

# For His Name Yeshua ישוע

Rebecca Hazelton



Messianic & Christian Publisher



City of David excavation site.

# Yeshua ישוע

**YHVH is my:  
Salvation  
Deliverer  
Helper  
Healer  
Rescuer**

שם (shem) = name  
a mark of individuality,  
honor, authority, character

**Restoring the Name  
and Reputation of the  
Jewish Messiah**

For His Name YESHUA ישוע

*Restoring the Name and Reputation of the Jewish Messiah*

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**Though he was in the form of God,  
he did not regard equality with God  
something to be possessed by force.  
On the contrary, he emptied himself,  
in that he took the form of a slave by  
becoming like human beings are. And  
when he appeared as a human being,  
he humbled himself still more  
by becoming obedient, even to death –  
death on a stake as a criminal!  
Therefore God raised him to the  
highest place and gave him the  
Name above every name;  
that in honor of the name given Yeshua,  
every knee will bow – in heaven,  
on earth and under the earth- and  
every tongue will acknowledge that  
Yeshua the Messiah is Adonai –  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**Philippians 2:6-11**

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Dedicated to:

Yeshua, without You, I am nothing. Thank You for Your forgiveness, mercy and grace. I love You and can't wait to be with You face to face for eternity!

Millie, Millie, Millie - Thank you for being the most authentic role model of what it means to be like Yeshua. We have had such sweet moments of fellowship. May we come to know Him better still!

All our Jewish Mishpacha (family) - Maybe now you will know why we love you so much. Someone loves you even more and is waiting for an opportunity to reveal Himself to you.

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## Preface

The concept of this book emerged from a passion for Yeshua and His Hebrew name. As I saw His name in the Hebrew Scriptures, I was stirred to think about how His name had been lost in the course of time and the translation of the Scriptures into other languages and cultures. My original idea was to have a simple booklet, sharing the Scriptures that showed the word “Salvation” in the Hebrew Tanach (Old Testament) and sharing my passion for His name in an exhortation to various groups to rediscover His Hebrew given name and restore it to common usage.

I was encouraged by Messianic Jewish Publishers to develop my booklet into a book. After much prayer and fasting, I began to write what was on my heart and it flowed into what you have in your hands now. The Father gave me the idea for the concept of excavating and how that connects with digging deeper into our history and the foundations of our religions to discover the Truth of His Word and our Faith. My dear friend Cheryl Zehr helped me put the finishing touches on it and in her graciousness agreed to publish it for me, when Messianic Jewish Publishers could not fit it in after all. Thank you Cheryl!

As I call upon His Name to “show me great and mighty things which I do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3) He is revealing layers and layers of the depths of the riches and treasures hidden in His Word. This is an ongoing process. I have not arrived. Therefore, as you read this book, remember that I am mere “flesh” and that I don’t have the complete picture yet. I look through a glass dimly. As I grow and develop a deeper relationship to my Savior, Yeshua, submitting my mind, will, emotions, and entire being to Him daily, He will continue to guide me on the course of my life to correct, align, position, and purpose me according to His will for me. A year from now I may wish I had said things differently, or have a deeper understanding of what He is trying to show me. So, I offer, in its incomplete form, my passion for Him and His Name. I will only encourage you to dig and discover for yourself if what I have shared is the Truth and deserves attention.

I do know that He will complete the work He has begun in me until the Day He returns and restores all things and corrects all our (mis)understandings. What a Day that will be! Until then.....

For His Name,  
Rebecca Hazelton

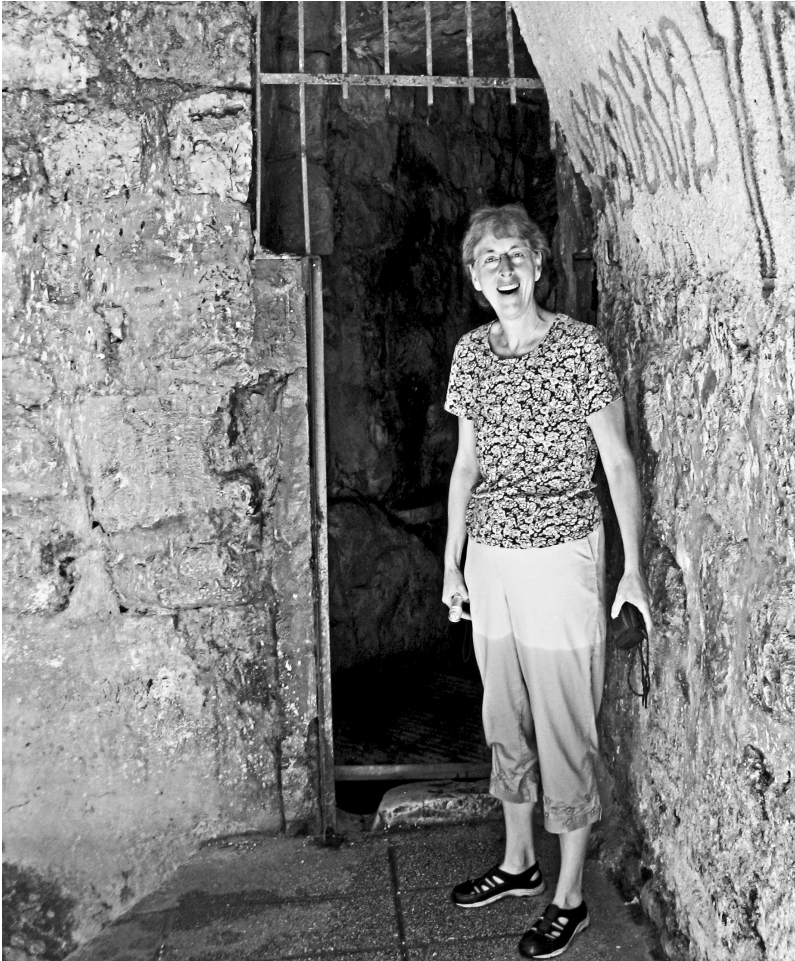
*Begun in a camp in the woods of Maine in the summer of 2011, continued on a farmette in Virginia during the Spring of 2013, and finished in Israel during Chanukah 2013.*

## An Introduction Along the Way

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.  
(Proverbs 3:5,6 NLT)

Our first visit to Israel was in the summer/fall of 2002. This was during what was known as the “Second Intifada” where buses were being blown up and tourists were few and far between. The Lord had told us to go without any reservations to see what *He* could do. We were to learn His people and their ways. I had spent a number of years overseas and was familiar with traveling to a foreign country. Starting with my first overseas trip to Northern Ireland during the “troubles” in 1978, I have had no fear of going into a potentially dangerous situation, because security is not found in the absence of danger, but in the presence of Yeshua. I am at rest as long as I know I am under His command and in the center of His will.

This was a new experience, however, for my husband, Ronald, who had only traveled in the United States. Upon arrival at Ben Gurion airport, the whirlwind began as we were ushered into a “shirut” (taxi van) going to Jerusalem. All the men sat in the front and were jabbering away in Hebrew. The women sat in the back. I was sitting beside a young English speaking woman and she was asking where we were going to stay in Jerusalem. I told her we did not know. I said we had heard of several places, but we did not have any reservations. She suggested we check out the Finnish Mission on Shivtei



Exit from Hezekiah's tunnel.

In this book, we are going on an exciting, spiritual excavation.  
Come join me!

Yisrael Street. She said it was a nice guest house. We had heard of the Finnish Mission and we had a map of Jerusalem. We took this as a sign and asked the driver to drop us off at the Jaffa Gate. There we were, a middle aged couple with two backpacks, being dropped off in the middle of Jerusalem.

The hustle and bustle of Friday afternoon was apparent as we began to make our way toward the street that had been recommended to us. Thankfully, it was not far. As we encountered people along the way we began to inquire if they knew where the Finnish Mission was located. No one spoke English and the realities of being in a foreign land were becoming apparent. Travel is always tiring and now we were in 90+ degree (Fahrenheit) weather with heavy backpacks on our backs. We were hoping to get an answer soon.

One of the men we asked turned around after a few steps and said, “Light hair – right there.” We thought about Finnish people being from Scandinavia and most having light hair, so we took this as a direction to check out the place where he was pointing. It was a compound with high iron gates. We looked inside and all we saw were Asian people!

Thinking we might be lost, we cautiously ventured through the gate door and found an entrance to the front building. On the mailbox were the letters FELM. Ah. Perhaps we have found the right place. We rang the doorbell and in a few minutes the massive door swung open and an elderly Jamaican woman greeted us with, “Praise the Lord. Someone is here!”

This was our introduction to Phinette, an 82-year-old woman who had been praying for two months for people to come fill this guest house. We asked her if there was a place we might be able to stay and she directed us, finally, to the real Finnish people in charge. They quickly gave us accommodations and we settled in for the Sabbath which was announced by sirens. We were so thankful for a place to lay our heads.

Our adventure was about to begin.

During those troubled times, not only were tourists scarce, but also volunteers. When we inquired about helping out at the compound, we were told that they had never had volunteers from anywhere but Finland, and we had not gone through the normal approval process. However, they were willing to try us out for a week to see how things would go.

To make a long and beautiful story short, within a week, we ended up receiving room and board and holding the keys to the entire compound. We were entrusted with locking up at night and caring for any weekend guests that might arrive. I worked with the cleaning staff and Ronald worked with the maintenance man. Our six hour work day included meals and devotions and we kept being told not to work so hard! They were so thankful for Ronald’s willingness to climb the rafters to clean out gutters and cut off dead palm tree branches because everyone else was afraid of heights! By the time we left, the guest house was full. Phinette’s prayers had been answered.

In the meantime, I began the tedious job of learning Hebrew. We were introduced to a Messianic Hebrew congregation who seemed to really enjoy my violin. It was a pleasure. During that first eight week stay in Israel, the Lord began to do a deep work in my spirit. Our first visit to the “Kotel” (Wailing Wall) in the Old City was overwhelming. Ronald had gone into the men’s prayer area and I stood behind the dividing wall. Immediately I felt an overwhelming cry come from deep within my being. Tears began to flow freely and the words, “open their eyes,” came from my lips. I would come to understand later that when I was praying that prayer, the Lord was ready to open *my* eyes to truths I had never been able to see before. I fell in love with the Jewish people and I would come to fall even more in love with my Savior as I began to learn His Jewish, Biblical heritage.

What I am going to share in this book comes from that well spring of longing for both Jews and Christians to have

their “eyes opened.” I believe something is missing that has caused a void in our understanding of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I want to reveal the passion of my heart, in the hopes that it will ignite a fire of desire to really come to know Yeshua, the Savior of both Jews and Gentiles.

While writing my passion, however, I asked myself this question many times: Why do we need another book? The only answer I can give is that I feel the Lord is requiring it of me, therefore it is a *mitzvah* (commandment) from Him and I desire to please my Father. However, I do agree with King Shlomo (Solomon) when he said:

**And furthermore, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. The end of the matter, all having been heard: fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole man. For God shall bring every work into the judgment concerning every hidden thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:12-14 JPS)**



I have been a simple believer in the God of Israel since I was 5 years old and only wanted to serve Him. I had a brief period in mid-life when I doubted, rebelled, and even went through a shockingly unexpected divorce. However, those experiences helped me reexamine my faith and the faith of my fathers. In repentance and returning, I felt the “cloak of religion” fall off my shoulders and a real relationship with God begin to deepen and develop. I have a call to exhort and encourage brethren from both sides of the Judeo-Christian persuasion to rethink, reexamine, and dig for a deeper truth which will unlock the door to an amazing relationship with a living God through the promised Messiah of Israel, Yeshua ben David.

In recent years, my husband and I have gone through the fires of persecution. We lost almost every material thing when we developed a subdivision on land Ronald owns in Maine. Ronald, with his flaming red hair and ruddy complexion may just look like his ancestor, King David to whom God gave very specific instructions for building the Temple. In the same way, Ronald received the pattern for developing the land and what to name it: “God’s Acres.” This was not done presumptuously. It was done out of obedience and reverence to God and to His Name.

We presented this name in the final approval meeting with the Planning Board of the Town, and declared that it was the land of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In southern USA that would be acceptable, but in New England it is looked upon as a “religious” name and shunned. Every sign we ever erected with the name “God’s Acres” on it was torn down or stolen. The last permanent permitted sign was even sawed down by a chain saw! The road name “Zion Way” seemed to also evoke hateful reactions and the road sign was also regularly removed. We have been hated by un-peaceful neighbors who wanted to take everything we owned to get rid of us. In that respect, we can identify, in a very tiny degree, with what Israel faces every day with her neighbors and their desire for the Jewish people to be “driven into the sea.”

Initially, we saw the subdivision as our provision for returning to Israel more permanently, but now we see it as our “crucible.” There was much we needed to go through in order to have a deeper understanding and connection to God’s people and to deepen our own relationship with Him. We ended up losing the 22 lots of the subdivision in a foreclosure, which is another whole story! However, we are rich in faith and trust and full of hope. Our Father is a great and mighty God and we thank Him every day for every little thing we can think of.

When I look back on all the amazing divine appointments and provisions of our life “Along the Way,” I am filled with



praise and thanksgiving. We have not had a home for several years now, but we have never missed a meal unless we were fasting and we have never slept on the street. We have always had a bed, even if it was on a floor. We have stayed in camps in the woods without running water or electricity, slept in a church, and stayed in beautiful houses. We would be amiss if we didn't mention and thank the many people who have opened up their homes to us. Our "Helping Hands" ministry may have been the reason, but you trusted us and took us in. Thank you. It would take a whole book to tell the many, many stories of all the beautiful lives that have touched us and hopefully we have been a blessing in return! We love you all!



Because I come from a "Christian" background, my heart bleeds for what has been done to the Jewish people at the hands of those who call themselves Christians and in the name of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I would like to begin by saying something important to the Jewish people.

*I come humbly before you to ask forgiveness for the errors of my ancestors. Those who have represented "Jesus" as a Gentile, making Him the "head" of a religion, have missed the mark and misunderstood G-d's plan for Israel and the nations. His name has been defiled among the nations just as G-d's personal Name has been defiled and misrepresented. When I use the tetragramation YHVH<sup>1</sup>, with the English letters, to indicate the personal Name of the G-d of Avraham, Yitzach, and Y'akov, I mean no disrespect to the Sacred Name. I am not indicating a pronunciation or usage of the Name in a "flippant manner." If I am speaking His Name – I generally use "HaShem" or "Adonai" as when reciting Scriptures.*

*There is no excuse for the atrocities that have been perpetrated through the "Christian" church and in the name of "Jesus Christ" against the Jewish people. When our ancestors forced conversion upon your people and forced you to forsake your Hebrew heritage and roots, it was a travesty beyond imagination! All of the persecution, pogroms, and finally the Holocaust are deep scars on the souls of your people. I grieve for your loss. When our forefathers changed Yeshua's Name to a Greek form (Jesus), they took away the meaning of His Name and deprived you of your Messiah!*

*My purpose in this book is to inspire an awakening in your spirit to the truths embedded in your Holy Scriptures. Only the Spirit of YHVH can reveal truth, and my prayer is that you will discover that Yeshua, from the tribe of Judah and the House of David, is in fact the promised Messiah. I am asking that you look into the claim of Yeshua being the Messiah, by having the courage to ask G-d to open your spiritual eyes as you read the Scriptures. I have included references from the TaNaKH<sup>2</sup> which reveal the Name of Yeshua embedded in the verses and also references which are prophecies fulfilled by Yeshua in the B'rit Hadashah writings (New Covenant). Thank you for preserving the writings of the Covenant Scriptures through the centuries and being the bearer of the truth of the Word of G-d and the bearer of the Messiah through the lineage of Judah and the house of David to which we could come to faith in Him whose eminent return will restore the Kingdom of G-d to earth and correct all our misrepresentations and misunderstandings! Hallelujah. May it be in our day!*

Now a word to my Christian readers. To be a lover of Yeshua is to be a lover of His people. You can't have one without the other. In chapter 10 (p. 105), you will find a prayer

for Christians who want to come into alignment with the plan of YHVH and the move of His Spirit in this time.



Ok. Let's all begin a spiritual archeological excavating and rebuilding venture to uncover and restore deep Truth about the Name of the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua. The Scriptures at the beginning of each chapter are tools that we need for this project, so don't skip over them!

I've got my shovel ready to dig in. Will you join me?

-----  
<sup>1</sup> I use YHVH for the Hebrew יהוה (Yud Hey Vav Hey) known as the "tetragrammaton" which is the personal Name of Elohim (God) – see Exodus 3:13-15. His Name is indeed sacred and Adonai or HaShem is commonly used to honor the 2nd (3rd in the Hebrew Bible) "mitzvah" (commandment) to "not take the name of YHVH lightly (in vain). I am not indicating a pronunciation of these four letters. I am simply acknowledging that our Elohim (God) has a personal Name that I want to honor. I believe it has been "lost" in the mainstream of Christian and even Jewish Scriptures and literature. I mean no disrespect to Jewish people by using the four letters to represent HaShem in this book.

I capitalize pronouns, such as "Him," "His," etc, when referring to Yeshua or YHVH to honor and respect His position of authority and sovereignty.

<sup>2</sup> TaNaKH is an acronym formed from the initial Hebrew letters of the Masoretic Text's three traditional subdivisions: The **Torah** ("Teaching," also known as the Five Books of Moses), **Nevi'im** ("Prophets") and **Ketuvim** ("Writings")—hence **TaNaKh**.

As much as possible, I interpose the Hebrew transliterated names and titles with the common English version. If I use the English, the Hebrew transliteration will be in (.). If I use a Hebrew transliteration, the common English word will be in ( ).

## Excavating Before Rebuilding

As some people were remarking about the Temple, how beautiful its stone work and memorial decorations were, he said, "The time is coming when what you see here will be totally destroyed—not a single stone will be left standing!" (Luke 21:5-6)

"Why do you call me 'Lord! Lord!' but not do what I say? Everyone who comes to me, hears my words and acts on them—I will show you what he is like; he is like someone building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on bedrock. When a flood came, the torrent beat against that house but couldn't shake it, because it was constructed well. And whoever hears my words but doesn't act on them is like someone who built his house on the ground without any foundation. As soon as the river struck it, it collapsed and that house became a horrendous wreck!" (Luke 6:46-49)

For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building. Using the grace God gave me, I laid a foundation, like a skilled master-builder; and another man is building on it. But let each one be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Yeshua the Messiah. Some will use gold, silver

**or precious stones in building on this foundation; while others will use wood, grass or straw. But each one's work will be shown for what it is; the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire—the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If the work someone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward; if it is burned up, he will have to bear the loss: he will still escape with his life, but it will be like escaping through a fire. Don't you know that you people are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (I Corinthians 3:9-16)**

During our fourth visit to Israel in 2010, we stayed in the Old City for most of the three months we were there. I had fun with my violin, playing on the streets for “pennies from heaven.” Our friend James was already doing this regularly with his guitar and he invited me to join him one balmy evening in the Mamila shopping mall outside the “Old City” walls. Children would come and drop coins in our cases and sometimes would dance around the courtyard area where we played.

One time as I was walking through that outdoor mall, I noticed many of the buildings had stones with numbers on them. I came to understand that they were buildings that had been carefully torn down, their stones numbered, and then rebuilt once the excavation and preparation for the site was completed. Of course any excavation in Israel involves archeology. There are millennia of history, mysteries, and truths of the past to uncover. Many of the buildings needed to be rebuilt because their foundations would have been unstable from the many earthquakes that have rocked Jerusalem over the centuries.

I believe we must excavate the building site of our religions. The building is not standing very straight and it

looks like it is about to crumble. Some of its walls have already fallen from the shaking that has taken place. Something must be wrong with the foundation. We need to remove the structure above ground and dig into the foundation to see, first of all, what is wrong, and then make it right! Finally, we can rebuild the ruins and repair the broken walls. The house will be much stronger and will stand, if we do it right. We're not going to bring in a wrecking ball because we might smash stones that need to be reset. They may have beauty and potential. We must be careful to do this right. But it must be done, otherwise the house will become a ruin.

I am not a scholar, but I love the Scriptures.<sup>1</sup> I am not an archeologist, but I love to dig into the Word, research word origins, and question to find original meanings and sources. I do not simply accept what I've always been taught nor what others say.

My desire is that in doing this “excavation,” you will hear with spiritual ears, and see with spiritual eyes, the longing of your Father, calling for you to dig, search, uncover, come back, return, restore, rebuild, and fall in love with Him again—or for the first time. As we see Yeshua in the Scriptures and do spiritual archeology, we will begin to see the foundation stones of our religions exposed. We will be amazed and blessed to find that there is indeed a “pearl of great price” and we will hopefully be willing to sell all that we have (and are) to gain that pearl.

Our zeal for the “Lord of Hosts” will become the driving force to see others restored to their Messiah or be introduced to the Savior of the World. Life will come out of dead stones, which will shout in praise to YHVH, the Eternal God of Avraham (Abraham), Yitzchak (Isaac), and Y'akov (Jacob). We will look to the fulfillment of the Scriptures to see our Messiah return to claim His rightful place as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to the Glory of YHVH! We will be prepared to be the Bride of Messiah, ready in white garments to meet

our Bridegroom, Yeshua. Our love and excitement will grow until we **all** cry out “Baruch Haba B’Shem Adonai” (“Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord”).

This is an exploration. We are going to be archeologists for truth. We are going to carefully tear down—numbering and preserving each piece, then dig till we find the true foundation and rebuild on it.

Are you ready? Put on your gear, grab your equipment, and let’s go.

-----  
<sup>1</sup> I did attend seminary in Virginia in 1989 but that doesn’t make me a scholar. I am much more of a “heart” person than a “head” person, but I appreciate the research others have done to enhance my study. I hope I have given due credit, where credit is due.

### 3

#### **Religion vs Relationship**

**You will Rebuild the ancient ruins,  
 Raise foundations from ages past,  
 and be called “Repairer of broken walls,  
 Restorer of streets to live in.” (Isaiah 58:12)**

The first thing we need to carefully dismantle is our “religion.” While participating in a prison ministry in Alabama several years ago, I met an amazing Jewish woman who was “doing her time.” In the midst of her confinement, she had met her Messiah and become a believer in Yeshua. We developed a deep friendship. During our visit, she shared a quote by a friend of hers whose name I only know as “Daniel.”

**Religion is man’s misunderstanding of God,  
 for God has no misunderstanding of man,  
 and if man understood God,  
 there would be no religion,  
 there would only be relationship.**

There is a profound truth in these words and I share them frequently. From the beginning of time in Genesis (B’resheet) chapter 1 verse 1, YHVH has desired a relationship with His creation. Everything in the Hebrew TaNaKH (Old Testament) through to the end of the New Covenant (B’rit Hadashah)<sup>1</sup> speaks of this.

Beginning in Genesis 1 we see YHVH speaking order into chaos. We see Him setting up a Plan that yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness (right order). The verse heading this chapter from Isaiah 58 comes toward the end of his prophesy to Israel and Judah as he begins to speak of a restoration of both a physical and a spiritual Israel. This section is full of exhortation and promises. YHVH is challenging Israel to consider what she has been doing out of performance of duty and not from the Spirit of Elohim. YHVH is exposing the “religious spirit” of the day and declaring what He truly desires from her. He is begging for a relationship with them, not religious duty.

I believe YHVH is saying the same things to us today. “Religion” has become so engrained in our way of thinking and culture that we are also “performing” out of duty, having no idea where all our traditions have come from. We’ve built a house, but the foundation stones are so obscured we don’t even know what they are anymore. We believe the house is beautiful and ornate, but it is actually a “religious” façade. Both Judaism and Christianity have become religions unto themselves and in opposition to each other. Relationship with YHVH has become ritualized, institutionalized, and dead. There is no life in most of our churches and synagogues and we wonder why we even attend them. Some have become the local “club house” where all types of social activity is available, but no one seeks YHVH and the power of His Spirit has left without anyone really noticing.

What has often prevented Jewish people from re-considering Yeshua as Messiah has been religion. Jewish people, being the astute people they are, see a double standard and lack of authenticity in “Christians,” giving them no reason to even consider the claims of Yeshua as Messiah. YHVH’s original Plan was to be a conversion of heart, not conversion to another religion, as we will discover later in our excavating.

One time, while I was in Israel, I read a book of quotes by Jewish writers. Here is one passage I think is especially appropriate for today:

*“Religion has become a substitute for the couch of the psychoanalyst. It is expected to give us peace of mind, to bring us happiness, to guarantee us good health; and to assure us of never ending prosperity. This religion is not God oriented, but man centered. Man is not required to serve God, but God is meant to serve man. It is the typical religion of the middle class. We have everything now. Jobs, professions, homes, cars, insurance policies.....and we also have a God. One can never tell when one may need Him. Our religion is a prop for our prosperity and comforts. No one is concerned with the Word of God. No one listens. No one obeys. The function of our “awakened” piety is to confirm us in our habits and customary ways of thought. We believe in God, but we also limit His authority. We prescribe for Him how to act toward us. Truth for Him is what we hold to be true, Right, what we consider right. He can ask of us no more than what we ask of ourselves. Most important of all, He is to be considerate. In no way may He inconvenience us or interfere with our comforts and pleasures.”<sup>2</sup>*

I’d like to have the veil removed from my eyes so that the Master Builder is able to reveal to me how He sees things. Then I can see more clearly how to repair the foundation of my faith. I don’t want religion. I want relationship! How about you?

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<sup>1</sup> The term “New Covenant” (B’rit – Covenant; Hadasha – New) is taken from the passage in Jeremiah 31:30-33 (31-34 in most Bibles) where it says “Here, the days are coming,” says ADONAI, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra’el and with the house of Y’hudah..... For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra’el after those

days,” says ADONAI: “I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people.” Also, when Yeshua declares during the Passover Seder before His death “*This cup is the New Covenant, ratified by my blood, which is being poured out for you.*” The Hebrew word “khadash” (Strongs 2318/19) means new, but also implies to “renew” or “repair” (not replace). So, understanding this, when you see the word “new” as in “New Covenant” or “One New Man” – remember that it is not as if there is anything “new under the sun” or that the former covenants that YHVH made are no longer valid, but that YHVH’s plan is always “renewing and repairing His relationship with us.” He makes us “new” – renewing our relationship with/to Him, renewing our minds, etc. We see this in the phrase “new moon” (the same root word used for month). The moon is actually not “new” because it is the same moon as the month before, it is just “renewing” itself. It is fresh, revived. Keep this concept in mind as you read this book.

<sup>2</sup>Eliezer Berkovits, quoted in the book, *Returning: Exercises in Repentance*, edited by Jonathan Magonet, published by The Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, London, 1975; re-published by the Bloch Publishing Company (the oldest Jewish Publishing Company in the U.S.), 1997. (I read the book in 2003 at a library in the Galilee.)

## 4.

### **Sound the Shofar! Remove the Veil!**

**On this mountain he will destroy the veil which covers the face of all peoples, the veil enshrouding all the nations. (Isaiah 25:7)**

**For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (Romans 11:25 NKJV)**

**What is more, their minds were made stonelike; for to this day the same veil remains over them when they read the Old Covenant; it has not been unveiled, because only by the Messiah is the veil taken away. Yes, till today, whenever Moshe is read, a veil lies over their heart. “But,” says the Torah, “whenever someone turns to ADONAI, the veil is taken away.” Now, “ADONAI” in this text means the Spirit. And where the Spirit of ADONAI is, there is freedom. So all of us, with faces unveiled, see as in a mirror the glory of the Lord; and we are being changed into his very image, from one degree of glory to the next, by ADONAI the Spirit..... So if indeed our Good News is veiled, it is veiled only to those in the process of being lost. They do not come to trust because the god of the ‘olam hazeh has blinded**

**their minds, in order to prevent them from seeing the light shining from the Good News about the glory of the Messiah, who is the image of God.**  
**(II Corinthians 3:14-18; 4:3-4)**

Every time Ronald and I have been called to go to Israel, it seems to be the will of YHVH that we do not know where we are going to end up or what we are going to be doing there. Sometimes I have fretted over the uncertainties, but the Father has been faithful to set up our agenda to such a degree that in the end, I am humbled and marvel at His goodness! Our fourth trip in 2010 was no exception.

We were given very little notice to go. We were to be there during the Fall Feasts of YHVH. We had specific instructions to be in Jerusalem for Rosh Hashana (The Feast of Trumpets). We were picked up at the airport by our dear Jewish friends from Bat Yam and warmly welcomed into their home. They wanted us to stay for the holidays, but we said we needed to be in Jerusalem for the Feast. They asked if we had a place to go and we said no.

We had a list of potential places, but had had no time to call and make arrangements. Time was running out. Rosh Hashana was fast approaching. I prayed and asked the Lord to be gracious to us and please let the first call be an open door. I took the list and pointed to a name and number and made the call. The miraculous answer was yes and we were off to Jerusalem the next day.

We stayed with this amazing couple the first week and celebrated the New Year (Rosh Hashana) with them. That was all the time they could give us, so we moved to a place in the Jewish quarter of the Old City the next week in preparation for Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). We were in the Ten Days of Awe (the ten days between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur). Unlike our first visits in 2002 and 2003, Jerusalem was bursting

with tourists and pilgrims for the feasts. We were blessed to even find a “room in the inn”! During those nights in the Old City we were housed in a basement-type room with a small window near the very high ceiling. The window acted like a funnel for the sound of the street above it.

We soon discovered that tours of the Old City were being given all night long during that holiday time. We were right under a stopping point along the tour, where a major battle to keep the Old City had ensued, in part of the 1948 War of Independence. About 40 people had died and were temporarily buried there until after the victory of the Six Day War in 1967. During the whole night we heard loud speakers in Hebrew and people talking. It sounded as if they were in the room with us! It was assaulting to the flesh, but our spirits were stirred that there was something deeper going on. Ronald was prompted to get up at 2 o'clock one night and was told to go to the “Wall” (Kotel). He began to make his way there and found that he could not even get to the courtyard leading to the Wall. The people there were packed like sardines from the Wall to the top of the stairs. He eventually made his way down and to the Wall itself, but it took a very long time. He was overwhelmed with this experience. Here, in the middle of the night, there were so many people in Jerusalem, that you couldn't move an inch?! What was happening?

The following day I was conversing with an Orthodox Rabbi's wife who was a neighbor of where we were staying. She was all upset about the disturbances in the night. She said I should write to the mayor of Jerusalem to voice my complaint that such things should not be allowed to go on! I listened to her rant and then graciously made my leave. Her husband and another Rabbi were outside their apartment. They were expressing their amazement at how God was moving among the people and fulfilling the prophecies of the Scriptures. They were saying, “They have heard the sound of the Shofar. They

don't even know why they are here, but they have heard it!" These were Ultra Orthodox Jewish rabbis who understood what YHVH's plan was. I was again humbled and amazed.

Two different people. Two different perspectives. One from the flesh. One from the Spirit. "They heard the sound of the Shofar." These Rabbis knew that for most it was not the physical sound that they had heard. They heard a call from YHVH Himself! The Shofar (an ancient instrument made from a ram's horn) is known as "the voice of YHVH." When you hear its voice by an anointed sounder, you should feel the heavens break open. For too long the sound of the Shofar has either been missing from Christian churches or has not been sounded with its intended purpose.

There are two veils indicated in Scriptures quoted at the beginning of this chapter.<sup>1</sup> The first veil is the one over all the nations. The Hebrew of this verse literally says the "face of the covering" over the nations. It is like the concept of an envelope. Something is covering up the contents. The second veil is a specific one for the chosen people of Israel and is more like blindness. Their veil has had a purpose of allowing the Gentiles to become believers in Yeshua as it indicates in the Romans 11 and II Corinthians verses quoted. It will be removed when the fullness of the Gentiles has "come in." What does this mean? It means that the "age of the Gentiles" is going to come to a close and the shift and focus will turn back to the Jewish people. It also means that there will come a day when the veil is completely removed and all Israel will see clearly, have their eyes open, and their Messiah Yeshua will reveal Himself to them like Joseph revealed himself to his brothers in Genesis 45.

I also believe that this "time of the Gentiles" has been a test for the Gentiles. YHVH wants to see what is in our hearts in the same way Israel was tested in the wilderness. (Deuteronomy

8:2-5) What do we do with and how do we treat the people of YHVH? Do we spurn and discard them? Or do we love and bless them? Are we worthy to be called "sheep" because we ***"did it to the least of these, my brethren"***? (Matthew 25:40)

Let us look at a very strategic Scripture which I believe is a prophecy for our times. It appears in two different prophets' books. When YHVH repeats something more than once, it usually means we need to pay attention!

**But in the acharit-ha yamim [latter days] it will come about that the mountain of ADONAI's house will be established as the most important mountain. It will be regarded more highly than the other hills and peoples will stream there. Many Gentiles will go and say, "Come, let's go up to the mountain of ADONAI, to the house of the God of Ya'akov (Jacob)! He will teach us about His ways, and we will walk in His paths." For out of Tziyon will go forth Torah, the word of ADONAI from Yerushalayim. (Micah 4:1-2 and Isaiah 2:3-4)**

In the Scriptures we always see that when YHVH is about to perform a major shift in history, things are foreshadowed as a preparation. What we have seen in the past 65+ years is the reemergence of the Nation of Israel and the return of His people to the land as never before in history. So many Scriptures are being fulfilled!<sup>2</sup> It would seem as if the Spirit is saying that in the latter days there will come a turning of direction back to Zion, back to the place where YHVH chose to place His name—Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> The move of the Spirit in these days is back to the root, back to the origins—back to relationship with our Creator as it was intended to be in the Garden. The Gospel has gone out to the "ends of the earth" and now it is returning to the source, back to Zion—the spiritual Jerusalem. The restoration of all things is what the Messiah is doing. He



is beginning it now. Will we “stream” into the flow of His Spirit? Will we align ourselves and focus our attention back to the God of Israel? Will we allow Him to teach us of His ways, His Torah (instruction), and His purposes?

When Yeshua came the first time He ushered in the New Covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34. His people were given the opportunity to come into alignment with the Plan of YHVH. They were invited to join Messiah and enter into newness of life. Some “left all” and did so. These Jewish believers followed what was called “The Way.” They are our forefathers of the faith. They did not begin a new religion. They understood what it meant to be “born again” by the Spirit and enter into relationship with YHVH through acceptance of Yeshua as Messiah. It was what Yeshua was all about. The blood atonement and sacrifice were made so that we could come back to the Father in a reconciliation of relationship producing righteousness. There were others who did not join the move of the Spirit but chose to remain in their man made religion and traditions and as they say “the rest is history.” YHVH did not abandon those who stayed behind, but they missed **“the time of your visitation”** (Luke 19:44).

The Holy Spirit is giving us the same choice today. It is time for the Lion of the tribe of Judah to return in power to rule the nations. Will we join in the move of the Spirit and align ourselves with the Plan of YHVH? Are we willing to look at and possibly forsake our religious traditions for a deeper relationship with our Savior? Are we willing to humble ourselves before His people, the Jewish people, to love and restore the name and reputation of their Messiah?

I believe the veil that covers the nations begins to be removed when the Shofar is heard. May we all hear the sound of the Shofar, the voice of YHVH, so that the veil will be lifted from our eyes. We see an awakening among Jewish people to their Messiah Yeshua. The veil is being lifted from their eyes now. The time of the Gentiles is coming to a rapid close. The Messi-

anic Age is about to be ushered in. Hallelujah! Blow the Shofar! Here is my prayer for all of us:

***“Glorious Father, Yeshua HaMashiach, and Ruach HaKodesh, please give us, Your beloved ones, the power to think, act, and feel with great wisdom, as You disclose truth, and instruction concerning things before unknown. Give us correct and precise knowledge of You. Bring the Light of Yeshua into our souls so that we will perceive, discover, and discern that You have invited us to a feast! May we indeed understand the amazing wealth You have promised us in our inheritance, and abundance in every area of our being. May we know Your exceeding power to perform miracles and bring excellence to our souls as we trust totally in You.***

***May we know that this power is a working power that has the same strength and force that worked to raise You, Yeshua Messiah, from the dead and appointed and conferred upon You a Kingdom at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. This position is far above each and every ruler, prince of demons, authority, power, dominion, or any other name that can be named either in this age or in the age to come. You have subjected all things under Your feet and have been bestowed upon the position of supreme Lord and husband over all the called out ones, which is Your family. May we be filled completely with the presence, power, and riches of You, who fills all in all!”*** (My amplified paraphrase of the Ephesians 1:17-23 prayer after doing a thorough word study of every word in this passage.)

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<sup>1</sup> Verses referred to in this paragraph: Romans 11:25-26; Isaiah 25:7; Deuteronomy 8:2; Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>2</sup> Here is a list of Scripture references you can look up on your own. It is just a partial list, but it will give you a taste of the amazing things being fulfilled in our time and before our very eyes! Isaiah 2:3,3; 14:1; 43:6; 44:26; 49:14-23; 51:1-3; 61:4,5; 62:1-7; Jeremiah 31:8-11; 50:4-6; Ezekiel 34:11-16; 36, 37; Hosea 11:10; Amos 9:9-15; Micah 4:1-2, 6; Zechariah 14:16

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 132:13-18

## 5

### What is in a Name?

**שֵׁם (shem) = name**  
**(a mark of individuality, honor,**  
**authority, character)**

“Don’t be afraid, Miriam, for you have found favor with God. Look! You will become pregnant, you will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Yeshua. He will be great, he will be called Son of Ha’Elyon. ADONAI, God, will give him the throne of his forefather David and he will rule the House of Ya’akov forever—there will be no end to his Kingdom.” “How can this be,” asked Miryam of the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered her, “The Ruach HaKodesh will come over you, the power of Ha’Elyon will cover you. Therefore the holy child born to you will be called the Son of God.”  
 (Luke 1:30-35)

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Yeshua, which means ‘ADONAI saves’ because he will save His people from their sins.”  
 (Matthew 1:21)

On the eighth day, when it was time for his *b’rit-milah*, he was given the name Yeshua, which is what the angel had called him before his conception.  
 (Luke 2:21)

In today's Western society, the naming of a child is generally arbitrary. Parents might like the sound of a particular name, or they name a child after a person they know. In the Catholic tradition, children are often named after "saints." Rarely do we name a child for the meaning of the name or the purpose or destiny of the child. *"In Jewish thought, a name is not merely an arbitrary designation, a random combination of sounds. The name conveys the nature and essence of the thing named. It represents the history and reputation of the being named."*<sup>1</sup>

In the Jewish culture, a name assigns a person a position. It is interesting that a Jewish male child is generally not named until their B'rit Milah (circumcision) eight days after birth. It gives the parents time to decide what destiny this child might have or what character qualities are already displayed in the first days of life.<sup>2</sup> When YHVH designates a name for the child, as in the case of Yeshua, He is already declaring His purpose and position.

In Hebrew thought, a name also equals a reputation. In English, we are not unfamiliar with this concept. We will talk about someone whose "name" can be trusted with a loan or assignment. Years ago, one would make a contract with a handshake because the persons involved would depend upon the reputation (name) of the other and a handshake was as good as a signature. (Oh, to see those days again!) One may consider the name of a company to be worthy of trust. We speak of a "good name," meaning some entity or person being worthy of trust. The opposite is also true. When someone has a "bad name," it is nearly impossible to retrieve a good reputation. Sometimes a name must be changed in order to start fresh.

Some people have had their name changed by YHVH. Avram (Abram), meaning "exalted father" was changed to Avraham (Abraham), meaning "father of many." Y'akov (Jacob) meaning "supplanter" was changed to Yisrael (Israel), meaning "he who strives or contends with El (God)." Their

destiny was changed when their names were changed. I have experienced this name change in my own life as well as seen it prophetically in other's lives.

There is a story of Napoleon Bonaparte going to visit prisoners in a jail in France during the war. He came upon a young man and asked his name. The young man said his name was Napoleon. The emperor and commander of the army, Napoleon, said to the young man. "Young man, either change your name or change your conduct!"

I believe we are in an age when it is time to change "Jesus Christ" back to His original Hebrew name "Yeshua HaMashiach" or "Yeshua the Messiah" in order to restore the reputation of the One who was sent to be the Deliverer of Israel and a Light to the Nations (Goyim). I have come to believe that when Yeshua's Hebrew name was lost in the forming of the Christian religion, both Jewish people and Christians were deprived of the full meaning of His Name in the Scriptures. I have known Jewish people who did not even know that "Jesus" was Jewish (and unfortunately many more Christians who also do not know)! It is sad, but the history of the Christian religion shows us that Yeshua's Hebrew name and meaning were lost in translation., As a result, he was "gentilized." (We will explore this history in subsequent chapters.)

However, there is a specific reason why YHVH's plan was for Messiah to be Jewish! The scarlet thread of YHVH's plan to redeem mankind is seen in every book of the TaNaKH. We see it first in Genesis chapter 3 when Havah (Eve) is told that the serpent would "bruise his [Yeshua's] heel" but "he [Yeshua] would crush his [the serpent's] head."<sup>3</sup>

Reading on in the Scriptures, we see that YHVH chose Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, then Judah, and after many generations, David to be the line of Messiah. The Gospel book of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Yeshua. It affirms His heritage. YHVH also chose a people, Israel to be His bride, His representative or ambassador to the world. He asked them

to be Holy as He is Holy. YHVH knows that the sacrificial system would never fully take care of the sin of mankind. He set up a plan to redeem all flesh through a spotless lamb. Yeshua became that spotless lamb. He became our “salvation” which is what His Name means!

But then His Name was changed and it no longer holds this meaning. In fact, it holds no intrinsic meaning in itself at all. And anyone who has spent any time at all in church history will attest to the appalling reputation of the “church” in regard to what has been done in the name of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> So why the new name? And how could it be that such atrocities could be done using it?

Let’s dig for a foundation stone in history and find some truth behind this name change.

We must first establish the historical setting of the birth of Yeshua.<sup>5</sup> He was born a few years before what is now known as the Common Era (C.E.) in the town of Beit Lechem (House of Bread - Bethlehem) in the area known as Judea in Israel.<sup>6</sup> He was of the Hebrew Israeli tribe of Judah and of the house of David. Therefore, He was fully Jewish. His earthly (not biological) father, Yosef (Joseph) and his mother Miryam (Mary) were betrothed. The Scriptures tell us that Miryam was visited by the angel Gavri’el (Gabriel whose name means “warrior of God”) who announced to her that she would become pregnant by the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) and would bear a Son, whom she was to name, Yeshua, because “He will save His people from their sins.”<sup>7</sup> Yosef, being a righteous man, upon discovery that Miryam was pregnant, and not from him, wanted to “put her away quietly,” but the same angel that appeared to Miryam, came to Yosef in a dream and told him not to be afraid because the child inside of her was from YHVH. The angel also confirmed to Yosef the Name by which he was to be called—Yeshua.<sup>8</sup>

Before Yeshua was born, another amazing birth took place, that of His cousin, Yochanan (John), whose name

means “YHVH is gracious.” Here we see the significance of the naming of a child in his story. (I have included the entire story of his birth because of the prophetic nature of his father’s blessing when his voice was finally restored to him.)

**On the eighth day, they came to do the child’s b’rit-milah. They were about to name him Z’kharyah, after his father, when his mother spoke up and said, “No, he is to be called Yochanan.” They said to her, “None of your relatives has that name,” and they made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called. He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s surprise he wrote, “His name is Yochanan.” At that moment, his power of speech returned, and his first words were a b’rakhah (blessing) to God. All their neighbors were awestruck; and throughout the hill country of Y’hudah, people talked about all these things. Everyone who heard of them said to himself, “What is this child going to be?” For clearly the hand of ADONAI was with him. His father Z’kharyah was filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and spoke this prophecy: “Praised be ADONAI, the God of Isra’el, because he has visited and made a ransom to liberate his people by raising up for us a mighty Deliverer who is a descendant of his servant David. It is just as he has spoken through the mouth of the prophets from the very beginning that we should be delivered from our enemies and from the power of all who hate us. “This has happened so that he might show the mercy promised to our fathers—that he would remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore before Avraham avinu to grant us that we, freed from our enemies, would serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. You, child, will be called a prophet of Ha’Elyon;**

you will go before the Lord to prepare his way by spreading the knowledge among his people that deliverance comes by having sins forgiven through our God's most tender mercy, which causes the Sunrise to visit us from Heaven, to shine on those in darkness, living in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the paths of peace." The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he lived in the wilderness until the time came for him to appear in public to Isra'el. (Luke 1:59-80)

There is great significance in the naming of a Jewish son. As we see in the Luke passage quoted at the beginning of this chapter, when Yeshua's parents had his B'rit Milah on the eighth day of His life on earth, He was named at that ceremony. It is possible that He was officially named "Yehoshua ben Yosef" (Joshua, son of Joseph) because the name "Yeshua" is an Aramaic form, or shortened form, of Yehoshua, whose name means "YHVH is a saving cry."<sup>9</sup> Aramaic was the common language of the people during the Second Temple period (the historical period from the post exile rebuilt Temple 530 BCE<sup>10</sup> to 70 CE). The Pashitta<sup>11</sup> (preserved Aramaic texts by the Eastern church ) uses Yeshua as the Name for the Messiah. Among the Jews of the Second Temple period, the Biblical Aramaic/Hebrew name ישוע Yeshua was common: the Hebrew TaNaKH mentions several individuals with this name. This name is a feature of Biblical books written in the post-Exilic period (Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles) and was found in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

In chapter 13 we will explore how the Name Yeshua is found in the Old Covenant Scriptures as the word "Salvation." The word for salvation יהושע yeshua is the feminine form of ישע yasha, a primary root: *to be open, wide, or free, to be safe, to free, defend, deliver, help, preserve, rescue, bring salvation, get victory.* Yeshua, as a Name, means יהוה [YHVH – the

personal Name of Elohim (God)] is our salvation, deliverance, aid, victory, prosperity, health, and help. His Name has an amazing reputation and when you get to know Him personally, you will find that He is true to His Name.

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<sup>1</sup> "Torah 101 – The Name of God" from Mechon Mamre (Hebrew for "Mamre Institute"), Jerusalem, Israel, mechon-mamre.org, <http://www.mechon-mamre.org/jewfaq/name.htm>. (I did a study, one time, on the usage of the word "name" in the Scriptures. I hand-wrote 30 pages of Scriptures that specifically spoke of the use of YHVH's and Yeshua's Names! It became such a revelation of the importance of His Name. The Jewish people will use "HaShem" instead of any form of pronunciation of YHVH. It literally means "The Name." Although, as I stated before, I believe the "personal" Name of God has been "lost" in translated Scriptures, I understand and honor the use of HaShem. The above referenced study goes into much detail.)

<sup>2</sup> Asher Intrater, Revive-Israel.org, "Anointing of the Prophets" Session 2, Oct.12, 2012 (available on iTunes).

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 3:15

<sup>4</sup> If you are a "Christian" and have never explored church history, it is time you took a walk down history lane and become aware of the realities of your heritage. I took a four-credit church history course in seminary, but I was given a Gentile Christian view of it. I never learned some of the real history, sad to say, but I do remember being very annoyed and upset by what I did learn. I remember thinking "we" had done a pretty bad job over the centuries. Brad Scott gives a very good summary in his message "The History of the Church: on the ROCK or on the rocks?" on his, *WildBranch Ministry* website (wildbranch.org). You can find it by searching for "History of the Church" on his site or by going to this link: [http://www.wildbranch.org/marketplace/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=67](http://www.wildbranch.org/marketplace/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=67) (We will also discuss some church history in chapters 9 and 10.)

<sup>5</sup> The Bible is considered to be a verifiable historical book. The fact of Yeshua's existence is not in question nor will we be trying to "prove" the accuracy of the Biblical text in regards to His birth, death, and resurrection.

There are plenty of wonderful resources to explore these issues from all sides. The purpose of this book does not cover that. I come from a belief and establishment that the B'rit Hadasha (New Covenant) Scriptures are factual, historical, inspired writings in equal standing to the writings of the Old Covenant.

<sup>6</sup> It is my firm belief that Yeshua was not born on Christmas day, December 25<sup>th</sup> of any year. First of all, there was no Gregorian Calendar during the time Yeshua lived on the earth. Secondly, winter was not the time of year when “Shepherds were abiding in their fields and watching their flocks.” Thirdly, everything Yeshua fulfilled, He did on a “Feast of YHVH,” not a Gregorian calendar date or pagan holiday. We are to celebrate His life, death, and resurrection during the “Feasts of YHVH” already prescribed for us in the Scriptures. Is it “wrong” to celebrate the birth of Yeshua? You must search the Scriptures, ask the Father, and make a decision based on spirit and truth. It is never wrong to worship YHVH, the Son, or the Ruach. We must be aware and willing to obey His voice.

<sup>7</sup> Luke 1:26-38

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>9</sup> Various sources were used to summarize this history of Yeshua’s Name. The Wikipedia page on Yeshua documents these facts as well as David Stern’s *Jewish New Testament Commentary*, Jewish New Testament Publications, Clarksville, Maryland, 1992, pp. 4–5.

<sup>10</sup> Judaism uses CE (Common Era) instead of AD, and BCE (Before the Common Era) is used instead of BC.

<sup>11</sup> The *Pashitta*, which was written and preserved as an Aramaic/Syriac text since at least the fifth century is thought by some to be the original text of the New Testament Gospels. The controversy over whether the New Testament writers wrote in Aramaic or Greek continues on. Whether the Pashitta is from the original apostles or not, the fact remains that the Aramaic script uses Yeshua as the Name and did not use the Greek Ἰησοῦς *Iēsoûs*. For more information on the Pashitta see: [Aramaic English New Testament \(AENT\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peshitta), Netzari Press LLC Mount Vernon, WA or: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peshitta> or [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaic\\_New\\_Testament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaic_New_Testament)

## 6

## Something Got Lost in the Transliteration

**So I turned myself and my thoughts to know,  
search out and seek wisdom and the reasons  
behind things, also to know how foolish it  
is to be wicked and how stupid to act like a  
fool. ... This is the only thing I have found,  
that God made human beings upright,  
but they have devised many schemes.  
(Ecclesiastes 7:25,29)**

My Aunt Bette is 90 years old. About two years ago we were visiting with her in her home in Pennsylvania. Aunt Bette has gone to church all of her life and would consider herself a “Christian.” As we were sharing at the lunch table, I mentioned that Jesus’ true name was Yeshua. She was shocked! She had never heard that before and as I shared about His Hebrew/Jewish roots she began to cry and ask if she was even “saved” because she never knew that! It caused her to question if there were other things she had been taught over those many years in church that may have been wrong. We assured her that knowing the original name of her Savior was not a prerequisite for salvation.<sup>1</sup>

I am aware of all the groups who are trying to come up with a perfect pronunciation and spelling of both the names of YHVH and Yeshua. I am not going to get into pronunciations or spellings. I have no intention of adding to an already out of control controversy. I am more concerned with history, meanings, and reputation. An exact pronunciation is not the