



Jay & Meridel over Jerusalem



Star of David in Stone



Meridel in the Fields



Heart of Stone

Shalom and Warm Greetings Dear Friends,

"Shana Tova" or Happy Jewish New Year

This is the time of year in Israel of giving gifts and sending greeting cards and loving our neighbours in practical ways. This is the time of asking each others forgiveness for any offences committed over the last 12 months in preparation for Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. We also share eating apples dipped in honey symbolic of the prayer that the year to come will be "sweet." It is also the time of the blowing of the shofar reminding us of God's love for us past, present and future. Through these "Days of Awe," right through Sukkot, we can often catch a glimpse of Abba's big plan in action. On Rosh ha Shana, the first day of the New Year we remember and give thanks for Creation. Here is Genesis 1: 1 to 3 rendered into contemporary language.

FIRST THIS:

God created the Heavens and Earth--all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit was hovering like a bird above the watery abyss.

THEN: God spoke: "Light" and light appeared"...Genesis 1:1-3, The Message Bible. Just think of this: At the spoken Word of God everything was created, everything!

THEN: Out of all the trillions of stars in the Universe **God chose** our Milky Way,

THEN: Out of all the billions of stars of our Milky Way **God chose** our star, the Sun.

THEN: Out of the many planets in our Solar System **God chose** Planet Earth,

THEN: Out of all the countries on earth **God chose** Israel,

THEN: Out of all the places in Israel **God chose** Jerusalem,

THEN: Out of all the places in Jerusalem **God chose** the Temple Mount,

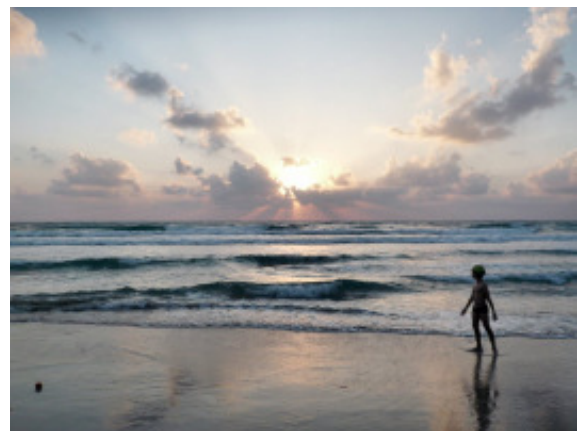
THEN: Out of all the Temple area **God chose** the Temple itself,

THEN: Out of the Temple itself **God chose** the Holy Place,

THEN: Out of the Holy Place **God chose** the Holy of Holies,

THEN: At the Holy of the Holies **God chose** to reveal His Presence to Israel and to all of mankind. Just think about our God's heart of love in planning all this! But there is more,

THEN: Through the Presence of the Lord, **God chose** to give the Word of God to mankind via Moses and the Prophets of Israel.



God Created the Heavens & The Earth

THEN: Through His Presence, **God chose** to create the Living Word and thus Messiah Yeshua was given to all of humanity. This is what the Bible says about this truth,

"The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. Everything was created through Him; nothing--not one thing came into being without Him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by.

The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out...John 1: 1-5, The Message Bible

THEN: God chose to give to Messiah Yeshua an unlimited measure of His Presence so he could accomplish his work on earth. ***"For in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily"...Colossians 2:9***

THEN: Precisely on the day of Shavuot or Pentecost God chose to pour out His Presence upon the disciples or students of Yeshua and upon devout Jews in Jerusalem in a personal way.

THEN: These apostles and early followers of the Messiah of Israel took this message and the revelations of the "Promised One" and of the prophets of Israel through the Holy Spirit's power to the nations. Thus, the message of God's love, that brings salvation for sins and deliverance from evil and the power to live a full, joyous, and victorious life, was available to all mankind via His Suffering Servant also known as the risen King of Kings. **The God of Israel chose this plan.**

YOUR PART IN ALL OF THIS

Just think you too have been **chosen** by God to be a part of this very precious and especially anointed "family of faith". There is a purpose behind all this...because the Word of God is still being fulfilled today. Yes, we can all be part of this magnificent plan--by obedience: just like the Prophets of old.

THE CREATOR'S PLAN

Here is what God said to Jeremiah--"Moreover the Word of the Lord came to me saying Jeremiah what do you see"? And I said I see a branch of an almond tree.

***Then the Lord said to me, You have seen well,
for I am ready to "perform" my Word...Jeremiah 1:12***

The word "perform" here in Hebrew is shaqad which means watching, awakened or being vigilant or hastening to bring the Word to pass. The linguistic connection here is very unique in that "waking" (shaqad) and "almond" (shaked) are almost identical. Thus the almond tree in Israel is considered the "waker" in Spring because it is the first tree to blossom even while snow is on the ground in the hilly areas around us near Jerusalem. This is a potent annual reminder that God is watching over His Word.



You Have Seen Well...

ORDINARY PEOPLE

Just think, the Lord is still bringing to pass His Eternal Word today--via ordinary people--watchmen--just like you and I in order to,

ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS

We have devoted our lives, these past 40 years to sharing with a worldwide audience how God is bringing to pass what He promised 1000's of years ago--It is fresh and alive and exciting to see. The Word is sharp and quick and powerful like a double edged sword, yet gentle and inspiring and comforting like a mothers embrace.

THEN: Just think: The Lord said to Jeremiah in another place,

"He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a Shepherd does his flock"...Jeremiah 31:10b

THE HEART OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

This means that Israel will not be destroyed by Iranian nuclear weapons or any other plan to vilify and destroy the Chosen people of God and their inheritance, the Holy land--Praise God and Amen. However like a natural father who must correct his son, in love- God promises to Israel...

***"For I am with you says the Lord, to save you; Though, I make a full end of all the nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you.
But I will correct you in justice and will not let you go all together unpunished...Jeremiah 30:11***

***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord,
thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope...Jeremiah 29:11***

These promises are of course to Israel but I want to encourage you to apply them to your life today. In fact there are 1000's of promises in the Bible waiting for you to activate them by faith.

A LIFE CHANGING WORD

Some of you have stood with us for 40 years now since Meridel and I heard the Word of the Lord to us on September 20th, 1969 in the hills of Dundas, Ontario, Canada. His "still small Voice" changed the course of our lives forever when He said,

- 1) to Meridel, "If you love me, love my People" and,
- 2) to Jay, "Get the Word out to the Nations!" Preach it?

Go public with this, broadcast it far and wide...Jeremiah 50:2a, The Message Bible

FORTY YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

We feel very insignificant and quite overwhelmed that the **Lord chose** to speak to us and to call us out of a very prosperous and comfortable lifestyle in Canada exactly forty years ago this month. In just thirty days we had resigned our positions, sold our belongings and on October 20th left North America destined for Israel by faith. When we boarded the plane in New York at the JFK Airport, Meridel and David (then nine months old) and I had not one penny to our names. Then while getting settled on the aircraft, seat belts buckled for take off, someone came up to me and slipped two new twenty dollar US bills into my hand. Since then, those forty dollars have been multiplied over and over again as we have tried our best to be obedient to do whatever he told us to do in getting the Word out--to the Jew first and to the Gentiles all around the world.

HE IS FAITHFUL

Yes indeed, these are tough times. We have all experienced the impact of the failing world economic system. Nevertheless, we have determined to continue on in our calling "by faith." Why? Because He is Faithful! Some people write to us and they say things like, "Jay and Meridel, we are so impressed with your faithfulness over the years. You are still there in Jerusalem sending out the Good News." I'm not sure how to respond to this kind of letter. Frankly we have no where else to go. Some people have even mentioned how that as a sign of the times there has been a great "falling away." We are never tempted to quit because we feel it is such an honour and a privilege to serve our Creator, the Lord God of Israel. We could never quit Him--He is our Life and our Very Source. I believe we must all be "ready" to serve him at any given moment. This verb "shaqad" occurs 12 times, including in Psalm 127:1 "Unless the Lord guards the city the watchman stays **awake** in vain. Also in Jeremiah 31:28 where God promises **to watch** over his people with intent to build and plant. The Lord says in Psalm 102:16: "For when the Lord builds up Zion he will appear in his Glory." So we have endeavoured to encourage watchmen all over the world who care for Israel and her capital city Jerusalem to do it with passion and dedication in anticipation of His appearing.

"I've posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem. Day and night they keep at it, praying, calling out, reminding God to remember they are to give Him no peace until he does what he said, until he makes Jerusalem famous as 'The City of Praise'...Isaiah 62:6

YOU ARE A WATCHMAN FOR JERUSALEM

Your partnership with us means that you are part of this army of "watchmen" posted all over the world with a special love connection to Israel. You are literally watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem. Because of your positioning you are to know, discern, and understand the times in which we are living. It is a time when the enemy would try to deceive even the very "elect."

Last week we interviewed some of "The Elders" who were here in Jerusalem to try to bring "peace to the region" They are such notables as Former US President Jimmy Carter, Former President of Brazil, Fernando Cardoza, Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, Former Prime Minister of Norway Gro Bruntland, as well as Archbishop Emeritus of South Africa Desmond Tutu and observer Sir Richard Branson of the UK. They are hoping to bring peace by friendly persuasion. It is a tough job when the highest Muslim authority in Jerusalem, The Mufti, says that it is all a lie that the Jews have any connection to Israel at all. Also, at their recent Summit gathering in Bethlehem "moderate" Fatah leaders refused to recognize Israel's right to exist. Hamas has consistently taken this position. Meanwhile this basic principle of the recognition of Israel's right to exist forms the foundation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's platform for restarting the stalled peace talks.

THANKSGIVING

In closing, first, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the Lord God of Israel and His precious "Presence"-- The Ruach Ha Kodesh, called in English, the Holy Spirit who has been our fellowship in this odyssey of faith throughout the years.

Next, I am ever grateful to our precious Messiah who has always led the way by His "Light-Life" example. Thank you, Yeshua.

Thirdly, I am also very grateful for the inspiration of Abba's "still small Voice" who repeatedly gave us over the years perfectly timed projects in the media to reveal to our audiences around the world that God indeed is still "choosing to watch" over his Word to perform it...Isaiah 55:1

THANKS TO YOU

Then of course we want to "thank you" our very valued and precious partners who have stood with us over these past 4 decades. Your faithfulness has helped us to be faithful in sending out the Word of God and allowing us to "Broadcast it out far and wide."

I believe you have been **chosen** to help us do this work! *Many are called but few are chosen...Matthew 22:14*

May the Lord encourage you right now--today and always...Shana Tova!

In His love,



Jay & Meridel & Team



Jay Rawlings at Work



Sending out the "Good News"