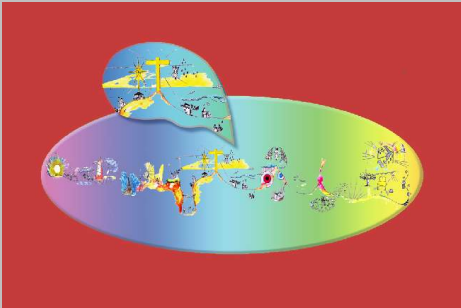


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## Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testaments) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

*All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!*

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HULDAH MINISTRY

# LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

## [ ZION 'S SAKE ]

*Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendour, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck. O captive Daughter of Zion. For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed." For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. "And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD.*

*"For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock," declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes it is I."*

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

*Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.*

**ISAIAH 52:1-10.**

Isaiah 52 addresses the 'captive Daughter of Zion' on whose neck there are chains of a prisoner, waiting to be freed from the servitude, to shake off her dust, to put on her garments of splendour with strength, to rise up and to sit enthroned. This wonderful message foretells of the people of Zion, that is, of Jerusalem who are to return home

as liberated people. There will be good news of peace, good tidings of salvation on the mountains, and there will be a proclamation: ***“Your God reigns,”*** in Zion because the Lord returns to Zion. The watchmen will lift up their voices not against an incoming threat but for joy because they will see the Lord’s return to Zion with their own eyes, and He will comfort His people, the Jews. Jerusalem will be no longer be in ruins but be restored when the Lord lays His holy arm on it, and consequently, all the nations of the world will see the salvation of God.

This is what the prophet Isaiah prophesied about future Zion. Similar events illustrated in these verses of Isaiah 52 have been witnessed in our day when God restored the state of Israel on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1948. It was an epoch-making event; “the rebirth of Israel”. This was further followed by another epoch-making event of the delivery of Jerusalem into Jewish hands from Gentile power on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1967. These dramatic events were not chance occurrences, but took place at God’s determined and appointed time and timings.

Several years ago, these passages from Isaiah 52 as well as Isaiah 62:2-3 were exhilaratingly applied to the Church, i.e., God’s new covenant people, and taken up by the restoration movement. Based on the “Replacement Theology”, both were made to be sung in choruses. The theology believes that God has finished with the Jews, and instead, the Church has replaced Israel as God’s chosen people; “spiritual Israel”. Whereas Israel was once God’s chosen people, now that the old covenant is obsolete, it claims, the Jews who rejected their Messiah are no longer God’s chosen. All the promised blessings for them have been cancelled out and they have now been transformed to the Church. It is apparent, however, that the favourably adopted words in the song from Isaiah: ***‘The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendour in the LORD’s hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God,’*** originally addressed Zion. Despite knowing that the Jews would reject and crucify their Messiah, God foretold His promises of deliverance and redemption to His chosen people; Israel, and this still stands today. As Paul said, God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable.

The Hebrew Bible is full of promises of the glorious future Israel and Jerusalem: ***‘For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch, ... I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who called on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.’*** (Is. 62:1-7). It is also described in the New Testament that after His resurrection from the dead, Jesus never denied the future existence of Israel as a nation but simply replied: ***“It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority,”*** when His disciples asked Him: ***“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”*** (Acts 1:6-7) According to Jesus’ prediction about Jerusalem, He seems to have indicated that a time would come when Jerusalem will no longer be under the domination of the Gentiles: ***‘Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.’*** (Lk.21:24). Until that God-appointed time, Israel will be blinded and hardened in their hearts under a spirit of stupor as God’s judgment upon an unbelieving and disobedient people.

While Israel is in a process of unbelief and rejection of their Messiah for a season, salvation is available to the Gentiles. When in the end times Israel accepts Jesus Christ as her Messiah by the removal of the hardening of their hearts and the stumbling, ***‘all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “the deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.’*** (Ro.11:26). It will also be the time, which Zechariah prophesied: ***“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look to me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.’*** (Ze.12:10).

In this way, I believe that the nation of Israel will finally enter the Messianic age – the Millennial reign of Christ. While being well informed of biblical truth, that is, the timeless truths of Scripture, is most important for the Lord’s followers as examined above, being informed about what is going on now in our world, especially in Jerusalem is also very important so we are aware of where we are today in God’s prophetic calendar. I will quote an article entitled in “What Is God Saying About Israel In 2007?” from a quarterly newspaper ‘ISRAEL & Christians TODAY’, exactly as it is written.

Forty years ago, under a bright sunny sky, bullets and blood spilled upon the City of the Great King in an epic battle that would alter nations’ destinies. On June 7, 1967, a bridge of Israeli paratroopers

descended not far from the Mount of Olives. Dodging snipers, the soldiers forged their way through winding streets to the walls surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem, where they gained entrance through the Lion's Gate. Advancing eastward, they swiftly reached their target at the Western Wall, the only existent remains of Israel's Holy Temple compound.

It has been nearly 2,000 years since the Jewish nation could stake claim to this place where God had chosen to "put [His] Name forever." (2Chron. 33:7) Time froze for the awe-struck warriors. Official military communications record their jubilant shouts, prayers and songs, as well as piercing shofar blasts. "The Temple Mount is in our hands" proclaimed the colonel in command. God had just given Jerusalem back to the Jews. The dream of generations had seemingly materialized in one dizzying moment.

The world was stunned, as were Israel's neighboring nations that had anticipated wiping her off the map that year. Among Bible-believing Christians, interest in end times prophecy soared. Not coincidentally, the Jesus movement –the Western world's last revival accompanied by evangelization of multitudes of youth – exploded.

God frequently operates in 40 year time spans. In the Bible, 40 years represents a period of testing and of bringing to fullness of fruition. So in 2007, 40 years after Jerusalem's watershed restoration, what might Sovereign Father be saying to us? Could this year signal the completion of a test period – and perhaps herald its just consequences? "For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause." (Isa.34:8) Zion generally refers to Jerusalem in the Scriptures. Might God administer on earth a "year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause" or, according to other translations, a "year of recompences for the controversy of Zion?"

What the biblical calendar marks the new year with Passover, and suggests a civil new year at the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh HaShana), God also speaks through times and dates as we track them by the world's present calendar system. In that respect, it seems unavoidably noteworthy that Jerusalem was regained by the restored Jewish State on 6/7/67 in what has come to be known as the 6 Day War – a war Israel was forced to fight against neighboring Arab nations in its ongoing struggle to exist. In the Scriptures, the number 6 represents humanity, while 7 stands for fullness or completion. The Six Day War, ending on a Sabbath, the 7th day of the biblical week, connotes, therefore, the culmination of one season of God's dealings with humanity, and the start of another. As if to punctuate matters, this present biblical year is 5767.

On June 7, 1967, God carved His Kingship over Israel and the nations back onto the very plod of earth He'd chosen to put His Name forever. Since that date, it is said more souls have been saved in Israel and the nations, and more revelation released to us, than during any other 40 year period following the close of the New Covenant. To whom much has been given, much is required. Through the ongoing birth pangs we'll experience in 2007, God will be looking to see where His investment has borne fruit – particularly concerning the Jewish State and its capital city.

Fruitfulness in God's economy is love expressed through faith, and of this Israel serves as a barometer for the nations. When God works with Israel, He simultaneously tests the world. The hearts and intents of humanity are disclosed by our responses to what He does with the Jewish State. In the past 40 years, how have we responded to His kingdom purposes tied to the return of Jerusalem to Israel's stewardship?

Yeshua's (Jesus') last words spoken over Jerusalem summarize that kingdom purpose: "**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. ... You will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'**" (Mat. 23:37,39) Our Messiah-King's love for the Jewish people, represented and reflected in His love for Jerusalem, never wavers – and never will. If we are truly His, with Him living in us, and us living to extend His kingdom on earth, our hearts will beat with His for His ancient covenant people. Yeshua's unconditional love covenant with Israel is such that He binds His literal return to physically rule and reign among us to her acknowledgement of His messiahship and kingship. Jerusalem will not see Him again until

