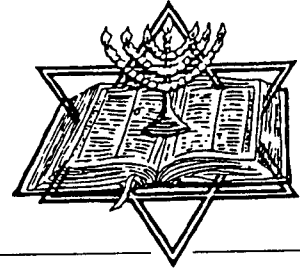


MORIEL

NEWS and PRAYER LETTER

מוריאל
MORIEL - GOD IS MY TEACHER



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No. 10

Threat of Persecution of Israeli Believers

A Booklet distributed by Morris Cerullo, with Ari Sorko Ram—without reference to local Israeli leaders—has provoked demand for a new law that would jail Israeli believers for up to one year for using, printing, or importing gospel tracts.

Following the mass distribution of a booklet aimed at evangelising Jews which some Israeli pastors described as “deplorable”, the Israel Knesset—with backing from both secular and religious political parties—has had the first reading of a new law outlawing messianic literature that seeks to evangelise Jews.

Criminal legal penalties to be applied

In what is supposed to be the Middle East’s only democracy (one which has always protected the rights of Christian Arabs to evangelise), criminal legal penalties will now be applied to Messianic believers for witnessing to their faith.

Israeli *National Evangelistic Committee* Chairman Evan Thomas, Israeli Evangelist Jacob Damkani, and the *United Christian Council in Israel* all expressed a sense of shock at the implications of the law if it passes.

Over one million copies of the booklet entitled *Shalom* have been distributed in Israel by Morris Cerullo’s organisation, resulting in book burnings at protest demonstrations outside of Israel’s Parliament, attacks in the press, and harassment of local believers.

The *Lausanne Consultation On Jewish Evangelism* reports the book was massively circulated without consultation with the local leaders and congregations, who are now paying the price for it.

In a published report, Lisa Loden of Netanya stated. “I find it unfortunate that such a big amount of money was wasted in this way. So many books were just burned, and add to that the negative implications for the local Messianic Community. It provides the anti-mission organisation with an opportunity to label us as cultic, invasive, and unwanted. Any evangelistic activities should be done in coordination with the local body and none of us knew anything about this until after it happened and the harm was done”.

Israeli pastor Joseph Shulam also believes that evangelism should be done in cooperation with the local body and said that “these methods seem to do more harm than good to the Kingdom of God. It sure does get the attention of the opposition, and gives publicity to those who raise mega-bucks to push such a project through”.

Israeli police have already raided a baptism class for newly saved Israeli Jewish believers in Kiryat Gat and discrimination is taking place against Jewish believers in the army, including being excluded from service in elite units, and the law has only had its first reading.

A letter distributed by the Israeli government through the Israeli Embassy in London admits that the law was provoked by Cerullo’s booklet.

Yet, while Israeli leaders denounced the booklet (some even deploring its contents), Shira Sorko Ram (who lives in Israel), of the Texas-based *Maaz Organisation*, spoke positively of the booklet and its results, admitting on internet that she and Ari Sorko Ram went to Cerullo, asking to participate in the project, once they learned of it.

They took this initiative even after Morris Cerullo appeared on national UK television with his:

**SEND TEN BRITISH POUNDS
AND SEE TWO JEWS SAVED
AND AS AN ADDED BONUS TWO
MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY
WILL BE SAVED,**

seen by millions across Britain, with horrific consequence for the cause of Jewish evangelism.

The Sorko Rams were also pivotal in importing John Arnott and the “Toronto Laughing Experience” into Israel during Itzhak Rabin’s funeral.

The ramifications of this law will be potentially lethal for the cause of seeing Jews saved in Israel. Although an anti-missionary law already exists in Israel, most of the past persecution, such as mob violence and church burnings, were carried out by ultra-Orthodox religious extremists.

The prospect of seeing our Israeli brethren imprisoned for evangelistic activities by their own government, due to the irresponsible activities of certain individuals and organisations, now becomes a real possibility. This situation requires much urgent prayer.

If the implementation of this law can be prevented, it will be prevented by actions in support of the local believers by their Christian Brethren abroad.

Moriel and Jacob Prasch desperately ask our supporters to pray that this law will not come into effect.

We ask for prayer on behalf of the local congregations and their leaders.

And we ask for prayer that the destructive actions of men like Morris Cerullo and his sponsors and collaborators in Israel will be put to an end.

We urge our supporters to write to the Israeli Ambassador at the Israeli Embassy in your home country, identifying yourself as a pro-Zionist Christian supporter of Israel.

Embassies are located in Cape Town (South Africa), Washington (USA), Ottawa (Canada), Dublin (Ireland), Auckland (New Zealand), Canberra (Australia), and London (UK).

The address in Australia is:

The Israeli Ambassador
Embassy of Israel
6 Turrana Street
Yarralumla ACT 2600

The Israeli believers need your prayers and your help. Please do not delay in writing these letters and asking your friends to pray.

Good News

While Evangelical Christianity mostly continues to decline in Protestant Europe, bona fide New Birth new moves of God continue rampant among three sectors of Western European society.

Gypsies and Travelling People

So many Gypsies and Travelling People are coming to faith in Jesus that by the end of the year 2000, if present growth rates continue, some estimate that twenty-five per cent of all European Gypsy and Travelling People will be saved.

Most Gypsy Churches are moderate Pentecostals who reject such things as *Toronto* as something they call "duckering"—a Gypsy term for using the occult to get money out of people.

Their Movement spreads from Eastern Europe, Iberia and France, into Britain and Ireland. Many are Ex-Roman Catholics.

While tending to be doctrinally very sound, evangelistic, and having very strong leaders, big growth always creates big problems, particularly with the radical changes that take place in their culture.

Yet the Gypsies are the Christians of the future. Jacob Prash and Moriel have been honoured to accept the invitations we have received to address Gypsy events, preach in their churches and help train their pastors. May God bless and use them!

Roman Catholics

Fast growth also continues in Southern Europe, with Roman Catholics being saved and leaving the Roman Catholic Church. This is most acute in Italy where Assemblies of God leader **Augustus Topi** outlawed any involvement with Benny Hinn.

The mighty move of God in Latin America is also showing signs of spreading into Catholic Spain.

It is ironic that while Evangelicals in Protestant Europe go down the ecumenical road to union with Rome, in the places where God is truly working among Catholics, they are rejecting it as a heretical abomination.

Please pray against the Ecumenical Movement and for the continued salvation of Roman Catholics.

Jews

Finally, a smaller but increasingly steady flow of Jews coming to accept Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah continues in Europe. This is despite a video—showing **Jan Willem VanderHoven** of the *International Christian Embassy*, teaching at Morris Cerullo's Mission London that the church is only called to "comfort the Jews" and not preach the gospel to them—being distributed around Europe.

For the first time there appears to be a small but obvious new openness among some in the orthodox and ultra-orthodox to at least engage in evangelistic dialogue concerning the messiahship of Jesus. This includes ongoing evangelistic dialogue with certain rabbis. While we cannot publish the details, Moriel asks for prayer for the orthodox and orthodox rabbis with which it and other Jewish Evangelistic Agencies are having contact.

We also ask those burdened for the salvation of Israel and the Jews to pray against the *International Christian Embassy*. In an interview with a Jewish Religious Newspaper (of which we have a copy) Mrs Jan Willem Van der Hoven said she did not wish Jews to repent and become Christians, but on the contrary, Christians should become more Jewish.

While we agree Christians need to re-discover the Jewish root of their faith and Hebrew Christians should retain their identity as Messianic Jews, scripture says Jews need to repent and accept their Messiah.

Australia

Retiring Australian AOG National Superintendent, Andrew Evans—the leading promotor of Rodney Howard-Browne in Australia—has virtually admitted his "Laughing Revival" is over.

This, however, has not stopped the Australian Executive from importing Benny Hinn into Australia, even after the Italian AOG outlawed him for his false doctrine and his ecumenism.

What is Pensacola?

Pensacola is the name by which the Toronto Laughing Experience is known in the USA. The "Toronto Experience" never really took off in America, but now another version of the same thing is happening in the Western Florida Panhandle.

There are claims of huge numbers being saved. But, like Toronto, most of the people coming to Pensacola already profess to be Born Again Christians, now chasing another experience.

There is much talk of "repentance" and "preaching the Gospel", but this is followed by the same manner of carnal extremism and unscriptural doctrines found in Toronto.

The Pensacola leadership (which unfortunately includes a few Messianic Jews from the extreme axis of the Messianic Movement—just as the Rodney Howard-Browne/Kenneth Copeland clowning-in-tongues fiasco included **Mike Evans**) have been in league with **John Arnott** (whose views are heretical) and the Toronto Experience crowd.

Identical to Toronto, the open lunacy being attributed to the Holy Spirit does more to discredit the Gospel than to see souls saved. Among the crazy displays at Pensacola is the burning of incense in a model of the Temple to make the Shekinah fall.

Ex-Catholics for Christ

With the participation of Dave Hunt, Thom McMahon, John MacArthur, Bart Brewer, Richard Bennet and Jacob Prash, the First Strategy Conference of "Ex-Catholics For Christ" on *Evangelising Catholics in the face of Ecumenism* is to be held in Los Angeles in November of 1997. We are praying this will be a Great Beginning. The only hope is for ex-Catholics to stand together in Christ.

He would have seen that God walked the earth in Genesis, and now God walked the earth again in the new Creation in John.

He would have seen that the Spirit moved on the water and brought forth the Creation in Genesis, and now the Spirit moved on the water and brought forth the new Creation in John.

He would have seen that God came and separated light from dark in the Creation in Genesis, and now He separated the light from dark in the new Creation in John.

He would have seen that there was the small light and the great light in the Creation in Genesis, and now there was the small light—John the Baptist—and the great light—Jesus—in the new Creation in John.

The fig tree, midrashically, in Jewish metaphor, represents the Tree of Life that we see in the garden in Genesis, in Ezekiel 47, and in the Book of Revelation. So when Jesus told Nathaniel, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree” (John 1:48), He was not simply saying to Nathaniel that He saw him under a literal fig tree (although He did), He was telling him that He had seen him from the garden, from the Creation, from the foundation of the world.

By reading the Bible as literature and history, as the Humanists did, you only see part of it. The Humanists were reacting to medieval Scholasticism and the Gnosticism that much of Roman Catholicism is based upon. Nonetheless, their approach prevents people from seeing much of the depth of Scripture.

Understanding Revelation

Using the grammatical-historical method, the Reformers were able to discover truths such as Justification by Faith and the Authority of Scripture. But that is all they could see; they could not go beyond it.

Martin Luther considered Romans to be the main book of the Bible. He totally rejected the Book of Revelation. Yet the Book of Revelation is the book for the Last Days. Luther admitted that you cannot understand it with a Protestant mind.

What is wrong? Is the Book of Revelation wrong? or is the Protestant mind wrong?

The Protestant mind is wrong. God put Revelation in the Bible. It means *apokalypsis* (Gk.), an unveiling, and it will be unveiled.

Be very careful. Daniel (Daniel 12:4) and John (Revelation 10:4) were told to “seal these things up” until the time of the end. In the fullness of God’s time, the interpretation of these books will be manifested to the faithful.

When you see people writing out diagrams and charts, saying that they have got the whole eschatological program and all of Revelation figured out, be very cautious. It is sealed up until the appropriate time.

God will unveil it in His way and in His time. And that will be done step by step. The *first* step is going back to reading the Bible as a Jewish book, instead of as a Greek one.

Biblical literary genre

The Epistles are commentary on other Scripture; they tell you what other Scripture means on a very practical level.

It is fine to read the Epistles as literature and history, using grammatical-historical methods. But there are different kinds of literature in the Bible, different literary *genre* that God put in there for different reasons. *Psalms*—Hebrew poetry; *Revelation*—apocalyptic literature; the *Gospels*—narrative; *Proverbs*—wisdom literature.

You don’t read a letter in the same way as you read poetry. You don’t read *The Narnia Chronicles* (C.S. Lewis) in the same way as you would read a letter from Aunt Harriet back in England.

The apostles did not interpret the books of the Bible by the grammatical-historical method

If you read the Epistles, you will see that the apostles did not interpret the other books of the Bible by the grammatical-historical method.

The book of Hebrews is a commentary on the symbolism of the Levitical priesthood and the Temple.

Look at Galatians 4:24 onwards, the story of the two women—it is a midrash on the purpose of the Law. Look at the epistle of Jude. It is midrashic literature.

genre = French, from the Latin *genus*, meaning kind, sort, class or type; refers to a classification system, such as is used in art or literature.

The apostles did not handle the Scriptures according to Protestant grammatical-historical methods.

Biblical prophecy is *pattern*

There are different kinds of prophecy in the Bible. The two kinds that are important in understanding the Last Days are Messianic prophecies and, connected to those, eschatological prophecies.

When we come to consider biblical prophecy, this is very important. Because the Western mind, with its basis in Sixteenth Century Humanism, says that prophecy consists of a **prediction** and a **fulfillment**. To the ancient Jewish mind, it was not a question of something being predicted, then being fulfilled. That is a wrong view of biblical prophecy.

Rather, to the ancient Jewish mind, prophecy was a **pattern** which is recapitulated; a prophecy having multiple fulfillments. And each fulfillment, each cycle, teaches something about the ultimate fulfillment.

For example: In a famine, Abraham went into Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20). God judged Pharaoh. Abraham and his descendants came out of Egypt, taking the wealth of Egypt with them, and went into the Promised Land.

Abraham’s descendants replayed the same experience. In a famine they went into Egypt (Genesis 42). God judged Pharaoh again, a wicked king. Abraham’s descendants came out of Egypt, taking the wealth of Egypt with them (Exodus 12:36), and they went into the Promised Land.

What happened to Abraham happened to his descendants. Then the same thing happened with Jesus.

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up”, he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” (Matthew 2:16)

Messianic = Pertaining to the Messiah.

eschatological = Pertaining to the Last Days, the time of the end.

recapitulate = to repeat in outline, to restate, to summarize.

Matthew says that when Jesus came out of Egypt, after the wicked King Herod died, that fulfilled the prophecy of Hosea. "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son." (Hosea 11:1-2).

Very plainly, Hosea chapter 11 is talking about the Exodus, about what happened with Moses. In its grammatical-historical context, it is talking about the Exodus, not about the Messiah.

But Matthew appears to take the passage out of all reasonable context and twist it into talking about Jesus. We have to ask, is Matthew wrong? or is there something wrong with our Protestant way of interpreting the Bible?

There is nothing wrong with Matthew, and there is nothing wrong with the New Testament. But there is something wrong with our Protestant mentality.

Not prediction, but pattern

The Jewish idea of prophecy is not *prediction*, but *pattern*.

Abraham came out of Egypt, when Pharaoh was judged; his descendant's came out of Egypt when the wicked king was judged; then another wicked king was judged and the Messiah came out of Egypt. There are multiple fulfillments of prophecy.

Midrashically, "Israel" alludes to *Yeshua* (Jesus) the Messiah. When you see verses like: *Israel my glory* and *Israel my first born*, they are midrashic allusions to the Messiah.

Then, in 1 Corinthians 10, something else happens: *We come out of Egypt*, which Paul tells us is a symbol of the world.

Pharaoh, who was deified by the Egyptians and worshipped as God, is a symbol of the devil, the god of this world.

Just as Moses made a covenant with blood and sprinkled it on the people, so did Jesus. Moses fasted forty days, and so did Jesus. Jesus is the prophet like Moses, predicted in Deuteronomy 18:18.

Just as Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the water, into the Promised Land, so Jesus leads us out of the world, through baptism, into heaven. It is a pattern.

Then the horse and its rider are thrown into the sea (Exodus 15:1).

We sing the song of Moses—the *horse and rider thrown into the sea*—in Revelation 15:3. Why?

Because it is a pattern. The ultimate meaning of "coming out of Egypt" is the resurrection and rapture of the Church.

The judgements that happen in Exodus are replayed in Revelation. And just as Pharaoh's magicians were able to counterfeit the miracles of Moses and Aaron, so the AntiChrist and False Prophet will counterfeit the miracles of Jesus and His witnesses.

They brought Joseph's bones with them when they came out of Egypt (Exodus 13:19). Why? Because the dead in Christ will rise first. It is a pattern.

The ancient Jewish mind that produced the New Testament looks at prophecy, not as *prediction*, but as *pattern*. To understand what is going to happen in the future, you look at what did happen in the past.

There are multiple fulfillments, and each successive fulfillment teaches something about the ultimate one.

Solving the equation

You will never understand the Book of Revelation with the limited approach to biblical interpretation that is taught in Protestant seminaries.

Midrash is like a quadratic equation or a very complex second order differential equation, a thirteen or fourteen step equation. Some people take the first step of grammatical-historical exegesis and think the equation is solved. There is nothing wrong with what they do, but there is plenty wrong with what they don't do. The equation is not solved.

There is nothing wrong with grammatical-historical exegesis. It is a necessary first step, it is a necessary preliminary, and it is okay for reading the Epistles. But that is all.

It takes the wisdom of the ancients to really understand these things—*Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast...* (Revelation 13:18)—not the wisdom of the 16th century, but the wisdom of the first century.

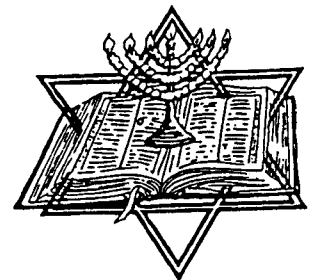
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Moriel is a teaching ministry to the Body of Christ, specialising in the application of the ancient Hebrew method of exposition of the Holy Scriptures called *Midrash*.

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