

TZEDAKAH MINISTRIES
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Tzedakah Times

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Tzedakah Ministries literally will go across the globe to have lunch with an un-saved Jewish woman! (page 2)

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The Real “Jerusalem Syndrome”



Did you know that there is an actual diagnosable illness called “Jerusalem Syndrome”? There are three types of this mental illness; however, the most common form of it occurs when Christians go to the Holy Land and fall victim to an unexplained desire to take on the role of a Biblical character or make prophetic utterances “out of the blue.” Jerusalem Syndrome often will disappear when they leave Israel as will any memories of the actions they engaged in while they were in the land.

I just returned from my fourth trip to Israel and I want to promise you that I only ate normal foods (no locust or honey) and dressed just like all the other tourists (no togas)! However, I want to let you know that I encountered a different

type of Jerusalem Syndrome that I believe it is imperative that I share with you. It is imperative because the spiritual future of the little boy above is at truly at stake (I took his picture at plaza of the Western Wall/Kotel on a beautiful Thursday in the Holy City).

I visited the land for a variety of different purposes but I saw and experienced an Israel that was quite unlike any of my other trips. First, I was able to spend two days in Tel Aviv in a way that I had never experienced before because I was able to meet with an Israeli ministry about the possibility of putting together in a year or so a mission trip to the land. I walked through the city and saw a group of Israelis that many tour groups will never see. I saw prostitutes coming from and going to work. I saw homosexuals and transsexuals living openly and proudly for you see Tel Aviv is nothing like the religious city of Jerusalem. Tel Aviv is also home to vast wealth and extreme poverty living side by side. After meeting with a ministry, I simply walked to the hotel with tears in my eyes and a prayer in my heart for the land.

(article continued on page two)

To Equip His Church To Reach His People



And this is what I mean by the “Jerusalem Syndrome.” ... There is a sense in the air that the Middle East is literally about to explode.



“Jerusalem Syndrome” (continued)

After Tel Aviv, I “went up to Jerusalem” as I was asked to present a paper on behalf of **Tzedakah Ministries** at the Caspari Center. This invitation came as a result of when I represented **Tzedakah Ministries** last August at the LCJE 10th International meeting in Jerusalem. It was an opportunity that I just could not pass up because of the history of the Caspari Center and the opportunity to share the work of the ministry around the world. However, arriving in Jerusalem came at an interesting time as the terrorist attacks and stabbings have been increasing to an almost daily event. In fact, the “Old City” where I stay while I am in Jerusalem was closed down twice during my stay because of terrorist stabbings.

And this is what I mean by the “Jerusalem Syndrome.” Something is going on in Israel. Sin is abounding like I have never seen before. Terrorism is on the rise and the people — Arabs, Christians and Jews — are afraid. There is a sense in the air that the Middle East is literally about to explode. My fellow missionaries in the region describe it as a spiritual oppression that weighs them down like an anchor on a daily basis. Please pray for them. Please pray for the land.

However, the best part of my trip was the drive I took on Wednesday from Jerusalem to a small area near Nazareth. I need to be vague on the details to protect the identity of my friend. However, I want you to know that **Tzedakah Ministries** will literally will go across the globe to have lunch with an unsaved Jewish woman!

My new friend is an Orthodox Jewish woman who is interested about Jesus but is convinced that she is “unconvertible.” However, she agreed to meet with me in Israel after a series of “coincidences” that led to an initial encounter in California. We met. We ate — a lunch that baffled her because she had never met anyone who would travel 5,000 miles to share Jesus with her over a sandwich! I challenged her on some stereotypes she had about believers in Jesus and we are still friends. And, yes, I presented the Gospel to her but I told her that I wanted this to be the beginning (and not the end) of our conversations. She wants me to come to Israel to see her again! Please pray for her and the “Jerusalem Syndrome”! Please pray for **Tzedakah Ministries!**

Acts 20:24,

Amy Downey (Director)



The Jewish View of the Resurrection

You probably are scratching your head because Resurrection Sunday is already past on the 2016 calendar. However, Passover is still ahead of us and you never know if a discussion about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus might “pop up” during the Jewish holidays this year. If so, I want you to be prepared with something so shocking, something so amazing, something that will literally know the socks off of your Jewish friends!... **There are Jewish people who believe that Jesus rose from the dead! And not just Jewish believers in Jesus!**



Dr. Pinchas Lapidé wrote a book in 2002 called *The Resurrection of Jesus: A Jewish Perspective*. In this book, Lapidé examines the arguments for the resurrection of Jesus and not only confirms the truth of the empty grave but also affirms that the event was a Jewish experience. Now I need to let you know that Dr. Lapidé died without being that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah but he did believe that Jesus rose from the dead. **Is one of your socks starting to come off right about now? Or are you just a little confused?**

Well ... Lapidé was obviously BOTH right and confused; however, he provided for us as Christian churches/believers a template for how we can share Jesus with the Jewish people—whether that was his intention or not! So ... let’s not waste it!

The good Jewish doctor notes that the great chapter on the resurrection (1 Cor. 15) is really a bastion of Jewish illustrations: (1) the narration if written in a Hebraic style; (2) utilization of the Jewish name for Peter (Cephas); (3) usage of parallelism which is a very Hebraic approach; and (4) the evidence that Paul was quoting from an early source (probably around AD 35) and not in his traditional Greek style. Lapidé’s view from these and other arguments is that belief in the resurrection is 100% JEWISH!

However, I would like to point out a few other important Jewish truths about the Jesus and the resurrection (and I am not even mentioning

that the Pharisees believed in the reality of resurrection):

- (1) It was not until AD 50 that Gentiles were considered as Jesus followers were first requiring circumcision (Acts 15)
- (2) All of the first believers in Jesus were Jewish ... Peter, James, John, Paul
- (3) Followers of Jesus were considered as a sect of Judaism until the 2nd century
- (4) Jesus, was, and always will be Jewish. Believing in Him as Messiah and His Resurrection is the most important step a Jewish person can ever take.

**One can be Jewish
and believe that
Jesus rose from
the dead!**



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Will We Come?... Yes!

It is never too early or too late to begin to schedule Tzedakah Ministries to come to your church. **Speaking to Christians/churches about sharing Jesus with the Jewish people is the first priority of this ministry.** Please call 214-356-6080, email info@tzedakahministries.org or go online at www.tzedakahministries.org/church-ministries/ and we will make it happen!

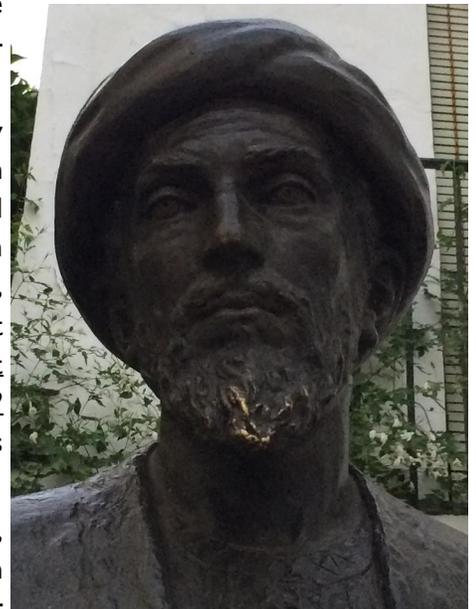


The Scourge of Rambam

I struggle with the “man” to the right. Yes ... I know it is a statue! However, I truly cannot fathom that there is a man who has done more damage to the soul and eternity of Jewish people over the last 800+ years than the Spanish Jewish rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (1138-1204) also known as Maimonides or Rambam.

I have spent the last year of my life writing my PhD dissertation for Liberty University’s School of Divinity on Rambam’s view of God as expressed in the term **via Negativa**. In “human or normal” terms, Maimonides believed that we could only know God by what we did not know of God. In other words, this Spanish rabbi who was forced to emigrate to Egypt believed that God was unknowable, inaccessible, unapproachable. I want you to think about those three words for just a moment before you read on any further. Can you imagine believing in a God that was only known in ways that were unknowable, inaccessible, unapproachable? However, this was Rambam’s view of God and because of the influence of his teachings, this is at the core of Rabbinic Judaism for the last 800+ years.

You can now understand why so many Jewish people today have a distant, understanding of God. If God was only known by what you could not know of Him ... could you have a relationship with Him? **Therefore, it is imperative that we share the truth of Messiah Jesus with the Jewish people. The truth that a close relationship with God is POSSIBLE!** The scourge of Rambam must be fought and defeated. Jewish souls are at stake!



To Equip His Church To Reach His People