

## 16. Israel – the Thorn in the Flesh of the World (Part 2)

*“But their (Israelite) minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:14-18)*

Perhaps now you can see that God Himself has something to do with the ‘veil’ that Yeshua’s New Covenant apostle Paul says still remains over Israel’s spiritual eyes. As we saw in part one, God created a profound redemptive Covenant union and identification between His living Word (Yeshua) and Israel, the Bride that He chose for His living Word. Despite surface appearances, spiritually speaking, through the testimonies of Yeshua’s Jewish Messianic apostles and disciples, Israel continues to bear her Husband’s ‘Salvation Fruit’ from within her womb. But if that’s the case, then what is the purpose of that veil?

When I think of the veil, I am reminded of knee-jerk reactions I have personally seen in many people who came to me for help in the past. They needed help in dealing with unhealed soul wounds from abuse they had suffered in the past. They struggled with resultant codependency issues that continued to plague their lives and families. One classic symptom that arises within abuse victims is a condition called ‘toxic shame.’ That is a chronic unhealthy, destructive sense of personal worthlessness and inferiority. It is a shame born from the way the person was treated in the past by significant caretakers. It contaminates whatever they try to become or accomplish in the future and they need adequate help in order to be able to deal with and overcome it.

An example of healthy, normal shame might be the way people blush and get flustered when they realize they said or did something that was foolish or after they’ve made an embarrassing blunder. In healthy shame, the issue is: *“I made a big mistake.”* But the habitual mindset of someone who suffers from toxic shame is: *“I AM a big mistake!”* Victims of extended abuse, neglect and abandonment develop a deep abiding sense of inferiority, inadequacy and universal mistrust. They labor under the terrible disadvantage of a ‘born to lose’ identity pattern. In their gut there abides an ominous permanent sense of *‘No one loves me; I’m unlovable and unacceptable. I’ll never be good enough’* and that gives rise to an abiding hopelessness and an inability to trust anyone because of an ever-impending sense that *‘disaster is right around the corner.’*

Deeply wounded people need to learn to create, develop and install new identity and thought and reaction patterns into themselves. Then they can outgrow the original, false, toxic patterns they developed in early childhood. One thing I would ask those that asked for help to do was to accompany me to a large mirror and look at themselves in the eye,

and say things like, “*You are a beautiful person made by the hand of God...and I love and respect you very much.*” Invariably, the deeply wounded ones found it impossible to do that. They just could not look at themselves without instantly being engulfed by a knee-jerk reaction of violent aversion. They would turn away immediately because it was unbearable for them to look at themselves. It was as if I was asking them to place their hand on a red hot stove! That is how disconnected they had become from their true, God-given self. They had frozen their souls to avoid feeling the pain, shame, self-loathing and rage that festered within them. They’d found ways to numb and freeze their inner distress with a variety of mood altering, mind-numbing, chemistry changing activities and substances, such as denial, avoidance, control obsession, truth-twisting and drug, alcohol, overwork, religious and sex addictions.

### ***The World’s Abuse of Israel Takes Its Toll***

Is Israel not the world’s foremost chronic abuse victim? And are not many of her people afflicted with the understandable ‘*I just can’t win*’ self-defeating scars, phobias, anxieties and self-protective devices that are common to deeply wounded, traumatized people? This is part of what I sense when I see Israel react with such aversion and denial when she is asked to ‘*look Yeshua in the eye.*’ She instantly turns away just as Isaiah said that Israel would turn away from the ‘Suffering Servant’ he describes in chapter 53. Could it be that Israel is so united to God’s living Word by the Covenant God made with the fathers of the Faith that when she looks at herself, she sees Him, and when she sees Him, she’s looking at herself?

*“He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we (Israelites) should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we (Jewish people) did not esteem Him.” (Isaiah 53:2b-3)*

When she is asked to look in His eyes, what does she see? Is she like one of those abuse victims looking at themselves? When she looks into His eyes does she see the afflictions Gentile Egypt heaped on her and the destruction of her two Temples and the loss of her Land of Promise? Does she see the Inquisition and all the pogroms and expulsions? Does she see Auschwitz and Belsen, Sobibor and Treblinka? Because God’s living Word is one with her and because He took all of her Sin and that of the rest of the world upon Himself, is that what makes her recoil and turn away... because for now, the only part of Yeshua that the God-placed veil over her eyes allows her to see is the Sin, guilt and shame that He took off of her and placed upon Himself?

In that case, can you see how the sight of Him would arouse the toxic shame that her own Sin and centuries of bloody persecution, rejection and bloodshed at the hands of the Gentile world, including many so-called ‘Christians’ have done to her soul? Her reaction to Him would be mixed with self-loathing, outrage, terror and that shame-based paranoia and ever-present threat of being an abused misfit that is sure to be beaten, bloodied and disfigured no matter where she goes or how hard she tries to ‘*fit in*’. The weight of this is too much for the human soul to bear. And that is why the living Word of God, her

Husband, came to lift it off of her and bear it Himself...if only she could see that...when she is asked to behold Him!

### ***The Husband's Rescue Mission of His Beloved Bride***

The horribly beaten, disfigured Husband looks the way He does because He is The Lamb that God sent to protect His Bride. God's Word came to atone for her Sin...to the death! And even after His Resurrection and Ascension back to Heaven, she remains unable to see that part of Him through the veil. So, like Adam and Eve, she hides herself when He seeks her out and asks, *'Where are you?'* And despite her protests, He covers all her lapses and sins, manifesting His eternal love and faithfulness to her. He covers her with the Righteousness that His finished, Perfect Atonement won for her. He sees to it that she maintains her eternal, glorious position by His side...until the time comes when she will be allowed to see Him in His Fullness, as He really is...and join Him in His Resurrection Glory and Inheritance:

*"Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are **the Whole (Jewish and non-Jewish) House of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.'** Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "BEHOLD, I WILL OPEN YOUR GRAVES AND CAUSE YOU TO COME UP OUT OF YOUR GRAVES, MY PEOPLE; AND I WILL BRING YOU INTO THE LAND OF ISRAEL. Then you will know that I am the LORD, WHEN I HAVE OPENED YOUR GRAVES AND CAUSED YOU TO COME UP OUT OF YOUR GRAVES, MY PEOPLE. I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, HAVE SPOKEN (MY WORD) AND (THROUGH MY LIVING WORD MADE FLESH, I HAVE) DONE IT." DECLARES THE LORD." (EZEKIEL 37:11-14 AMPLIFICATION AND EMPHASIS ADDED.)*

Historically, because of the bloodshed, terror, tribulation and terrible losses she has suffered at the hands of the world, much of Israel consistently recoils from the priestly identity and world-saving purpose God entrusted to her. Weariness, paranoia, and an abiding sense of never belonging are the result. And *Tevye*, the main character in *'Fiddler on the Roof,'* expressed those feelings very well when He said to God,

***"Just once, could You please choose someone else?"***

Throughout history, Jewish people have sought safety, security, anonymity and the long-desired sense of protective control they think they'll find either by completely avoiding the Gentile world and living in an enclosed ethnic 'bubble' of their own, or by completely assimilating themselves into the Gentile world and becoming part of it. Both tactics weaken and diminish her world-blessing *'light to the Gentiles'* purpose. Even if Jewish people survive and prosper for a season by such practices, their God-given reason for being is cloaked, diminished and muted by such self-protective behavior. If Israel indulges in isolationism, avoiding Gentiles for fear that their contamination will cause her to disappear and be exterminated; she hides her God-given Light from them. But if she's willing to be assimilated into Gentile societies...the idolatry of 'Egypt' absorbs and smothers her – and dowses her God-given Light. But what else can she do under the

present circumstances? She's only human; and humans are but 'dust' (Gen. 2:7; Ps. 44:24-26; Ps. 90:2-4). Israel's task is super-human, it is impossible for her to be what God's Word reveals she must be. But God intended for His Word to be her Fulfillment. So He had to become flesh...to be and do in her place, what she could have never been or done by her own devices. She will do it, but not in her own strength. She will do it in and by and from Him. But at present, the veil prevents her from seeing that.

### ***The Eternal Covenant Connection***

God's living Word and Israel are two ends of the same Covenant Staff! He is Israel's Husband and she is His Bride. They are forever bonded to one another. So...in her place and in her name, He is fulfilling the redemptive purpose God gave to her. And because currently, she stays at a great distance from Him, she is not in the picture when Gentiles regard Him. So they do not associate her with His Salvation, nor do they associate Him with her 'Jewishness.' Thus they assume they can reject her, while accepting and clinging to Him. In their eyes, He is 'acceptable.' And so God's living Word can serve as their *True Israel* and their *True Light* and *Salvation*, without arousing too much of that bias and aversion they have for His Bride. They can thus come to Yeshua, and He can save them...just as He once saved Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! The fathers of the Faith could not have saved themselves, much less the rest of the world. And their genetic and spiritual Jewish and non-Jewish descendants are no different. God's Word has to save us all. And so Israel, by remaining far removed from Him, enables Him to do for the Gentiles what only God's living Word could do.

Do not the Israelites that assimilate into the Gentile world and lose themselves and their God-given purpose have it backwards? God's plan for Jewish people is not for them to abandon the commission God gave them so that they can make a reverse Exodus back to Egypt! The Egyptians are supposed to make the Exodus so that God can engraft and join them to His Israel! It's not the Israelites that must disappear; it's the God-less, idolatrous pagan Gentiles that must disappear...until all men, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, become one New Man under the Headship of their common Messiah – God's living Word! Ponder what Paul writes to the Gentile believers of Ephesus who had recently become one with Messiah Yeshua:

*“So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*

*“But you did not learn Christ (Messiah) in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old (Lawless) self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new (Spirit-empowered, Word-embodying Israelite) self, which in the likeness of God has been created in (New Covenant) righteousness and holiness of the*

*Truth. Therefore, laying aside (Gentile) falsehood, speak (Torah-fulfilling) Truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we (believing, New Covenant Jews and you believing New Covenant Gentiles) are members of one another.*” (Ephesians 4:17-25 Amplification and emphasis added.)

### ***The Exodus...in Reverse***

Nevertheless, despite what God called them to be and do, many Jews reverse God’s Exodus. They become much more like ‘Egyptians’ than the true Israelites God describes in the Bible. They and their children remain unaware of their true identity and purpose, or else they choose to ignore or deny them. They strive to blend in with the Gentiles around them and adopt alien gods, cultures and lifestyle pursuits. Why do they do it? They do it to escape persecution and pressure...to protect their children and enable them to survive...to be able to prosper and live in peace. And many, after so many centuries of bloody persecution, have lost faith in God and His promises. They’re exhausted, outraged, discouraged and completely disillusioned with the things of God as they understand them. So they seek safety, rest, peace and relief from the tremendous pressures their God-given calling and purpose place upon their shoulders. To be uniquely chosen for a Heavenly purpose forces you to be *‘different’* and *‘set apart from everyone else.’* You are *‘reserved exclusively for God’s service.’* And that’s the same priestly commission they are to demonstrate and teach to believing Gentiles who follow Israel’s Messiah as His disciples. But, except for Messianic Jews that embrace Yeshua, most of God’s chosen people are too weary and wary and suspicious to consider doing that (See Ezekiel 37).

So today’s New Covenant Messianic Jews must be on duty...as descendants of their Messiah’s original first century disciples and apostles. They must be ready to receive believing repentant Jews and Gentiles into the New Covenant God has made with Israel. Just as the original apostles of Yeshua did in the first century, the Last Days generations of Messianic Jewish and non-Jewish disciples must serve together as the Remnant of Israel, supported by the Root of God’s Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...into which God intends to graft the rest of the world.

What has actually been happening for centuries is that even in Christendom, that ancient wall of partition that Yeshua died to destroy, is being continually rebuilt. Jews and Gentiles continue to abide on opposite sides of that wall, making sure that they remain apart. Nevertheless, despite that insanity, Israel’s Messiah continues to save more and more Gentiles from eternal perdition while there is still time for Him to do it.

The unbelieving, rebellious Jewish and non-Jewish world continues to resent, hate and reject what God requires believing Jews and Gentiles to be and do together under the Headship of their Messiah. They do not want to forsake their false gods and old resentments. They won’t leave ‘Egypt’ and submit to being transplanted and grafted together into Israel’s Root. If they were to transform into God’s True Israel, they would have to forsake their Lawless Gentile idols and worldly identities. And their disobedient lifestyles would have to be crucified, executed and disposed of permanently! So they

choose an alternative – they cling to their self-life, religious or otherwise, and shun and disobey the living Word of God that has come to cover their nakedness.

So, according to the requirements that God's Covenant puts upon God's Word and Israel, His Bride, Yeshua steps in to do the work of Salvation for which they are both commissioned. He does His part and also Israel's part...in her name. He continues to save more and more lost Gentiles. He serves as *'The Light to the Gentiles'* and stands in Israel's stead, on her behalf, for as long as she must remain, *'temporarily indisposed.'*

### ***God as You Think He Is...or God as He Reveals Himself to be?***

Over the centuries, Yeshua has been saving Gentile people, even though Gentile people have continually hounded, harassed and disenfranchised Jewish people. Many Gentiles find the thought of Jews being special, different and chosen by God, and to be their God-appointed teachers, tutors and spiritual elder brothers, to be a repugnant and unacceptable notion. So they reject and ignore the *'Israel part'* of God's revelation and his summons to join in with His agenda and future plans. They deem it more convenient to ignore God's Covenant with Israel's patriarchs, and replace it with Jewless substitute gospels and views of God and His ways. They fashion versions of a God that is made in their own Gentile image and likeness. Instead of leaving Egypt, they ask the Lord to 'come into' their Egyptian lives, on their terms. But the thought of having to die to their natural, worldly comfort zones in Egypt, and become Israelites in God's sense of the word, has been out of the question for centuries. In fact, people who call themselves 'Christians' have persecuted and at times, even killed God's Israelites while claiming to be servants of Israel's Messiah, destroying Jews and others, in His Name!

So as long as Israel feels compelled to reinvent herself and become something other than what God originally made her to be, she'll never find her true place in this world, and the peace and rest that constantly elude her grasp. She will only be at peace and experience fulfillment when she becomes what God created her to be...when she takes on her Messiah's yoke and willingly shares it with Him...for all the families of the earth.

*"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.** For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)*

Israel belongs to God's living Word forever. He created her and gave her identity, purpose and destiny. He made her for Himself and has sustained her throughout the centuries. Meanwhile, she writhes under the unconscious resentment and rage the world heaps on her and the shame and desolation that abuse continues to generate in her soul.

*"Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the (living Word of the) LORD YOUR GOD, BEING CAREFUL TO DO ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS WHICH I COMMAND YOU TODAY, THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL SET YOU HIGH ABOVE ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH. All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD YOUR GOD: BLESSED SHALL YOU BE IN THE*

CITY, AND BLESSED SHALL YOU BE IN THE COUNTRY. BLESSED SHALL BE THE OFFSPRING OF YOUR BODY AND THE PRODUCE OF YOUR GROUND AND THE OFFSPRING OF YOUR BEASTS, THE INCREASE OF YOUR HERD AND THE YOUNG OF YOUR FLOCK. BLESSED SHALL BE YOUR BASKET AND YOUR KNEADING BOWL. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out...

“... “But it shall come about, if you do not obey the (living Word of the) LORD YOUR GOD, TO OBSERVE TO DO ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS AND HIS STATUTES WITH WHICH I CHARGE YOU TODAY, THAT ALL THESE CURSES WILL COME UPON YOU AND OVERTAKE YOU: Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:1-6; 15-19)

Could it be that one reason why many Gentiles continue to resent and attack Israel is because, unconsciously, at a very primeval level, they know that as long as she refuses to serve as the disciple nation of God’s living Word, the Gentile world won’t be able to experience the fullness of the fruits and ultimate consummation that is supposed to accompany their Salvation! Until Israel takes her rightful place at Yeshua’s royal side, God’s plan and purpose will not be complete and none of us will enjoy complete satisfaction and fulfillment.

*“...Creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole Creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our Body.” (Romans 8:21-23)*

All of this swirls around in Israel’s heart of hearts and causes unbearable pressure, shame and agony. And so, like Gomer did in the book of Hosea who revealed prophetically what would happen...Israel continues to run, hide and play ‘mind games’ with her Husband. But even so, her guilt and condemnation and their consequences have been placed on the shoulders of the Suffering Servant Redeemer sent by God, as He was revealed through Isaiah. He continues to transmit and impart God’s undying, eternal Love to His Bride...and through her...to all the rest of God’s groaning Creation.

Of course it doesn’t help when brutal persecution and agony are continually inflicted upon Israel ‘in the name of Jesus’ by misguided, greedy, blood-thirsty Gentile Christian hordes that claim to inflict these atrocities on her **in the name of their Gentilized, non-Biblical, non-Messianic versions of ‘Christ!’** These non-Biblical representations of our Master that they keep thrusting in Israel’s face and using to justify their criminal greed are gross examples of the very things God warned Israel against in the Scriptures (See Deuteronomy 13). So it’s only right that she rejects those inaccurate, non-authentic versions of their unbiblical ‘messiah’ because they are not authentic, accurate or in line with what God has revealed Him to be in His written Word through Moses.

## ***The Torah's Warnings Against Following False gods***

In the Torah that God entrusted to Israel's care and commissioned her to teach to the whole world, God warned Israel against accepting alien versions of god, gods that Moses and the patriarchs did not know! He said every time that happened in the future, it would be God Almighty, testing her to see if she really loves Him with all her heart and soul. So the many non-Biblical, 'Gentilized' versions of 'God' and 'Christ' that Jews see Christians promoting in their vast religious 'Buffet,' are, in their eyes, things that do not match what the God of Abraham, through Moses, entrusted to their care. And because God warned Israelites to avoid such things with dire threats (Cf. Deuteronomy 13; 28), they have no choice but to turn away.

So how's that for a 'Catch-22?' It's Egypt's unreasonable demands and afflictions all over again. They must still produce their assigned quota of 'bricks,' but no 'straw' is provided for their use. Gentiles disfigure and 'morph' their Messiah by yanking Him out of His God-given Israelite matrix. They change Him until Israel can't possibly recognize Him as one of her own. But when Israel rejects the caricatures presented by the Gentiles, she is rejecting her true Messiah! What an unspeakable, unfair, insane trap that is! At least that's how it seems on the surface. But knowing God in all of His Perfection, there has to be more to it than that.

Could it be that this apparently insane dynamic is actually a part of God's awesome salvation strategy? On the surface, Jewish people cringe, recoil and back away from the many alien, unrecognizable Gentilized versions of 'Jesus' that non-Jewish Christians keep inventing and thrusting at them. But I believe that beneath the surface alienation between Yeshua and Israel, they remain united in their suffering. They share the same pain of rejection although it comes to each one from a different source. Israel gets it from the Gentile world and Yeshua gets it from Israel. But they experience the effects together. And that makes it possible for the Messiah to continue to save endless streams of non-Jewish people!

In this sense, the mutual pain and suffering the Husband and Bride share... create and maintain a redemptive circuit which bonds and causes them to work together in perfect synchronization for the good of the rest of the world. The Eternal Covenant they share makes them essentially inseparable. What pertains to one, totally involves the other. And so, they both experience that perpetual '*wandering Jew*' rejection and homelessness. Both serve as sacrificial 'lambs' and redemptive 'scapegoats' for the Sin of the whole world. Both embody and endure the same fate... the curses and disasters stemming from humanity's disobedience, against which Leviticus and Deuteronomy gave Israel clear warning. Together, the Husband and Wife share in this ongoing excruciating redemptive agony, at the behest of God who is intent on saving the whole world by this totally supernatural means.

So there's a lot of historical baggage that today's Jewish and non-Jewish disciples must perceive, acknowledge, sort through, and grow beyond. We must keep in mind that to most Jewish people, the thought of '*Jesus Christ*' as most Gentile believers present and

proclaim Him, is unbearable because much of it is unbiblical and represents the very things against which God warned Israel! It's also unbearable because Jewish people can't help but link Jesus Christ with the horror, carnage, misery and heartbreak that Gentiles – 'Christian' Churchmen, Crusaders, Inquisitors, emperors, kings and other influential people have inflicted on them in His Name!

This situation is intensified by the fact that many Jewish people are almost totally dependent on their human mediators – rabbis, teachers and revered sages who continue to add to or ignore or change the meaning of what God revealed in the Bible. The people are led to consult the writings of men in the *Talmud* and *Mishna* (written collections of rabbinical interpretations and commentaries pertaining to God and the Scriptures), and so they've lost touch with their own God-given Scriptures and focus almost entirely on the writings and traditions of men. That's another reason why they can't recognize Messiah Yeshua, the living Word of God. They studiously avoid and ignore much of what their own prophets, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah revealed about their Messiah. God doesn't reveal His living Word (His Son) in the *Talmud*; He revealed Him in the Tanach!

So if it's true that this 'Jesus' whom most Jewish people reject, is truly their Messiah, then Israel is in an unthinkable, diabolically agonizing situation. Why does she not pay attention to all of the God-given prophecies in her God-given Scriptures that Yeshua has clearly fulfilled? Why does she quibble? Why can't she acknowledge the stupendous impact this foremost Jew of all human history continues to have on the entire world? Why does she ignore or distort the Messianic Scriptures He has already fulfilled, instead of allowing them to pierce, penetrate and impregnate her with Yeshua's Salvation and Resurrection Life? It's because of the dreadful, desolation and shame she would have to endure if His claims prove to be true.

### ***True Repentance Reveals Yeshua... Exactly as God Revealed Him in Scripture***

To acknowledge Yeshua as her Messiah would force Israel into a level of repentance that goes far beyond her current ability to comprehend, much less endure. But this is exactly comparable to the level of repentance that Gentiles will have to embrace and endure when it's time for them to give up their false, home-made versions of Jesus and exchange them for the real Yeshua...as His Father actually chose to reveal Him! They too will have to repent of all the error, carnage, injustice, misery and grief they have inflicted on God's chosen people! At present, both groups find the prospects facing them to be unthinkable and unacceptable. But in the meantime, God's living Word continues to cover all repentant Sin-stripped and corrupted sons of disobedient Adam...with His own Righteousness...just as He is doing for His Bride, Israel.

***"For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all!"***

*"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM*

*THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:32-36)*

This mystery is currently beyond our ability to fathom and understand. Israel remains so alienated and recoils and turns away from her Redeemer...even as God continues to save more and more Gentiles of all colors, races, cultures and backgrounds while there is still time for Him to do it. He is even saving many of His Bride's most bitter, deadly, terror-inflicting enemies by awesome supernatural means! And all of this supernatural Salvation takes place amid the gross idolatry, error, selfishness and Jewish and non-Jewish cruelties that are rampant in this fallen, broken, Sin-corrupted demon-possessed world. But don't miss this... all of that salvation is taking place at the excruciatingly painful expense of the Lamb of God...and His Bride.

God ordained that the families of the earth would be saved if they would repent and return to Him by identifying with the Ultimate Passover Lamb He revealed through Israel. The Lamb first totally identified Himself with Israel. But now He reveals that He has also come for the entire human race...many of whom continually hound and harass His Bride! God promised was covering all of this too...when He sent His Word to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve. Now, He's covering all of their offspring...the Jews first...and then the whole world!

Many Gentiles now realize that when they identify with the one that became as Sin for us all, they died when He died. Atonement is thus made available for their sins. Because He poured Himself out before God for their sake, they can join Him in His death, and partake in the glory of His Resurrection and share in His eternal Righteousness and abide with Him as co-heirs of His eternal Inheritance! But sooner or later, He is going to require them to realize that if they are going to embrace Him...the Husband...as He really is, they are also going to have to embrace and become one with His Bride, Israel...for their Master and His Bride are eternally one. They abide together, like two ends of the same stick. To reject the one, is to reject the other. But to embrace the one, is to embrace them both!

In God's Wisdom, Mercy and Blood Covenant Wisdom, there is no difference between repentant, redeemed Jewish and non-Jewish ex-sinners and the Lamb whose Life was offered in perfect substitution for their guilty lives. There is no difference in God's sight between those who are redeemed and the Glorious One that redeemed them – the Risen Messiah of the entire universe. The awesome Eternal Blood Covenant of God makes us all one with God...and that also makes us one with each other.

*“For all of you who were baptized into Christ (Messiah) have clothed yourselves with Christ (Messiah). There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua). And if you belong to Christ (Messiah), then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.” (Galatians 3:27-29)*

I believe that for now, while God's Plan and Time Table allow for Gentiles to be saved, the Sin, guilt, shame and agony Yeshua took upon Himself on Israel's behalf is all that God permits most Jewish people to see as they regard Him at this time. And so they shun the bloody, wounded disfigurement they see when they regard Him and continue to wait for another, more appealing and acceptable 'Messiah'...that they hope is yet to come. But in the meantime, Israel's Remnant people (the Jewish and non-Jewish disciples of God's living Word) remain 'in uniform'... 'on duty'... under the Lamb's orders...in the midst of the deadly spiritual war that rages across the heavens and all around the Earth between God's Word and the powers of Darkness.

### ***Better Late...than Never***

The issue Israel must face sooner or later, is this: What if the Messiah she is waiting for...the one she will recognize and embrace in the future...is the very same Messiah she has been rejecting and holding in contempt for thousands of years? Then what? Only God will be able to sort out all the ramifications of that in each individual case. But when our Messiah does return, He will not appear as He did the first time. He will not come as '*Mashiach ben Yosef*,' the suffering, humbled Son of Joseph. He will come as '*Mashiach ben David*,' the glorious risen Messiah King, the Son of David...the Lord of the Universe! THEN the era of the complete Fulfillment of all the prophecies will be at hand. And Israel will finally recognize and embrace her Messiah. And, as the saying goes, '*Better late than never.*'

None of us can possibly know all that will happen when He does return. That's because we will not see Him as He once was – in his former earthly suffering, limitation and humiliation as Yeshua of Nazareth. Even His closest, most familiar Jewish disciple, John, did not recognize Him when he saw a vision of Him as He will appear in the future:

*“Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a Son of Man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.’” (Revelation 1:12-18 Emphasis added.)*

When He comes the next time, we will see the Awesome One, whose appearance overwhelmed John and brought him to the brink of death. The Lord will come in all of His eternal Glory, and no Jew or Gentile will ever again mistake or misinterpret His identity and significance. Everyone will know who He is because God will make it very clear from that time forward that all of the claims of His living and written Word are absolutely true!

*“The LORD SAYS TO MY LORD: ‘Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’ The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, ‘Rule in the midst of Your enemies.’*

*“Your people (Israel) will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; in holy array, from the womb of the dawn. Your youth are to You as the dew.” (Psalm 110:1-3)*

When He returns, veils will no longer cover the eyes of Israel or the Church. Israel will embrace Yeshua and recognize Him as her own. She will finally be able to see the part of Him that until then is going to remain veiled. Then she will see that He is the living Word and Lamb of God; that He is the Suffering Son of Joseph that Isaiah described so faithfully and accurately. She will see her glorious, all-powerful King, the Son of David and Messiah of Israel...her Messiah...her Husband! She will know how much love He has been pouring over her throughout the centuries. And it will break her heart...and melt all of her resistance. And she will become one with God’s living Word, her Husband, at last.

*“So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD OF HOSTS IN JERUSALEM AND TO ENTREAT THE FAVOR OF THE LORD.’ Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, ‘IN THOSE DAYS TEN MEN FROM ALL THE NATIONS (GENTILES) WILL GRASP THE GARMENT OF A JEW, SAYING, ‘LET US GO WITH YOU, FOR WE HAVE HEARD THAT GOD IS WITH YOU.’” (ZECHARIAH 8:22-23)*

## **God’s Purpose Behind all of the Suffering**

I’ve tried to express what, at this point, I think I see embedded within God’s Covenant with Israel. I still have many questions and a deep sense of awe. Is this really the part that God gave Israel to play in His salvation plan? Is this how, and why, in His awesome mercy, the fullness of the Gentiles can continue to run its course? Is Israel drawing Gentile contempt onto herself, to protect Yeshua from it, even though He is the Ultimate Jew of all Jews? Is she providing Him the space and freedom He needs to attract and save more and more Gentiles...by keeping herself at a distance and drawing Gentile contempt and hatred away from Him and taking it upon herself?

Consider what would have happened two thousand years ago if Israel had immediately recognized and embraced Yeshua as her Messiah. The Lord would still have to save the Gentile world. But if Israel had accepted Him immediately...the Gentile world that comprised the Roman Empire would have paid little attention to the Jewish commotion in Jerusalem. They would not have been able to identify with or appropriate for themselves, what was going on between the Jewish people and their Messiah King. They would have shrugged their shoulders, assuming that the hoopla that was causing the Jews to dance and sing with delirious joy, was only a private party...an *insiders only*, ‘*Jewish thing*,’ that did not concern or include them in the least.

Had that happened, the wall of partition that keeps Gentiles and Jews apart would have walled Yeshua off from the entire Gentile World and untold billions would have been

deprived of their God-sent Redeemer! But instead, because God had always been intent on saving the whole world of Gentiles – He made a way to do it...at great expense to His beloved Israel. He hardened Israel’s heart and allowed her to reject the suffering ‘*Son of Joseph*’ part of her Messiah for the time being. Then He allowed her to create distance between herself and her Messiah. And then the Holy Spirit moved and empowered the Jewish apostles and disciples (the first century Remnant of Israel) to take the proclamation of Yeshua and His Salvation, beyond Israel...and into the entire Gentile world.

## **Overcoming Anti-Semitism**

It is as if Israel had to step away from the Fullness of her birthright and inheritance so that the salvation of the Gentiles could take place. Her rejection of Yeshua freed the Jewish Messianic apostles to proclaim Him to the Gentiles, without having Him linked in the minds of Gentiles, to the Jewish world and the biblical heritage they knew and cared nothing about and would have naturally shunned and ignored. Because the true biblical revelation of Messiah is so ‘*Jewish*’ and ‘*Hebrew*,’ Anti-Semitic Gentiles would have held Him in contempt and would not have wanted anything to do with this *Yeshua*.

Even now, when most Gentiles ‘believe’ in Him, they can’t bring themselves to accept Him as His Father revealed Him. They can’t allow Him to be who He really is. They strip away His true God-given name and identity. They won’t accept Him in His authentic Hebrew matrix in and from which His Father chose to reveal Him. That would have been much too ‘*Jewish*’ for their tastes. So they uprooted and reinvented Him until He became the ‘*God of the Gentiles*’. They reconfigured Him into their diverse cultural and ethnic images and likenesses. Instead of the Gentile world being transformed into His true, Israelite image and likeness, for the time being, it is the other way around. They expect Yeshua the Messiah of Israel...to come into their lives, while they remain comfortably established in their native sections of ‘Egypt.’

But Scripture emphasizes...that this will only last for a season. And then, in the fullness of time, all the pieces of the puzzle will begin to fall into place with increasing rapidity. Then, inevitably, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth will prevail:

*“...and one of the elders said to me, ‘**Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.**’*

*“And I saw between the Throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and*

*nation. You have made them to be a Kingdom and Priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.*” (Revelation 5:6-10 Emphasis added.)

For centuries, Gentiles have felt free to embrace, believe and adopt this ‘Jesus’ as one of their own. They too, like Israel, can’t recognize Him as His Father actually gave Him to the world. They ‘morph’ Him into an endless variety of ‘Jew-less,’ Gentilized shapes and forms to suit themselves. So a veil also covers their eyes, preventing them from seeing Him as He really is. And that is the very same reason why many Israelites can’t recognize Him as their own long-awaited Messiah. For the time being, the veil is over everyone’s eyes!

So Israel rejects her suffering Messiah, and waits for some other glorious ‘Son of David’ to appear. But precisely because of that, she serves as an instrument of salvation in the hand of God, on behalf of the rest of the world. God keeps Israel and her aspirations in the background, at a distance from her Messiah...for the time being. And, as Gentiles reject and threaten Israel with annihilation and extinction, behind the scenes, she continues to be intimately linked to Yeshua, sharing in His sufferings and pain as the Gentiles keep inflicting it upon her. Meanwhile, Yeshua shares in that same pain because He is ever-faithful to His veiled, misguided Bride, despite her rejection of Him. He covers her from the wrath of God and shares with her the pain of rejection even as He covers and shields Jews and non-Jews alike...from the righteous wrath and Justice of Almighty God.

If the perspective I offer is accurate...it is indeed a unique and awesome way by which God draws those to Salvation who hear and tremble at His Word. Only the infinite Wisdom and Mercy of God could conceive and successfully execute this. And so I feel a great debt of gratitude to the Son of Man as well as to His Bride. And I’m trying to fathom the enormous depths of what Paul was hinting at concerning what is going on between Almighty God and His satanic, demonic spiritual enemies in the heavenly realms:

*“...so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the Church **to the** (demonic) **rulers and the** (satanic) **authorities in the heavenly places.**” (Ephesians 3:10 Amplification and emphasis added. See also Job 1:6-12)*

What is the message God is conveying to His demonic enemies? Are they not playing right into God’s Salvation Strategies? The more they separate The Lamb and His Bride, the more the two work together, God keeps liberating more and more Gentiles from the Serpent’s coils! So regardless of these temporary external circumstances that hurt Yeshua and Israel so deeply, they remain one – in the Blood Covenant mind, heart and hand of God. The Living Word of God and His Bride work together in mysterious ways to fulfill what was revealed through the prophets. But the day is coming, which the prophets also foretold, when the Husband and Bride will be reconciled and united forever, enfolded in God’s Eternal Glory.

## **Revelation and Reconciliation**

Just as Jacob had to send his eleven sons to seek salvation from starvation from the Gentiles in Egypt, and there they finally encountered and were reunited with their once-rejected brother Joseph (Gen. 45), so too will Yeshua's brothers be moved by Father in the Last Days, to seek their salvation from among the Gentiles. And then the veil will be removed from the eyes of Yeshua's brethren. And suddenly they will see the Messiah Redeemer and King, standing in the place of the one they had loathed and rejected in the past. They will see Him, like they have never seen Him before. And at that time, the Gentiles who have been serving Him will also see Him in a brand new light. Suddenly He will be in His proper place, securely reunited amongst His brethren. Then He will appear to both Jews and Gentiles – as the glorious, eternal Living Word of God, the Son of David and Messiah of Israel...and the Lord of all Creation!

Just as Joseph waited for His brothers to reveal Himself to them, so is Yeshua waiting for His brothers, in splendor, amid the Jews and Gentiles who currently serve Him. And when it is time for Him to reveal Himself to His brothers, He will lift the veil from their eyes and reveal Himself to them in a new, glorious way. And He will kiss Israel and see to all of her needs. And the rest of the world will finally see her for what she really is in God's sight and they will see how spiritually united she has always been to the Lord and Master they thought they knew and had been abiding with all this time. They will realize that Israel was working with their Master all this time...so that God could bring about their eternal Salvation.

## **Genesis through Revelation – the Plan of Salvation**

Joseph prophetically revealed Yeshua at the end of Genesis. And Yeshua will fulfill the promises given through Joseph...at the end of Revelation. By the time this painful separation between the Lamb and His Bride is over, the fullness of the Gentiles will have run its course. God will then speak His Word to His people in a new and unprecedented way. And they will all recognize the Son of God and embrace His true, full Identity and Life, Nature, Character and Disposition. This will be overwhelming, unmistakable, and Creation-transforming. All the suffering of the past will be blotted out by the ecstasy of all redeemed human beings being one at last, with God their Creator, and with each other, for all eternity. As Paul said so well:

*“For if their (Israel's) rejection (of Yeshua) is the reconciliation of the (Gentile) world, what will their acceptance (of Yeshua) be, but LIFE FROM THE DEAD?” (Romans 11:15)*

No longer will the sting of these agonizing words be in force:

*“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her, how often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate. For I*

say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'" (Matthew 23:37-38)

Zechariah, another one of Israel's prophets envisioned what that ultimate glorious reconciliation will look like:

*"And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations (Gentiles) that come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."* (Zechariah 12:9-10)

It is my personal hope and prayer that the awesome reunion between the Husband and His Bride may come soon and that more and more of the Lord's disciples will be able to grasp more of the depths of the meaning of Israel and her true purpose as God's 'Light to the Gentiles.' The more we disciples realize what God is doing and how, the better equipped and prepared will we be to expedite the Fullness of the revelation of the Lamb and His Bride...in all of its glorious, eternal Perfection! Amen.

*"Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God. 'Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the LORD'S HAND double for all her sins.'*

*"A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the LORD IN THE WILDERNESS; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."* (Isaiah 40:1-5 Emphasis added.)

*"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me!'"* (Mt. 25:40)