

TZEDAKAH MINISTRIES  
978 BIG SKY DRIVE  
WAXAHACHIE, TX 75167

# Tzedakah Times

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*The Final  
Meaning  
of the Fall  
Feast of  
Sukkot ...  
Zech. 14  
& Rev. 20  
(page 3)*

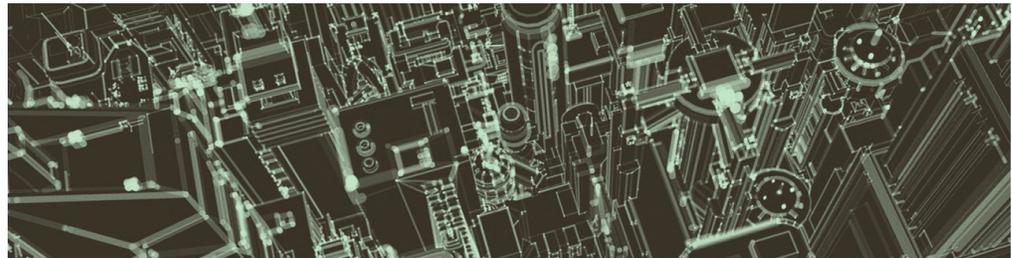
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Near You..?**

## Coming Soon: Explore Messiah...?



### Explore Messiah ...? *The Journey of a Lifetime and Eternity*

I know the picture above is large. But, **Tzedakah Ministries** is about to embark on the largest project of its ministry history. The largest, the most daunting, and the most evangelistically necessary that could be imagined. It is simply called "**Explore Messiah ...?: The Journey of a Lifetime and Eternity.**" However, there is nothing simple about this project or this vision for Jewish evangelism.

**Tzedakah Ministries** plans on unveiling this vision/project beginning in 2016 but I want to share pieces of the concept with you in this newsletter because it is a project, a vision, that will need to be covered in prayer, support and encouragement. **Explore Messiah ...?** seeks to do the following:

- Be socially relevant and understanding of the sociological dynamics at play for Jewish people who are confronted with the truth of Messiah Jesus;
- Be intellectually and Biblically honest without being boring and/or approaching the subject in ways that have been tried before; AND
- Be media-driven for a 21<sup>st</sup> century audience that expects something more.

(article continued on page two)

**To Equip His Church To Reach His People**



## Explore Messiah...? (continued)

The Jewish people have questions about the truth of the Messiah. Questions they are not having answered in the traditional synagogue or from their rabbis. We as believers in Jesus have **THE ANSWER** and we must begin to develop better methods/means/opportunities to share the **THE ANSWER** with them. And ... that is what *Explore Messiah...?* will seek to do through every social media and traditional print media known to man.

**Tzedakah Ministries** has already secured the domain rights for a future website. **Tzedakah Ministries** is in the process of building the various social media sites (including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) that will be ready to launch when *Explore Messiah...?* is ready to be fully launched. In fact, and within proper moral boundaries, **Tzedakah Ministries** will explore every available social media option available to this ministry. For as to paraphrase Jesus, **Tzedakah Ministries** will go into the highways and hedges to bring God's Chosen People to Jesus the Messiah.

However, and because this is the vision and ultimate focus of **Tzedakah Ministries**, *Explore Messiah...?* will also be designed to facilitate and equip Christians and churches to reach the Jewish people in their local neighborhoods with the Gospel message as well. Therefore, print and video media will also be a key aspect of this project. Nothing will be "left to chance" and by all means possible "no stone will be left unturned" in the effort to reach even one or 1,000 or one million Jewish people with the truth of Jesus Messiah.

So ... how can you be involved today? The first, second, and third requests I have of you is PRAYER. This will not happen without the power of prayer. Yes, **Tzedakah Ministries** will need financial support to see this vision accomplished; however, nothing happens without PRAYER. Please pray for this grand project called *Explore Messiah...?* **Please also pray for Tzedakah Ministries!**

You can also be involved if you know of people who are savvy in the world of social media, graphic design and video technology/production. We are going to need volunteers if at all possible to reduce costs. Please let the ministry know if you can help us out in this area. But above all ... PRAY! More details to come...

Acts 20:24,

**Amy Downey (Director)**

**Tzedakah Ministries** is about to embark on the largest project of its ministry history... However, there is nothing simple about this project or this vision for Jewish evangelism.



# What Is ... The Meaning of Sukkot?



The Biblical festival of Sukkot is one of the least understood feasts in Christianity. In fact, if you asked most churches and Christians — “Just, what is Sukkot?” I imagine you might have a lot of blank stares looking back at you. One might have a little more success if you substitute the phrase “Festival of Booths” for Sukkot but ... maybe not.

However, Sukkot or Festival of Booths is one of the most important and exciting of the Jewish festivals not only in Judaism but also for Christian and world history. But ... perhaps a little background might be in order.

Sukkot was one of the three pilgrimage feasts, along with Passover and Shavuot (i.e., Pentecost). A pilgrimage feast entailed that all Jewish men, regardless of where they lived in the world, would travel to Jerusalem for the ordinances as required in Scripture.

In Leviticus 23:33-44, we have all the specifics of Sukkot spelled out. (1) There was to be no work done on the first or eighth day of the eight day festival. These days of the Festival of Booths was to be honored as a special or sacred Sabbath to the Lord. (2) Sacrifices and various offerings to the Lord are to occur AT the Temple in Jerusalem (hence the reason for the pilgrimage feast). (3) All individuals born in Israel (v. 42) are to build a Sukkah (booth) and live in the shelter for the duration of the festival to remember

God’s provision for the people while they lived in the wilderness for forty years. (4) It is to be a perpetual feast that exists forever.

Now ... if you have gotten to this point in the article. You are probably ready to ask questions. **First**, why the picture to the left? Leviticus 23:40 talks about various branches and trees that are used in the building of the booth. One of the trees used are date trees. Branches (lulav) and fruit (etrog that looks like a lemon) are also waved in the Jewish modern observance of the holiday. The **next question** is how do Jewish people observe all the sacrifices without the Temple. **GOOD QUESTION**. They cannot and that is one of the burdens of Orthodox Judaism today.

**Tzedakah Ministries** wants to propose, however two more questions/thoughts that you might not have considered. One is unique. One is controversial. Let’s begin with the controversial one.

I (Amy Downey) personally believe that Jesus was born during Sukkot. Luke speaks of Bethlehem being crowded. Yes, because of the census but also Bethlehem is only 7 miles from Jerusalem. It served as a good overflow locale for people seeking to go to Jerusalem for Sukkot. The “stable” that Jesus was born in could well have been a booth if one examines the Greek. Now and uniquely, Zech. 14 and Rev. 20 are intertwined. The Sukkot prophecies of Zechariah 14 and the words of Revelation 20 foreshadows the Millennium. Therefore, I would also argue that Jesus was born on Sukkot and it all ends one day at the Final Sukkot. **It began and ends on Sukkot!** This should make us want to learn more about this most important and least understood Jewish holidays!

***Is Sukkot a foreshadowing of the Millennium?***



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## Personal Prayer Requests

- 1) My sister is a missionary in Ecuador. And while she is still in "language school," she is already teaching Bible classes, teaching ESL classes and has played a role in 3 Ecuadorians coming to faith in Messiah Jesus. However, the country of Ecuador has to worry about the rumblings of an active volcano on Mt. Cotopaxi. If Cotopaxi blows, my sister, the other missionaries and all Ecuadorians will be in serious danger. Please pray for Ecuador and that Cotopaxi will seize and desist.
- 2) I am hoping to finish my Ph.D. dissertation by the spring and graduate in May from Liberty University. The balance of full-time ministry and a dissertation on the life of a 12th century Jewish philosopher is tough. However, and with **Explore Messiah...?** In the background, the balance must be maintained. I need your prayers! Tzedakah Ministries comes 1st!

## Coming to a Church Near You..?

**Tzedakah Ministries** exists to equip Christians and churches to share the Gospel of Messiah Jesus with the Jewish people in your neighborhood, your family, your business, etc. In fact, I cannot tell you how many times church members have come to me and asked one simple question — **"Can your ministry help me? I don't know where else to go?"**

However, **Tzedakah Ministries** is dependent upon local churches to invite us to come or to invite us back. **We never just show up and start talking!**

Therefore, the time is now to begin scheduling Tzedakah Ministries for ministry opportunities. We will be in Illinois at the end of October, Georgia in mid-

November, and Oklahoma/Mississippi the first two weeks of December. However, we still have dates available for the rest of 2015. The ministry also will be returning to Israel in either March or June to speak at a conference in Jerusalem; but, **speaking to Christians/churches about sharing Jesus with Jewish people always comes first.** Please call 214-356-6080, email info@tzedakahministries.org or go online at [www.tzedakahministries.org/church-ministries/](http://www.tzedakahministries.org/church-ministries/) and it can be arranged for Tzedakah Ministries to be speaking at a church near you.

