

A Tale of two Kings and two betrayals

ACT ONE

There once was a King who loved God with all his heart.

Yet he was far, very far, from being a perfect King. In his anger he shed the blood of many men. In his lust he defiled himself with women. In his shame he hid his sin in deceitfulness and treachery. God loved this King very much, but being just, He would not spare him from the consequence of his choices. A conspiracy was laid against the King. His friend and most trusted advisor provided the counsel that helped lead to his defeat.

The King was deposed from his throne by his own son, humiliated before all of his subjects and fled the capital city in disgrace.

But the King still loved God, and it was he, and not his son, who had been chosen to rule. In his pain



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Sometimes these prophetic passages function like a telescope, whereby events in the life of David are amplified, going far beyond his own circumstances to fit and foretell the life of Jesus.



the King cried out, “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.” And being a clever man, the King prayed to the Lord to turn his trusted advisor’s counsel into foolishness. Then the King secretly sent a second advisor back to the city to defeat the counsel of the most trusted advisor who was betraying him.

This most trusted advisor had such great ability that people considered his advice to be “like the voice of God.” He counseled the King’s son to shame his father in every way possible and to pursue his father immediately after, so that he might capture and kill the King while he was vulnerable. But the second advisor who had been sent secretly from the King recommended waiting to attack until later. To the surprise of many, the King’s son accepted the advice of the second counselor rather than the one most trusted. Thus the King was able to escape unharmed. So distraught was the King’s former friend and advisor that the son had rejected his counsel that he left the city, went home and hanged himself.

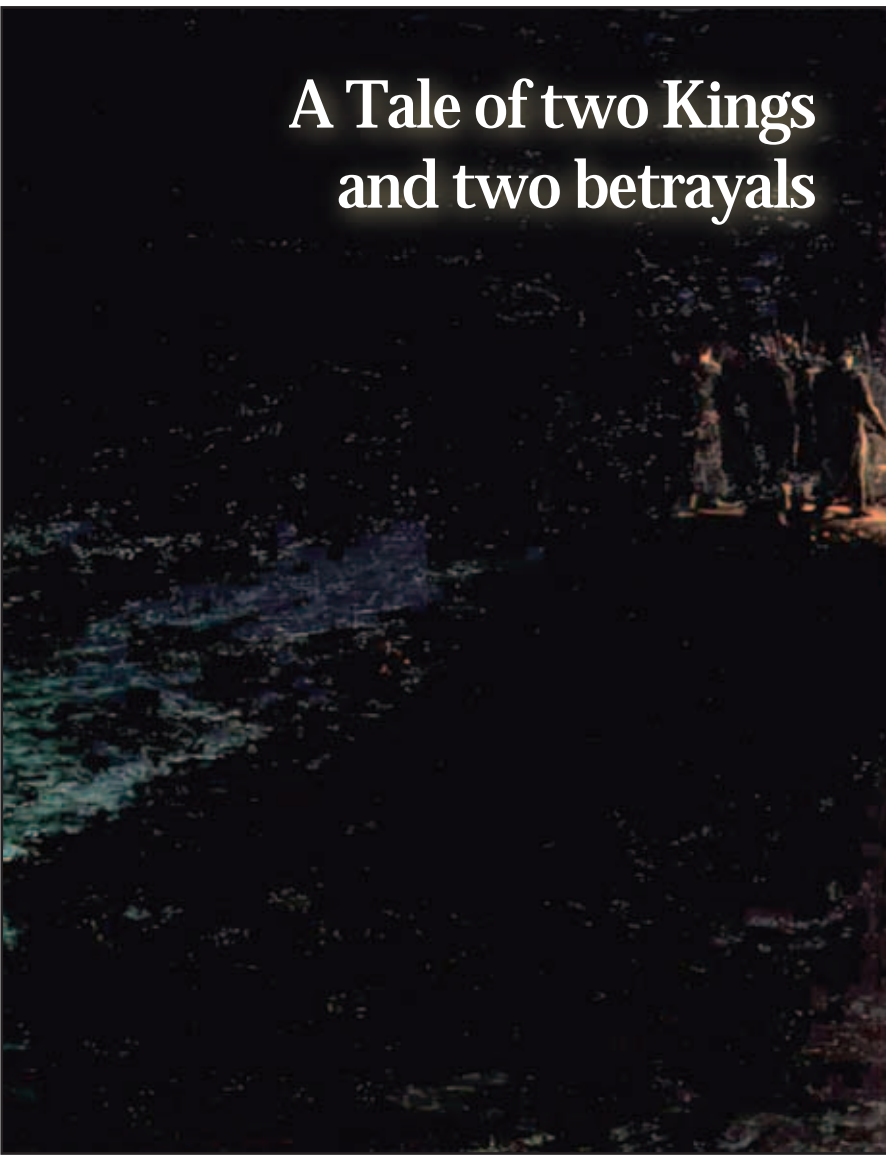
ACT TWO

There once was a King who loved God with all his heart.

He was a perfect King in every way. He cared deeply for all of His subjects, especially the poor and the downtrodden. He fed the multitudes and healed the sick. He did not look to be served but to serve, and to give his life for many. God loved this King very much, but being merciful He would not spare the King from the consequences of the sin of those he intended to save. A conspiracy was laid against the King. The King’s friend and official treasurer provided the information that led to his arrest, trial and eventual execution.

But the King was a wise and courageous man. Even though he knew that his treasurer planned to betray him, the King entrusted himself to God and continued to keep his treasurer close, in his inner circle. He knew that the coming betrayal had been predicted and was the will of God. The King invited his treasurer along with his other close friends to a final meal together. During the meal the King informed everyone that there was a traitor in their midst. Then the King said that the prophecy must be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me.’ And he handed his treasurer

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His confidence in God's plan and God's Word was so certain that He was able to hand the bread of betrayal to Judas so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

a piece of bread.

When the treasurer received that piece of bread, the evil plan he had in his heart took hold of him completely. He left the circle of friends and found those who were conspiring against the King. For a small sum of money he agreed to lead them to the spot where the King and his friends were heading. In that secluded spot, where the King was most vulnerable, the treasurer betrayed him with a kiss. The conspirators captured the King and led him away but his treasurer soon grew remorseful for his treachery. In despair he went and flung the blood money at the feet of the King's conspirators. Then he left the city and hanged himself.

EPILOGUE

By now you probably realize that both these acts tell of true tales based on the Scriptures. The kings are David and Y'shua; the betrayers are Ahithophel and Judas Iscariot (2 Samuel 15-17; Psalm 41:7-9; John 13, 18:1-11). The parallels between these two stories were divinely orchestrated as Messianic prophecy and fulfillment so that we might understand God and His purposes more clearly.

Many other parallels between King David and King Jesus appear in the Psalms. Sometimes these prophetic passages function like a telescope, whereby events in the life of David are amplified, going far beyond his own circumstances to fit and foretell the life of Jesus. Looking at these events, like seeing through a telescope, magnifies certain things that David experienced to encompass the far larger plan of God for the future coming of Christ.

At other times the Psalms function like a microscope; we are allowed to peer more closely at an aspect of David's life that reflects a very specific event or interaction that will also take place in the future life of Messiah. Such is the case in this tale. The Messianic prophecy of Psalm 41:9 is a very focused reflection of the parallels between the betrayals of David and Jesus. They have similarities as well as differences. As we compare and contrast these events, they teach us not only about the lives of the two kings, but about our lives as well.

In Psalm 41:4 David prays, "LORD, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." Whereas David was aware of his failings and sins, the Messiah Jesus is perfect in every way. In fact, it was because our perfect Savior was betrayed and crucified that we can find healing for our souls and forgiveness for sins.

In Psalm 41:10 David reacts to his betrayers by asking God, "raise me up, that I may repay them." But when Jesus hung on the cross He cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Perhaps you have faced seasons and situations where you experienced deep betrayal or abandonment by someone you once trusted. If so, you are not alone. Many people experience similar pain at some point in life. When faced with such situations, we can identify with the pain that both kings endured. More important, we need God's grace to respond as did King Y'shua. His confidence in God's plan and God's Word was so certain that He was able to hand the bread of betrayal to Judas so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Likewise, even in the darkest of circumstances we can trust in the promises of God's Word so that we can confidently declare with both kings: "As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, and set me before Your face forever. Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen" (Psalm 41:12-13).

BITS FROM THE BRANCHES

CHICAGO / MICHA COHEN REPORTS

"I am always grateful to see how our God is mighty to save, often 'behind the scenes.' He never slumbers nor sleeps and does not lose touch with those we think we have lost!

A man called our office and told me that he is in an interfaith marriage. He said his wife was not pushing him to explore Jesus, but he was just interested himself! He grew up in New York City and laughed when he heard that we share the same last name. He said he was glad to hear from another Cohen in Chicago.

A few days later we agreed to meet the following week. But he soon called back saying he could not wait and had time to come to the office that very day instead. We met and read Isaiah 53 together and he agreed that it sounds like Jesus. I talked about our need for atonement and he understood the concept. I asked if he was ready to receive God's offer of forgiveness through Jesus, and he said not just yet, but he was glad enough for me to pray for him to find the truth. I told him about our weeknight Bible study and about a local congregation.

Over the next few months I tried to reach Mr. Cohen over and over again to no avail. I was disappointed to say the least. So imagine my surprise when I rang and he answered I rejoiced. Then Freddy said that he and his wife are now attending a local Messianic gathering and although he does not yet fully believe, he believes he is now heading in the right direction! He has finished the entire Old Testament and is moving through the New at record pace.

I praise God that there are many saints

working in God's service, and some of us are part of the plan on one step or another. So even when I haven't been able to connect with someone, it doesn't mean God is not working in his heart to draw him to His loving grace!

QUEENSLAND

Bob Mendelsohn and the team from Sydney were in Brisbane for a week of mission which included a nearly-full-page advert in the Courier Mail, the largest Queensland newspaper. A couple days later we were out on the campus at University of Queensland, in St Lucia, sharing the Lord using our Gospel tracts. One young lady saw Bob near the university centre and approached him. Her name is Charlotte (not really, but that's pretty close) and she's very interested in the Gospel. She had seen the advert. She has a Christian friend who is witnessing to her. She saw our t-shirts and our being so close to her life as a sign of something from heaven. Bob was able to bring her the message of life and she indicated a real desire to know more. So Bob got her name and details, then sent her his own testimony of faith ("Whoever heard of a Jewish missionary?") and some other Gospel literature including a New Testament. We fully expect that the Lord will continue to speak to her through so many people and events that it will be impossible for Charlotte to miss out on Jesus' love. Please pray for her!

ISRAEL / OFER LEVY REPORTS

"In the Jezreel Valley "Behold Your God" campaign we wanted to make sure that the name of Y'shua was unavoidable to all the traffic passing. As our campaigners stood holding banners that proclaimed the message of salvation, many saw and responded by calling our office.

One caller, Chovav, a middle-aged Israeli later met with Tzachi and me. Before long he confessed Y'shua as his Lord and Saviour and is now growing rapidly in his faith as we study the book of John together. Chovav later explained that when he saw the sign (banner) he was drawn to it and couldn't stop thinking about what it meant, "It was a slogan, but I had to know more about Y'shua so I called and agreed to receive the book."

Then there was Zalman, who comes from a Yiddish-speaking background. He had been in touch with Jews for Jesus before, but had lost contact. He saw our banner while riding the bus, and afterwards renewed his contact with me. I was able to meet with him again, hand him a copy of the New Testament and minister to him. We continue to meet.

We met many seekers during the Jezreel Valley campaign that we continue ministering to, along with the local body of believers there. But we also continue to meet with those we encountered on previous campaigns. For example, I recently met with David from Herzliya. Since he'd last been in touch with us, David has grown more open to the gospel, and as we met to share and study the Word together he too received and confessed Y'shua as his Saviour".

ADDRESS INFORMATION

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Moishe's Musings

Thoughts from the Founder of
Jews for Jesus, Moishe Rosen

JEW
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Many of you will know that Moishe Rosen passed away in San Francisco in May this year. We have received numerous requests from readers who would like us to continue publishing some of Moishe's writings in our newsletters. We appreciate your interest. Moishe especially loved to answer questions, so in previous newsletters we've had intermittent columns like, "Glad You Asked" and "What Do You Say When . . ." We are happy to offer you two such pieces this month.

Glad You Asked

Question: My daughter, who is twenty-years-old, is dating a Jewish fellow she met at college. It looks like things are getting pretty serious and they're talking about marriage. How can I best witness to him in view of the fact that she is very sensitive and wants to make sure that we do not offend him?

Answer: Your problem isn't offending him or that he's Jewish. Your problem is what to say to your daughter. If she is truly a Christian, she has relegated the Lord Jesus Christ to a place on the periphery of her life and put this young man in the center of her existence. Does it seem reasonable to you that a committed Christian would be willing to consider

and marry a person who could not share the most important part of her life? I don't know how much your daughter is willing to receive from you, but I would like to tell her that one's life partner should also be a prayer partner—one who can encourage her in the faith because he shares the faith.

I have no doubt and am quite ready to believe that the young man is a fine, noble, moral person, but for a Christian everything in life must be built on the faith.

We would be very willing to send a letter of witness to the young man, but you need to bear witness to your own daughter and help her discover what really matters the most in life.

What Do You Say When . . .

Your pastor or your minister says that the biblical term "Israel" is no longer the Jewish people, but rather now mean "the church?"

Theologically speaking, when the promises, the covenants and the warnings to Israel are applied to the church, it is not necessarily an improper application, but might well be a bad interpretation.** Israel is a metaphor for all believers, but the fact that it is used as a metaphor does not mean that Israel does not have a li-

teral dimension. The people of Israel are not synonymous with the people of the church. If we know anything at all about the church, we know that it consists of saved people who are a part of the New Covenant according to Jeremiah 31:31. If the church is Israel then why does Paul in Romans 10:1 say, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved."

The language would seem to indicate that the brethren to whom he is speaking are the church, and the Israel of whom he is speaking is the Jewish people. There are many other passages in the New Testament that would show that Israel continues in a covenant relationship with God. Though that covenant does not bring salvation, there are yet promises that God will keep. If you are interested in knowing more about our letter of witness program, contact us on email or via any of the addresses in this newsletter. Thanks

**An application goes beyond the meaning of a specific Scripture and answers the question, "How might the reader integrate the truth of this Scripture into his or her life?" whereas the interpretation seeks only to explain the actual meaning of the Scripture as written.

Messianic Resources



As opportunities arise to share the Gospel with your friends and neighbours, these resources may be very useful. It's always good to have a supply of items which you can pass on to enquirers and which will also build you up in your growth in Messiah.

Featured resources for your learning, celebrating, and growth

The Feasts of the Lord Calendar

Printed and produced in Israel, our Feasts of the Lord Jewish Biblical Art Calendar is bursting with vibrant colors. Israeli artist Pamela Suran's vivid depictions of the feasts of the Bible are full of rich and dramatic detail. This 16-month calendar is ideal for home or office and makes a wonderful Rosh Hashanah gift.

- All dates on both the Jewish and Latin calendar systems
- All major Jewish and Christian holidays as well as holidays observed in the US
- Large boxes for daily appointments, birthdays and notes
- Scripture portions that are read weekly in synagogues
- Sixteen frameable reproductions



Cost: \$25

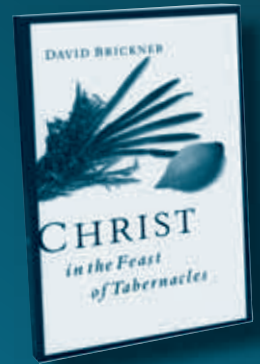
Christ in the Feast of Tabernacles

by David Brickner

Get in touch with the Jewish roots of your Christian faith as you learn the meaning behind Jesus' claims to be the "living water" and the "light of the world." Also included is a helpful glossary and index and a sample worship service for your church or home group.

There are also directions on how to build your very own tabernacle or "sukkah" as well as traditional recipes to enjoy during the harvest festival.

Publisher: Moody Publishers Pages: 175 pages



Cost \$19



Y'shua CD

The glory of Y'shua is celebrated with dynamic worship that ranges from classical to contemporary – come join us in praising "The Light of the World!" 10 songs Include: Y'shua's Name, Create in Me, I will Praise Thee, Let Us

Exalt His Name and a gorgeous Jewish rendering of Heber's "Holy, Holy, Holy". **Cost \$29**

(All costs include shipping in Australia; for other countries, please add \$4 per item, thanks. If you live near Sydney and want to drop by the shop, no shipping charges.)

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