

Antioch/Syria and Egypt...

We all have to ride that line between not taking ourselves too seriously and knowing that we are engaged in a battle of enormous proportions. There is an enemy who would love to destroy us. We are at war. We must not go into battle casually.



Our Toward Jerusalem Council II executives are not unaware of the seriousness of the battle in which we are engaged—to encourage the Church in her relationship to the restored body of Jewish believers in Yeshua, and looking forward to the time when the headquarters of the entire international body of believers will be restored to Jerusalem under the Jewish King and World Redeemer Jesus.

In this endeavor we've traveled to Spain, Nicea and Rome, praying for the reversal of the decrees of kings and councils that have been a curse on the Jewish people, as well as many other places.

Recently we were in Antioch together, the birthplace of "missions." On the first night of our time in Antioch, I came under an intense personal attack unlike any I had ever had. I had to leave my room and go outside to get fresh air, remaining out of the room for more than hour, before I could get the victory sufficiently to return to the room and sleep. When asking one of my brothers, my traveling companion Tod (McD) to pray for me the next morning, we realized that we had not prayed over the room when we entered. The hotel had earlier been a courthouse, and the windowless room in which we were sleeping could easily have been used to detain prisoners.

A few hours later I learned that one of our Caleb supporters had been in what could have been fatal hydroplaning car accident. Upon returning home, we found that one of our executives, Wayne W, went into a health battle that necessitates major surgery in a few days. **I am taking a moment even now to offer up prayers of thanksgiving and to speak a blessing over all of you!**

As I share about the rest of the journey, I pray that this "history lesson" will also cause you to "Fix your eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith!"

Antioch was the earliest place where Jews and Gentiles lived harmoniously together in Messiah—Jews in a Jewish Torah observant lifestyle, Gentiles without such restrictions, yet Jewish affirming and learning from the Torah/Tenakh, their only Bible.

Later however there were disagreements, first between the Jewish believers, later when the dominant Gentile Church began to require of the Jews that they forsake their own Torah observance.

All of us on the team this time had the sense that we were praying Daniel-like prayers (see Daniel 9) that will help to usher in this world revival that will restore faith in Jesus to its places of origin—Israel and Antioch.

Our group went from Antioch to Egypt and Syria, so that we could be on the ends of the Isaiah 19:19-25 highway that will one day allow Egyptian believers in Jesus and Syrian believers in Jesus to unite with Israel and become a blessing in the whole earth.

“The Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians.” Isaiah 19:21

Egypt is a good example of how good and bad advancing together – wickedness and righteousness growing together, as we move closer to the Lord's return-- just as the Lord predicted in His wheat and tares parable.

Even though Egypt is technically at peace with Israel, there is great animosity toward in the land against the nation of Israel. The believers in the land of Egypt are not permitted even to visit Israel, or, if they do, they will be held suspect by governmental officials. *The propaganda system is enormous. One very faithful young believer still thought Egypt had won the war over Israel in the 1967 Six Day War, in spite of the fact that, at the end of the war, Israel had possession of the Sinai, the Suez Canal and had wiped out the whole Egyptian air force. This tells us something about the effectiveness of government propaganda, and warns us again not to believe the world media. As we move toward the coming of the Lord, this is going to become more intense. The world media and the world governments will not be telling us truth. We must remember to look to the Lord and His Word for truth.*



At the same time, there is a core of godly people in Egypt who understand God's purposes for Israel and the Jewish people, and who join in praying for those purposes to find their fulfillment in our day. And, in spite of much misinformation about Israel, there is a major revival going on both inside the Egyptian Coptic Church and in the “free” churches of the land, with many Muslims also coming to faith. Our small band of believers (Jews and Gentiles together) stood with mouths agape as we visited the 20,000 seat home of the Coptic cave church that is experiencing miracles weekly.

Our first night in Egypt was spent in an Egyptian Coptic desert monastery two hours out of Cairo. We found some older Monks who were so steeped in replacement theology that they had no appreciation for our Jewish believers. Others however, in the same monastery, know that the return of our Jewish brothers and sisters, is announcing to the world that the return of the Lord is near.

We found this same dichotomy as we met with evangelical pastors on our second night in Egypt—some who wanted to argue that God is finished with Israel, others who have a clearer understanding of God's purposes.

Remember to look for two things to happen side by side as we move forward toward the coming of the King—an increase in deception, persecution of believers, wickedness in all its facets and an increase in evangelism, holiness, righteousness in all its glory.

"Fix your eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith!"



Before leaving Turkey, some of us stopped in Haran at the well where Abraham's servant Eliezer first saw Rebekah, and where later Jacob saw Rachel. This area was the birthplace of the Jewish nation—eleven of the sons of Jacob were born within a few feet of where we were standing. Our Jewish brothers stood facing the four winds, calling the Jewish people back to their destiny. Then we Gentiles placed our hands on them, as those grafted in to their promises, calling the nations to this One True God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

There were many prayers of "identificational confession" and repentance—Jews with Jews, historic churches to each other, "free" churches to the historical churches, Gentile Christians to the Jewish believers.

I'm home again with renewed increased faith in the revival that is sweeping and going to sweep the world, even as terrorism, wars, and rampant evil engulf it.

Remember that Paul does not admonish us to fix our minds on the evil, but on what God is doing and on what is good. Be blessed and strengthened in HIM, the One true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, the One we have received and believed on!

Let us be those that are passionately pursuing His work in the midst of a confused world. Blessings to you all in His Name!