked to several Christian Palestinians (one at the fair and one at a local church) who say that the Muslim Palestinians persecute the Christian Palestinians.



Staff member Doug working the booth

* A Muslim man in his 20s walks up and points to our display shirt, which says, 'I love Israel' and asks, "Do you have any that say, 'I love Palestine?'" Our staff member Pat replied, "I do love Palestine — the Palestinian people. I am a Christian who loves Jesus." That seemed to disarm him. (Note: Pat is married to a Jewish believer.).

* A Jewish man who goes to Chabad (an ultra-Orthodox Jewish group) stopped with his fiancé. He said he was from Miami, and I mentioned that I was from New York. He asked me if I ever saw the Rebbe. (Their Rebbe is the late Rabbi Menachem Schneerson from Brooklyn.) He said, "All our teachings (in Chabad) are based upon his teachings. That he was a "Tzadik" (a righteous man). I said, "So was Yeshua! Except He rose from the dead." He did take a testimony book for his fiancé (who, surprisingly, was not Jewish) and also bought some items.

* A spunky Jewish woman who was from NJ stopped with her gentile boyfriend. She wanted a mezuzah and asked if the scrolls were kosher (meaning handwritten by a scribe). I said for that price, nope, LOL. She said, "How can I put it up without a kosher scroll with the rabbi blessing it?" I explained that the rabbis made that kosher rule, not God, and no one needs to bless it. Then she said she has already been to a Messianic service and is going to a Bible study where they are trying to "convert" her, but she has a problem with the Trinity. I asked if she had ever been to a seder. She looked at her boyfriend and laughed. "Been to one? I've had many at my house!" So I asked, what was in the Maztah Tosh on the table? "Three matzahs," she said. Then I said, "But one pouch. It is three and one both." She said, "Okay, I never thought of it like that." We laughed a lot more, and

before she left, she took a testimony book.

* A Jewish man in his late 60s asked, "If he is the Messiah, why isn't there peace in the world?" I then explained the two roles of the Messiah, which most Jewish people do not know. He would not take a testimony book, but I got him to at least take a prophecy flyer.

* A Jewish couple in their 70s from New York stopped, and we had a good conversation. She knew exactly the high school I went to in New York City, so that helped the conversation flow. She listened, but the husband was more interested and said, "Give me whatever literature you have," and he took it all.



Volunteers from a local Messianic Congregation called "Shores David" helping us out for a few hours. Their shirts say in Hebrew "Jesus Loves You."





March reminder:



**Jewish youth line up to visit the grave
of a famous Rabbi**



Last month, there was a very large gathering of Jewish youth in New York City to help rally against anti-Semitism. As part of the trip to New York, the youth went to visit the grave of a very famous Jewish man, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, in Queens, NY. In ultra-orthodox circles, many still view him as the Messiah, although he has been dead for almost 30 years now. He was renowned for his teachings, piety, and simplicity.



Rabbi Menachem Schneerson whom some considered the Messiah



Thousands of notes are placed over his grave every year.

They estimate that about 400,000 people have visited his grave over the decades, leaving prayers and notes.

Come to think of it, we know of another Jewish man who was also renowned for His teachings, piety, and simplicity. He was also considered to be the Messiah. Millions of people still talk to Him daily, but His grave in Jerusalem... Umm... it is empty.

What was/is His name? Hmmm.....

To read more of the youth gathering event click here:

<https://nypost.com/2024/02/25/us-news/thousands-of-jewish-teens-gather-at-ny-grave-of-renowned-rabbi-amid-spike-in-antisemitic-incidents/>

This month's offer:

The Atarah (The Collar) has the Messianic Symbol
in gold mettalic on both sides



A Messianic Tallit (also called a Prayer Shawl)

The New Covenant Prayer Shawl - born out of the verse in Numbers chapter 15 which says: "Speak unto the children of Israel, **and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments** throughout their generations."

Today it is called a "Tallit" in Hebrew. Four Scriptures / prayers are placed on the four corners in English. The unique early Messianic sign on it is embroidered with golden thread. Material Acrylic (Polyester)

We recall the woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. (Matthew 9:20) She approached Jesus the Messiah. Many translations say that she touched the hem of his garment. That is a bad translation. Rather, she touched the "fringes" of his garment and thereby she was touching God's Word and God's Name. God's Law and God's Name is what the fringe symbolizes. Not the hem of a skirt. The fringe symbolizes Jesus himself: the Word and the Name. This beautiful prayer shawl will be an inspirational tool in the development of your prayer life.

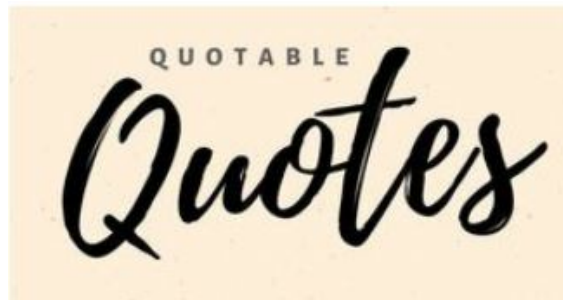
Size: 72" long and 22" wide

Comes in a bag with a zipper.

Comes in several colors.

Use code: five off - for a discount of \$5 off the \$30 retail price.

[https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/discount/Five%2520off?
redirect=%2Fproducts%2Fpurple-tallit-prayer-shawl](https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/discount/Five%2520off?redirect=%2Fproducts%2Fpurple-tallit-prayer-shawl)



"The prosperity of a country can be seen simply in how it treats its old people."

~~ Nachman of Bratslav

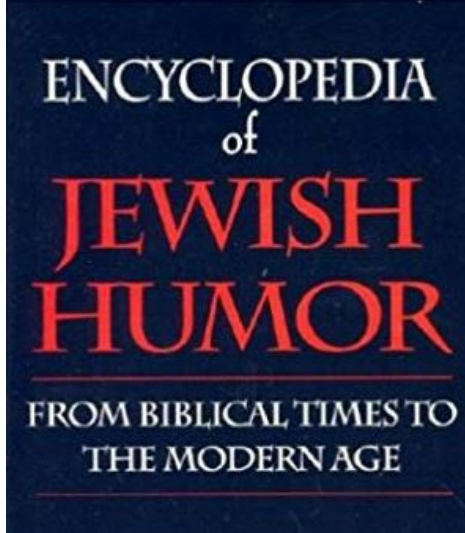


THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA:

The popular Hebrew expression, "Am Yisrael Chai" translates to what:

- A) The Land of Israel lives
- B) The Land of Israel is peace
- C) The People of Israel suffer
- D) The People of Israel live

Answer near bottom



This Month's Jewish Humor

Yaakov Solomon, a Jewish immigrant who spoke Yiddish, was taking an oral exam applying for his citizenship papers. Yaakov was asked to spell "Cultivate" - he spelled it correctly. He was then asked to use the word in a sentence. He thought about it for a moment and then said, "Last vinter on a very cold day, I vas vaiting for de bus, but itvas too cultivate, so I took the subway home."



What does Israel mean?

Depending on who you ask, you might get a very loaded reply to that question. Such a question has a plethora of viewpoints and responses available. At Rock of Israel, however, we would like to rely solely on one "opinion," which is actually not an opinion at all. What is God's word on the matter? Let's examine what the Scriptures have to say about it.

Israel is a Name

Israel is a Hebrew personal name. It first appears in the Hebrew Bible

when the patriarch Jacob is given the name after wrestling with a man/angel at Peniel. In Genesis 32, Jacob, the son of Isaac and Rebekah, is attacked by a “man” (most probably “the Angel of the Lord,” who appears multiple times in the Torah) while he is alone in the wilderness. They wrestle all night long. The messenger of God responds that Jacob will now be known as “Israel” (Yisra’el) because he “struggled with God [elohim] and with man and has prevailed.” The name of God (el) and the Hebrew root for “struggle” (srh) appear to have combined to give Jacob his new name, Israel. In Genesis 35:10, God reiterates Jacob's new name by telling him, “No longer shall you be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” From this point onward in Scripture, both names are used interchangeably.



Israel is a People

At this point, we find the designations “Israelite” or “sons of Israel” (bene Yisra’el) or “house of Israel” (beit Yisra’el) used to describe God’s chosen people. The name Israel is appropriate not only for describing the wrestling match between God and Jacob but also for the unique relationship the Israelites will have with God for millennia to come. The Israelites actively engage in dialogue and struggles with God throughout the Hebrew Bible, and many of the biblical stories are born out of these encounters (struggles) with God.

Israel is a Land

The name Israel is also used to describe the physical land mass promised to Abraham and his descendants in Gen 15: “from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.” Following the Egyptian Exodus, the Israelites conquered and settled in a small area of this land (Num 34) before expanding their reach in the books of Joshua and Judges. While the borders are described in detail in Numbers 34, the settled areas are also referred to several times as “from Dan to Beersheba.”

Ultimately, the twelve tribes come together under King David's rule to

establish the "Kingdom of Israel," with Jerusalem serving as its capital. This continued under Solomon's reign as well; however, this unity was short-lived. After Solomon's death, his son (David's grandson), Rehoboam, was not made king by the northern ten tribes. Instead, they chose a man named Jeroboam to be their king. They rebelled against the southern two tribes, who kept the Davidic line going. This northern kingdom continued to be called the "Kingdom of Israel". The southern two tribes of Judah and Benjamin now formed the "Kingdom of Judah" in the south.

These two kingdoms coexisted separately until they were both subjugated by more powerful empires.

However, the Hebrew Bible consistently emphasized that, in the fullest sense, Israel remained the promised land of God's chosen people, even in the face of centuries of occupation and exile.

QUIZ ANSWER:

Answer - D

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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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