

JESUS, JUDAISM & TRUE INDEPENDENCE

3:48 a.m., July 4, 2000, my phone rang with the horrible news that my father had just died. Despite my grief, I was able to rejoice that my dad was celebrating his ultimate Independence Day in heaven.

Unfortunately for God's Chosen People, the thought of heaven is a foreign concept. An abstract idea because they do not realize that true independence from eternal death is possible, but only through Messiah Jesus.

Joseph Telushkin in his book, *Jewish Literacy*, states that due to silence in the Torah regarding life after death, "we are asked to leave [the] afterlife in God's hands."

Telushkin is correct that the afterlife is in God's hands. However, he fails to realize that God has provided **The Way** in order that we may know where we are heading. Instead Jewish people prefer to focus on this life, due to the fact that, I believe, they don't know how to have hope regarding the future.

Please use this month to pray that God's Chosen People will come to realize that true independence is possible ... but only through Messiah Jesus!

Amy Downey

STATEMENT OF FAITH

What's so important about a ministry's Statement of Faith? Everything! A faith statement reveals what a ministry believes to be crucial related to faith, salvation and God.

There is not enough space to list the entire Statement of Faith but this article will try and highlight some of the key concepts:

Inerrancy of Scripture is a key component of Tzedakah Ministries along with a clear explanation of the Trinity. A focus on the Trinity is key not only because it is Scriptural but also because it is one of the key objections to Jesus in Judaism.

An understanding of the humanity and deity of Jesus as God the Son is a part of Tzedakah Ministries's faith statement. The reality that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone is also a part of the Tzedakah Ministries' Statement of Faith.

If you would like to review the complete Statement of Faith, please email the ministry at amy@tzedakahministries.org or call 817-921-8703 to receive your own copy.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Significance of the Ninth of Av (Tish B'Av)
Prayer and Praise Reports!!!

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NINTH OF AV

“And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palace thereof of fire...”
(2 Chron. 36:19)

For most people around the world, July 27th will be just another Tuesday. To the Jewish people it is the 9th of Av – the most tragic day on the Jewish calendar.

Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Temple in 586 BC on the 9th of Av. The Romans chose the same day to destroy it in AD 70. England expelled the Jews in 1290 and the Spanish did the same thing in 1492 – on the 9th of Av.

Today, the 9th of Av is observed by a period of fasting and the reading of the Book of Lamentations in the synagogue.

The 9th of Av is a time of lament and sadness for the Jewish people. This day should also be a time of grief for Christians ... because of the continued need of the Jewish people to know that Jesus is the Messiah.

Set aside this July 27th as a special day of prayer for the Jewish people. Pray that this will be the last 9th of Av that your Jewish friends and family observe without knowing the joyous victory of a personal relationship with Jesus. Otherwise, the 9th of Av will not be the only day of mourning on our calendar.

Additional information on the 9th of Av can be found in Joseph Telushkin's *Jewish Literacy*.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- www.tzedakahministries.org is up and running. Please visit the site often to read the latest news and information!
- Mary (see March newsletter) has made contact. Please be in prayer that God will continue to provide additional witnessing opportunities with her.
- 95 churches have been invited to the Jewish Evangelism Workshop (see below). Please be in prayer for this special event.
- Please be in prayer for the busy summer schedule.

MINISTRY CALENDAR

- **JULY 14, 2004 – CHAPEL SERVICE: ROMANS 10:1-15** (LifeWord Broadcast Ministries, Conway, AR)
- **JULY 14, 2004 – MINISTRY PRESENTATION (P.M.)** (Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hot Springs, AR)
- **AUGUST 7, 2004 – JEWISH EVANGELISM WORKSHOP** (Needham Road Baptist Church, Conroe, TX)
- **September 12, 2004 – ACTS CLASS: “HOW TO BE A MENSCH ABOUT THE MESSIAH”** (Wedgwood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX)
- **September 19, 2004 – ACTS CLASS: “HOW TO BE A MENSCH ABOUT THE MESSIAH”** (Wedgwood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX)
- **September 26, 2004 – ACTS CLASS: “HOW TO BE A MENSCH ABOUT THE MESSIAH”** (Wedgwood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX)

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE ...

**Messianic View of Rosh Hashanah
Jesus in Yom Kippur**