

**Biblical Sites We Will See in this File**  
**Yad Vashem (Holocaust Museum), Dead Sea,**  
**Ein Gedi, Masada, and Biet Shean.**

## ***A Trip of Lifetime...***



***“Next Year in Jerusalem is Now”*** <sup>TM</sup>

*“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem.” Acts 20:22*

## Why is “Next Year in Jerusalem is Now?”

To end the Jewish Feast of Passover, the Father pours out the fourth “cup” of wine, which is significantly different in appearance and meaning from the previous three cups.



This cup is for a “special person,” Elijah, and is called “**Elijah’s Cup.**” Traditionally, a “place setting” is set at the Passover table, and the back door of the Jewish home is left slightly open, just in case **Elijah** comes in to partake of Passover.

The Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 AD, and the Jewish people were “scattered to the four corners” of the world. Therefore, for the past 2,000 years, to conclude the “Passover,” the Father poured “Elijah’s Cup” and prayed, “**Next Year in Jerusalem.**” The final prayer of Passover was asking God to restore the Jews to their Land, “Israel,” so they could celebrate Passover “again” in Jerusalem. The Jewish people knew their Bible and that their God had made a “Land Covenant” with them. They had HOPE— it was just a matter of time.

In 1877, Naftali Imber, a Jewish poet, wrote “Hatikva,” which became Israel’s National Anthem. The lyrics reflect the Jewish people’s HOPE to return to Jerusalem so they could celebrate Passover there.

As a “direct” result of the Holocaust, the “Heart of the Nations” was open and provided the Jewish People with “Land” to become a State again. The “Land” they were given is the same Land that God had promised to His people, the Jews, and the same Land they had “Occupied” thousands of years earlier. The Bible is the “Title Deed” to the Land of Israel. Therefore, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was Reborn.



Interestingly, the prophet Isaiah prophesied this miraculous event. “Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?” Isaiah 66:7–13.

The Jewish people began returning to Israel, but Jerusalem was still not under Israeli control, so the Father continued to pray **“Next Year in Jerusalem”** to end the Passover.

Then, yet again, by God’s miracle-working power, on **June 7, 1967**, as a result of the “Six-Day” War, God enabled the Jews to recapture Jerusalem.



As Israeli paratroopers entered through the “Lion’s Gate” and captured the “Western Wall.” Rabbi Shlomo Goren, the IDF chief rabbi, blew the **Shofar Trumpet** for the “first” time there and quoted. “When you go into battle in your own Land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies” Numbers 10:9.

At this **MOMENT**, the prayers of the Jews were answered, and another of Isaiah’s prophecies was fulfilled. “They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.” Isaiah 35:1–10

“Sound the Trumpets in Zion,” ™ [Jerusalem – the City of God] has been “redeemed” and is **NOW** under Jewish control.

The Father’s prayer to end Passover, **“Next Year in Jerusalem,”** has been answered.

**Jerusalem is NOW once again the Capital of Israel.**

**Jews NOW live in Jerusalem.**

**Jews NOW come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.**

**“Next Year in Jerusalem is Now” ™**

## Introduction

My name is **Michael Attar**. Taking Christians to Israel is a part of our Mission Statement—I do it by telling my story. I **do not** have a tour company, **nor do I personally** lead tours to Israel and the Biblical sites. That’s not my “assignment.” Let’s begin with a brief background about me. It will set the stage for some files on my “storyboard.” Many files continue to tell my story, which includes related “Biblical sites.” Other files tell the stories of Israel, The Bible, Jerusalem, and the Jewish People and include more Biblical sites that are related to them.

### **Here are the highlights of my story.**

I am an Israeli, a Sabra (born in Israel); my Mother was born in Poland six days before the Nazis invaded Poland; she and her sister were “given” to two “Righteous Gentiles” to survive the Holocaust; her Father, a Zionist leader, was shot in the head by the Nazi in front of his wife; his wife “survived in the underground” to tell our story; my grandfather, a rabbi from Morocco, died one week before his family and community immigrated to Israel; my Father served in the IDF and married my Mother who lived on a Kibbutz, and they were married in a military ceremony, I was born in Haifa shortly thereafter. My family, “Attar,” and others, “Ben-Attar,” live in Israel and around the World; Israel is the Homeland of my family, our people, and the LOVE of my heart.

My Father moved his family to New York; I attended Synagogue regularly, attended Hebrew School daily, participated in Zionist summer camps and the local Ken, and had my bar mitzvah. At age 19, I moved to Dallas, believed in Jesus in a Baptist Church, was baptized, and played my Trumpet in the orchestra, where I met a Gentile cello player and were married. I grew in my understanding of the Bible and was given a Sunday School Class at the age of 30 and taught arguably the most challenging book in the Bible, the Book of “Hebrews.” I was also elected and ordained as a deacon and, at 32, “charged” with leading the Deacons in finding a new Pastor.

Circumstances within the Church, the “writing on the wall,” so to speak, and “Godly” council forced me to make one of the “hardest” choices I had to make until that time—leave our beloved first church home. Another couple landed at a small independent Bible Church; we moved there.

**1993**, Within a few months, my “FIRST friend,” Angela, whom I met at 19, dropped dead of a heart condition in her home with two twin unborn babies in her belly. I still cannot describe the pain and despair it caused. Jews “sit” with the “one” who lost their beloved. So, after work each evening, I drove to Russell’s house and sat with him. We barely talked; he sat in his lazy boy chair, and I sat on the sofa only a few feet away from where Angela had died. Russell had three girls, ages 5, 3 and 2, so I played with them. I sat with Russel for weeks, more likely almost a month. I have been struggling with “mood struggles” all of my life. The significant loss of my Church, friends, beloved Sunday School Class I taught, and leadership and “other” I won’t mention Angel’s death and the brain injury, for whatever reason (known and unknown) caused my brain to say, “**Good Night.**” My brain needed to rest. When the brain sleeps, the body cannot function as it usually does, so it rests too. So began a period of “darkness.” I was sleeping all day and all night. Of course, I could not go to work, and the entirety of my life shut down, too. Within a year, Michelle quit her job to stay home and care for me. The doctors prescribed every medication they thought would help, and nothing worked. Many years later, the doctors asked me to enter a

clinical trial, and that pill “worked” to continue to make sure my brain didn’t go back to sleep again.

But there is “something” that saved me—**my Trumpet**. I began to study the Trumpet with a teacher who had just graduated from the Julliard School of Music; he would eventually become the Principal Trumpet player of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. You already know what I was doing to win a four-year scholarship to college for my Trumpet abilities—I loved the Trumpet. That said, there is no logical or medical explanation other than God’s providence. Despite my inability to function, and sleeping all day and night, etc. On Thursday night, “miraculously,” a resurgence of energy suddenly came over me. I went to Church and practiced with the “Worship Band.” Everyone knew “my story” and the care I needed—but I could play my Trumpet. Then I went home back to bed...On Sunday, the “same thing happened,” a miraculous resurgence of energy enough to go to Church and play in the “Worship Band.” The Church was doing four services, so I found the “same desk,” crawled under it, and slept— until a band member woke me up for the next service. The “Band” loved me despite the oddity. During the week, the same “short burst” and resurgence of energy. I could practice my Trumpet for an hour to review the “charts” and then go back to bed. I LOVE the Trumpet—again—it saved me.

Michelle “dragged” me weekly to our Church “Small Group” on Saturday because she needed to be with friends, have support and encouragement—and hear God’s Word. Where was I? **I was sleeping behind the sofa on the floor. I was “out.”** The group loved me despite the oddity. But like clockwork, with a reenergized Spirit the next day, Sunday, I played my Trumpet. Then, back to sleep for long periods, except to eat and the basics of life at home.

**1996**, Maynard Ferguson and his band were “scheduled” to play in Fort Worth. Michelle told me. Unlike me then, I called five other Worship Band members and said, “We’re going!” Maynard is famous for his high energy, high notes, and improvisational abilities, with his equally talented band behind him. He was my inspiration for playing the Trumpet. During “Hey Jude,” Maynard and his band come off stage and play in the audience, and Maynard walks around “high-fiving” the audience. I got out of my seat, ran up to high, hugged him, and whispered that I loved him and that he was my inspiration—one of the highlights of my life up to this time. You already know what happened when I got home...

**1997**, Our Church had grown significantly, and we moved into a new building. I no longer slept under a desk between services but napped on one of the sofas in the “green room.” A TV Monitor was also in the green room so that I could hear the preaching of God’s Word.

**1998**, After five years, my brain “woke up.” I can’t explain it other than to say I knew I was about to start a “New Life.” I can remember sitting on my sofa and hearing a faint voice. “I want you to be my writer.” “Be MY Writer?” At this time, vocationally, I could only do two things—NOTHING or say “Yes.” Frankly, “Something” happened to my brain that wiped away some of my memories, skill sets, and cognitive abilities. I know because I had neurological, cognitive, and neurological psychiatric tests. My ability to think and write my thoughts on paper or a computer screen was discombobulated.

I was never a writer, let alone a good writer. So why ask ME to be a writer? I reminded God that I could not write. Now, here’s where all my Bible study, book reading, and the testimonies of other

Christians flooded my mind: **God always equips the called**, which is what happened—**one keystroke at a time**. In hindsight, this five-year period of “darkness” was a “hard reset” of my brain. I sat at my computer, determined to become a writer. I was a negative fifteen on a scale of 1-10 when I started. But I have something in my belly that Gentiles will not fully understand.

- I am an Israeli.
- Within every Israeli is the God-implanted will to FIGHT!
- When adversity hits, we FIGHT!
- When our enemies attack, we FIGHT!
- When my brain trauma and darkness began, I was determined to FIGHT!
- When the darkness subsided, I re-upped my inner determination to FIGHT!
- “FIGHT!” I did!

Initially, everything I typed into my keyboard and came on the screen was utter nonsense. But I **LOVED** to write... Every day, I sat and “clicked away” at my keyboard. The hours flew by seamlessly. It was a labor of love yet hard and mentally demanding at the same time. I produced nothing of any value, meaning, or understanding. But I was beginning to “see” the rays of HOPE. Michelle returned to work, and I was still working on the same “project” when she returned. She found it strange, but at least I was safe and doing “something. I was “convinced” I was “called” to be a writer. She couldn’t see it, but I could. At the end of some days, I had made at least one complete sentence. Nothing of substance, but it was no longer gobbledygook.

**2003**. At the end of five years, having started below “ground zero,” I completed my manuscript, “My Pursuit of a Good Mood.” I fought, learned, grew, and adapted with every keystroke. Writing is the “**BEAST**.” To become a writer, you must be determined to be a “Success at FAILURE.” Being an Israeli, I knew everything “Israel” accomplished was with that mantra in mind. We FIGHT! We FAIL! We SUCCEED! No technology, innovation, business, etc., the Israelis built was successful on the first try. Another Israeli mantra is, “So, you failed, try again.” How do I know this? God implanted this into every Jew—the same as God implanted the desire to go to Israel in every Jew. Israel has no natural resources to speak of, so they use the **ONLY** natural resource they need- their God-given brains.

I’ll stop my story here, but it continues in the **“Spiritual Component”** file, which I recommend you read after beginning our Tour.

The name of our Tour is **Good Mood Foundation – Next Year in Jerusalem is Now-Tour**.

**There are Only Three Places I Want to Be:  
Home-Church-Israel**

## “Yad Vashem”

The Jewish Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem.



“[Yad Vashem](#)” is taken from [Isaiah 56:4-5](#).

*“I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off.”*

Pictured is the path leading to the entrance of Yad Vashem called “[The Avenue of the Righteous](#),” honoring “Righteous Gentiles” -people who “saved” Jews from the Holocaust.

## “We Will Never Forget”



Inside Yad Vashem is a series of open doors that wind in and out of the main hallway (pictured).

Each entry is a **gallery** that progressively tells the Story of the Holocaust through storyboards, pictures, artifacts, and film as you wind in and out of the doors of the Holocaust Museum.

There is also a large room with multiple computer monitors where those who lost loved ones can view digital archives of their family who died.

Inside Yad Vashem, you will also see IDF soldiers with their commanders. They are required to go to Yad Vashem each year as part of their training.

It is so **they** will “**NEVER FORGET**” as a visual reminder of why they serve to protect Israel.



## My Family



Inside “Yad Vashem” is a turret called **“The Hall of Names.”** As you look up, you can see the faces of thousands who perished.

Here is my story...

## My Mother’s Side

My Mother was born in Poland in 1939, several days before the Germans invaded Poland to begin their systematic process of exterminating the Jewish people. Thankfully, our family had resources. Before the Nazis came to our home, my Mother and her older sister were “given” to two Polish Gentile families (with piles of money) and raised as Gentiles. The two families who “saved” my Mother and her sister are “Righteous Gentiles.” **“THANK YOU!”** I do not know your names, but God does! Our family continued to “pay” these two families until the 1960s.

My grandfather, who was on my Mother’s side, was “Nathaniel Goliger.” **I was given my middle name, “Nathaniel,” in memory of him.** Nathaniel’s family lived in Poland, and he was a Zionist leader. Zionists believe the Jewish People have a right and obligation to return to their ancestral homeland-Israel. Nathaniel’s youngest daughter (my Mother) was born several days before the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 to exterminate the Jewish people systematically.



Nathaniel had a Ph.D. In history, he ran a prosperous business. He loved books and had an enormous book collection of “first” editions. Because Nathaniel was a Zionist leader, he was targeted by the Nazis, who came to his home in Poland. My grandmother said that when the commander of a Nazi troop came into her home and saw his book collection, he was moved to

tears. But right after that, the **Nazi commander shot Nathaniel in the head as my grandmother watched**. My grandmother told us that “Nathaniel’s” rare book collection was burned. This tragic event took place in 1941; therefore, as “Israel” had not yet been “Re-Born,” as a Zionist, Nathaniel had only “seen” Israel in his mind’s eye.

The Nazis did not kill my grandmother. Miraculously, my grandmother survived and spent the war living in the “underground.” However, the Nazis took all of our family’s wealth and resources. Our entire family perished (excluding Nathaniel’s wife, my grandmother and two daughters, my Mother, and my aunt). Growing up, I can recall the stories my grandmother told us about the murder of her husband and how she survived. I remember how she repeated the “gesture” of pointing to the ground and cursing the Nazis simultaneously. This gesture was a desire to “leave” life and be buried. I know my grandmother never recovered from her trauma.



Interestingly, my grandmother told us that her Mother was the only other person in our family to survive. Her son was a medical doctor, and he gave members of our family poison to take so they could commit suicide rather than face the Nazi atrocities, which they did. My grandmother told us that her Mother took the poison but did not die. She was found on the streets. We were told she was extremely beautiful and had auburn hair and blue eyes. Her hair and eye color are rare for a Jewish person. As she did not “look” Jewish, this is the most likely reason she was taken to a hospital and survived. I cannot imagine the “pain” my grandmother’s mother must have suffered, knowing that many in her family committed suicide, but “fate” allowed her to live.

The **greatest miracle** of our family’s Story is how my Mother, her sister, and grandmother reunited after the war. France was the “Staging Country” for survivors of the Holocaust. But how do you “reunite” three people out of hundreds of thousands? Where do you find them? Where do you even begin to look? Sam Druck (who would eventually become my step-grandfather) also lived in Poland and knew my grandmother before the war. He was taken to a prison camp in Siberia. After the war, he returned to France. There, he was reunited with my grandmother and was instrumental in helping to find my Mother and her sister and reunite the family. “Everyone,” said this, reuniting was a MIRACLE! My step-grandfather was kind and loved my grandmother but was not “well” either. I still recall many stories “Sam,” told us about how he survived the Siberian “Death” camp for seven years.

As a second-generation survivor of the Holocaust, I have studied Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust. I discovered that Adolf Hitler had a Bible in one hand and a gun in the other. Why? His intent and desire to kill ALL Jews in the world were to disprove the Bible. Therefore, if he was successful and there were no Jews, it would prove that the God of the Bible is dead and that God’s “Chosen People” were not chosen at all. And if there were no Jews, that would also mean that Christianity was a big lie, too. Adolf Hitler was just one of MANY dictators who, through the centuries, believed the same thing: kill all the Jews. But why so much hatred towards the Jews since the “beginning.” The Jewish people have enriched humanity in every field of endeavor with their incredible God-given gifts. The truth is that in the end, God always prevails. The existence of Israel and the Jews is proof positive that the God of the Bible is “Alive” and well.

## Shoah Foundation

Unfortunately, many people still refuse to believe that the Holocaust occurred. Thankfully, God raised (famed film director) Steven Spielberg, who in 1994 formed the [Shoah Foundation](#) to record the “testimonies” (video format) of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust—so that the world will “**Never Forget.**” In 1998, [my Mother](#) was one of only 1,600 Holocaust survivors chosen to tell their Story via Steven Spielberg’s Shoah Foundation so that the world may “Never Forget.” A film crew was dispatched to my Mother’s apartment to record her Story. [Her Story and others like hers are forever immortalized.](#) Thanks, Mom, for the courage to do this!



## My Father’s Side

My grandfather, who was on my Father’s side, was [Meekhael \(Michael\) Ben Attar](#). He was a Rabbi of a Jewish community in Morocco, North Africa. I was given my first name, “Michael,” in memory of him. My Father says that my grandfather was a man of the “Torah” and learned in the Scriptures.

Our family [name](#) is “Ben Attar.” “Ben” means “son of,” and “Attar” means “sweet essence” like the sweet essence of a rose.” We can trace our “[BenAttar](#)” family back to the 1700s in Spain, making me a “Sephardic Jew.” My Father and some family members chose to remove “Ben” and be known as “Attar.” They did this because “Ben” clearly identifies us as being Jewish. Other family members kept the “Ben Attar” family surname.

This is the only photograph we have of my grandfather and grandmother.



In 1956, Meekhael Ben Attar’s entire family (including six children and other families) was one week away from immigrating to Israel when Meekhael Ben Attar died of a stroke. After mourning, the “Ben Attar” family emigrated from Morocco to Israel, where they lived and raised their families.

Meekhael’s youngest son, Marc (my Father), served in the [IDF](#) (Israeli Defense Forces), met my Mother, who was living on a Kibbutz, and then was married. I was born shortly after that in Haifa. (as I was born in Israel, I am also a “Sabra” and an Israeli citizen.) Then, as is the custom for all newborn males, my Father arranged for a Mohel (a trained Rabbi) eight days after my birth to come to our apartment in Israel and perform my circumcision. Interestingly, my circumcision occurred on the “Feast of Trumpets,” which modern Jews refer to as “Rosh Hashanah,” and Israel celebrates as the beginning of the “New Year” and celebrated with the sounding of Trumpets. My grandfathers [loved](#) “Israel,” but neither had the chance to set foot on Israeli soil. Though I never met either grandfather, my family told me many stories about their character and personality, so I grew to love them deeply.

When I was about five, my family emigrated from Israel to New York City. I grew up in a reformed Jewish home, observing the Jewish Feasts occasionally but not faithfully. I attended Synagogue most Saturdays as a young boy and Hebrew School after regular school every day. I was indoctrinated about Zionism and the Jews' responsibility to make "Aliyah" (Return to Israel). I participated at the local Ken Jewish community center, and my parents sent me to Zionist camps every summer. I also had my Bar Mitzvah at thirteen.

Because of what the Nazis did to my family, I was indoctrinated to avoid Germans, not to do business with them, and never to buy German products. And even though the German government had taken some measure of responsibility for their actions by paying my grandmother, Mother (and other survivors of the Holocaust) a monthly pension, I still hated and blamed the German people for what they did to our family. Therefore, I was indoctrinated to be suspicious of Gentiles, especially Gentile Christians. I was told "stories" about how and why Christians couldn't be trusted and that they were responsible for ALL the hurt and pain "The Jewish People" had endured over many Centuries. I was told repeatedly that a Gentile Christian's "real intent" was to get Jews to convert to Christianity.

**Frankly, none of my Jewish pedigree, upbringing, and indoctrinations made sense to me.** But something happened to me that changed all of that.

## The Window Overlooking “ZION” Jerusalem at “Yad Vashem”



Before exiting “Yad Vashem,” you will stop to reflect by this huge window. You can see the “City of Jerusalem” (The City of God) or (ZION) through the window.

On my trip to Israel in 2013, I stopped and reflected. Continuing to reflect as I looked through the window, **I began to cry uncontrollably.** Both of my grandfathers had longed to be “in” Israel. Suddenly, I remembered that I was “named” after each of my grandfathers in their remembrance.

But here I was in Israel again. I was born here.

## The Feast of Purim

Our visit to Yad Vashem and the story of the Holocaust remind us of the **Abrahamic Covenant** (God's Fourth Covenant). God said that He will bless "those" who bless "Israel" and the Jewish people, and He will curse "those" who curse "Israel" and the Jewish people. Hitler was one in a long line of Jew-haters who wanted to eradicate the Jews. However, God's Covenant is true, and in the end, God destroyed them. God will also do the "same" today and in the future. Israel and the Jewish people are the "**Apple [pupil] of God's Eye.**" Therefore, don't poke God in His eye.

Another Jew-hater who also wanted to eradicate the Jewish people was Haman in the story of Esther (Book of Esther). It is the basis for the Feast of Purim. This Feast begins in February or March before Passover (the First Feast) of God's calendar. Jewish people celebrate Purim by reading the entire book of Esther out loud. Whenever the name Haman (the Jew hater in the story who wanted to kill all the Jews) is mentioned, the Jews use "**noisemakers**" to drown out his name.



The story begins when King Xerxes gives all his nobles and officials a banquet, but his Queen, Queen Vashti, refuses to come. It led to King Xerxes replacing her with "Esther." It came about through a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai, who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.

Here are excerpts.

Mordecai had a beautiful cousin named Hadassah, also known as Esther, and she was taken to the King's palace. Esther did not reveal her Jewish nationality and family background because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. Esther won the favor of everyone, including King Xerxes, who made her the new queen. One day, Mordecai was sitting at the King's gate and overheard two of the King's officers conspire to assassinate King Xerxes. He told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the King, giving credit to Mordecai, and the two officials were hanged on the gallows.

After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. All the royal officials at the King's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor because he was a Jew. Haman contemplated killing Mordecai. Instead, Haman looked for a way to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews. This led Haman to ask King Xerxes to issue a decree to kill all the Jews, which he did. Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the King's provinces with the order to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jews—on a single day, the **thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar**. When Mordecai learned this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the City, wailing loudly and bitterly. ALL the Jews did the same! Queen Esther was in a dilemma. She needed to tell the King what was going on, but there was a law that said if any person approached the King in the inner court without being summoned, the King could put that person to death. The only exception is for the King to extend the gold scepter

to him and spare his life. Thankfully, when Esther approached the King, he was pleased with her and asked Esther for her request. Esther asked the King for a banquet to honor Haman, who went home and boasted to his family about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the King had honored him, including being invited by Queen Esther to accompany the King to a banquet. Still, he hated the Jew, Mordecai. His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Have a gallows built, seventy-five feet high, and ask the King in the morning to have Mordecai hanged on it. This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the gallows built.

That night, the King could not sleep, so he ordered the book of the Chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. The King was reminded that Mordecai had exposed two of the King’s officers who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this? The King asked. Nothing has been done for him, his attendants answered. Haman had just entered the palace’s outer court to speak to the King about hanging Mordecai on the gallows. Then the King asked Haman, “What should be done for the man the King delights to honor?” So, he answered that the man the King delights in should be honored with a royal robe the King has worn and a horse the King has ridden. The King commanded this, and Haman got the robe and the horse. Haman put the robe on Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city streets. Afterward, Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, and told Zeresh, his wife, and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh told him that **since Mordecai is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin.**

The King’s eunuchs took Haman to the banquet Esther had prepared. The King again asked Queen Esther, what is your petition? Queen Esther answered, “Spare my people. For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation.” King Xerxes asked. Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing? Esther said, “The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman. The King got up in a rage. But Haman, realizing that the King had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the King, said, A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman’s house. He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the King. The King said, Hang him on it! So, they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

That same day, King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. The King removed his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman’s estate. Esther again pleaded with the King, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman that he had devised against the Jews and to overturn the dispatches that Haman had devised to destroy all the Jews. Then, the King gave his estate to Esther, and Haman was hanged on the gallows. **On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar**, the edict commanded by the King was to be carried out. The tables were turned, and the Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them. Then Haman’s ten sons were also hanged on the gallows. Mordecai instructed the Jews to celebrate annually the **fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies and hen their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration.**

## From Unbelief to Belief

At 16, I discovered the “Leadership and Motivational” industry. At 18, I flew down to Waco, TX, three times to learn about Success Motivation International (SMI) and Leadership Management International (LMI).” Paul J. Meyer founded these companies. He is the founder and innovator of this business “category.” On my third trip, I met G., who impressed me so much that I said, “He has something I want. I want to be just like him.”

After returning to New York City, a “PULL” began in my heart. That pull was so strong that I could no longer ignore it. So, I got into my car and drove from NYC to Waco. My first stop was Paul J. Meyer’s house. I knocked on his door. His wife, Jane, answered and brought Paul to the door. I told Paul who I was and why I was there. He smiled, took down my name, commented, “You’re just like me,” and closed the door.

My next stop was G.’s house. Again, I knocked on the door. His wife answered, and I told her who I was and wanted to meet G., but she said he was taking a nap. I asked if she could wake him up so I could talk to him. She did; G. invited me in, and he began a relationship with me. I drove back to NYC and spoke with him over the telephone often. He would lead me to a youth pastor, D., at Marsh Lane Baptist Church in North Dallas. Not long after, I got into my car, drove to Dallas to meet D, and moved to Dallas. Little did I know that D and the entire youth department had begun praying for me. Contrary to what I had been led to believe, Gentile Christian friends loved, blessed, and reached out to me for no reason other than I was Jewish. They showed me “God’s Favor,” which was expressed through unconditional love and blessing.

I also began to read the Bible. I understood that the Bible consisted of the Old Testament—a picture book that prophesied and foreshadowed a Jewish Messiah. During Old Testament times, God’s people would come to the Tabernacle (and eventually the Temple) with a spotless, pure sacrifice onto which the individual’s sins are symbolically placed. These sacrifices were repeatedly made to atone for sin and restore the one making the sacrifice to a right fellowship with God—until the next sin. It was never-ending. I read about how God longed for everyone to humble themselves, confess their sins, and return to Him through the required and appropriate sacrifices. God planned to introduce a better and final sacrifice throughout the Old Testament. The Jews knew this person of promise as the “Messiah.” However, whoever eventually came claiming to be the foreshadowed Messiah would have to fulfill one hundred percent of all the Old Testament prophecies. I was fascinated with the prophetic descriptions of where the Messiah would be born and live, how, and why He would have to die. I learned about Jeremiah’s prophecy concerning the “New Covenant.” God said He was going to send to Israel and the Jewish people to replace the “Old Covenant.”

The “righteousness” (Right Standing with God) that the Jews sought to obtain by obeying the laws of the Old Covenant was unattainable as **no one** could obey all 613 laws, plus the hundreds more that the Jews added. I understood that the “New Covenant” promised righteousness with God, obtained by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



So, after reading my Bible, I made a monumental decision to embrace the New Testament's teaching concerning the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus (the spotless Passover Lamb) died as a substitute for sins and rose from the dead on the third day. My eyes were finally opened to the reality that Jesus Christ fulfilled all Old Testament prophecies and Jewish things. Jesus Christ was who He said He was— "God—the Messiah." In believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I became a "Hebrew Christian."

**EVERYTHING** good in my life came about by following the "inner pull" and driving to Waco to meet G., his introduction to D., and Marsh Lane Baptist Church. There, I became a believer, was baptized, met Michelle, was married, played my Trumpet in the church orchestra, taught the entire book of Hebrews, served as a deacon, etc. I've maintained a lifelong relationship with G.; notably, he was the best man at my wedding.

### Forgiving the Germans

Because of what the Germans did to my family, I hated them. I lost the privilege of seeing my grandfather and my family. Interestingly, growing up, I also hated who I was—Jewish. So, one of the things that "stirred my heart" when I moved to Texas was hearing my Gentile friends say, "I was special." Why? I asked. "Because you are Jewish, the Bible is about the Jewish people. You are His Chosen." Some friends said, "They wished they had been born Jewish." This disturbed me. Why would anyone want to be Jewish? I thought to myself. It took a long time to reach the "right" conclusion finally. As I opened my heart and mind to the beauty and richness of my Jewish heritage, I began falling in love with my Jewishness and Jewish background. **It took another 25 years to finally forgive the Germans for what they did to my family.**

Except for the Lord Jesus Christ, no person has impacted me more than the author, businessman, people builder, and philanthropist, the late **Paul J. Meyer**. My love for Paul stems from my becoming a Christian under his ministry. In the spring of 2007, I read his book "*Forgiveness... the Ultimate Miracle*." That book changed my life forever. Why? I was confronted with the reality that Paul was German, and his family had immigrated to America from Germany. Until that time, I secretly carried hatred in my heart towards the German people for what they did to our family.



Even though the German government had taken some measure of responsibility for their actions by paying my grandmother and Mother (and other survivors of the Holocaust) a monthly pension, I still hated them. Who knows what resources and opportunities we would have had if the Nazis had not stolen everything from us? As I began reflecting on Paul's impact on my life and my love for him, I was struck with God's sense of humor. It was ironic that I hated Germans but was in love with one. Because of Paul's book, I finally forgave ALL Germans. I also wrote a letter to my friend Paul J. Meyer expressing my love for him and presenting him with a precious gift.

August 28, 2007

“Dear Paul J. Meyer,

I have always known that someday I would give you the following present—a Star of David that was given to me shortly after my birth in Israel. This Star of David is the MOST precious material possession that I own. My Father kept it for me, and I began wearing it shortly after I accepted Christ as my Savior. I have worn it for over 25 years, but I am certain you should be its new owner. Several years ago, I promised to give you this pendant because I love you. Anyway, I rehearsed this event over and over in my mind during the last few years. Each time, it led me to tears. But now there are no more tears, only joy, which brings me to the point of this letter. A few months ago, I read “Forgiveness—the Ultimate Miracle.” The same whispering voice of the Holy Spirit who has guided my life and choices inspired me to finally forgive ALL Germans for what they did to my family in Poland. However, I did not recall that you came from a German background. Interestingly, the Germans invaded Poland this same week in August of 1939, killing and plundering many Jewish families. Therefore, please accept this most precious gift as a memorial of God’s Ultimate Miracle—reconciling ALL people to Himself—including Jews and Germans. I have included the chain I wore in case you want to wear it. I pray you will treasure this Star of David as much as I have.”

With much love,

Michael Attar

Continuing...

When a Jewish person believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, their Jewish family will often shame, disinherit, and disown them. That’s what happened. My Father was livid, and things were not “good” between us.

Several years later, things gradually improved when I brought Michelle to meet my parents. I met my wife, Michelle, in church orchestra at twenty-three. Michelle plays the cello, and I play the Trumpet. Maybe I was “destined” to play the Trumpet because from the age of eleven until 17, I had a weekly lesson with a teacher who became the principal trumpet player of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. I played the Trumpet weekly in the church orchestra or worship band for 25 years. But how I courted Michelle is a story of its own. My friends said Michelle was “way over my head,” so what did I do? After our first date, I told Michelle we would be married. She laughed! However, after two years of dating, she said, “I do!” My family gladly “welcomed” a Gentile into our Jewish family. Likewise, Michelle’s family welcomed me, a Jew, into their home. My life would be impossible without God’s providence and my “helpmate,” Michelle.

I measure success not by what I have accomplished but by what I do to enable Michelle to achieve all that God has for her. My primary ministry is creating the right environment and providing financial and emotional resources so Michelle can minister—well! For example, my love and support for Michelle helped her complete her seminary degree while she worked full-time. We have been active servants in



only two churches. The first was for 12 years, and our second home church was for 30 years,

where Michelle was on the Church Staff in various roles for over 24 years. Michelle recently retired, and we moved to Alabama in the same neighborhood as Michelle’s two sisters and family.

Admittedly, I dove into God’s Word in an unorthodox manner. Everyone told me to begin reading the Bible from the “beginning” (Book of Genesis), but that did not work. So, instead, I bought a “[Topical Bible](#)” and began looking up many of my “personal issues and struggles.” This way, Bible reading and study was fun, exhilarating, and meaningful because I discovered God’s WORD in the context of my issues. With Bible study, church attendance, and ministry, my spiritual life grew, and I was asked to teach Bible studies and “fill in” for the Sunday School teacher. Then, at thirty, the Senior Pastor gave me a Sunday School class, which eventually became the “Auditorium Class.” I chose to teach the most challenging book in the Bible, the book of Hebrews (verse by verse), for two years. But understanding Hebrews necessitates understanding the people and events of the Old Testament. So, many of the lessons were from the “Old Testament.”

I also spent many hours each week studying, viewing, and reading materials compiled by the late Zola Levitt, who was fond of saying, “One trip to Israel is worth ten years of Sunday school.” So, we visited Israel on a “Pastor’s Tour” of the Biblical sites in 2013. After returning, I read my Bible by “**relating**” the Scriptures with the Biblical sites I had seen.

No one has any “say so” regarding their family background, but everyone has a choice as to whether they will accept it. When I believed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I did not turn away from my Jewish background. **Instead, “Everything Jewish” began to make sense for the first time in my life.** I am honored and privileged to have a Jewish pedigree.

Michelle and I flew to Israel in 2015 to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We spent five days in Haifa, where I was born, and five days on Tel Aviv’s beaches.

### **Back in Israel**

We flew to Israel in April 2023 to begin Michelle’s 6-week sabbatical. Her sabbatical started on a Thursday, and we flew to Israel two days later on a Saturday with virtually no planning.

When we arrived in Israel on Sunday, we learned that Tuesday was Israel’s Holocaust Memorial Day. As my Mother was born in Poland six days before the Nazis’ invaded Poland, and we lost all of our family except for my Mother, her sister, and my grandmother, the Holocaust resonates deeply in my heart. So we took the train from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on Tuesday morning and went to Israel’s Holiest Site, the “Western Wall.” Then, at precisely 10:00 A.M., Israel’s “National Siren” blared for two minutes, and EVERYONE in Israel stopped what they were doing to mourn those lost during the Holocaust. No matter where you were (in a car, driving a truck, walking, etc.), you STOPPED for two minutes.

The following Monday marked Israel's National Memorial Day, honoring the soldiers who died serving to protect Israel since the creation of Her Statehood in May 1948. This day also honors Israel's civilians "lost" because of terrorist attacks. In Israel, EVERYONE mourns on this day!

Interestingly, the following day begins a seven-day period of joy to celebrate Israel's Statehood. On the day that would start the celebration of Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Her Statehood, we arrived on the beach at 11:00 A.M. Like most people, we usually came to the beach after 12:00 or 1:00. But as God's grace would have it, we arrived just in time for a once-in-a-lifetime event. Minutes after we were in our lounge chairs at the edge of the Mediterranean Ocean, Israeli fighter jets came out of "nowhere" to display their prowess and air superiority. **We watched in awe!**

Then, two other aircraft began their ariel "dance." It culminated with "them" coming at each other, angling downward, and then literally "falling backward" and connecting to form a blue "HEART."



Therefore, to be in Israel for all **three "milestone" events** was evidence of God's AMAZING grace. Then, precisely two minutes after sunset, Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Her Statehood began. I took my Shofar Trumpet and sounded it on the balcony of our hotel room. Michelle captured it and posted it on our website.

I deeply desire to return to Israel as often as possible and actively encourage Gentiles to visit Israel and tour the Biblical sites. Therefore, whenever you see a picture of "Jerusalem," "Star of David," or similar, please remember to pray for **"Jerusalem," "Israel," and the "Jewish People."**

## My Position Regarding the Bible, Israel, the Messiah, and the Jewish People

Jewish authors wrote the Bible (except for “maybe” a few exceptions). The Bible states that God gave the “New Covenant” (prophesied by Jeremiah) to Israel and the Jewish people and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is “first” for the Jews. To the Jews, God gave the “patriarchs” and the “prophets.” The Jews gave the Gentiles the most significant gift, God’s Word, which they penned as God’s Holy Spirit led them. God’s “Time Clock,” concerning Bible prophecies, ticks away based upon ONLY One Nation – The Nation of Israel. The Bible also provides extensive historical evidence concerning the Jewish people and the “Land” God “promised” to His People - “Israel.” The Bible contains hundreds of prophecies concerning the “coming” of a Jewish Messiah who would come to “redeem” humanity from the effects of Adam’s “Fall.”

Concerning God’s “Eight Covenants,” the Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Land, Davidic, and New Covenant are still in effect. God expressly indicated that the Jewish people would bless the world in the Abrahamic Covenant. History has verified God’s mandate, as the Jewish people have blessed and enriched the lives of the “Gentiles” with their innovative and entrepreneurial contributions in all fields of endeavor. Gentiles are, in turn, to bless the Jews.

Our Savior Jesus Christ, came from an extensive line of Jewish ancestors. In fact, “some” in Messiah’s bloodline were Gentiles, who had turned their heart towards the God of the Bible, the God of the Jewish people.

After three years of ministry to His people who rejected Him, Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross. Thankfully, His death mediated and brought the “New Covenant” God had promised would come for His people. No longer are animal sacrifices required for sin, which was the heart of the “Old Covenant.” Instead, God placed “ALL” sin on the Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Jesus was taken down from the cross and buried, and then He rose from the dead three days later. After spending 40 days with His disciples, proving He had been resurrected, He ascended into Heaven, where He “sits” at the “right hand” of His Father. After His ascension, Jesus sent down the Holy Spirit on the Jewish Feast, “Pentecost,” and 3,000 Jews were “saved” that day, starting the “Church Age,” which began as a Jewish Church.

God did NOT replace Israel with the Church (Replacement Theology). Instead, God put “Israel” aside for “a time” until the “full measure of the Gentiles comes in.” And “One Day” after the Church has been “gathered” to be with Jesus, God will leave 144,000 Hebrew Christians to evangelize those “left behind.” And “One Day, ALL of Israel will be saved.”

I love all peoples, people groups, and their respective Countries, and ALL are welcome in God’s local Church. I do not selfishly take a position of favoritism towards one people group or one Country over another. Instead, I choose to “position” myself with what the Bible says. However, in the Abrahamic Covenant, God admonishes us: “**Those who BLESS the Jews will be BLESSED, and those who curse the Jews will be cursed.**” Therefore, I choose to “align” with Scripture and will do everything to BLESS Israel and the Jewish People.

I applaud all efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, especially in Israel. And I support Israel's right to defend Herself from Her enemies. To that end, I adamantly oppose the BDS Movement, which "boycotts" Israeli products and services, forces governments and institutions to "divest" themselves of Israeli "holdings," and intimidates "them" to "sanction" Israel with "tariffs" to weaken Israel's economy. I oppose all anti-Semitic verbiage, behavior, and rhetoric against Israel and the Jewish People, again rearing its ugly and evil head in the United States and worldwide.

Jesus said, "**Salvation is of the Jews,**" I am thankful for salvation, which anyone can receive when they "believe" in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God's greatest gift to all is this "Free" gift of salvation. I am thankful that when Gentiles "believe" in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they are "grafted" into God's "Olive Tree" (Israel). Therefore, they are, in effect, "Spiritual Jews." And that now Gentile Christians are "interconnected" to the Jewish people spiritually.

I believe the Church is spiritually obligated to pray for, bless, and love the Jewish people living in and around our "community." I am committed to actively praying for and supporting "Jewish Missions" locally and in Israel. I pray that God will give "everyone" in every "Church Body" Jewish friends. And that God will "make a way" so that "all" can hear and consider believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the "Good News" of the "New Covenant."

### What it Means to be a Hebrew Christian

I am a Jew and believe that Jesus Christ is the Jewish Messiah. Therefore, I am a Hebrew Christian. "Hebrew Christian" is the most accurate Biblical term for a Jew who believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please keep the following in mind.

- ❖ A Hebrew Christian is still a "Natural Jew!" They have not left their Jewishness behind!
- ❖ A Hebrew Christian still cherishes the Jewish "articles," "traditions," and "culture."
- ❖ A Hebrew Christian does not become "Gentile."
- ❖ A Hebrew Christian does not convert to Christianity! Christianity is the fulfillment of Judaism. Remember that except for Judas (a Jew but not a believer), ALL of Jesus's disciples were "Hebrew Christians." The early Church began as a Jewish (Hebrew Christian) Church. So how was I, a "Natural Jew," introduced to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?" To answer that question, let me take you back in time.

Growing up, I attended Hebrew School every afternoon after regular school. I hated it! I also had to participate in Synagogue on Saturday, which frustrated me even more. I went because they handed out chocolate candy bars after the service. At some point, I left the house on Saturday mornings, pretending to be going to Temple. Eventually, I stopped going altogether. All my Jewish friends went to the Jewish Community Center mid-week. But I stopped going because I did not fit in. My parents also sent me to a Zionist Camp each summer. Everyone talked about Aliyah (moving to Israel). But I didn't get it! What's so special about Israel? I hated being Jewish.

But after believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, everything changed. For the first time in my life, I read the Bible. Many of the stories I vaguely remembered in Hebrew School began to make sense. I discovered that the Old Testament was about the people of God, His people, the Jews, and His Land, Israel. Hey, I was born there. I also discovered that the Church of Jesus Christ started

as a Jewish congregation and that the New Testament was written primarily by Hebrew Christians. It fascinated me!

I didn't understand all the Jewish holidays as a boy came to life in rich and vivid detail. When I read the New Testament, I discovered it also talked about the Jewish people. In short, as a Jew, I have left nothing behind. I've gained everything.

But when I believed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I immediately lost:

- Family Relationships: The "door" was shut in my face. Do not bother coming back; this is not your home, and we are not your family anymore.
- Family Assistance: Finances that would have been given for schooling, starting a business, or starting a family were denied.
- Jewish community: I was branded as a "traitor" for betraying the God of the Jews and betraying my family. I was forced to figure life out for myself.

However, I gained a "new" family—the Family of God! My first Pastor provided me with a place to live, encouragement, and a place to serve, thrive, and grow in the Church! Yes, I had to figure life out on my own, so I relied on my family of faith—Christians. **My Pastor also told me NOT to forget about my family. Instead, he encouraged me to attempt a relationship with them.** In time, they saw God's changes in me, which sparked spiritual conversations.

The single most significant evidence of the validity of Scripture and God's faithfulness is the existence of the Jewish people. The Jews are "God's chosen people. The Jews are here on Earth to bring blessings to all the Gentile Nations. Yet, many heathens have attempted to eradicate the Jewish people from the face of the Earth but to no avail but their own. No other Nation in history that had been expelled from their Land has ever returned to reclaim it. This is because Israel belongs to the Jews. God gave it to them!



- Love and bless your Jewish friends. Confer and provide blessings to them.
- Pray for Israel, the Jewish people, and the peace of Jerusalem.
- Be kind to the Jewish people.

God holds up Israel as the "Apple of His Eye." For it is written that "**Those who bless the Jews will be blessed, and those that curse the Jews shall be cursed.**" Therefore, whatever situation you find yourself in, industry, finance, the arts, etc. Surround yourself with Jewish people who can help you. They are intelligent, compassionate, kind-hearted people.

## Dead Sea



**On your way to “Mount Masada,” you will stop at the “Dead Sea.”**

The Dead Sea is 1,388 feet below sea level, making it Earth’s lowest elevation on Land.

It’s so salty that you float on the water. Your hotel for that day is most likely directly across the street from designated entry areas.

Pictured, I am “floating” with Michelle.

The Bible refers to the Dead Sea as:

- The “Valley of Siddim” (Genesis 14:3),
- The “Plains Sea” (Joshua 3:16)
- The “Former Sea” (Zechariah 14:8.
- King David often took refuge here. And when you come, you’ll understand why. It’s one of the most tranquil and beautiful places on Earth.



## Ein Gedi



Situated along the “Dead Sea” shore is an oasis in the desert called Ein Gedi, consisting of lush vegetation, nature reserves, and natural rivers.

People come from around the world to enjoy Ein Gedi’s hot springs, mineral waters, mud baths, desert climate, and healing properties of the Dead Sea. Ein Gedi is the perfect resort destination on your second trip to Israel. The caves of Ein Gedi are where David hid when King Saul was chasing him. David has an opportunity to kill King Saul but doesn’t. Instead, they cut a covenant with each other.

“When David learned that Saul was plotting against him...David and his men, about six hundred in number, left and kept moving from place to place...Saul and his men began the search...Saul was going along one side of the mountain, and David and his men were on the other side, hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his forces were closing in on David and his men to capture them, a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Come quickly! The Philistines are raiding the Land.” Then Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines...And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of **En Gedi**...After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the **Desert of En Gedi**.” So, Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the **Wild Goats**. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself...Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe...Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, “My lord, the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’? This day you have seen with your own eyes

how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master because he is the LORD's anointed.' See, my Father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers, come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you. "Against whom has the King of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand." When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David, my son?" And he wept aloud. "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. You have just now told me of the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today. I know that you will surely be King and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my Father's family." So, David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold." 1 Samuel 23:7–24:22

## Masada



**To continue the story of my family. Let's go to Mount Masada.**

The **Holocaust** has had a profound influence on the emotional and psychological well-being of the Jewish people. Almost every Jewish family “knows” someone in their family who perished in the Nazi atrocities. As of 2024, the Jewish population is about 14 million strong. Their population numbers are **finally** back to where they were before the Holocaust.

**Antisemitism** is also part of the Jewish experience. Every Jewish person may not have been “called out” for being a Jew, but the “spirit” of antisemitism is everywhere. Antisemitism is hurtful to “EVERY” Jewish person. It is also tragic because, according to the Abrahamic Covenant, those who curse the Jews “invoke” a curse against themselves. Therefore, it is incoherent and incomprehensible for a Gentile Christian to hate or curse “Israel” and the Jewish people.

Another issue common to many Jews and Gentiles is “**mood struggles.**” I use the term “mood struggles” to incorporate every mental health-related issue or struggle.



One of the highlights of your Tour to Israel will be a five-minute cable car ride up to the top of Masada. Or, you can walk up the “mount” along a “guided” path. King Herod had “**three levels**” (**GREEN** arrows) carved in Mount Mazda, which he occasionally used as his home. He also kept a stockpile of food and supplies to feed his servants and animals.

Now, let me take you to the Mountain of “Masada” in Israel and tell you the story of 960 Jews. In 70 AD, right after the Romans invaded Jerusalem, they destroyed God’s City and the Second Temple and killed most of the Jews.

A group of 960 Jewish survivors retreated to the Mountain of “Masada.” The Romans quickly sent squadrons of soldiers up the mountain to kill the 960 Jews. But the Romans were NOT able to make it up the Mount.

Why not?

I believe there can be only one possible explanation. The Jews deconstructed the buildings and threw stones at the Romans, inflicting casualties. It was an ongoing effort to keep the Romans from ascending to the Mount. Therefore, unable to climb the mountain, an estimated 15,000 “angry” Roman soldiers began building a ramp to ascend to the top of Masada. In the meantime, because of the “stockpiles” of resources, the 960 Jews were able to survive.

There were many buildings on “Masada” to house King Herod’s entourage (probably hundreds) of family, friends, and military support. Also, buildings were necessary to accommodate his entourage’s food, water, and provisions. Also, it was essential to have housing and feeding stalls for all the animals they used to get everyone and everything up and down the mountain. After about three years of building the ramp, the Romans were about to ascend to the top.

However, days before, the Romans reached the top of Masada. ALL 960 Jews chose suicide rather than face the sure and cruel torture of the Romans.

It is “presumed” that the head of each family killed their family. Then, the remaining Jews killed each other until one person was left, and he then killed himself. The 960 Jews took their own lives instead of waiting for the Romans to execute them, serving as a “Testimony” to Future Generations to “Keep Fighting” until the end. The Jews died on their “own terms,” which was far better than being captured, tortured, raped, mutilated, and thrown off the mountain.

To this day, Masada is a sacred monument of triumph in Israel’s past as it illustrates the tenacity of the Jews to make every effort to survive but also to accept death on “their terms.” It is one reason IDF forces climb to the top of Masada during training.

When you visit Masada, I don’t want you to ascend Masada, look out, and say, “What amazing views.” I want you to contemplate that 960 Jews survived for three years against all odds.

Remember that the 960 Jews were willing to die by their “own hand” rather than face certain death at their enemy’s hands.

I also want you to consider the topic of suicide, mental illness, and ALL aspects of mental health.

I also want you to understand this issue through the lens of Scripture.

That said, maybe you or a close family member(s) have struggled with mental health concerns. As it is a significant part of my story and family, allow me to explain further.

- I believe it all started as a young boy, hearing my grandmother and step-grandfather's stories retold about the Holocaust.
- I learned that members of our family in Poland chose to take cyanide and commit suicide rather than face the Nazis. I discovered that many first and second-generation survivors of the Holocaust have similar struggles, too.
- I learned that my nephew, who lived in Israel and served in the IDF, committed suicide.
- I learned that one of my aunts in Israel died in a psychiatric hospital.
- I also learned that another aunt was in and out of psychiatric hospitals all her life.
- Then, out of "nowhere," in 1993, I experienced a depression that would alter my life for the better, leading to a 180-degree change in direction.

Beginning in 1998, I started the long, arduous journey of learning how to write. In 2004, I completed "My Pursuit of a Good Mood," which details my struggles and how God helped me recover.

In writing my book, I learned about my family's struggles and those of other Jewish and Gentile people. That said, the issue of mood-related struggles is Biblically based. There are 14 people I discovered in the Bible who faced overwhelming mental health struggles. For this reason, I placed a large **"Star of David"** on the back cover of my book.

In 2005, I started the "Good Mood Foundation." I served in obscurity for the first six years. Then, in 2012, a brand new psychiatric and addiction hospital opened its doors in Carrollton, Texas. The "short story" is that our ministry was chosen to provide "Faith-Based" ministries to the patients, and we did so for seven and a half years (every Wednesday and Sunday).

But this mental health ministry wasn't born out of a vacuum. Instead, it was birthed from real-life and "gut-wrenching" personal experiences. Interestingly, Michelle and I would not be in ministry today if it had not been for my struggles.

And of all the fascinating stories God has given me, no account gives me greater credibility within the Christian community than how Michelle and I served, learned, and grew through the pain of a significant struggle.

Following is a summary of fourteen Bible people struggling with mood-related struggles.

## **Six People— Who Knew God Personally and Struggled with Mood-Related Issues**

**Moses-** After the Israelites left Egypt (Exodus), they began to grumble and complain. Finally, Moses had enough... Moses illustrates that being with people or in an environment with constant negativity, grumbling, and complaining can cause suicidal thoughts.

“Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them, his anger was aroused. The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!” The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents...Moses was troubled. He asked the LORD, “Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me...Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin.” Numbers 11:1-17

**Jonah-** After God calls Jonah to preach to the “City of Nineveh,” he runs away and boards a ship heading in the “opposite direction.” There is a fierce storm, and Jonah is thrown overboard. He gets swallowed by a BIG fish, and in the belly of the fish, Jonah changes his mind. The fish vomits Jonah onto dry Land, he preaches to the City of Nineveh, and God “saves” the entire City. However, Jonah becomes angry at God for His grace and compassion towards Nineveh. Jonah has enough...and illustrates that evangelistic success can cause suicidal thoughts.

“But to Jonah, this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” Jonah 4

**Job-** After becoming very wealthy and due to no fault of his own, job wakes up one morning, and everything he has, including all his children, is gone. He is left with a contentious wife and three “friends” who are not his friends, ...illustrating that the “loss” of family, loved ones, and material possessions can cause suicidal thoughts.

“I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. “I prefer strangling and death rather than this body of mine. I despise my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone; my days have no meaning.” Job 7:11–16

**Elijah-** After God shows Himself to be God with fire in the competition between the God of the Bible and the prophets of Baal, Elijah has enough... and illustrates that spiritual success can cause suicidal thoughts.

“Elijah was afraid and ran for his life...He came to a broom tree, sat down under it, and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” 1 Kings 19:3-9

**King David-** After King David leaves his men on the battlefield, he is at home, looks out of his window, and notices the wife of one of his men sunbathing. Her name is Bathsheba, and he calls for her...and she conceives. King David attempts to cover up his sin by calling Bathsheba's husband away from the battlefield and encouraging him to “be” with his wife. But he refuses. King David orchestrated events so that Bathsheba's husband was purposefully killed in battle. King David is eventually “called out” by the prophet Nathan. King David's illegitimate child dies, and David deals with severe depression, illustrating that sexual immorality, murder, sin, and the cover-up of sin can cause depression. Many of the Psalms written by David are melancholic.

“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night, your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.” Psalm 32:3-4

**Nehemiah** knew God personally, but suicidal ideations are not mentioned. Nehemiah is King Artaxerxes's cupbearer and goes to the King with a sad face after learning that the walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed, illustrating that seeing and learning of harm to family and Country (“Israel”) can cause mood struggles.

“I took the wine and gave it to the King. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the King asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, but I said to the King, “May the King live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the City where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” Nehemiah 2:1–3

The previous six people in the Bible KNEW God personally. No person in the Bible who knew God personally killed themselves. Yes, you and I know “Believers” who committed suicide. However, please be comforted. On the authority of Scripture, ALL believers enter God's presence upon their death, no matter the cause. Thankfully, we live in a day and age where “Help” is available for anyone with any mood struggle, including suicidal thoughts.

Modern history also verifies the stories of many people who had a mental illness or severe mood struggles and became great influencers and contributors in all fields of endeavor, whether they knew God personally or not!



## Six People—

### Who Did Not Know God Personally and Struggled with Mood-Related Issues.

**Abimelech-** After Abimelech gets hit in the head with a millstone that is dropped from a window, he kills himself and illustrates that head and brain injuries can cause suicidal thoughts.

“Abimelech went to Thebez and besieged it and captured it. Inside the City, however, was a strong tower to which all the men and women—all the people of the City—had fled. They had locked themselves in and climbed up on the tower roof. Abimelech went to the tower and attacked it. But as he approached the entrance to the tower to set it on fire, a woman dropped an upper millstone on his head and cracked his skull. Hurriedly he called to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword and kill me so that they can’t say, ‘A woman killed him.’” So, his servant ran him through, and he died.” Judge 9:50-53

**Ahithophel-** David’s most trusted advisor, was always appreciated, and his advice was acted on. However, one day, King David rejects Ahithophel’s counsel. After King David rejects his advice, Ahithophel goes home, puts his affairs in order, then commits suicide (hangs himself), and illustrates that rejection can cause suicidal thoughts.

“Now, in those days, the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded all of Ahithophel’s advice...When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and set out for his house in his hometown. He put his house in order and then hanged himself.” 2 Samuel 16:23-17:23

**King Saul-**After being filled with jealousy against David, an evil spirit enters the King. Later, he draws his sword and kills himself, illustrating that envy and jealousy can cause depressive “rage.”

“When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.” Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?” And from that time on, Saul kept a jealous eye on David. The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand, and he hurled it, saying to himself, “I’ll pin David to the wall.” But David eluded him twice.” 1 Samuel 18:6–11

“Now the Philistines fought against Israel...The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons...The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically. Saul said to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me.” But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it, so Saul took his own sword and fell on it.” 1 Samuel 31:1-4

**Zimri-** After committing murder and trying to “escape” the consequences, Zimri commits suicide and illustrates that sin and the cover-up of wrongdoing can cause suicidal thoughts.

“When the Israelites in the camp heard that Zimri had plotted against the King and murdered him, they proclaimed Omri, the commander of the army, King over Israel that very day there in the camp. Then Omri and all the Israelites with him withdrew from Gibbethon and laid siege to Tirzah. When Zimri saw that the City was taken, he went into the citadel of the royal palace and set the palace on fire around him. So, he died because of the sins he had committed, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD.” 1 Kings 16:16–19

**Judas-** After “selling out” Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, Satan enters Judas. Later, he changes his mind, but it’s too late. Judas commits suicide and illustrates that betrayal and ill-gotten gains can cause suicidal thoughts. It’s also important to understand that Judas was NOT a believer, even though he was one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. That said, Satan or his demons can NOT enter a believer. Believers can be “oppressed,” but they can NOT be possessed.

“Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.” Luke 22:1–6

“When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” So, Judas threw the money into the Temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.” Matthew 27:3-5

## King Nebuchadnezzar

King Nebuchadnezzar was an evil King who destroyed Jerusalem, the First Temple, and took Daniel and God’s people back to Babylon. The King’s pagan indoctrination stripped the Hebrews of their Jewish heritage, Hebrew language, Jewish ways of life, and Jewish families. So, if any person deserved God’s wrath, it was King Nebuchadnezzar.



God wanted the King to repent and gave him 12 months to “*Renounce your sins by doing what is right.*” The King said, “No!” So, after 12 months, God inflicted the King with a severe “mental illness.” Like “some” today, the King believed he was a cow or animal. Modern psychiatry calls

this mental illness Boanthropy. King Nebuchadnezzar did not know the God of the Bible personally. But through his mental illness, he eventually came to faith in the God of the Bible. He also led hundreds of thousands, if not millions of other Gentiles, to trust in the God that “Daniel” believed in.

I have often wondered why Daniel didn’t take “this opportunity” to flee Babylon or to “take out” the King. He would have been within his “rights” to do so. But I am convinced God instructed Daniel to stay. Why?

One manifestation of “love” is caring for an ill friend or family member. Undoubtedly, the King had become “family” to Daniel and his tribe. So, Daniel and His Tribe provided him with “care.” Daniel must have put the King “out” on a private pasture “within” the Palace grounds so the “people” could not see what had happened to him. Daniel or someone he designated kept a “watchful eye” on the King as he “roamed.” The King ate grass like a cow, but no human is sustained by eating only grass. So, Daniel must have provided the King with other edible plants and food to eat.

Daniel also cared for the “Kingdom” as he was already in a high-level oversight position. Therefore, in a sense, King Nebuchadnezzar was the first mental health “in-patient.” After all, the King was cared for in a “closed” and “safe” environment, consistently watched, and monitored. Daniel may have been the first Hebrew to have a ministry to a Gentile with a mental illness. But that’s not the end of the story.

God performed a miracle and “saved” an evil Gentile who had committed grievous acts against God, His City, His Temple, and His People. After seven years, King Nebuchadnezzar turned his heart to the “Living God,” and God “restored” his sanity. King Nebuchadnezzar became a “believer” and authored the book of Daniel, chapter four.

“At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward Heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the Earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of Heaven and the peoples of the Earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?” At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of Heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”

Undoubtedly, many hundreds of thousands of Gentiles (maybe millions) believed in the God of the Jewish people (the God of the Bible) because of King Nebuchadnezzar’s story and proclamations.

## Jesus Christ

“He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds, we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the Land of the living; for the transgression of my people, he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.” Isaiah 53

Jesus experienced a gamut of mood-related issues, including being misunderstood and rejected by his family and community. His family thought he was crazy, and they did not believe in him. “Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”” Mark 3:20-21

### **Jesus also endured the cruelest death possible: death on the cross.**

“The governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him, and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. They spit on him, and took the staff, and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him...On the cross, he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”” Matthew 27:27-46

God sustained Jesus through his rejection, suffering, and pain. Furthermore, I believe that because of what Jesus endured, he can help us through tough times. Jesus understands and can help us through our issues and struggles, too.

## Beit Shean



You will visit “Beit Shean” (pictured) when you tour Israel. You can see a walking path up the mountain to the very far right of the picture. You will want to walk up the hill and look over the City. And as you take in the breathtaking views, imagine how this City might once have seemed. The remains of the toppled City will give you a starting point of reference to visualize the City’s enormity and how one earthquake took it down. Beit Shean is also a Biblical site that speaks of Jesus’s willingness to heal those with various sicknesses and infirmities, including those possessed by demonic and evil spirits.

Of all the miracles in Scripture by Jesus, the casting out demons and evil spirits is often mentioned.

“Those troubled by evil spirits were cured.” Luke 6:17–19

**Jesus heals a man from an evil spirit, and that man (now in his right mind) goes throughout the Decapolis Cities, telling everyone about Jesus.**

“They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes [these are cities east of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River]. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills, he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won’t torture me!” For Jesus had said to him, **“Come out of this man, you evil spirit!”** Then Jesus asked him,

**“What is your name?”** “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid...As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him but said, **“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.”** So, the man went away and began to tell in the **Decapolis** how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.” Mark 5:1-20

#### **Jesus continues to heal MANY people in and around the Decapolis Cities.**

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the **Decapolis**, Jerusalem, Judea, and the region across the Jordan followed him.” Matthew 4:25

#### **Jesus heals a woman crippled by a “spirit” (of Satan), then praises God.**

“On a Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and **said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.”** Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.” Luke 13:10–13

#### **Jesus heals a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk.**

“While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.” Matthew 9:32–33

#### **Jesus casts out evil spirits from a mother’s demonic daughter.**

“Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it, yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. **“First, let the children eat all they want,”** he told her, **“for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.”** “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “but even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” **Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”** She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.” Mark 7:24-30 (the same account is in Matthew 15:21-28)

### **Jesus casts out a demon from a father's son.**

“When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them... **“What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.** A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” **“O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”** So, they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. **Jesus asked the boy's Father, “How long has he been like this?”** “From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us, and help us.” **“If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.”** Immediately the boy's Father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. **“You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”** The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He's dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn't we drive it out?” **He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”** Mark 9:14–29 (the same account is mentioned in Matthew 17:14-21)

### **Jesus heals two demon-possessed men.**

“When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” Some distance from them, a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” He said to them, **“Go!”** So, they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town, and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. Matthew 8:28–34

### **Jesus preached in synagogues and drove out demons.**

“So, he [Jesus] traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.” Mark 1:39

### **Jesus drives out many demons.**

“When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” Matthew 8:16–17

**Jesus cured Mary (Magdalene), who had seven demons cast out of her.**

“The Twelve were with him, and also some **women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out.**” Luke 8:1–2

**Jesus gives his twelve disciples the authority to drive out demons, too.**

“He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: **“Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.”** Matthew 10:1–8

**Someone besides Jesus and His disciples cast out demons.**

“Teacher,” said John, “we saw a man driving out demons in your name, and we told him to stop because he was not one of us.” “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. **“No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us.”** Mark 9:38–40

**Jesus was accused of being Demon-possessed.**

“The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?” **“I am not possessed by a demon,”** said Jesus, **“but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. I am not seeking glory for myself, but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”** At this, the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died, and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. Are you greater than our Father, Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?” **Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your Father, Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”** “You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, **“and you have seen Abraham!”** **“I tell you the truth,”** Jesus answered, **“before Abraham was born, I am!”**” John 8:48–58

**Jesus appoints 72 disciples and sends them out two by two. They also cast our demons.**

“After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go... The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” Luke 10:1-17



**Not only did Jesus heal those possessed by demons and evil spirits. Jesus, Himself, was tempted by Satan-the Devil. Jesus was accused of being Demon-possessed.**

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them, he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered, **“It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’”** The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So, if you worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered, **“It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”** The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the Temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered, **“It says: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”** When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.” Luke 4:1–13

**Biblically speaking, a Christ-follower CANNOT be possessed by evil spirits.** This is because Christ-followers are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. Yes, Christ-followers can be attacked “externally,” but NO devil, demon, or evil spirit can ever possess a Christ-follower. That said, when an evil spirit is cast out of an unbeliever, it is so the unbeliever will BELIEVE. Then, the Holy Spirit can reside in the NEW believer’s “house.” However, if an evil spirit is cast out of an unbeliever, and they do not BELIEVE, the evil spirit may return and bring his evil spirit friends with him.

**“When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”** Matthew 12:43–45

**If the theme of mental health interests you, I suggest you visit the “Spiritual Component” file next. It also continues to tell my story.**