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Rock of Israel Ministries



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Ministry President Robert and Carrie Specter

May 2026: Here's an update on the ministry in the past month.

We LOVE encouraging notes! Rockofisraelministries@gmail.com

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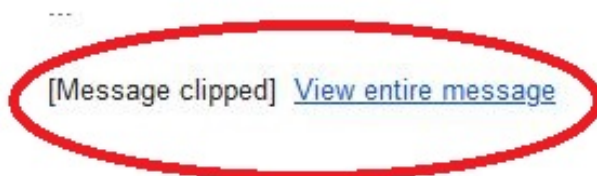


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1) Please check your Spam or Promotion folder each month. Sadly, sometimes email servers send our newsletter there.

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



Can They Answer These Three Questions?

There is a new form of anti-Semitism taking shape on places like TikTok and Instagram. Sadly it appears that many current popular short videos show young (20ish) Christians stating how 1) “The Jews of today are not the same as the Israelites of the Bible” or 2) Israel is not really Israel, “The church is now the “new Israel” (basically replacement theology).



The underlying goal of all those videos is this: they would be happy to see the church give Israel no special support or even see Israel eradicated from their own land!

(Note: This does not mean we have to like or approve of everything the current Israeli government does, but we do believe they still have a right to

exist on their own ancient homeland.)

So let's address the first accusation rather briefly: that the Jews today are not the same as the Jews of the Bible. Here are three tough questions that someone has to answer if they really believe the Jewish people today are not the same Jewish people of the Bible.

#1) God promised that the Jewish people would never cease to be a nation from before Him.

"This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD Almighty is his name: "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will Israel ever cease being a nation before me." Jeremiah 31:35-36

So if the Jewish people today are not the Jewish people from the Bible, then they have indeed ceased from being a nation, and God's promises to them were false.



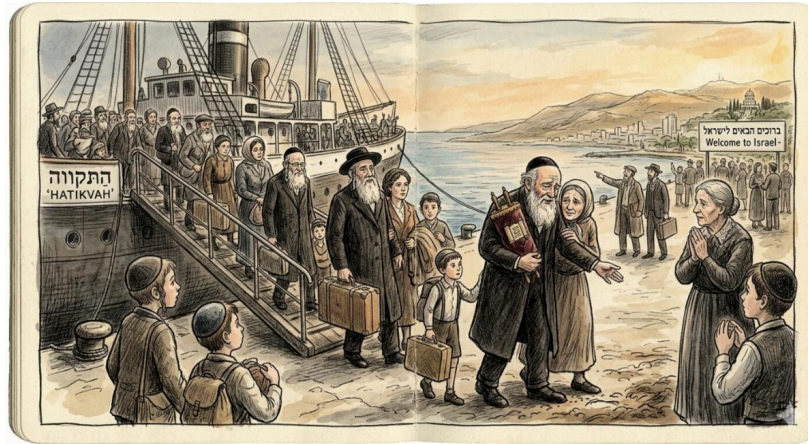
#2) God promised to bring the Jewish people back to the land of Israel one day.

"The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,' says the LORD." Jeremiah 30:3

So if the Jewish people today are not the Jewish people from the Bible, then this promise does not apply to the 'false' Jewish people in Israel today. So we need to ask this: When will God remove these "false" Jewish people in Israel today and then bring the 'true' Jewish people "back" into the land of Israel? And where are these people today? We would love to meet them.

And in case you're wondering, no – the church is NOT the new Israel; replacement theology has been debunked many times by biblical

Christians and Messianic Jews. And if you think the church is the new Israel – then when was the church ever removed from the land via "captivity" (Jeremiah 30:3's exact word) to begin with? For the text says the same people removed via "captivity" are the same people who will come back. So be honest with your biblical understanding. The ONLY people who can be "restored" from captivity are these same Jewish people, not the church. But that leads into the next question....



#3) The only people in the world today that use Hebrew as their religious language are the Jewish people.

They read the Bible in Hebrew, their religious services are still in Hebrew, and their ancient writings are in Hebrew. Everything, for thousands of years, is in Hebrew. Even Yiddish uses the Hebrew alphabet. So answer this: How did the current Jewish people (that they say aren't the real ones anyway) learn Hebrew? Then you then have to explain how the real Jewish people (whoever they are) no longer speak Hebrew. And when did this change happen? They're asking us to believe that the original Jews lost the ability to read Hebrew and these "non-Jews" today gained the ability to read Hebrew with no proof.

BONUS POINT: Jesus said the Israeli Kingdom would be restored, just don't ask the exact timing of it all.

Jesus Himself affirmed that Israel will again have the same Kingdom it once had. Just before His ascension the disciples asked this of him:

"Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority." (Acts 1:6-7)

Notice what He did not say, "You guys are fools. There is nothing that will be restored." But instead He affirmed their thoughts of a restored Kingdom. They specifically used the word "**restore**" and you can only **restore** what has once been. Jesus was simply saying it was not their place to know the time or date. That's all. Of course, He will reign as "King" of the World from Jerusalem, Israel one day.

So unless they can logically answer all three of these (and the bonus point), their claim is a very large fail. Thankfully God is still true to His promises to the Jewish people (and to us) as well.

Help bring an Israeli Evangelist over to share at our booth this summer.



This year we have an exciting opportunity to bring an Israeli over to North America and help train him in face-to-face evangelism at our August fair booth in Toronto, Canada. For logistic reasons, we cannot show you his face, but he is in his late 20s and loves Yeshua / Jesus.

Toronto has the most Israelis who visit our booth of any event we do. Therefore, we would LOVE for you to partner and help bring our Israeli friend over so he can speak to other Israelis in Hebrew about Yeshua! The estimated cost for airfare, room & board is about \$1,750. Would you prayerfully consider helping to sponsor him to come over for training? (Donate [here](#) - and then scroll to "Donate for Israeli evangelist")

May reminder:

"Be still, and know that I am God."

Ps 46:10

Stop talking
Switch off your phone
Stop commenting
Listen
Stop arguing
Stop questioning
Stop moaning

Stop doubting
Be sure
Have faith
No second opinion

God is Almighty
God is in control
God is love
God is King
God is my hope, rock,
fortress
God is ever-present, a
help in times of
trouble.
God is my Father
God is my shepherd-
He will lead me,
nourish me, protect
me & restore me.

This month's offer:



That They Might Be Saved book

A short 67 page book about the Jewish people by Messianic Jewish author Ruth Specter Lascelle. A good overview of what the Jewish religious person thinks about God and what their customs / holidays are all about. Eight short lessons. Includes discussion questions at the close of each chapter. Great for Sunday School classes.

Also included are some pointers on how to share the Messiah with a Jewish person you might know. Printed in 1992, but still good information. We over printed years ago!

\$1.99 plus s&h

<https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/that-they-might-be-saved>



"God is closest to those with broken hearts."

~ Jewish proverb

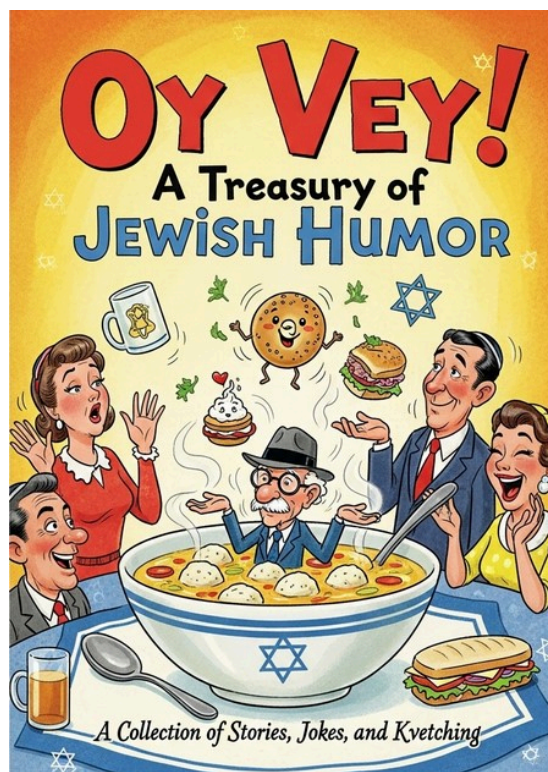


THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA:

The Israeli city of Netanya is named after whom?

- A. The prophet Nathan
- B. Nathan Straus, owner of Macy's Department Store
- C. Nathan Handwerker, inventor of Nathan's Hot Dogs
- D. Jonathan (Jon-nathan) King David's close friend

Answer near bottom



This Month's Jewish Humor

THE TOP 7 BIBLICAL WAYS TO ACQUIRE A WIFE

- * Make a political alliance with a neighboring country and get his daughter as part of the deal. (Solomon-1 Kings 3:1)
 - * Find a prostitute and marry her. (Hosea-1:1-3)
 - * Find a man with seven daughters, and impress him by watering his flock. (Moses--Exodus 2:16-21)
 - * Purchase a piece of property, and get a woman as part of the deal. (Boaz--Ruth 4:5-10)
 - * Go to a party and hide. When the women come out to dance, grab one and carry her off to be your wife. (Benjaminites--Judges 21:19-25)
 - * Have God create a wife for you while you sleep. Note: this will cost you. (Adam--Genesis 2:19-24)
 - * Cut 200 foreskins off of your future father-in-law's enemies and get his daughter for a wife. (David--1 Samuel 18:27)
-
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So what exactly are Phylacteries?



If you have ever read the words of Jesus when he rebukes the Pharisees in Matthew 23, you may have scratched your head when He said these words, “*But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries...*” (Matthew 23:5).

So, what exactly are these “*phylacteries*” that the Messiah mentions here?

“Phylacteries” is the Greek term used in the New Testament, but the Jewish people have called them by their Hebrew name, “Tefillin,” for centuries. They come from four commands in the Torah that God gave to Moses to help Israel remember His Word. Two are listed below:



“*And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.*” (Deuteronomy 6:8)

“*Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.*” (Deuteronomy 11:18)

The Jewish leaders in history took this command quite literally and made small boxes containing these verses. They made them with straps so that the Jewish men might literally tie God's Word on their arm (hand) and place them between their eyes.

The scroll inside is made by hand. A Jewish scribe known as a "sofer" (pronounced *so-fair*) will hand-write several specific verses from Deuteronomy on parchment made from the skin of a kosher (clean) animal. The very first words on the scroll are the "Shema." This is Deuteronomy 6:4, which tells Israel, "Hear (Shema), O Israel: The LORD our God the LORD is one." All told, there are always 1,594 letters in each box. A scribe is very meticulous in his work.

The boxes and straps themselves are also made from a kosher animal. The scrolls are placed inside the boxes and sealed with the leather skin of a kosher animal. The box worn on the head has two of the Hebrew letter "Shin" (S) on it. One on each side of it. While there is no single accepted reason for this, one view is that both letters together spell "sas" meaning joy. It is a joy to put these on according to traditional Judaism.

Who wears phylacteries? For centuries they were worn by Jewish men who were Bar-Mitzvah, 13 years of age or older. They are worn during morning prayers six days a week, and the "Shema" is recited as they are placed on one's body. They are not worn on the Sabbath. While the religious (Orthodox) community still adheres to the "men only" interpretation of this command, more modern forms of Judaism have now allowed women to wear these as well.

When putting them on, there is a specific order followed. The hand/arm tefillin is placed on one's non-dominant arm. The box itself goes on top of the bicep, facing the heart. The strap is then wound around the arm seven times, moving down towards the long finger of the hand. The head tefillin is placed upon the head like a crown. The box should go at the base of the hairline. Morning prayers can now be said according to traditional Judaism.

Sadly, the tefillin are sometimes claimed to be endowed with magical power. When the Six-Day War began in 1967, a very prominent rabbi in Israel began encouraging Jewish men to "put on tefillin" each day to help protect the Jewish people.

How are we to feel about these items as Messianic Jews or even gentile Christians? First of all, we have no problem if someone wishes to wear them on their body as an act of devotion to God. The problem that we have, as Yeshua/Jesus declares, is when this is done for the sole purpose of being "seen by men." That is where we draw the line. To put this pretentious behavior in today's vernacular, "Hey everyone, look at me and how spiritual I am. I have such large tefillin to show everyone how devoted I am to God." This is the problem Yeshua is referring to in this passage.

Wearing God's Word is a good reminder for ancient Israel to know God's Word - the box worn on the head. It is also a reminder to do God's Word - the box worn on the bicep. The head (knowledge) and the arm (used for action) are ways we are told to love God. With all our mind (head) and strength (arm).

When done as a reminder, tefillin can be a good physical interactive life lesson and teaching tool. When worn as a "look at me" event, they are not impressive to God at all.

QUIZ ANSWER:

Answer - B. The Israeli city called Netanya was named in honor of Nathan Straus, a prominent Jewish American merchant and philanthropist in the early 20th century who was the co-owner of Macy's department store.

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