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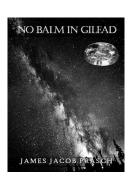
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#### No Balm in Gilead

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the shattering of the daughter of my people is my heart broken; I mourn, and astonishment has taken hold on me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?" (Jer: 8:20-22)



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## MEA9S DESK

I know that we have all had to deal with leaven as Christians and that we know it is a picture of sin. I've been going through something lately that has really driven home this reality. I have been going through a terrible battle in prayer and anguish over my brother. My brother-in-law has been with my sister since I was 9 years old. They have been together 40 years. I love him so dearly. He is fighting for his life with something called Fournier's Gangrene.

It is a very painful and dangerous infection. He was in septic shock, and the infection would have killed him quickly without radical intervention. Nobody in their right mind wants to see their own flesh cut away. But if you don't deal with gangrene, it's going to kill you. The necrotic flesh is dead, and you must cut it out if it can't be healed. It's a very painful process.

My heart breaks for my brother and my sister. When this happens with our spiritual brethren and there is sin in the camp it is also a painful and dangerous process. The LORD is our healer and so I appeal to Him in times when sin must be dealt with, whether in me or in someone else. We never want to have to deal with gangrene and the best way to avoid it, is to keep clean by ongoing repentance. Once there is uncleanness, once there is sin that is allowed to persist, it inevitably will become necrotic and endanger the rest of the body. We all owe each other a service because we are one body.

If the person next to you is practicing sin, and will not repent, it is not loving to the body to allow the infection to fester

and spread. You are going to lose more flesh and it's going to hurt even more. It is not something we as believers can take lightly. We want healing, and preservation of the whole body. We can offer the remedy. We have a Great Physician! But, where there is unrepentant sin or worse, if those confronting the sin in love become targets for attack, then we really have a problem.

We have something like necrosis because we have one trying to destroy those closest to them, who are seeking to help preserve their life. They start infecting others around them. People who instantly turn cold and hack limbs off are acting in an ungodly way. Those who don't try to bring correction and healing to the person are weak and becoming sick themselves. There must be sin that is called out.

To simply separate without Biblical grounds is unscriptural and therefore disobedience. Anyone who claims there is disease in a member where there isn't and work in secret to try to hack away living flesh are very dangerous. We will all reap what we sow. Seek to preserve the living, labor to heal the sick, but cut away dead flesh for the sake of the body. The LORD may yet perform a miracle! Those cut off can be regrafted. But without holiness we will not see GOD.

(Romans 2:1-11, Matt 18:15-19, James 5:19-20, Galatians 6:1-10, Leviticus 6:2-7, Ezekiel 3:18, Hebrews 3:13, Mark 10:19, Proverbs 10)



66 So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober 77
 1 Thessalonians 5:6





#### Introduction

In 1 Corinthians there are only two men: Adam and Jesus. We are either in the character of the first Adam or the second. When we look at Esau we have to understand his relationship to this other Adam.

The American Indians, anthropologists tell us, have a tradition that the first man was a red man, a man with a red complexion. The Hebrew word for a human being or a man is "ben adam" – literally "a son of Adam". Adam's name comes from the Hebrew word for "earth" – "adamah". The earth is "adamah", "Adam" is derived from "adamah", and a human being is "a son of Adam" who is made from the earth. But the word for "earth" – "adamah", comes from the Hebrew word "adom", meaning "red". In Israel the soil basically has a reddish clay in it. Whatever in the Middle East is not sand is reddish because of the clay so to them that is what earth is. So there is red clay soil ("adom") that is the "adamah", and from that comes Adam and from that comes the human race. There is an area of southern Jordan called "Edom" meaning the same thing as "red" and named after Esau.

#### The Firstborn and the Secondborn

In the book of Genesis there is this repeated contrast of the firstborn and the second and the firstborn hating and persecuting the secondborn continually. It begins with Cain and Abel, then we see the same thing with Ishmael and Isaac, then we see it again with Jacob and Esau, and again with Joseph and his older brothers: the older persecuting the younger but God coming to favor the youngest. The reason this is seen in the book of Genesis is because it is a picture of the two natures. There is a Cain and an Abel in you, there is a Jacob and an Esau in me. It is not the one who is *born* who gets the birthright and the blessing, it is the *second-born*. Jesus said, "You must be born again". (Jn. 3:3) In order to have the birthright and the blessing, the first birth is never good enough; it is the second birth that is necessary.

If someone has only been born from their mother they are born of water, they are not born of Spirit. They have no blessing and no birthright from God. Their future is the grave and judgment. The only thing they have to look forward to, the only future they can be sure of is a crematorium, and that is only the beginning of the fire. On the other hand, those who are born the second time have a different future – they have a birthright; they have a blessing.

When someone is born of the first Adam they are born with Adam's fallen nature. By nature we reject God's love, by nature we rebel against His authority, by nature we cannot be what we know we should be. He made us in His image and likeness, (Gen. 1:26) but we cannot be even what we know we should be and the reason that we know it is because we are made in His likeness.

I recall that before I was a Christian what I wanted to do, among other things, was sleep with as many girls as possible. When I was a teenager, when I was at University, it was one of my top priorities. However, if somebody was sleeping with my sister I would want to break his head. If somebody was doing to *my* 

sister what I was doing to somebody else's sister, or God forbid what somebody was trying to do to *my* daughter – things I did to somebody's else's daughter I would want to shoot them. I was a hypocrite. I could not live up to my own standard. I would not want somebody defiling my own daughter or my sister. Unless they loved her and married her in the way of God, I would not want anyone touching my sister or my daughter, but did it stop me from going out and doing what I knew was wrong? I would not want my little brother to go out and take the drugs I was taking. I was just a hypocrite. I could not live up to my own standard. Neither can you.

The reason you cannot live up to your own standard is because it is not your standard, it is God's. If God says, "Be holy as I am holy", (Lev. 19:2) how can we meet His standard? We cannot because of the way we are born. We can never meet His standard. That is why there must be a second birth.

#### **Second Birth**

In a nutshell before we look at this story, second birth is simple. When someone is born of the first Adam they are in rebellion against God. They confirm his seed. In other words, if God created "Jacob and Pavia" or "Ethel and Peter" instead of Adam and Eve, we would have done the same thing they did. It is easy to pin it on them, but we would have done the same thing. So God Himself comes in the person of man in the form of Jesus and pays the price for our sins — the wrong things we did, He pays the price for with His own life. And if He raised Him from the dead to eternal life, He will raise us up. That is the second birth. We accept Jesus, turn from our sins, put our faith in Him, and accept what He did for us on the cross.

Christians use the cliché "personal Savior" without thinking what it means very often. What "personal Savior" really means is not only do we have to accept Him personally, but it means if I were the only person who ever sinned He would have had to come down and go to the cross just for me or just for you. We must accept Him personally because when He went to that cross He went to that cross for us as if we were the only person who ever sinned for all the wrong things they have done – and there is no one who has not done wrong things. That is the second birth. We ask God to forgive our sins and put our faith in Jesus. We ask Him for the power to turn from sin, die with Christ, and become a new creation.

This is why I do not sleep with anyone's daughter or anyone's sister anymore, that is why I no longer put cocaine up my nose anymore, because of the second birth. When I was born the first time, *that* was my life; my life was my *death*.

As with Cain and Abel, the firstborn always teaches about the old nature in Genesis. Remember what God told Cain when he was banished? "Its desire is for you, but you must master it". (Gen. 4:7) Sin's desire if for us. What is sin's desire? To put us in hell. Sin's desire is to put us in hell forever. Jesus said directly that this was the god of this world. It desires to put us in hell forever. "But you must master it"? There is no way we can master it until we have had the second birth.

But the firstborn will always hate the secondborn. Our old nature will always hate the new one. Ishmael will always hate Isaac and ultimately Esau will always hate Jacob.

#### **The Root of Bitterness**

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

#### Hebrews 12:15-17

This is a warning to Christians. It is not simply warning unsaved people, it is warning Christians – *carnal* Christians. The question is whether we are a carnal Christian. A carnal Christian is somebody who has been saved but lives their life in the character of the old creation. As it says in Proverbs, "*The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own ways*". (Prov. 14:14)

A carnal Christian is someone who despised their birthright, who forsakes the blessing. It is sort of like someone who swims from Liverpool to Dublin and they begin to drown, and half-way across God in His mercy drops them a life jacket allowing them to float and swim on to Dublin, but they take it off. That is a carnal Christian.

"See to it that none of you comes short of it" we are told in Hebrews. (Heb. 12:15) Do not be immoral. And it particularly warns of a "root of bitterness". Why? Because Esau had a root of bitterness toward Jacob for something that was largely his fault. A "root of bitterness" – a resentment toward somebody will devour us more than it devours them. Vengeance is the Lord's. (Dt. 32:35) There is nothing we are going to do to anybody that is going to compare to what is going to happen when they appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Jacob was there and Esau had a root of bitterness against him. One of the things that causes us to fall short is a root of bitterness. No matter what we have against somebody else, God has a lot more to hold against us. But then it goes on to say he was immoral, selling his birthright for a single meal.

There are people – even ministers – who have a wife who loves them, they have children, they have a ministry, and they go out and commit fornication one time or adultery one time and it destroys everything. They lose their family, they lose their marriage, they lose their name, they lose their ministry, they lose it all in just one shot. It is an example of the fleeting pleasures of sin. A carnal Christian will lose the blessing over one shot, one fling. Afterwards he (Esau) desired to inherit the blessing but was rejected. Unrepentant backsliders and unsaved people – those in the character of the first birth and of the firstborn Esau – a time will come when they will desperately want a relationship with Jesus. A time will come when they will *desperately* want it; they will seek for it but it will be too late.

For someone who has had this second birth but are still of the firstborn, the Bible tells us, "*Now* is the appointed time; *today* is the day of salvation". (2 Cor. 6:2) If one should die tonight they have lost it forever and forever is a long time. Just

imagine a hellish eternity that after a hundred billion years you will not have even begun to serve your sentence. There is no end to it. A time will come when people will desire it, they will crave it, they will do anything to get it, but they will not get it. In fact the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah said they will earnestly seek the Lord but will not find Him in the Last Days. The same as the Jews in the Captivity in Babylon began to realize that Jeremiah was right and Ezekiel was right then some of the survivors began to earnestly seek God but they found out it was too late. The Last Days will be like that. People can reject the Gospel of Jesus, they can reject God's forgiveness now, or even as believers they can despise their birthright and live carnally. A time will come when they will do anything to get what they can have right now but they will not get it.

If that is the way someone is living, if they are living in the old creation, either because they are a carnal Christian, a backslider who comes to church, or because they were never saved to begin with (they were never born again), a time will come when they will want it. A time will come when they want what these other people have, a time when a wife wants what their husband has, when a child wants what their parents have, when a husband wants what a wife has. They will want it but they will not get it. They can get it now. The firstborn will always despise the second.

Those who are of the first creation do not like Christians. As a matter of fact, the old creation in me does not like the new one. The old man in me does not like the new man. The Ishmael in me does not like the Isaac. The Esau in me does not like the Jacob. The Yehuda in me does not like the Joseph. That is one of the reasons the Bible says we will get a new name. (Rev. 2:17) When we are born we are given a name; when we are born again we get another name. This happened to Jacob – his name was changed to "Israel" after he met the Lord. In the book of Genesis when he behaved like a new creation the text calls him "Israel"; when he behaves like the old creation it goes back to calling him "Jacob". So too I have a new name. There is the one my parents gave me – "James" which comes from my father's grandfather, but then there's my name in the Book of Life. When we are born we get a name, when we are born again we get another name.

#### The Birthright

The old creation is Esau and Esau always hates the new creation. He has a different point of view. Only the new creation – only the one who is the secondborn can inherit the birthright. Only the one who is secondborn can inherit the blessing.

"But he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; to him belongs the right of the firstborn. If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown.

#### Deuteronomy 21:17-19

He loses the birthright. The birthright included a double portion, a double blessing and the headship of the clan. That was something in Esau's case which was despised. There is a double

blessing but the firstborn will not get it. Because all of us have despised our Father and all of us have gone astray from Him, the blessing comes to the secondborn. The natural man cannot get the blessing; the natural man or woman cannot inherit the birthright.

#### The Battle of the Brothers

I again point out there are definite, prophetic signs happening today in the Middle East that the following passage speaks of for which we have the teaching, "Jewish-Arab Reconciliation". The very things we see happening in the Middle East in the news are things the Bible predict will happen. And the struggle between these two brothers is being fulfilled in history today.

The LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb;

And two peoples will be separated from your body...

...Jew and Arab. The battle in the Middle East today is between two brothers.

And one people shall be stronger than the other;

And the older shall serve the younger."

When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau.

Notice "red". Remember the relation to "Adam" – "adamah" and "adom". It is the natural man, the sons of Adam.

Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel...

The Hebrew word for "heel" is "aqeb" from which we get the name "Ya'aqob" – "Jacob". It is really not "supplanter", that is the way they translate it. It comes from "heel". He grabbed his heel.

...so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them. When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field...

...he used to bring his father venison...

...but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents. Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

This is always a big mistake. We should love our children co-equally the way God does. But the other thing is that children inherit their fallen nature by birth, but that is reinforced by environment. When Jacob began to supplant his brother his mother put him up to it. She was a cunning, scheming, conniving woman and she put that into her kid.

So often I see things in my own children, particularly my son when he does something obviously wrong, and I know where he got it. It goes from generation to generation. We are born that way and that is why we must be born again. It is amazing. For people who abuse their children 99% of them were abused children themselves. Most alcoholics were children of alcoholics. Most compulsive gamblers where children of compulsive gamblers. They are born that way in the character of the firstborn, the natural man.

When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished...

(A better translation would be "weary".)

... and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom.

#### Genesis 25:23-30

First Esau comes and says, "I am famished; I am weary. Let me have some of that red stuff". Therefore his name was called "Edom" – "red". However, he was red when he came out of his mother's womb. "Red" from "adom" – "Adam" the natural man. The old creation, the old nature, will always look for the things of the world. The natural man will always gravitate to what is natural to him. "Red" seeks "red". He was born red, the earth is red, "Give me some red stew". This presence of "adom" in the Hebrew text in the way it used is showing he is just going after his old and own nature. We each have a natural nature. The firstborn will always be inclined to what it knows. It knows unrighteous anger, it knows bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, lust, and pride.

But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."

He does not con him out of his birthright; he says, "Sell it to me".

Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?"

He despises his birthright because he is driven to the red. The red man goes after the red stew because that is all he knows.

And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

#### Genesis 25:23-34

And of course after that he did a lot of other things he should not have done. The minute we despise our birthright we break our parents' heart.

One of the things I get the most mail about is Christian parents with unsaved or backslidden children. They try to bequeath their birthright to their kids but they fall away from Jesus. What a grief. Usually they come back. The Bible says, "Raise a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it". (Prov. 22:6) Usually they come back. The question is how much of an unnecessary mess of their lives did they make and how much unnecessary grief did they cause their parents and themselves before they do come back. This hits home with me because I have a sister who married an unsaved guy. It bothers me every day. God forbid my children should fall away. We can read what happens to Esau.

#### The Firstborn In Us

The literal Hebrew text is more like, "Let me gulp that stuff down". The natural man will want to gulp down the things he is naturally inclined to. Let us look at Esau the firstborn – the unsaved, the old creation in us. (Biblical psychology is not

secular.) The first thing we see about him is that he is someone who insists on instant gratification. The firstborn – the old creation, the natural man – insists on instant gratification. He wants it and he wants it yesterday. She wants it and she wants it now. It is like a kid in a theme park; they do not know what they want first, they just want it now. The old nature – the natural man's/the natural woman's instinct is for instant gratification.

When we find a carnal Christian, one of the first characteristics is one who looks for instant gratification. "We want a big church and we want it now". So they think by getting some gimmick or some fad or whatever program is popular at the time they are going to get a big church. Maybe they will until the fad is over and then they have no church. The little church which begins to build slowly on something solid may not have gotten quite as far, but what it has it has.

When we see Christians chasing fads and going along with any gimmick, that is the mark of a carnal Christian, someone living in the old creation. When we see a leader following every fad, every trend, that is the firstborn not the second. Show me a move of God that was sporadic. They might have had a "take off" point, but there was quite a foundation. The disciples of Jesus had been the disciples of John the Baptist for some years before Jesus came. God was laying a foundation. It took a long time. King David spent many years in the wilderness before his empire expanded. But the old creation wants instant gratification.

And so they behave carnally. "Let me gulp it down". "It looks good; we will have it". Maybe it is not so good. But when we see people like this who are a carnal Christian. Unsaved people cannot help it. For people who are not born again, "red" seeks "red". That is what they are by nature. They do not know any better, they have no reference point except to live as the firstborn. But believers should not live as the firstborn, they should live as the second. When we begin demanding instant gratification we begin to despise our birthright and forsake the blessing.

I cannot help but notice that the most successful churches I see – the Calvary Chapel movement in America, David Wilkerson's church in New York, the Assemblies of God in Italy – anything unbiblical they banish. They ban Benny Hinn, they ban Morris Cerullo, they ban Toronto – they do not have this garbage. They are not looking for instant gratification, they look for basic things: evangelism, discipleship, prayer. Then their churches get big but they stay big. It is not like when the fad is over and the people go somewhere else to have their ears tickled.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure illtreatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26

#### **The Deferred Blessing**

The new creation will always look to the future blessing. Moses did not look for gratification in this life. It says he looked forward to the Messiah; he looked to Jesus.

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going

out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

#### Hebrews 11:8-10

Abraham was promised the land but he did not try to claim it in his lifetime. The firstborn, the old creation, looks for instant gratification.

What is Kingdom Now Theology? Carnal Christianity. The Restoration Movement, Triumphalism, Dominionism – they are all carnal Christianity. "The meek shall inherit the earth" (Mt. 5:3) when Jesus comes back. No doubt it will be inherited... when He comes back. We see people wanting to possess it now in the full sense. Forget about it! It is under God's judgment. But the carnal Christian wants to be gratified now.

The example of real faith in Hebrews 11 were men who looked to a deferred blessing. Abraham was promised it but he looked to a deferred blessing. Moses was promised! He could have had it then on a silver platter through Pharaoh's daughter as a son of Pharaoh. He could have had it. It is amazing in *Antiquities* by Josephus, in the secular history of Moses, his position in Egypt was similar to Joseph; he was a big wheel. He could have had it. It is the carnal Christian who looks to have it now.

A lot of bad things come out of America including who I would not even call "bad" but false Christians. Too bad they do not talk more about the true Christians who came from the States. One was a missionary to South America called brother Jim Elliot. He and five others were martyred by the Indians. His wife Elisabeth remained a missionary to the same tribe who killed her husband. Jim Elliot said, "No man is a fool to give up what he cannot possibly keep in order to gain what he cannot possibly lose".

"You Christians – you do not go out to get drunk, you do not gamble, you do not have any fun!" We have plenty of fun. But if that is what your hope is in, you cannot take that with you. When you are dead your are dead, Jack. The point is that for man to die is after judgment. Nobody is a fool to give up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose. It is the people who are not Christians who are foolish, and the time will come when they will know it, but it will be too late. The firstborn seeks instant gratification. Human nature, human psychology, that is the old man in you/the old woman in you and me. We have two names.

#### **Susceptibility**

The second characteristic provided in Genesis 25 is he was automatically susceptible to being conned. When people despise their birthright, when they live as the firstborn instead of the second, when they are given to carnality they are automatically prone to being conned.

When I talk to the Gypsy pastors they tell me what the Gypsy culture was like before they were saved, and they made their money as swindlers. They report from the time they were little kids how they knew how to swindle. To see God's Spirit

moving among these Gypsies and to see their lives transformed is amazing. And they always tell you the easiest to con is a greedy man. They look for the greedy because they are the ones that can be taken for the most. When we live in the old creation, when we live the life of the firstborn instead of the second, we automatically predispose ourselves to being conned.

Have you been to Toronto? You have been conned. You made a contribution to Morris Cerullo? You have been conned. You paid a tithe to one of these lunatic fringe Assemblies of God or Elim churches promoting this heresy? You have been conned. We have all been conned by the devil who tries to make us trust in this world – that is a big enough con. But when the new birth happens we should not be conned anymore. The firstborn will always set himself up to be conned.

But then they get conned financially. One money appeal after another, one letter looking for money after another – they are not looking for anything honest. They are not looking to help poor people in the Third World or Eastern Europe or for legitimate missions or evangelism. It is heresy, hype, con-artistry.

Esau's name was changed to Edom – "red", "of the earth", "natural". And the natural man is looking for the natural things.

#### Confusing "Needs" with "Wants"

The third thing we see is this: "I am about to die! I'm gonna die! Gimme some stew!" He was weary and he was hungry, but he was not going to die of exhaustion; he was not going to starve or become anorexic. The Esau within the firstborn, the natural man of Adam, will always exaggerate his essential needs. Such confuse "needs" with "wants".

Sometimes the only thing we really need is the grace of God. "My grace is sufficient"; (2 Cor. 12:9) "I will never give you more than you can handle". (1 Cor. 10:13) It says in Timothy if God gives us food and clothes we should be content. (1 Ti. 6:8) By virtue of being a Working Class person living on a Council Estate, living off the dole, such should realize they are better off than two out of three people in the world. A Middle Class person is better off economically than three out of four people in the world.

I have been down there several times and I do not know why they call it "The Third World"; it is "The Two-Thirds World". I can provide examples of people in Africa and Asia who would love to come live in a Council Estate in England. They do not care about the graffiti and the crime because it is a lot better than what they are putting up with. Most would not believe the stuff encountered there. Not that I am diminishing the prospects of the urban unemployed in our own country, but there is just no comparison. You cannot even compare it.

The firstborn will always exaggerate their essential needs. "I need this!" "I need the latest gimmick, the latest thing for my computer!" I am not saying there are not legitimate needs and I am not saying that wants are necessarily wrong, but covetousness? Covetousness is a sin. And when people begin to covet, sin leads to sin; one sin leads to another. When someone begins to covet someone else's wife, the next thing you know they are not happy with their own. The next thing you know they are into adultery or fornication or something like this. Covetousness leads to other sin. People begin coveting riches. The Bible does not say money is the root of all evil, it says "a love of money" is the root of all

evil; by longing for it many have wandered away from the faith. (1 Ti. 6:10)

What can be more perverted than when the church of Jesus Christ in a materialistic age, in a materialistic society where we should be saying, "Materialistic things are not the solution" and giving a positive witness to everybody else instead does the contrary? We have one liar on TV after another telling us to "name-it-and-claim-it", destroying our very testimony to a materialistic age and making us look the same as they are. In fact, as Christians, they look even worse except that they are not real Christians; they are carnal Christians. They are the firstborn, they are Esau. They are not the sons of Jacob, they are not the sons of Isaac, they are the sons of Esau. They despise their birthright, they want it now, they do not want their deferred blessing, they do not want "the meek shall inherit the earth" (Mt. 5:5), they want Kingdom Now, they want prosperity now, they want it now. The firstborn always exaggerates his essential needs. "I am about to die!"

It may seem crazy but when I went to Bible college I would say 50% of the female students admitted their primary reason for going to Bible college was to find a Christian husband. "If you can't find one here, where can you find one?" There is only one man who is going to meet their needs and it is not their husband. One's husband will only meet their needs to the extent that he is God's vehicle in their life. The wife will only meet the husband's needs only to the extent that she is God's vehicle. But if someone's husband is an "Esau" instead of a "Jacob", they are not going to meet the needs because he is a carnal Christian. Oh, I grant that they need a man, the question is *which* man? The natural desire to get married? I can understand it. The biological clock is a reality. Pick up a copy of Brother Andrew's newsletter. Read about Christians in prison camps. *They* have an essential need maybe.

"I am driven by lust!" "I used to do this and do that before I was a Christian and I want to get a wife!" "The Bible says it is better to marry than to burn with passion!" That is true and the Bible does say it. But the idea that somebody's lust problem is going to disappear if they get married? That is not reality. First deal with your lust problem, then get married. I do not care how good-looking someone's wife or their boyfriend is, their problem is not simply the biological drive, their problem is sin. It does not work that way. Such people will not be content with any wife or any husband whose sin is unaddressed – that is the essential need. But the "red" goes to "red". "Just give me!"

#### **Distorted Values**

The fourth thing we see is he had distorted values. The secondborn will always value what *God* values. The secondborn will always cherish the things that are most important as God sets them. But not the firstborn. Esau will always have distorted values. "What good is a birthright to me?" "What good is this new birth?" "What good is this 'second birth'?" "I wanna have some fun!" "I wanna have some sex!" "I wanna have a good time!" "What good is that stuff to me?" "I want to get somewhere in this life!" It says in Ecclesiastes even if someone does they are going to wind up just as dead as someone who did not. (Ecc. 3:19-20; 9:2) "The end of the matter is to love God and keep His commandments". (Ecc. 12:13)

"All this stuff of heaven and Jesus – what good is it to me now?" "Day to day, week to week, I am just trying to go out and make a living, trying to get some enjoyment out of a difficult life!" If you think your life is difficult, come with me to Nigeria; I will show you a difficult life. I will show you a mother who cannot feed her baby, I will show you Christians being persecuted by Muslims, I will show you a difficult life. I complain about my neck hurting when Christians in Saudi Arabia have their heads chopped off at the neck.

Esau always distorts his values. Carnal Christians always have distorted values – they never value most what God does and God values the things that will matter most a million years from now.

The first question should be, "Will this matter a million years from now?" Unless the Lord comes first, the reality of death is going to separate us from the ones we love the most. Husband, wife, parents, children – unless Jesus comes back first, which He may do, death is going to separate us. Of course, if you are a Christian, you do not have to be away from your family forever. You do not have to be away from your husband or wife or children. If they are Christians and you are a Christian we can see each other again. That is true, but that is the birthright. Whoever begins hoping in this world begins to despise that birthright.

Marriage is for here. The relationship will continue in heaven but it will not be a marriage, we will be one in Christ. And if someone is not married, is that going to matter a million years from now? Being married is not the ultimate treasure. The firstborn values things that are of *temporary* value, the secondborn values things of *eternal* value. The old creation values things that will *perish*, the new creation values things that will *endure forever*. Does someone desire a relationship? The only relationship worth anything is one that is going to endure forever.

I thank God I will be with my wife and children a million and a billion years from now not because of the first creation but the second one. That is my birthright, the birthright bequeathed to me when Jesus gave His life for my sin on the cross and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. That is my birthright. I do not want to despise my birthright.

#### **Blaming Someone Else**

Then he said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has supplanted me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

#### Genesis 27:36

"He swindled me twice!" No, the second time derives from Esau despising his birthright, not that Jacob was right in what he did, or at least not in the way he did it. He did not swindle him, Esau despised it; he sold it. Then it says he sought for it earnestly but could not find it. The Esau that is in the firstborn, the natural man/the natural woman, will always blame *other* people for the mess they make of their own lives.

"Oh, my mother was an alcoholic and our father left us!" That may be, but that is the firstborn. What about the secondborn? We have a new Father when we are born again. The firstborn – the old creation, will always blame others for the results of their own sin.

Esau never admits his own culpability. It is always a refusal to take responsibility for the results of his own decisions. Unsaved people are like that, they cannot help it; that is their nature. "Red" goes to "red". Christians should know better, but a carnal Christian does not. Oh, he may know better, but he does not live better. Are you living as the firstborn or are you living as the secondborn?

#### The Father Still Wants Them Back

And He said, "A man had two sons. "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

Now in the Jewish context this would have been quite foul. A pig is a non-Kosher animal.

"And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men." 'So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again...

#### Luke 15:11-24

As it says in Jude's epistle, backsliders in the church are twice dead. They went from spiritual death to life and then they are dead again. (Jude 10-11)

If someone is like that, if they want the inheritance now, if they are not willing to wait for the deferred blessings, if they are not willing to wait for when it will not perish and where they keep it forever, they are going to wind up eating with pigs. But the Father still loves them and wants them back now.

#### Conclusion

There are many aspects to this parable, one is the Jewish people having gone away from God and will come back again. Another is the fallen nature of man generally. Adam wanted it there and then. He did not want to eat of the Tree of Life, he wanted it his way; he are of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and

Evil. But it also teaches about backsliders. The old creation wants it now. What good is it if you cannot keep it? It is only good if you can keep it. That is the birthright. Carnal Christians despise their birthright. The backslider of heart will be filled with his own ways. (Pr. 14:14) What are his own ways? What is a carnal Christian's way? What is a carnal church's way? They want it now. They insist on instant gratification. "Red" seeks "red".

Second, they are susceptible to being conned. That is why they go to Toronto, that is why they are taken in by all this stuff.

They exaggerate their essential needs. They are not content – they covet. They distort their values, wanting things that will not last. They despise the birthright that gives them the inheritance to the things that will.

And then on top of all that they do not take responsibility for their own decisions.

The firstborn hates the second. Esau hates Jacob. The old creation in me hates the new creation. The old creation in you hates the new one. Our unsaved family does not like us. "Esau" – "adom" – "from Adam": a natural man. That is all he is, that is all he can be, he can do no other. He cannot have the blessing. Esau cannot have the birthright because he forfeited it because of his sin.

If you have not been born again, if you have not repented of your sin and trusted Jesus for your salvation, God has that birthright for you. He has that blessing for you! He wants to take an "Esau" and turn him into a "Jacob". He wants to take a firstborn and make him a secondborn. You can do that right now by accepting Jesus as your Savior and following Him as the Bible teaches.

But what of the one who made that decision but they still continue to live as an "adom"? They are still filled with their own ways. They are not committed to any church, they will go out the door and live like a worldly, unsaved person with distorted values, distorted priorities, wanting instant gratification. All they are doing is despising their birthright. A time will come when they will seek it and seek it desperately but they will not find it.

You may think what I am saying is crazy. You may have not become a new creation. You may be a son of Adam. You may not have been born again. A time will come when you will desperately, *desperately* want the birthright I have in Jesus Christ, but you will not find it. *Now* is the appointed time. *Today* is the day of salvation.

God bless. †††

#### Davy Rosengreen

Jer 17:13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You will be put to shame. Those who turn away on earth will be written down, Because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the LORD.

The rise of antisemitism has been growing exponentially in this country ever since October 7, 2023. A day that should've exposed Hamas to the world for the barbaric and violent terrorist organisation that it is. But instead, our governments and our countries have become apologists for this terrorist organization. We've seen people attempt to justify the killing and kidnapping of civilians, saying 'rape is resistance' and champion 'by any means necessary'. Chants of, "death to the Jews", "death to Australia" have been allowed continuously, with no action taken against these. Apparently this doesn't constitute hate speech. Even some politicians have marched alongside both Iranian and the supposedly 'outlawed' Hamas flag. So now we have not only holocaust denial but the denial that the atrocities of October 7 ever took place. We have an evil in our midst. The same evil that allowed Hitler to rise to power and the Holocaust to take place. As a nation we are no different to Germany in 1938. In fact we are worse, because we have a far greater history from which we should have learned from but have failed to. In fact, we now turn our backs on history for a revisionist history. A revisionist history that rewrites history, where truth becomes irrelevant and seeks to serve only satan and the political ambitions of our corrupt politicians. If our nation recognises a so-called Palestinian state this month, we are poking our finger in the eye of God.

In recent weeks I've heard from many who are discouraged. Disheartened over what they see transpiring. Many are simply asking, "What can we do?" The reality has hit me harder than ever. There is no political solution. There is not going to be a going back to better times. Unless there is a major wide national repentance, which I personally don't see happening, this place is coming under the Lord's judgment. A judgment it has brought upon itself.

Even if there was to be a nationwide repentance, we know it will only ever be short lived. When people ask me, "What can we do?", they're hoping I can tell them a list of things we can do to get the country back to where it once was, so we can all go back to living our lives the way we once did. People just want to be about their own lives. They just want to live their lives in peace. And I can understand that. But, as you've heard it said many times, there is no peace without the Prince of Peace.

Jesus tells in both Matthew & Luke, that the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. Where people were willing ignorant of the judgment to come, being consumed with the cares of this life, eating, drinking, giving in marriage etc. Sometimes things that are not bad in and of themselves, but we must not let them become the primary focus or motivation for our actions. So many are willingly ignorant in relation to the coming of our Lord and the coming judgment and just want to be about living their own lives.

Oba 1:15 «For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.

Oba 1:16 «Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow And become as if they had never existed.

Our nations are on their way to becoming as though they never existed. Now don't misconstrue what I'm trying to say. Yes, we should pray for our nations. Be salt and light when and where we can. Be a voice for the voiceless. Appeal to Caesar. All these things are right and Biblical. But we need to remember our first priority.

We have to remember our ultimate calling is the great commission. We have to share the Hope that we have. The one thing we can do and should do is to save people out of this sinking ship of a nation. Instead of trying to save the nation we need to save people out of it by sharing the Hope of Israel, Jesus, the good news of the gospel. The Hope of the Jewish people and the hope of us as believers is the same. It's Jesus.

It is only at the end of the 70th week of Daniel that He will set up His kingdom on the earth. Only then will the government be upon His shoulders. We are not going to redeem society. We need to see people redeemed out of it. He will set up the kingdom when He comes at the end of the 70th week of Daniel.

Daniel tells us that he will wear down the saints of the Most High (Dan 7:25). If you try to take on the job of saving the nation instead of saving individuals out of it, I can guarantee you he will wear you down in no time flat. The Jewish community here is weary. Many believers here are weary. The enemy of our souls is wearing them down because they're fighting the losing battle of trying to redeem society and get it back to what it once was. That's not going to happen. And if it were to happen, it could only come about if there was a large scale repentance and turning to Jesus. We have to ask ourselves and the Lord, "Are we fighting the right battles?"

In order to see our society redeemed and our nation get back to what it once was, many are getting drawn into the ecumenical agenda by attending ecumenical prayer gatherings for our nation and interfaith marches and the likes. What does Christ have to do with belial? All this will do is take us faster down the road to Babylon and to a false messiah, the antichrist. They may say peace, peace but remember there is no peace without the Prince of Peace. Also, He is not only our peace but He is also our rest.

Mat 11:28 «Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

All we can hope is to wake people up to the reality of where we are and realise this world holds no hope for us. More so than ever, there is one thing that draws us as believers, even closer to the Jewish people. And that is the only Hope for both of us is the same - the Hope of Israel, the Messiah, the Son of David. Our only hope is in Christ, the Hope of Israel and our Blessed Hope.

If we are to provoke the Jews to jealousy, as Paul talks about in Romans 11. Replacement theology is not going to do this. However, neither is certain forms of pretribulationalism. The kind that says the 7 year tribulation is for the Jews only. That Matthew 24 is for the Jews only. This separates us from them way too much. We are two sides of the one coin. We have the same Hope. The only Hope. And if we have shifted our focus off our only Hope, how are we going to win anyone to Christ let alone the natural branches?

Our replacement theology and pretribulational friends are soon going to find that those words of Jesus, "you will be hated for My Name's sake" applies to both Jews and Christians. Both Jews and Christians are becoming more and more demonised in the west. Persecution is on the rise. We are increasingly being blamed for society's problems. And more and more so, being censored and shut down from having a voice. And when we are targeted with arson attacks, killings, shootings etc, the world shows little empathy for us and in fact, it doubles down on their attacks on us. It's our own fault they will say. We are slowly, but surely and systematically, being shut out and excluded from society, unless we compromise our faith.

Another concerning thing I hear by believers, is that, "our governments would never do that" in relation to some of the laws and taxes that they are currently bringing in. Even believers don't believe our governments, authorities and institutions can be capable of such evil. We need to wake up to the reality that they are. Any government or politician that would allow up to birth abortion and let a baby die on a hospital room floor because its mother doesn't want it, is capable of any evil. Remember, this has all happened before. Jewish people were stripped of their rights, homes, possessions, jobs, dignity and place in society in Germany, long before Hitler instituted his final solution.

We need to wake up to the reality of where we are at. Like it or not, this is where we are. We can't be ostriches and bury our heads in the sand any longer.

And yes, we do need to pray about the practical things we can do. Realise the writing on the wall and be dressed and ready for whatever action the Lord may call you to. You may need to be prepared to flee. Or the Lord may have you stay. But be prepared to flee if need be. Be dressed and ready and don't wait until the last minute to get prepared. But we need to seek the Lord on these things and not be so tied to this world that it hinders us in any way from keeping first things first.

Our time is short. We need to reach people with the gospel and save them out of this world and into His kingdom while we still can. It's getting dark quickly. More than ever, we all need the Hope of Israel. Their Messiah and ours. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus the Christ. He is coming soon! Maranatha.

By Davy Rosengreen

## MORIEL UK UPDATE

Greetings from Great Britian. I look forward to supporting Jacob, Moriel and the body of Christ in my new role as administrator.

Firstly, I would like to say that Natalie is missed and we all wish her well. Natalie has visited the office a few times, and she liked the setting surrounded by farmland and the setup we had planned.

I wanted to take some time to share some photographs of our new office space in Wiltshire so that you know what is new in Moriel and what is happening going forward.

The transition started in April after the Moriel office moved from Hertfordshire to Wiltshire, where I reside.

We are very fortunate to have secured a great office space along with a beautiful setting in Southern England. I am sure that The Lord has had a hand in everything and will continue to bless our efforts as the country grows ever darker.

The office space is large, and so we have installed a library to house the hundreds of books we have in stock written by Jacob, Sandy Simpson and Steve Maltz.

Apart from the books, we have hundreds of CDs and DVDs available to buy that contain teachings from Jacob. There are also some conferences on both CD and DVD from the last twenty years available to purchase. The media is antiquated now of course, but will suit people who are able to use them. Concerning the latter, if in future there are problems with internet access, reliance on old technology along with stored USB teachings will prove invaluable.

All media and books are available to purchase through visiting the Moriel UK site and as always proceeds go towards our ongoing work worldwide.

In addition, there are USB drive teachings available:

Jumpstart with Jacob

The Quintessential Quintana

The Whole Enchilada

These are also available to download.

The UK now has a dedicated website to assist believers in Great Britain with donating, finding out about UK based events, speaking engagements, prayer requests, affiliated fellowships, purchasing books and other media.

The website can be found here: <a href="https://www.morielministriesuk.org">https://www.morielministriesuk.org</a>

I endeavour to answer your queries in a prompt manner. Emails are usually responded to within one to three hours depending on my workload.

The Moriel number is manned Monday to Friday from 9:00 until 17:00. That said, emails are responded to over the weekend.

Orders, likewise will be shipped promptly. Usually within 48 hours via Royal Mail. I have set up our website to deliver to the UK only. However, if you are outside that location please contact your local branch for support. These are listed on the main Moriel site hosted in the US.

Once again, it is a privilege to serve and I look forward to many years supporting my fellow believers here in Britain and the Moriel family worldwide.

Your Brother in Christ

David Passmore - Moriel UK









## MORIEL ISRAEL UPDATE

#### Autumn 2025

Introduction

This is a little different from previous updates, because I normally don't write about myself or our personal circumstances over here. It was suggested to me, that people might actually want to know some more about us, and how we're getting on. So, for those who don't know, I am Elon,, the Moriel Administrator and general "gopher" over here. Along with my longsuffering wife, Hadas, who is content to help quietly in the background,—we are the Moriel presence in Israel, or try to be at least. I am a compulsive reader, collector of information (useful or not), interested in languages (biblical and otherwise), and fascinated by history. I am deeply concerned about sound doctrine, and because of the prevalence of false teaching out here, this is often on my thoughts. For those who watch "Catching Up With Jacob" each week, you can hear my round-up of selected items from main Israeli news sources.

#### Hadas' Health Crisis And How It Affected Us

My own health appears to be satisfactory, apart from feeling older each year. Hadas, however, already had diabetes since before we married, and we've tried to manage that through the years. Unfortunately, a few years ago she suffered a great blow to her health and mobility. In 2021, she had a fall in the street that damaged her knee, more severely than we realised at the time, and this actually made it unstable and prone to collapse. This resulted in 3 more falls in the house, and then a fourth which broke her leg above and below the ankle. This was a bad break resulting in many months of very severe pain and the need for a wheelchair to move about the house. We later found that her knee had been broken as well. A year later, she was hospitalised with an abscess that was not healing. At the same time, a strange hard swelling began on one side of her abdomen. Gradually it has spread across the front of her abdomen and is moving towards her back. This swelling also came with agonizing pain at times during the first year. Hadas was regularly overdosing on very strong painkillers, which was not a good situation. After a year the severe pain receded and painkiller use subsided. The swelling and a certain level of discomfort is still there, making it difficult for her to travel distances or spend time outside the home. We have seen some improvement with her leg and she is beginning to move around more by herself using two sticks, and we hope that will improve some more, but for the time being, at least, Hadas is still housebound. In another month, we have an appointment for some more tests, to see if someone can finally figure out what the abdominal problem is.

Hadas' health issues had a pretty devastating effect. It

meant that every single errand, or task outside the home, falls on me alone and a number of other tasks in the home as well. It also meant that I could not leave her on her own for very long, in case something happened, because there was no one else available to help. This restricted my mobility greatly in the first years or so after the accident. I would have liked to have visited my family in the UK, and visit my aged father, but these things made it impossible. Even now, Hadas' balance is not too good, and I like to make sure that I am not too far away so that I can't get home, within a day, if needed.

#### **The Problem of Partners**

Perhaps I should call this section "the state of the Union", as it attempts to explain what is going on here, in the Body, why some things are the way they are, and how it affects Moriel over here.

The professing body in Israel, falls into three main camps. The New Apostolic Reformation and hyper-charismatics; the Reformed Calvinist bloc, and then the Dispensationalist camp.

Scriptures forbids us to work with those falsely claiming apostolic and prophetic authority. Consequently, we have no truck with the NAR, false prophecies, Dominionism, Prosperity Gospel, their Ecumenism, and all that. We won't work with people who are co-labourers with Mike Bickle's IHOP and its clones, or those who endorse frauds like Patricia King, Todd White, Bill Johnson and Bethel Redding, Hillsong, Jesus Culture, or Bethel Music. Many of the biggest names and most prominent charismatic congregations over here have been mixed up with all kinds of things for *decades*. We are explicitly commanded not to entertain relationships with false teachers and false prophets, as that makes us partakers in their evil deeds (2Jn 9-11), but we are to mark and avoid them (Rom 16:17). There are very few charismatics that are not connected with the NAR bloc.

While we do know some godly Calvinist believers, and we appreciate that they tend to have a degree of biblical discernment in regards to the false doctrines of the NAR and Charismatic bloc. However, there are very serious doctrinal problems also at the core of Calvinism, that distort the message of the gospel and the biblical portrayal of God's character. This limits how deeply we can engage, or co-operate with them.

Up to a point, we have more in common with the Dispensationalists. We share premillenialism in common, oppose Replacement Theology, and also have a strong aversion to the errors of the NAR and hyper-charismatics. However, we differ sharply from their Pretribulationism, which we believe to be a very dangerous false teaching with serious consequences for those deceived by it.

As the years have passed, a shift has been occurring, and many are abandoning Pretrib and adopting the Prewrath view instead. Pretrib leaders openly acknowledge that Prewrath as the greatest threat to their theory, and feeling threatened, are getting ever more desperate and hardening themselves. Some are even becoming enraged.

In the West, many Pretrib leaders routinely distort Prewrath fundamentals. The situation in Israel is no different. One outspoken Pretrib voice here, has repeatedly misrepresented Prewrath teachings, and now, in his latest tirade, has simply resorted to \*ad hominem\* attacks on Prewrath believers. Some fellowships in Israel have Pretrib Rapture Theory written explicitly into their statements of faith and will allow no other position to be considered in the congregation's teaching. A number of fellowships have doctrinal positions that hardly differ from that of Andy Woods, whom Moriel has repeatedly warned about as a false teacher and a wolf.

And if all of this wasn't enough; there is another very serious issue, and this was expressed to me by a believer who actually *left Israel on account of it*. Here's what he said:

"Honestly, there's no safe abode these days, but what is certain for me and my wife is that we don't want our children marrying into the Israeli Messianic community. Everybody is with everybody and there is no ecclesiastical separation from evil. Even the Messianic Assembly's youth and summer camps are no longer safe."

I can absolutely affirm his observation. Pastors and leaders over here have been repeatedly warned about the dangers of the New Apostolic Reformation and its teachings. Many agree that they are problematic, but few will do anything serious about it. Very few leaders, will obey the biblical injunctions (such as Rom 16:17) to fully separate from false prophets, false teachers and false apostles, and almost none will warn about their false teachings, naming names, as Paul did. Most will continue to fellowship with them and accept them as brethren, attending joint events, and even sending their children to summer camps that have NAR leaders participating in them. Unity, and not rocking the boat, is prized above God's truth.

This situation is connected with another issue within the Body here: that of general doctrinal *indifference*. Many professing believers, particularly the young, are more interested in something "feeling right", and not being upsetting, than in objective truth. The rampant postmodernism that is the scourge of the West, has also infiltrated the Body here. There are exceptions to this, but that is the general state of things.

#### **The Effect of These Issues**

All of these, taken together, greatly affect our relationships with congregations and ministries over here, and make it complicated to find suitable working partners. Moriel had to stop supporting a number of works over here because of issues

like those above, and more. Over the years we have seen up close, corrupt pastors, church splits, evangelistic organisations more concerned with money than doctrinal purity, cultic, divisive obsessions over minor issues that have caused great hurt,—and more.

While we do have friends, none of them reside in our town. One of our closest friends, who did live nearby, left Israel to care for her aged parents in Europe. Here in our town; for all the reasons above, and more; there is no fellowship that we could attend, or without serious reservations, recommend to others.

All of this, combined with Hadas' health limitations, have left us quite isolated and lonely at times. This affects me less, being an introvert, but it has been hard on Hadas. We miss regular fellowship with other believers, but not that much that we want a weekly dose of crazy, or to have false doctrines rammed down our throats. Good news may be on the horizon though, as we have heard from some friends who live in another part of the Galilee that they plan to move to our town next year. If this comes to pass, we can meet with them, for prayer, study and fellowship at home.

#### What We're Up to Now

Now that at least some of the latest round of wars (Iran and Hezbollah) are over for the time being, we've been considering the way ahead, and have decided to "reboot" things a little, and move into the direction of producing a lot more Hebrew content, for the following reasons:

I may have mentioned this before, but one of the problems in Israel, is that it is relatively impoverished in good quality and doctrinally sound theological resources in Hebrew. Most Christian books that exist in Hebrew, are translations. Translations cost money (sometimes a lot of it), and so, historically, what gets translated, are works that the blocs with the most money want translated. The biggest bloc here in the professing body, is the hypercharismatic and NAR bloc. It has been estimated that about 90% of all Christian giving into Israel goes to a small number of organisations, and almost certainly they belong to that bloc. The biggest "Christian" publisher, by far, here in Israel is MAOZ, which has spent several decades publishing **all the worst kinds** of Prosperity Gospel, Word of Faith, and Latter Rain materials.

On the other hand, the Reformed camp, produces some good material, but, sadly also puts out works by R. C. Sproul, Paul Washer, John Piper, A. W. Pink etc. All of whom Moriel has expressed grave concerns about in the past. Bizarrely, the Reformed camp also produced a translation of Quaker mystic Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* into Hebrew. Foster's works are filled with **New Age and occult ideas**, and shamanism masquerading as classic Christianity. This is disturbing!

The Dispensationalists haven't produced as much material.

The major recent production, from this camp has been Arnold Fruchtenbaum's "Footsteps of the Messiah". From a Prewrath perspective, we consider that there are serious problems inherent in that work.

Regardless, of what we think of the overall output, these institutions have created, for better or for worse, **a legacy desposit of teaching, in Hebrew**, that has influenced the course of the Body here in Israel. If we want to mitigate some of the problems that plague the Body here, and counteract some of the rampant false teachings, **we need to do the same**. The Hebrew speaking Body of Christ in Israel **desperately** needs an alternative, and corrective, voice to all of this stuff.

It needs access to material that *proactively* teaches sound doctrine.

It needs access to material that will *reactively* point out false doctrines, uncompromisingly naming names where necessary, but also equipping believers to learn to discern for themselves.

#### The Historical Problem, And The Way Around It

The historical problem with producing Hebrew content, has always been the time and cost of translation. It used to be *hugely* expensive and *very* time consuming. However, things are changing. Computerised translation has improved massively over the last few years, particularly with the advent of AI using LLM (Large Language Models). I've been running trials with a number of these which I have subscribed to; and by using multiple AI's for cross-checking, and some human oversight, translation into Hebrew can be *vastly* speeded-up and made *overwhelmingly* cheaper. This largely removes the greatest practical obstacles to producing workable Hebrew content. We can now do things that we could not do before.

Another way to reduce production and distribution costs, is to make that content first and foremost, **digital**, rather than hard-copy. The fact is, that most people nowadays consume content in that form anyway. Israelis certainly do. We are the most Internet connected nation on the planet, and more Israelis come into contact with Christian content and Gospel materials, via the Internet, than any other way. We need to meet the people where they are.

#### **Freely Receive, Freely Give**

Some years ago, we published some Hebrew and Arabic tracts, which were very well received. Though we did produce hard copies,—what was really appreciated, was that we released the printshop ready PDF's, free of charge, so that churches and organisations could print off their own, and put their own details in the response address. The best way to

distribute biblical teaching, is to remove any obstacle, financial or otherwise to obtaining it; and give it away freely, with no restrictions.

"What then is my reward? That in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not use up my rights in preaching it." (1Cor 9:18)

"Freely you have received, freely give." (Mat 10:8)

#### **Practical Steps: Stage One**

The first stage, creating the new Moriel Israel website in Hebrew, is already under way. Secondly, we will begin to populate the site, with content, with short, easily digested, articles on thought-provoking topics that will interest believers and hopefully challenge non-believers too. We are not opposed to long-form content per se, but many modern audiences have limited attention spans. Not only that, but short-form means also that content creation can be accelerated. Long, highly detailed articles with many footnotes, take a long time to write, edit, proof-read etc. So short form will ensure more regular production of materials. If a deeper treatment of a subject is desired, it can be broken into several parts and put out in instalments. We will be producing our own material, but also gleaning suitable snippets from all over, as well. We will try to make the site bi-lingual as far as possible, so that English speakers can benefit from it as well.

As the amount of material grows; it is hoped that they can do double duty, and some be selected and compiled into a freely downloadable e-magazine, that can be distributed at no cost, and if people desire hard copy, it can be printed off on a home computer. If it is possible and practical, a bi-lingual document may be produced. Some of the articles and material may also later form the foundation of actual printed gospel booklets and tracts, thus doing triple-duty, and, as with our previous tracts, printshop-ready PDF's can be produced and freely released to interested parties.

#### In The Loop

Another thing that we want to begin doing, is producing more regular updates on how things are going. We can't promise that every update will be as long as this one, or be brimming over with excitement; sometimes it's just plodding along and putting out material; but we'll try to keep people more in the loop on how things are going. We're quite excited about this venture actually,—though it does have its challenges. Please remember us in your prayers.

Elon and Hadas

### "Overtake you like a thief"

by Sandy Simpson

1 Thessalonians 5:4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

How serious will it be for a person to be overtaken in "that day" like a thief overtakes a household when he slips in and steals? Will it just be a surprise for those who claim to be Christians who will get a slap on the wrist by the Lord but still proceed to heaven? Will they simply lose rewards but still gain the ultimate reward? What is this darkness that the brethren are not in?

1 Thessalonians 5:3-5 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night or of darkness;

Those who claim they are sons of light and sons of day will not be caught unaware of the coming of the Lord because they see things clearly in the Light of the Son. Those who claim to be in the light but are actually in darkness are either asleep ...

Mark 13:36 in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep.

... or unaware of the danger of being caught off guard.

Luke 21:34 "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap;

Many today assume they are in the Light but have accepted darkness as light including false teachings, false apostles and false prophecies.

I think 1 Thes. 5:4 is being taught out of context in some circumstances and not as the serious admonition it represents repeatedly through Scripture. It seems to have lost its significance at a time when it should have the utmost significance. Most Christians seem to think that it will just be a situation where they are continuing to live their lives in at least partial disobedience to the Lord but will be going to heaven because they believe they are "once saved, always saved". It is good to believe you are saved based on having tested yourself to see if you are in the Faith and living in obedience to Jesus Christ. But it is not good to be saying you are born again when you are "practicing" sin (1 John 3:4, NASB) instead of "practicing" righteousness (1 John 2:29, NASB) and just expecting that when the Master comes He will forgive you. When Jesus comes it will be too late. The Groom will come and those who do not have oil in their lamps will not be invited into the marriage supper of the Lamb (Matthew 25:1-13) no matter their protests to the contrary. If you don't think that parable is applicable to 1 Thessalonians 5:4, go directly to verse 13.

Matthew 25:1-13 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day or the hour.

Where have we heard the phrase "I do not know you" in the Bible before? It is what the Lord says to people who claim to be believers on judgment day, the foolish virgins who do not have the Holy Spirit (oil).

Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

This is not an issue about OSAS Calvinism, it is an issue about people who claim to be born again but are not. They are either self-deceived or do not care about obeying the Lord. Obedience to Jesus Christ is the mark of a truly regenerate person.

John 14:23-24 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

The Lord requires that a person be born again and, thus, Spirit filled in order to enter heaven. People can claim they are born again all they want but they prove they love the Lord by obeying the Lord. If they do not they prove they are not really regenerate and will be caught unprepared when the Lord returns. They will try to sneak in wearing filthy rags instead of the wedding clothes that come from being part of the Bride of Christ.

Matt. 22:11-14 "But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him, Friend, how did

you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The "Rapture" and the return of Christ in His Kingdom with the "raptured" saints will not be a surprise to those who are ready. Of course when the Lord comes in the Rapture for His saints it will be a "surprise", a good surprise like a wonderful Christmas gift. A person waiting to open a Christmas package is waiting for Christmas day and knows there is a gift under the tree. When they open it they are "surprised" and delighted by the contents (if it is something they wanted). But they are not taken by surprise by the gift. The person who is claiming to be a believer but is living life as if Jesus is not coming back or will delay His coming is in for a rude awakening. When will they have time to confess and repent of their sins when Jesus comes back in the twinkling of an eye?

1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

They will be left to try to buy oil when it's too late like the five foolish virgins. But there will be no time left. This is why it is IMPERITIVE to live a life in Christ, fully committed, fully believing, and fully surrendered to His will. Nor will the return of Christ for those who say they are ready but are not simply penalize those who have no oil while they are still accepted into heaven. The Lord says, over and over again, that He does not know, never knew, those who claim to be believers but are not "in Christ" on His return.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'

Luke 13:25 Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'

Luke 13:27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; depart from Me, all you evildoers.'

Matthew 7:23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

How can you be assured that the Lord knows you? Paul gives good advice.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you— unless, of course, you fail the test?

How does one test oneself to see if they are saved? Remember that only God knows who is saved from beginning to end, who will finally believe and repent and who will not. Here is a section of an article I wrote on this subject called "Examine Yourselves to See Whether you are in the Faith":

So how should we test ourselves to see if we are in the Faith?

## (1) Do you believe that God came in the flesh, Jesus Christ?

1 Tim. 3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: **He appeared in a body**, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.
1 John 4:2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

This means that if you believe that Jesus Christ was merely human, or was human till he received the Spirit as Word of Faith teachers claim, or was never human but only Spirit as the Gnostics such as Christian Science teach, or that we can be everything that Jesus Christ was, then you need to test yourself to see if you are in the Faith.

# (2) Do you believe that God is One God eternally existing in Three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Mt. 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Gal. 4:6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Further reading on the subject of the core doctrines is <a href="here">here</a> (http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/5doctrines.html). The doctrine of the Trinity is essential to understand God and to understand that Jesus Christ added humanity to Himself at the Incarnation, thus becoming the God-man for all eternity which then hinges on believing that God came in the flesh. That is part of the information necessary to believe and be saved. Only God can save. We must believe when the Holy Spirit gives us a chance by convicting us of our sins (John 16:8) and accept the free gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

# (3) Do you believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone?

Eph. 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no-one can boast.

Rom. 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Ac 4:12 Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no

other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

If you believe that salvation is by works, as the Catholics teach their adherents to perform certain rituals for salvation or the SDA teaching bringing their adherents back under part of the Mosaic Law, then you need to test yourself to see if you are in the Faith. The New Covenant (Heb. 9:15) and new Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2), which is love for God and love for our neighbor, fulfills and does away with the Law of Moses, the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2). If you subscribe to works salvation then you need to test yourself as to the Faith. If you believe that God gives us our faith as the Calvinists teach instead of Him being the Object and Author of our Faith then you need to test yourself to see if you are in the Faith. Read Hebrews 12:2. It is good to cross reference other translations on this verse because you will see a depth of meaning. The translation of words used in the NIV and elsewhere, translated as "author" and "finisher" is also rendered as "guide and end", "source and goal", "leader and completer", "leader and perfecter" and "leader who will award us the prize". Jesus is the "Object" or "source" of our Faith archegos or «prince, leader author, pioneer» and «goal» or «example» teleiotes meaning «finisher, perfector, prime example». So the true meaning of this passage is not that God gives us a gift of faith, but that Jesus Christ is the Object of our faith and the goal of our Faith as the prime example of the concept of faith.

The other verse used by Calvinists to say that both grace and faith are a gift of God is this one:

Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

But this is an example of pulling one verse out that they like and not looking to see that elsewhere the gift is talking about the gift of grace, not a gift of faith.

Eph 3:7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Ro 5:15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

Nowhere does the Bible use the words "gift of faith". When you teach that God gives you the gift of faith then the next conclusion is that a person does not have to believe to be saved because God gives him/her the gift of belief, which is what hyper-Calvinists teach. Then finally you end up with the teaching that we can be faithless yet still be saved because God is faithful. If you believe that then you need to test yourself to see if you are in the Faith. It is true that God is always faithful and we are not (2)

Tim. 2:13), but we cannot practice sin and say we know God

I John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

1 John 3:7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

1 John 3:8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Are you still "practicing" sin, or living a lifestyle of sin? Then your god is not the Son of God.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. (NASB)

I like the NASB translation because it translates "commits sin" to "practices sin". What John is talking about in context is continuing in practiced, lifestyle sin as opposed to sinning sometimes. That is exactly what people do ... they are either practicing to be sinners or practicing to be righteous. If your practice is not going the direction of righteousness, then you need to test yourself to see if you are in the Faith. By the way, true Christians do sin but they do not "practice" sin. When they sin, they have a Savior to whom they will confess their sins Who is faithful and just to forgive their sins. The following verses were written to Christians.

130 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

130 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

If you believe that we can have faith in God because we can believe in Him without the convicting of the Holy Spirit because there is enough good in us to do so, as the Arminians teach, if you believe that you can be made right with God by worshipping Him in the names of the supreme beings of the nations as the World Christian Gathering of Indigenous People and Emerging Church teach, then you need to test yourself to see if you are in the Faith.

# (4) Do you believe that the Bible is our highest authority in all matters of faith and practice?

Though this is not required to be saved, it is evidence that you are saved. Also if you cannot believe the Bible to be true as our authority to know what God is like and what He requires of us, then on what basis have you believed the Gospel?

Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

2 Tim. 1:14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Rom. 6:17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

Tit. 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

The true teaching of God comes to us in the Bible in the written account of what Jesus Christ, the Apostles and prophets wrote as they were led by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16). We are to hold to those teachings in the Written Word, not follow the new teachings of false teachers and false prophets. Those who go after new revelation that is not consistent with the Word of God need to test themselves to see if they are in the Faith. Be careful because many popular teachers today like to belittle the Bible and true believers who still obey it.

# (5) Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again?

1 Cor. 15:3-4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

This was and is the criteria for salvation ... to continue in the belief that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead that was passed on as a mystery (Rom. 16:25) to those who would believe by the Apostles. If you belittle the sacrifice of Christ by believing in Universalism, Inclusivism, or the teaching by the WCGIP and Emerging Church that there are many ways to God, other gods who are God, that the Gospel is in the stars and/or there is salvific truth in all religions ... then you need to test yourself to see if you are in the Faith. Christ is the only sacrifice for sin.

Joh 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

# Ac 4:12 Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved

Since the Bible talks about worshipping YHWH and Yeshua (Jesus) in their names, which is why we often end our prayers as believers with "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ", why would He accept worship under the name of Baal, Ammon, Hadad, Osirus, Marduk, Allah, Vishnu, Krishna, Amenominakanushi, I'o, Wakan Tanka or any other "supreme being"?

## (6) Do you display the fruit of the Spirit in increasing measure?

Again, this is not the criteria to be saved but is the evidence of being saved. If you have the Holy Spirit in you as a result of the second birth, then He will cause you to grow to maturity and the fruit of the Spirit will become increasingly evident in your life.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 2 Pet 1:5-9 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is short-sighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

If you do not see these qualities increasing in your life, then you need to test yourself to see if you are in the Faith, because if you are in the Faith you will be effective and productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are not growing in these things then you are blind, and though you claim you are cleansed from your past sins, you are effectively just like an unbeliever ... wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

2Co 4:4 The god of this age has **blinded** the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1Jo 2:11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because **the darkness has blinded him**.

Those who claim to be Christians, but are really lukewarm and blind, need to repent and be saved.

Rev. 3:16-19 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.'

But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so that you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so that you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so that you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent

Those who claim to be Christians, but do not display the fruit of the Spirit, need to repent so that they will be truly born again and begin to see the fruit of the Spirit operative in their lives. Those who say they are Christians yet do not have the fruit of the Spirit also do not have wedding clothes to wear and without those you cannot enter heaven. Also those churches that claim to love the Lord yet are full of false teachings and blasphemous practices have already had or will have their candlesticks removed in heaven, just as Laodicea did, which is evident historically and prophesied to happen in the end times.

# (7) Have you increasingly grown in maturity and not floated away with every wave of doctrine?

Growing to maturity is not a criterion to be saved but a result of it. You will see increased maturity in the Lord if you are truly born again. I see many who claim to be saved today who remain as babies spiritually. If the wind and the waves get rough (the world and the powers of the demonic world) and you throw a baby into that, he or she will drown. That is why God will bring us to maturity as we submit to the Spirit as our teacher and the written Word as God's way to speak to us.

Eph. 4:11-14 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

We are to move from baby food to solid food. If you are still eating baby food and have not moved on to solid food, better examine yourself to see if you are in the Faith.

## (8) Do you increasingly live in the law of Christ, which is love?

No one who is not spiritually reborn can follow the law of

Christ.

Eph. 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Gal. 6:1-3 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

When you see preachers on TV and elsewhere who are full of themselves, proud, greedy and scheming, you are likely not seeing a regenerate person. I am not the final judge of them, but I can tell if they are walking in the law of Christ right now, just as the Bible tells us we can. We are to balance the concepts of truth and love equally. Some end up erring on either side of that equation, but it is just as important to know the Truth, speak it and live it as it is to do so out of Love. If you find that you are not growing in love and compassion for others, and are not able to stand up for the Truth of the written Word, sometimes against persecution, then you need to check your relationship to the Lord.

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. **Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you— unless, of course, you fail the test?** (http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/examineyourselves.html)

True brethren in Christ no longer live in darkness but live in the Light. They, in turn, act as a reflection of the Light in this world.

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

We are also to be salt in the world.

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

If you are hiding your light or your salt is watered down with false teaching or sin, then you cannot be a witness for the Lord in this life.

Those who are waiting for the return of Christ with their oil ready will be in the wedding supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

## Moriel India Mission मोरियल इंडिया



"Missions is not the 'ministry of choice' for a few hyperactive Christians in the church. Missions is the purpose of the church." – Unknown

"Jesus is light. He doesn't go to light places. He goes to dark places."

Over the course of the last twenty-two years, India Missions has seen many changes and has also dealt with some major blows that have come. Sometimes the ministry has grown fast, and also ministry can be slow. Many new areas have now heard the Gospel, and by this, I mean that Moriel India has planted churches in areas where there were no churches.

This pioneering mindset, coupled with enthusiasm to persevere through challenging situations like opposition, illness, persecution, financial constraints, stress, strain on family life, rejection of the gospel by many, churches built and churches being pulled down, and yet so many responding to the gospel also, makes it all worthwhile.

In spite of the challenges faced, the dedication and perseverance of the Moriel missionaries and local leaders have remained unwavering. They have continued to spread the message of hope and faith, reaching out to communities that were previously untouched. The journey has been filled with both triumphs and trials, yet the mission's commitment to its purpose has never faltered. Through outreach programmes, Bible studies, and community engagement, Moriel India has fostered spiritual growth and built strong faith-based communities. The seeds sown over the years are now bearing fruit, as more people come to embrace the teachings of the Gospel.

I never imagined I'd say this, but today, we're compelled to take sides. The rise of the prosperity gospel, coupled with those who interpret the Bible using the New Hermeneutics, essentially implies that you manipulate scripture to align with your personal narrative. Consequently, we witness countless individuals who fall victim to this deception. Unlike others, Moriel India openly shares its message

about the true gospel. This has drawn attention, leading some to get swept up in emotional church events, while others pursue the Lord with deep, unwavering faith and dedication.

Despite the persistent opposition and persecution emanating from religious groups, including the prosperity preachers who seek to silence us, and the numerous obstacles and traps they strategically place, Moriel India would find alternate ways to constantly travel to various areas for mission. Our unwavering determination fuels our journey, allowing us to overcome setbacks, adapt to new challenges, and remain steadfast in our purpose. Each obstacle only strengthens our resolve, inspiring us to reach further and touch more lives. Whether through new routes, or unexpected opportunities, Moriel India's mission continues to thrive, undeterred by adversity or opposition.

Having said that we are now receiving more requests for pastors' meetings, along with church invitations and also outreach meetings, I believe that the Lord has given His stamp of approval as His word is preached as it is. This increase in interest and engagement is a clear indication that hearts are being touched and lives are being transformed through the power of His message. The growing number of invitations and meetings reflects a deep hunger for spiritual growth and a desire to connect with the divine truth. It is truly inspiring to witness how the Lord is working through these opportunities to spread His love and grace.

#### **MISSION STATIONS**

MORIEL ANDHRA PRADESH

Mitchel Children's Home:

Fortunately, the second floor has been completed and is in excellent condition. This expansion provides the children with more space and room, resulting in the boys relocating to the second floor and the girls remaining on the lower floor. While this arrangement may change in the future, it currently serves as the optimal layout. This more than likely indicates that the social services there would request us to possibly take in more children into our home.

The children are all performing exceptionally well. Some of them have achieved remarkable academic success and have settled into their new lives at home. It is truly heartwarming to witness their growth and the strengthening of their bond as a close-knit family. While some of the boys continue to be their playful selves, they occasionally find themselves at the local medical facility

due to their propensity for climbing trees. After all, climbing trees is undoubtedly enjoyable, until they fall out of them?

Morel Horeb Church in Kothapeta is making steady progress, and we're witnessing small growth here. This is understandable, considering it's a rural area. We conduct children' Bible activities and also bring in many local individuals who greatly benefit from these programmes.

#### Moriel Horeb Church, Rajahmundry:

In recent months, Pastor R.K. Seeli has been experiencing health challenges. He is currently receiving medication, which may be a lifelong solution due to the stresses and strains of Indian summers and his overall poor health. We sincerely hope to assist with this difficult ministry and alleviate some of the burden he bears. On my next trip I will have a discussion with him and make some proposals, the church is only small, with around twentyfive-plus members, and because of its location, this is to be expected. In contrast, we anticipate minimal growth, and this matter would also be discussed to determine how we can develop and establish this ministry going forward.

#### **MORIEL PUNJAB:**

Batala and Kohali Districts:

Both Moriel churches here are thriving, new members are being added regularly, and Pastor Vijay here is working on reaching more and more people on a weekly basis.

Firozpur Church Plant:

Approximately one year ago, I participated in an open-air meeting. You may recall that I was invited to speak at a small open-air gathering in the border regions of India and Pakistan. Currently, a small church is under construction in that location, and the work has already commenced. We sincerely hope that this church will be completed soon. We kindly request your prayers for the successful completion of this church.

Moriel has also commenced a new church plant on the opposite side of Batala. During my recent summer visit, I held an open-air meeting that drew individuals who had been influenced by the prosperity movement, along with a significant number of Sikhs, resulting in a full church. Open-air meetings for me personally are not permitted in certain areas due to potential personal difficulties they may cause. They are requesting that I come to visit them on my next trip.

Currently, we are holding open-air evening meetings and anticipate relocating to a house to establish a cottage church. We humbly request divine favor among the local community, enabling us to witness a growing congregation in this area.

**MORIEL CHENNAI:** 

Here we have distributed many Bibles for the new believers, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Many requests are pouring in, not only for church meetings but also for street preaching gatherings where the message can reach a broader audience. Chennai, with its bustling activity and diverse population, is always a busy and dynamic place for me.

The local community and pastors are eager for longer visits, requesting that I stay in these areas for extended periods to provide more in-depth teaching and support. The pastors here have a strong preference for powerful, impactful preaching.

They themselves are quite robust and passionate in their approach, showing great dedication to spreading the word and nurturing their congregations. Working in these rural areas, although often challenging due to limited resources and logistical difficulties, has proven to be incredibly rewarding. The growth in faith and the heartfelt connections made with the people here inspire and motivate me to continue this mission with enthusiasm and dedication. The opportunity to witness firsthand the transformation in the lives of new believers is truly a blessing.

Thank you.

#### मार्क जैक्सन

Mark Jackson.



God is my Teacher

#### Fellowship Update - New Zealand & Australia

Community Newsletter | Quarter Update

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blessings from New Zealand and Australia! It's been a busy and eventful quarter, and I'm excited to share with you all that the Lord has been doing across our region.

#### Australia Fellowship Sessions

Our quarter began with a sudden change of plans—we had to cancel Jacob's visit to Australia and New Zealand. However, since venues in Australia were already booked, we felt led to proceed with the sessions in **Sydney and Brisbane**, even without Jacob.

In **Sydney**, we met with a number of believers and were also able to visit **Gary Howling** in Wollongong, one of our more isolated subscribers. This was a personal highlight, as it was my first time in that area.

For the **Brisbane session, Marco** kindly live streamed in from California and shared an encouraging message titled:

#### "Be Strong and Courageous in the Last Days."

Afterwards, Davey and I spoke on:

#### "Back to Basics."

The fellowship was rich, and it was a blessing to see several New Zealand believers join us online.

#### Missed the sessions?

You can watch the recordings on the Community Church of Devore YouTube channel. Just head to the Videos section.

#### Looking Ahead – Fellowship Across New Zealand

My focus for the coming quarter is on **fellowship runs** across both the North and South Islands. The goal is simple: **To bring believers together** for worship, encouragement, and teaching in areas where sound fellowship is lacking.

Many mainstream churches in New Zealand have sadly been overrun with New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) doctrines. As a result, a growing number of sincere believers are leaving these churches and finding themselves spiritually isolated.

#### Our vision is to:

Bring these scattered believers together

- Establish home groups grounded in the Word
- Foster encouragement, prayer, and accountability

We humbly ask for your prayers—that the Lord would bless these upcoming trips and that many would be stirred to join the meetings.

#### **Stay Connected**

If you're in New Zealand or Australia and would like to know more about the upcoming fellowship meetings—or if you'd like to host or attend a home group— please get in touch.

Let's continue to press on together, being strong and courageous in these last days.

With love in Christ,

Pierre Moseley









God is my Teacher