

VOL. LXX

No. 2

THE

JUNE, 1997 —  
SEPTEMBER, 1997

# MESSIANIC JEW



The Quarterly Organ of the  
International Messianic Jewish Alliance

Registered Charity Number 231016.

*Editor:* REVD. RONALD H. LEWIS, B.A.  
*Associate Editors:* REVD. T. H. BENDOR SAMUEL,  
REVD. JOHN FIELDSSEND, B.Sc. (Eng.), B.D.  
RICHARD HARVEY, M.A.,  
RUTH FLEISCHER, M.A., Ph.D.  
REVD. HENRY KNIGHT, B.A.

## CONTENTS

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| A Word from the Editor .....   | 35   |
| News from the Homeland, A Personal Perspective<br>By Menahem Benhayim .....                              | 37   |
| Memorial: Dr Arthur W. Kac<br>By Dr Ruth I. Fleischer .....  | 41   |
| Jesus, the Psalms and the Church<br>By The Revd Dr Eric S. Gabe .....                                    | 44   |
| The End of the Present Millennium: A Special Event for Us?<br>By Dr. Gershon Nerel .....                 | 47   |
| The Story of Jacob Skolkowski (1817-1889) Part VI<br>Translated and Edited by Margaret Willis, B.A. .... | 49   |
| Pauline Teaching Concerning Godfearing Jews<br>By The Revd H. D. Leuner .....                            | 53   |
| Conference in Mexico was a Water-Shed .....  | 58   |
| News and Notes .....   | 61   |
| Book Reviews .....   | 62   |

THE MESSIANIC JEW is the quarterly organ of the International Messianic Jewish Alliance, but except where otherwise stated the writers of the articles are alone responsible for the opinions expressed.

# The End of the Present Millennium: A Special Event for Us?

2000?

Historians like John Naisbitt and Norman Cohn examined situations in the past when "prophecy failed" in the beginning and in the end of the first millennium of our era. Rounded dates like A.D. 100, 200 and 1000 raised serious eschatological expectations. In our times too, when we near the year A.D. 2000, including Messianic circles, we increasingly hear about the imminence of Yeshua's second coming. Some leaders within the contemporary Messianic Movement think that certain believers place too great an emphasis on the expected immediate or very near coming of Messiah. Such leaders, who also even speak about "end times fever", tend to assume that Yeshua will be back in decades or even centuries from now.

Incredulous neighbours with their sneers or jeers would often regard Messianic Jews as foolish and naive for expecting Yeshua's imminent return. Many among us still remember confused members of certain groups in the 19th century, who sold their houses and farms and waited in vain on their rooftops, dressed in white, for the Lord's return. Yet, while having such



Dr. Gershon Nerel.

examples from history, are we, the modern disciples of Yeshua, allowed to ignore basic biblical texts which clearly deal with this issue?

No doubt we should beware of speculative exegesis. Obviously, speculations which set time-tables for the return of Yeshua are most dangerous and misleading. Of course we should learn from history and we know that many believers were seriously mistaken when they set dates for Yeshua's appearance on the basis of human reasoning. Yet spiritual leadership has personal responsibility to relate carefully to prophetic events within scriptural context.

by  
Dr. Gershon  
Nerel

The cardinal issue is **not** the exact timing when Messiah will return, but rather if we are spiritually ready – at any moment – for His coming. In its own time, each and every generation is required and expected by the Lord to be ready when He decides to appear. The parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25: 1-13) clearly teaches us that the five foolish virgins were not completely ready when the Lord comes. Why? Because they possessed too little oil; they were not filled enough with the Holy Spirit.

Therefore the real issue for discussion is not “end times fever” but rather “Spirit-filled fervour” for the truth. According to this very relevant parable, it is our responsibility, first and foremost as individuals, to have enough foresight and wisdom to collect sufficient oil (*chrisma*) in our lamps, for any moment of our lifetime. Indeed, the God of Israel is full of surprises, and when nobody expects the Messiah to come, then He may well return! (Luke 12: 45-46; Matt. 24:50).

Spiritual leadership is accountable, as a watchman, (Ezek. 3: 17-21) to warn the flock to be ready at any moment for Yeshua’s return – lest they contribute to their flocks’ spiritual unpreparedness. A balanced exegesis needs to keep in right proportion, at the very same time, both a permanent expectancy and readiness for Yeshua’s immediate return, and not neglecting our daily worldly responsibilities. This is our challenge. In order to correctly face this challenge, we

must nurture a spiritual maturity rooted in the words of Yeshua.

In every generation, wherever they are, true believers who follow their Lord Messiah are surrounded by neighbours who constantly question their beliefs and even humiliate them. Because of this, have they been really foolish? Because of this, have they really been naïve?

Noah the Just should represent an excellent example for us. We read that only he and seven members of his family were saved during the flood, which is an important reminder for us. (Luke 17: 26-27; Hebrews 11: 7; 1 Peter 3: 20). Was Noah exempt from his neighbours’ mocking when he built the ark? Should we, therefore, be surprised when we are mocked for teaching and expecting Yeshua’s near return? On the contrary, it is our obligation to be ready at any moment for His coming. We must be on the alert and watch, because we indeed do not know which day and which hour our Lord is coming (Matt. 24: 42-44).

When speaking about this issue, we do not have a “mixed bag” of accuracy and ambiguity. Rather we have a clear commandment by Messiah Himself to be ready now. If we expect His coming only in the far future, no doubt we shall “miss the train” and will be found responsible for not being ready when He comes unexpectedly.

The near end of the present millennium should not confuse or mislead us. What if He returns even before!

# THE INTERNATIONAL MESSIANIC JEWISH ALLIANCE

**GREAT BRITAIN:** P.O. Box 163, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8GJ.  
(Telephone and Fax [01843] 589756.)  
**ISRAEL:** P.O. Box 28070, Jerusalem, 91280. (Telephone: [02] 6249480).  
**U.S.A.:** P.O. Box 6307, Virginia Beach, VA 23456.  
(Telephone: 757-623 0424. Fax: 757-430 0895).  
**CANADA:** 800 Steeles Avenue West, Suite B10-200, Thornhill, Ontario L4J 7L2.

## OFFICERS

**President:** Joel Chernoff.  
**Vice-Presidents:** Myriam Levy, Rich Nichol, Fanny Roiter Mendal.  
**Executive Secretary:** Revd. Ronald H. Lewis, B.A. (*see British office address above*).  
**Honorary Treasurer:** Dr. Joseph Rosenfarb.  
**Secretary in Israel:** Gershon Nerel, M.A. Ph.D. (*see office address above*).  
**Executive Secretary Designate:** Revd. David Sedaca, B.A. (*see U.S.A. office address above*).  
**Executive Committee:** The Office Bearers, The Presidents of Affiliated Alliances.

## AFFILIATED NATIONAL ALLIANCES

**ARGENTINA:** President — Natalio Krauthamer, Besares 3861, 1702, Ciudadela, B.A.  
**AUSTRALIA:** President — Brad Burman, 15 Adams Avenue, Malabar, N.S.W. 2036.  
**BRAZIL:** President — Ana Profés, Moliere 263, Villa Sofia, 04671 Sao Paulo, SP.  
**CANADA:** President — Richard da Costa, P.O. Box 64, Thornhill, Ontario, L3T 3N1.  
**COLOMBIA:** President — Fanny Roiter Mendal, Apartado Aereo 93549, Bogota.  
**FRANCE:** President — Henri Pokrzywa, 3 Rue des Grillons Bt. E.2 "Les Marronniers", 06130 Grasse.  
**GREAT BRITAIN:** President — Dafna Israeli, 3 Maitland Park Road, London NW3 2ES.  
**HOLLAND:** President — Marjorie Eberlé-Gotlib, Admiraliteitskade 9a, Rotterdam 3063 EA.  
**ISRAEL:** President — Ilan Zamir, PO Box 46181, Jerusalem 91460.  
**MEXICO:** Secretary — Myriam Levy, Apartado Postal 5-455, Guadalajara, C.P. 45000, Jalisco.  
**NEW ZEALAND:** President — Allen Rosenberg, 11 Prince Regent Drive, Half Moon Bay, Pakuranga, Auckland.  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** President — Herschel Raysman, P.O. Box 3285, Matieland Post Office, Stellenbosch 7602, Cape.  
**SWITZERLAND:** President — Harry Herz-Hablützel, Witikonstrasse 66, 8032 Zürich.  
**U.S.A. MJAA:** President — Robert Cohen, 12189 Mesa Verde Trail, Jacksonville Fl. 32223.  
**AAMJB:** President — Dr. John Fischer, P.O. Box 669, Palm Harbor, Fla 84273.  
**URUGUAY:** President —