



Light of Messiah Ministries

.....proclaiming Jesus, the Jewish Messiah!

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SHALOM

Shalom is a little Hebrew word with enormous significance. It is Hebrew for hello, goodbye, and peace.

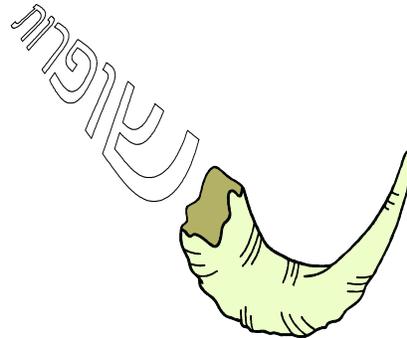
It is a word that is full of hope when greeting someone, wishing them well as they leave, and expressing to them your desire for their entire life. **Shalom implies wholeness, wellness, and contentedness.** It is one word which says to a person as you greet them or are saying goodbye, "*As we meet each other or as we depart, may your life be filled with hope, happiness, health, goodness, peace, prosperity, and all things good that can possibly be communicated.*"

Shalom. It is a rich, deep, and powerfully meaningful word.

Shalom is used often by both Jewish, and non Jewish people, many of whom do not fully understand the depth of significance within the word. The Arabic equivalent of shalom is salaam and means the same thing. As conflicts continue to rage around the world (though there is a brief respite from the bombings in Israel and Lebanon as of the writing of this letter) I wanted to give some thoughts on shalom.

Shalom is elusive

Shalom is not easy to come by. Though people strive for it, very few people find it. Most people's lives are spent in the pursuit of peace, happiness, wholeness, contentedness and satisfaction. Whether the pursuit takes one in the direction of business, the arts, or family, everyone's desire is to find that which satisfies and gives them shalom. To a certain extent, finding satisfaction in life is what we are all striving for. Jewish people we meet with who do not



Shalom...this Jewish New Year!

yet know Jesus strive for it. Those of us who know the Lord are also in pursuit of it. **Having true, deep, and lasting shalom is what we are all looking for in one way or another.**

The reason why we are all searching for shalom is because we live in a world that is not peaceful. Our surroundings are oftentimes void of peace. In fact they are void of it much of the time. We are daily confronted by a world that is in disarray, a world that is broken, a world that is lost. We are barraged at home, at work, in the newspaper, and from the television. We are bombarded by events both audible and visual which remind us how elusive shalom is. **A quick read of the newspaper, an hour of the evening news, is enough to shatter a person's hope.** In our homes we struggle with how to raise our children. Our families are distracted by Ipods, computers, and the internet, not to mention cell phones which keep us connected...and at the same time tear us apart. **So, we all look for ways to bring shalom back into our world, back into our lives.**

While writing this letter I received several phone calls from individuals needing help. A pastor called me hoping

that I could help some church members who have a Jewish friend dying of leukemia. Another Christian called to tell me about her Jewish associate dying of pancreatic cancer to whom she wants to deliver a Shalom Basket. A Jewish Christian friend called to ask me to meet with her Jewish friend struggling through an issue with her children. **All of these and many more Jewish people are in need of help, but shalom is elusive.**

Shalom is fleeting

When found, shalom quickly disappears. Because we live in a world that is always changing, always throwing new things in our direction, that which brings us shalom one moment may be gone the next, or replaced by something else that robs us of the shalom we have found.

The Middle East conflict is a prime example of how fleeting shalom is. Diplomatic efforts have been tried and succeed for a period of time. Arms are laid down. Borders are rearranged. People are displaced. The suicide bombings stop. **But the shalom that is gained will eventually be replaced by more bombs, more hatred, and more destruction.**

A Jewish lady with an externally enviable life once told me that she was afraid to accept Jesus because she thought that God would send difficult things her way in order to test her faith. Her shalom might disappear. She had a wonderful life. Her husband was very successful. She had a very lucrative business of her own. Yet she was empty inside. She was looking for direction. She was looking for shalom.

She admitted that money, health, and family gave her satisfaction for a brief moment, but inside she was dead, empty, and searching for meaning.

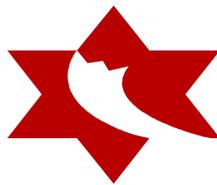
I explained to this young Jewish lady that though her current circumstances were externally peaceful, at some point something would happen to bring difficulty into her life. The loss of a job, health issues, or marital struggles, might bring her peaceful house of cards down. **The shalom that she had at the time was merely momentary peace that could be gone the next moment.** Shalom is fleeting.

True shalom is other worldly

True shalom can only come from God. Our personal conflicts, our conflicts at home, and the conflict in the Middle East can only be resolved by intervention from a holy God who wants to change the way we view life and our circumstances. **Jesus said He came to bring us shalom, but not like the world defines shalom.** True shalom comes from understanding God's shalom. It is a heart motivated and spiritual shalom that comes from recognizing our ultimate inability to control our circumstances and accept the will, the sovereignty, of the Creator of the universe.

The Scriptures are clear. In this world we will have trouble. Pain is inevitable. But Jesus said that He has overcome the world. The shalom that Jesus came to bring vastly surpasses any shalom that we may try to gain here on earth through earthly means. **Those of us who know Messiah know that true shalom can only be found in a relationship with God.** As someone who is Jewish, who searched the Jewish Scriptures, I found that God's provision for that relationship is found in the person Jesus who came to be Messiah and bring peace to those who truly desire it.

It is an unfortunate reality that most Jewish people in Israel are either atheists or agnostic. And, a vast majority of Israelis do not see any connection between the conflict in the Middle



East and God's history, the Bible, or His truth. **Peace is not the absence of war, but the presence of God. True and lasting shalom will never come to Israel or Jerusalem until the Prince of Peace, the Messiah Jesus, returns to establish His Kingdom.** True shalom will not ultimately come from a change in our circumstances, but will come from seeing our circumstances as an opportunity to turn to a loving and holy God who wants to walk with us through whatever we are going through.

Jesus came to bring shalom. He promised comfort for the afflicted, hope for the hopeless, joy for the weary, and peace for those in distress. **Our circumstances may not change, but our focus can.** And when we put or focus on the One who came to bring us shalom...who promised His shalom...shalom will come.

An Important Note

We do not usually encourage giving our monthly newsletter to Jewish people who have yet to accept Jesus as Messiah. It is designed to give monthly information to people who know Jesus and support our ministry. **However, this letter is being written to give to Jewish people.** During the Jewish High Holidays my people are praying for forgiveness and shalom, peace. **If you have a Jewish friend, please pass this letter on to them or give it to someone who does have a Jewish friend.**

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Prayer Requests

You will be receiving this letter during the Jewish High Holidays. It is a time of reflection for many, if not most, Jewish people. It is also a time of year when we are very busy meeting with Jewish people who have questions that are spiritual in nature. **Please pray for us and for all of the Jewish people we are meeting with.**

We have also been receiving more calls than usual regarding Jewish people who are struggling with health issues, many battling cancer. **Please pray God will use these difficult circumstances to turn hearts back to Himself.**

We are busy arranging our speaking schedule for next year. As we schedule services and speaking engagements please pray that the Lord will open doors for us. **If you would like us to come to your church, Bible study, or Sunday school class to teach on the Jewish roots of our faith, please call our office and let us know.**

Thank You!

My people are celebrating the holiest of holidays this month. Rosh Hashanah begins a period of time called the "Days of Awe" when Jewish people are searching their hearts and asking God for forgiveness. On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, Jewish people believe that God writes their name in either the "Book of Life" or the "Book of Death". **It is our prayer that more Jewish people will come to know the true source of shalom, and the only one who can truly write our names in the Book of Life...the Messiah Jesus.**

Thank you for sending us out with the message of shalom in Jesus. Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for supporting us financially. Happy Jewish New Year. May the Lord richly bless you!

In His shalom,

Murray Tilles...for the staff
 Light of Messiah Ministries