

Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times"- Publisher
- Israel Legal Defense
- Jewish/Gentile Fellowship
- International Conferences
- Forum for Debate
- Emigration to Israel
- Dispute Mediation
- International Affiliations
- Monthly Essays
- Theological Papers

Early Foundations:

Our Alliance was originally established in England in 1925. During the Nazi era, some of our European affiliates were decimated. The remaining groups worked together to fund the escape of many fellow Jews.

This life saving work was officially recognized by Great Britain. Our earliest leaders were honored i.e. Sir Lawrence Levinson was knighted by royal decree and Harcourt Samuel was given the "Order of the British Empire" (OBE).

In 1976, the IMJA, in conjunction with two other founding charities established the Ebenezer Home in Haifa, Israel. This institution continues today and the IMJA annually helps fund its operation. It is home to 30 individuals, without regard to original nationality, race or religion. Food, clothing, medical care and transportation are provided. About a hundred people can be seen at some of its social events and there is always a waiting list to become a resident.

Our blessing is for this life, as well as the next, but we simply cannot allow ourselves the indulgence of being "weary in well doing," Galations 6:9. This is easier said than done.

For this reason, I have written a statement, which I have kept in my Bible for over 35 years to remind me of the truth when circumstances make me feel undone. Here are some private reminders I'll share with you:

I am a recreated being. Old things have passed away and all things have become new. I am His workmanship. I do have the fruit of His spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, meekness, temperance and faith (even when I feel devoid of them).

I am God's property, bought with the costly blood of Messiah Yeshua. I act upon Scriptural truths and therefore am expecting God to do super abundantly above all I dare ask, dream or desire (Ephesians 3:20). I speak directly to every mountain of adversity to move in Yeshua's name (even if it takes time).

Every once in a while, I have to pull it out and read it again and again. Today was one of those days. So I decided to give the Adversary some choice words. It helped me. Perhaps you can join me in declaring God's truth, and enjoy victory over the Deceiver's delusion.

In Messiah,

Paul Liberman
Executive Director

International Messianic Jewish Alliance

האגודה הבין לאומית של היהודים המשיחיים

72-877 Dinah Shore Dr., Ste. 103-141 • Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 • TEL: (760) 668-3011 • FAX: (760) 837-0451 • Website: www.imja.com

ESSAY # 153

TRIAL

Dear Fellow Workers,

We don't remember coming into this life and we have only limited understanding of its meaning. The Bible points toward our role in good overcoming evil. It's difficult to find anyone who won't admit to affliction of one sort or another in this process.

Those who do not believe in the Bible are left with the delusion that the purpose of life is to have fun, fun, fun. Yes, life has sufficient enjoyments to keep us going. However, woe is a part of life. The Scriptures give us meaningful clues as to why.

Rav Shaul (Apostle Paul) says we are to "work out our own salvation" (Philippians 2:12). Do we fully grasp what he meant by that? The statement seems to imply a process.

He also tells us in his first letter to the Corinthians in chapter 10, verse 13:

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you may be able to bear it."

Let's dissect this sentence. Too often the word "temptation" has sexual connotations. What about food, drugs, or alcohol? The word "test" is also used by several Biblical translators as an alternative word. In a Hebrew Bible, the word "nesiyon" is used. In everyday Israel language, this word means "experience."

According to the Scriptural quotation above, our difficulties are similar to many other peoples. Moreover, they are never more than we can bear, and

What We Do

Israel Support:

- Home for the elderly
- Humanitarian aid of goods from local warehouses
- Unwed mothers and widows
- Civil Rights Defense for Messianic Jews in Israel
- Jerusalem Headquarters utilized by Ethiopian Jewish Believers

Among the nations:

- Fostering the growth of New Testament Messianic Congregations (now numbering 750, including 120 in Israel).
- Small Ministries—Poor Countries: In many countries fund raising is not a practical possibility, especially for Jewish work. These works are volunteer efforts where even small amounts go a long way. It is our fervent wish to do what we can to facilitate Jews and Gentiles worshipping our Lord together.

Witness:

- Jewish outreach and evangelism
- New Testament Jewish roots
- Jews & Gentiles in joint worship

National Alliances

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Holland
- Israel
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

that there is always a way of escape.

Older believers have observed that often the solution lies buried deep in our problem; that out of the problem itself will evolve some resulting circumstances that will deliver us from our discomfort. It would be good if I could remember this more often.

It's difficult to accept that the refining of my spirit doesn't come from reading books. This can help get my intellect around certain concepts. But the changing from within can only come from actual life trials.

Indeed, it has often been during the times in the dark pit of discouragement that we find our character. Numbers 21:4 tells of the hardship of a 40-year journey from Egypt. Nehemiah tells in chapter 4, verse 10, about the fading strength of those rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

The psalmist expresses himself frankly in chapter 73:2:

"I was envious of the foolish when I saw the prosperity of the wicked"

Solomon tells us in Proverbs 13:1:

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick..."

He couldn't have stated that unless he had experienced it.

None of us is looking for more suffering. Yet, we know it is actually beneficial. My mother knew that spinach was good for me and I ate it, even though it was distasteful. I obeyed because I knew she wanted me to be healthy.

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest time of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11)

Job is thought to perhaps be the oldest book of the Bible, possibly dating back to 2000 B.C.E. Even then, he understood the significance of his suffering:

"Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty." (Job 5:17)

"He that knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I

will come forth as gold." (Job 23:10)

Sometimes our affliction seems so devastating, we feel we will never be the same again. That's right, we will be changed, but for the better. Severe trial can deepen our well of compassion. Find a compassionate person, and if you examine closely enough, you'll find a painful wound.

Now, what about the anguish that is less than visible? It can come from slander, gossip, or betrayal. Oh, how hurtful and soul-devouring this can be! How long, O Lord, how long? Ask Yeshua (Jesus). He's been waiting almost 2,000 years for his full vindication before mankind, but it is coming. And so it is with us. We are joint heirs with our Messiah (Romans 8:17). What He gets, we get.

All of your sacrifices for the Lord are remembered:

"For God is not so unfair as to forget your work and the love you showed for Him in your past service to His people – and in your present service, too" (Hebrews 6:10 CJB).

God said he will not be a debtor to any man, because that would make him under the authority of the one owed, Proverbs 22:7. So when does God pay up? It may take some time, but it is certain to come. Matthew 5:10-12 says it so well:

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

When life seems long and hard, heaven's reward doesn't seem to give us immediate or full relief, because we're under the Devil's pressure. So the Lord promises the "earnest of our inheritance" (Ephesians 1:14). This is like a real estate purchase, i.e., the down payment on the down payment. In this life there is a partial reward for us:

*"No one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much **in this present age** (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions), and in the age to come, eternal life." (Mark 10:29-30).*

Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian and now Spanish. It is a 30 year old classic and explains why accepting a Jewish Messiah, foretold by Jewish Prophets in a Jewish Land is a very Jewish thing to do. Distributions of the Holy Scriptures are available in 17 languages:

- Yiddish
- English
- Armenian
- Bulgarian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Hebrew
- Ukranian

