

THE JOYFUL JEW

One of the best known facts today is the truth that there is little joy, exhilaration, gladness in the world, and the peoples of the world have little joy exhilaration and gladness. Joy has been pursued by man through the centuries of his physical and natural life. Today, even as never before, people seek this thing called joy. Among those searching for it are perhaps countless Jewish people. Actually on the face of the earth there is not another people who have been so unhappy – so seldom happy – so resolute in their quest for the loving cup of happiness!

Some of us Jews – very few – testify to being joyful most of the time. Most of us testify to being joyful some of the time. There are some Jewish people who testify to being joyful all of the time! You say that the latter statement is “wishful thinking”? – a dream? – a hyperbole?? Listen to this message and you will be told who these people are and how you can be one of them!!

Why are people joyless in the first place? There are many reasons, some of which are: ill health, loneliness, divorce, poverty, physical handicaps, ruined life, bad children, deaths, fear, hatred, war, work or lack of it, absence of love. These reasons are actually effects. The cause is “sin”! When Adam and Eve violated the commandment of God, as recorded in our Jewish Bible, quote: “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat,” they brought upon themselves and each one of their descendants, each one of us, the penalty, quote: “cursed is the ground for your sake...in sorrow thou shalt eat of it all the days of your life.” Hence, sin is the root of all unhappiness! By his act of transgression, Adam died spiritually immediately, morally – progressively, and physically – ultimately. Such is the lot of each person today except that when he or she is born in the world, it is without spiritual life within them! Through the transgression, the overstepping of the law by Adam, sin, disease and death entered the body, and original holiness – contact with the Holy God – was lost! The heart which had been pure became “deceitful and desperately wicked,” and in turn it devised every form of evil! Hence, among the effects is the fact that the undertone of human life is very sad, and the vast majority of people testify to being unhappy the greater part of everyday, if not day in and day out!

On the other hand, there are some Jewish people who are happy in their hearts all of the time! Who are these? They are the ones who have reestablished contact with God, Almighty God Himself! Even as David the Psalmist cried out, “Create in me a clean heart, o God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” These Jewish people have called to God in the same way, and have along with David received a direct answer to their prayers, a clean heart – a new and righteous spirit – within them!

Now these Jewish people, your speaker among them, enjoy and experience moment-by-moment peace with God, the peace of God, and the blessings of the God of

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peace! Our joy is one that passes human understanding and surpasses all misunderstanding! Our happiness is the kind which the world cannot give, nor can the world take away! Some of us have good educations; others are poorly educated. Some of us have been and are successful in business, labor and professionally; some of us do not have

much of this world's goods. Some of us indescribably happy Jews are found scattered over the face of the earth, and if our outward circumstances be good or bad, we could testify to you that inwardly "all is well" – that we are wealthy beyond the wealth of this world! Yea, although some of us might be painfully ill, even in these moments, dying, we could testify to you that in our hearts we are happy, happy, happy Jews!

We can testify to you that each and every one of the following words found in our Jewish Bibles are true! Quote: "Happy is every one that reveres the Lord... that walks in His ways. Happy is that people whose God is the Lord. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help... whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Now, how did these people – how did we reestablish contact with God? We could not do it by means of the animal sacrifices as did our people of old for our Jewish Bibles plainly proclaim that only in Jerusalem can the sacrifices be performed, and only in the Holy Temple there. Since there is no Holy Temple in Jerusalem, even the very commandments of Torah pertaining to the sacrifices cannot be observed – at all!

Have we established contact with God because of our good deeds – because of our good works and our creeds? No, this cannot be for our Jewish Bible, declares that we do not nor shall not live by our works, "but the just shall live by his own faith." Herein, the Talmud asserts, all six hundred and thirteen precepts of the commandments are summarized!

How then have we met God? We have recognized in the animal sacrifices of the early days of our Jewish history, and in particular in the sacrifice of the lamb, a picture, a type, of a person who would be the Lamb of God! The anti-type, the completed type, the fulfillment, was Jesus the Nazarene! As the sacrificial lamb was innocent, Jesus was! As the lamb was spotless, Jesus was! As the blood of the lamb was shed as the substitute for the blood of the person who had sinned, so Jesus shed His sinless blood as a substitute for ours! Through Him, Jesus, we have been restored to fellowship with God! Contact with God has been reestablished! Holy God through Jesus, whom we recognize to be the Messiah, has created in us a clean heart, and renewed a right spirit within us! The One True Living God provided us with His Word that we might by the very violation of it realize that we are sinners; that we might come to know that the sacrifice for our sins, is our Savior, Jesus, who said, "I am The Way, The Truth, and Eternal Life. No man comes to the Father, but by Me."

If you, dear Jewish friends, will call upon the God whom you claim to believe – or in whom you did believe at one time – if you will call upon Him for the truth as it concerns Jesus of Nazareth, in full honesty of heart, strength of soul, and might of mind, we guarantee you on the basis of our own personal experiences and upon the infallible, immutable, inerrant Holy Eternal Word of God, that God, the God of Israel, will reveal to you whether or not Jesus was and is our Messiah... whether or not He died on account of your sins and on account of the sins of the Jews, Jewtiles, and Gentiles according to the predetermined, pre-ordained, predestinated will of God... whether He was crucified,

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buried and resurrected... whether He ascended into heaven... whether He lives today... whether his blood makes atonement for our souls... and whether or not it is true that the one, single, only entrance into heaven is by Him and by belief in Him!

If you will, beloved Jewish friends, call upon the One, True Living God with all your heart, soul, might and mind, you can know – you can experience the truth of the words of Jesus, quote: “Except a person be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God...except a person be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” End of quote. In these words, the New Testament informs us that Jesus our Messiah, was explaining to Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, a Pharisee of those days, that he could not and would not enter heaven simply because He, Nicodemus, was born a Jew, one of God’s earthly chosen people! By these words, Nicodemus was given to understand that he must be born of the water – physically – and then of the spirit – spiritually – from above in order to enter the kingdom of God! Similarly, you too, dear Jewish friends, cannot enter heaven, simply because you have been born Jewish, or indeed not by your works no matter how good, how big or how numerous! You, too, individually, must be born again...must be born of the Holy Spirit...must be born from above...must be born of God if you will enter the heavenly kingdom!

If you will call upon the Lord God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that you might be born again...born from above...you can be in this very instant! Then God will create in you a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within you! Into your heart will come the joy of which we have been speaking to you – the joy of the Lord that is indescribable, unending, divine, Eternal(!) – joy that will see you through any of life’s troubles, trials and tribulations – be it loss of your loved ones, health or wealth – or even all of them put together! In the place of your misery will come mirth! In the stead of your gloom will come gladness! Your night will become day! Your darkness will flee away! Into your life will come strength for weakness! An endless hope will replace a hopeless end! Your profanity will turn to praise unto the God of Israel for His goodness to you personally! The love of God and the love for God will be experiential – will be reality – actuality.

This new birth will give you power to cut off your bad, enslaving, undesired and undesirable habits! God, Himself, will come into your heart! The Spirit of God will come into your heart! Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, Himself, will come into your heart! You will then recognize our Holy Jewish Bible, to be what it absolutely is – the literal, plenary, inspired Word of God! You will have faith to believe the miracles of the Bible! You will then recognize as man is father, son and brother...that as woman is mother, wife and sister...God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit...three in one and one in three! You will then recognize that Jesus is the Holy Messiah, the only Holy Savior or all humankind...that He died your Eternal soul to save and that He lives to set you free from the Devil, Satan, and sin! When Jesus comes to dwell in your heart, He will empower you to set yourself free from anything and everything from which you would want to be free – be it drug addiction, depression, drinking...prostitution, perversion, promiscuous conduct...gambling, gossiping or gallivanting...jealousy, fear or covetousness...anger, hatred, or ill-tempered. Into your heart will come joy – deep inner joy, day in and day out, hour by hour and moment by moment! Into your heart will come righteousness,

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holiness, cleanliness – peace, power and purpose – without which, the Holy Bible declares, “No man shall see God”! Into your heart will come peace and rest. Into your heart will come love – the very love of God – pure, guileless, undefiled and Eternal.

Surely you will not let your pride, or your fear, or your lack of understanding keep you from receiving this gift of joy, the salvation of your soul, that God desires you to possess – even as a foretaste of an Eternal Life of joy in heaven in His Holy presence! “O taste and see that the Lord is good...” cried the Psalmist! Beloved Jewish friends, God, the God of Israel, so loved you that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus – who is the Jewish Messiah, the only living God-God of all mankind, who so loved you that He gave His own life voluntarily that you might be born again – that into your life might come the love of God and the God of love who will then fill your life with genuine joy, glorious gladness and heavenly happiness – as a taste of that which He has in heaven prepared and reserved for you! Jesus, your Messiah, your sacrifice and your God, said, “Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock. If any person open the door, I will come in to Him and will fellowship with Him and He will fellowship with me.” End of quote. Bid Him enter now that your sins might be forgiven...that you might be a joyful Jew, full of joy now and joyful eternally, because you have received the gift of eternal life and the forgiveness of all your sins! Open your heart and let Jesus come in! You will never, never, regret it and you will become a completed Jew, a saved Jew, a true Jew, a joyful Jew!