

***Mystery Solved?* – A New Type of Evangelism Outreach and Tract**

One of the primary ministry endeavors for Tzedakah Ministries in 2007 is – *Mystery Solved?*. *Mystery Solved?* is an evangelistic tract that is different from the typical evangelistic paper tract. *Mystery Solved?* is a visual evangelistic tract for this generation in that it is a five-minute DVD.

The purpose of *Mystery Solved?* is not simply to be a different form of evangelistic outreach. The purpose of *Mystery Solved?* is to create a new forum for evangelism that will appeal to and attract the 21st century Jewish searcher.

The germination for *Mystery Solved?* requires a confession about my skills in passing out tracts on the street – I am not very good at it. I have passed out tracts during the fourth game of the World Series (Yankees vs. Mets) but it is not my strongest area of evangelism. And you know what, I do not believe I am the only person who struggles in passing out tracts and then being frustrated when I see my efforts end up on the ground.

Therefore, one of the purposes of *Mystery Solved?* is to take away some of the fear and frustration in evangelism. The DVD tract is not designed for random evangelism but for purposeful and intentional Gospel presentations.

Another purpose is to equip the person who struggles with “confrontation” to have a resource for evangelism. Anyone will be able to take this 5-minute DVD and give it to his or her Jewish friend

co-worker, boss, and/or family member and know that the Gospel will be presented in such a way that follow-up is not only possible but also necessary.

The third purpose for *Mystery Solved?* is the need to create an evangelistic tract that focuses on the Messianic prophecies. This focus is necessary to illustrate that the fulfilled claims of the New Testament were predicted in the Old Testament. While many Jewish people are not actively engaged in the reading of the Old Testament (surprised?!), any claims regarding the Messiahship of Jesus must begin in the mystery of the Torah, the beauty of the Psalms, and the majesty of the prophets.

Mystery Solved? reveals the truth of Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah through the testimony and voices of Jewish believers in Jesus. Tzedakah Ministries is grateful for the efforts of Adat Shalom Messianic Congregation (Dallas, Texas) in participating in the filming of the DVD evangelistic tract. Your faith will be rewarded!

Mystery Solved should be available to you and your church by the mid-fall. Tzedakah Ministries is working with LifeWord Studios (Conway, Arkansas)

(article continued on page two)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Is There an Eschatological Significance to the Feast of Trumpets?

Consideration of the Messianic Movement

Mystery Solved?

(article continued from page one)

on the final edits and changes. LifeWord Studios exhibits ability and talent beyond anything imaginable. Thank you LifeWord Studios for your service in the cause of Jewish evangelism.

Tzedakah Ministries is presenting *Mystery Solved?* as a free gift to everyone who is passionate for the cause of Jewish evangelism. Therefore, if you believe in the truth of Romans 1:16 then *Mystery Solved?* is for you.

Simply contact Tzedakah Ministries at info@tzedakahministries.org to reserve copies of *Mystery Solved?*. Order as many as you need and as many as you will use. Please allow Tzedakah Ministries to equip you with *Mystery Solved?*. It is free and available upon request. Shalom!

Amy Downey

Is There an Eschatological Significance to the Feast of Trumpets?

Tzedakah Ministries is sometimes asked by churches that just observed and/or participated in a Jesus in the Passover presentation if any of the other Jewish feasts of the Old Testament unveil the truth of Jesus' Messiahship. The short answer ... YES!

Passover brings to reality the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus through the truth of the Matzah Tash and the four cups. The Feasts of Unleavened Bread and the First Fruits are manifested and fulfilled on Easter Sunday morning!

These first three feasts proclaim Jesus' first coming while Shavuot (Pentecost) unveils the coming of the Holy Spirit. In fact, compare Ezekiel 1, which is read today in synagogues during Shavuot, and Acts 2 for proof of this amazing truth.

Therefore, if the first three feasts were realized in the first coming of Jesus and the middle feast is proof of the Holy Spirit's arrival, then would it not seem obvious that the final three feasts might have something to do with Jesus' triumphal second coming? The Feasts of Trumpet (aka Rosh Hoshanah), Yom Kippur, and the Feast of Tabernacles are fall feasts. The Feast of Trumpets, specifically, is known for two items – the blowing of the Shofar and the reading of Genesis 22 regarding the binding and sacrifice of Isaac. The Shofar is blown to announce the arrival of a new year and the reading of Genesis 22 to remind the listener of the eternity of the Abrahamic Covenant.

The blowing of the Shofar brings to mind the promise of 1 Thessalonians 4 in which we are told that Jesus himself shall descend when the trumpet blows. The reading of Genesis 22 is not only another prophetic realization of Jesus' sacrifice but also reminds us that His second coming is not about death but about the fulfillment of the covenant promises of Genesis 12, 15, 17, and especially 22.

The question regarding the exact timing (i.e., Rapture) of the final Shofar can be answered another day. The ultimate truth is to realize for God that nothing is unexpected or unplanned. From Jesus' first coming to his second, this has all been pieces of the eternal plan of Adonai.

Consideration of the Messianic Movement

The original plan for this article was to review *How Jewish Is Christianity?* edited by Louis Goldberg that focuses on two views regarding the Messianic movement. However, it quickly became apparent that the focus of this article should be on the issues themselves, and not just the book.

How Jewish ...? examines the place, role, and purpose of Messianic congregations in light of the Church Age. Opinions vary from the anti-congregation position of William Varner to the Torah-observant position of John Fischer. Nothing is resolved in this point/counterpoint presentation, and it is somewhat an exercise in frustration except for the brief historical overview of the Messianic movement by Louis Goldberg.

These divergences of opinions can also be found in Baruch Maoz's *Judaism Is Not Jewish* and Mark Kinzer's *Post-Missionary Messianic Judaism*. However, and what neither position realizes, is that they both fail to address not only the broad scope of Messianic Judaism but also its limitations.

The criticism that the Church has forgotten the Jewish roots of its faith is tragically accurate. Most churches recognize Jesus' lineage but fail to understand our biblical Jewish heritage. However, the correct response is not to engage in a Torah-observant lifestyle that overlooks the blessings of grace. We must seek to find a balance that avoids this "Messianic vs. Christian" division – as it is sinful and detrimental to the cause of the Gospel. But just what is the solution? Find out next time...

Ministry Calendar

- May 27, 2007 – "Ministry Testimony (p.m.)," Red Oak Baptist Church, Harrison, Arkansas
- June 9-10, 2007 – "Ministry Display/Booth," Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship, Henry B. Gonzales Center, San Antonio, Texas
- June 21, 2007 – "Jewish Evangelism Seminar," Freedom Baptist Fellowship, Weatherford, Texas
- June 29-30, 2007 – "Mothers of the Messiah/Jewish Evangelism," Ladies Retreat for Pine Grove Baptist Church, Diboll, Texas
- July 19, 2007 – "The Life of Leah – A Story of Spiritual Independence," Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas
- October 12-14, 2007 – "Missions Conference," Sandia Baptist Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- November 2-3, 2007 – "Mothers of the Messiah (Part 2)," Ladies Retreat for Pine Grove Baptist Church, Diboll, Texas
- November 4, 2007 – "Ministry Testimony (a.m.)," Pine Grove Baptist Church, Diboll, Texas

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE ...

- ✧ The Stumbling Block of the Trinity – How to Answer the Impossible Questions
- ✧ Feast of Tabernacles – The Festival of the Millennium (Zechariah 14)
- ✧ Review – *Post-Missionary Messianic Judaism* (Part 2 of the Consideration Question)