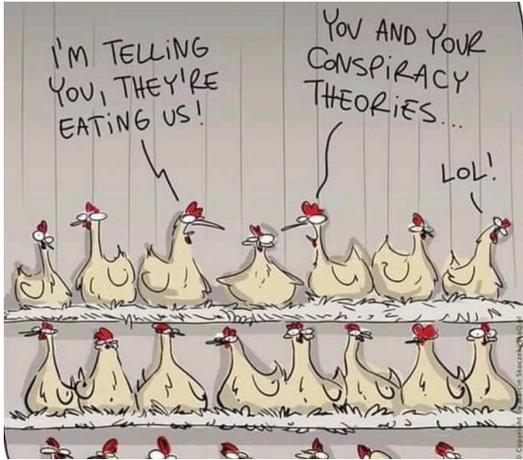


September 12, 2020
Letter to the Messianic Jews 6.1-3
First Principles Part 3



At Hargol Foodtech's farm in the Israeli Golan Heights, a rectangular enclosure that once served as a chicken coop is filled with thousands of locusts, a grasshopper species that has a highly destructive swarming phase.

Contained in a series of meticulously stacked, climate-controlled mesh cages, the insects are served wheatgrass through their three-month life-cycle, before being cooled, killed and baked.

Hargol's chief executive Dror Tamir told AFP that he grew up hearing stories of how locusts

destroyed the fields of his kibbutz in the 1950s. Yet the Yemenite Jews in the area did not view locusts as crop-ruining pests, but as an edible source of nutrients, Tamir recalled. Tamir said he founded Hargol — Hebrew for grasshopper — six and a half years ago after realizing the insects were the solution.

The company's goal is to be "the first in the world to grow grasshoppers on a commercial scale, and provide the world with a healthier and more sustainable source of protein." (INN / VFI News) [<https://vfineews.com/en/news/august-7-2020/plague-to-protein-israeli-firm-puts-locusts-on-the> If life gives you a lemon, make lemonade!]



[<https://www.templeinstitute.org/new-location.htm>]

Immersion: radical commitment to Messiah and His holy ways.
We are a minority but not on the losing side!

^{MJ 6.1-3} Therefore, leaving behind the initial lessons about the Messiah, let us go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of **(Note six foundations)**

[Six principles]

1. turning from works that lead to death,
2. trusting God, and
- ^{MJ 6.1-3} and 3. instruction about washings,
4. s'mikhah,
5. the resurrection of the dead and
6. eternal punishment.

And, God willing, this is what we will do.

The first of the first principles is repentance.

[Do you, do I, have the sense of life without Messiah, however noble it may appear, is wrought in the context of death: ego, lust, materialism?]

Across Africa and Asia, millions of people in historically unengaged people groups are now in rapidly growing **Disciple Making Movements**. In 2000 there were 6 such movements, today there are now 1,035!

What is it that the believers of the Global South are doing that makes so much difference?

1. Abundant, and Bold Prayer
2. Discipling to Conversion
3. Obedience-Based Discipleship
4. Empowering Ordinary People for Ministry
5. Make Replicating Disciples, not Converts
6. Never-Ending Leadership Training for All

[\[https://www.christianpost.com/voices/christianity-is-growing-faster-than-any-time-in-history-why-is-the-church-in-europe-america-declining.html/\]](https://www.christianpost.com/voices/christianity-is-growing-faster-than-any-time-in-history-why-is-the-church-in-europe-america-declining.html/)

I have new strategy, I think a download from the Messiah, that we will train a cadre of mature believers to disciple newcomers to our community.

Repeat: The first of the first principles is **total repentance**: deny our self and following the Messiah. Commitment to discipleship.

The second is faith ...

^{MJ 6.1} The foundation of

1. turning from works that lead to death,
2. trusting God

This is **MUCH MORE** than mental assent to truth.

^{Ro 8.15-17} For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!").

^{Ro 8.15-17} The Spirit himself **bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God**; and if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.

[Do you have a 100% inner assurance that if you died now, and stood before G-d, you would be accepted?

On what basis?

Suffering is not extraneous, not surprising to the faith. Intrinsic. Love suffers long.]

^{1 Kefa/P 1.8-9} Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. And even though you don't see Him now, **you trust Him** and are filled with a joy that is glorious beyond words, receiving the **outcome of your faith**—the salvation of your souls.

Faith is also a decision to receive ⇨ believe ⇨ trust the revelation

[Eternal reward and punishment.]

^{Acts 27.23-26} So, men, take heart! **For I trust God and believe that what I have been told will come true.** Nevertheless, we have to run aground on some island.”

Shaul/Paul made a choice.

14 days fasting, 276 people on the ship

[Choosing to believe that eternal truths are more real than visual ones!]

^{MJ 6.1-3} and 3. instruction about washings
Note plural
Many washings, immersions in Tanakh.

baptismōn

didachēn

βαπτισμῶν

διδαχὴν

about baptisms

instruction

^{Vayikra/Lev 14.2,8} “This is to be the law concerning the person afflicted with tzara‘at on the day of his purification. He is to be brought to the cohen...

He who is to be purified must wash his clothes, shave off all his hair and bathe himself in water. Then he will be clean; and after that, he may enter the camp;

^{Vayikra /Lev 15. 2, 5} ‘When any man has a discharge from his body, the discharge is unclean... **Whoever touches his bed is to wash his clothes and bathe himself in water;** he will be unclean until evening.

^{Vayikra/Lev 15:8} If the person with the discharge spits on someone who is clean, the latter is to wash his clothes and **bathe himself in water;** he will be unclean until evening.

^{Vayikra/Lev 16.23-24} “Aharon is to go back into the tent of meeting, where he is to remove the linen garments he put on when he entered the Holy Place, and he is to leave them there. **Then he is to bathe his body in water in a holy place,** put on his other clothes,
[part of the Yom Kippur ceremony]

^{Vayikra/Lev 16.23-24} come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people, thus making atonement for himself and for the people

^{Vayikra/Lev 17.15} “Anyone eating an animal that dies naturally or is torn to death by wild animals, whether he is a citizen or a foreigner, is to wash his clothes and **bathe himself in water;** he will be unclean until evening; then he will be clean.

^{Vayikra/Lev 22.4-6}“Any descendant of Aharon with tzara‘at or a discharge is not to eat the holy things until he is clean. Anyone who has touched a person made unclean by a dead body, or who has had a seminal emission, or who has touched a reptile or insect that can make him unclean...will be unclean until evening and is not to eat the holy things unless he **bathes his body in water.**

¹ Shmuel 20.25-26 The king sat at his usual place by the wall. Y'honatan stood up, and Avner sat next to Sha'ul, but David's place was empty. However, Sha'ul didn't say anything that day; because he thought, "Something has happened to him, he is unclean. Yes, that's it, he isn't clean.

After the destruction of the Temple, the mikveh's main uses remained as follows:

- by Jewish women to achieve ritual purity after menstruation and childbirth
- by Jewish men to achieve ritual purity after ejaculation;
- as part of the traditional procedure for conversion to Judaism;
- to immerse newly acquired metal and glass utensils used in serving and eating food;
- to immerse a corpse as part of the preparation for burial (taharah).

[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikveh#:~:text=Mikveh%20or%20mikvah%20\(Hebrew%3A%20%D7%9E%D6%B4%D7%A7%D6%B0%D7%95%D6%B6%D7%94,Judaism%20to%20achieve%20ritual%20purity.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikveh#:~:text=Mikveh%20or%20mikvah%20(Hebrew%3A%20%D7%9E%D6%B4%D7%A7%D6%B0%D7%95%D6%B6%D7%94,Judaism%20to%20achieve%20ritual%20purity.)]

Immersion place: מִקְוֵה *mikveh*

The verb of immersion: טָבַל *taval*

The noun has become a verb in common speech.

"I was mikeved."

Same root as HOPE, Hatikvah.

Jeremiah 17:13 O Hashem, the Hope [mikveh] of Israel, all who forsake you will be ashamed... because they have forsaken Hashem, the fountain of living water.

מִקְוֵה יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ, כָּל-עֲזָבֶיךָ יִמָּשׁוּ; וְסוּרֵי בְּאֵרֶךְ יִפְתְּבוּ, כִּי עֲזָבוּ מְקוֹר מַיִם-חַיִּים אֶת-יְיָ.

Jeremiah 14:22 Are there any of the worthless idols of the nations, that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, Hashem our God, and do we not hope [nekaveh] in you? For you have made all these things.

New dimension in Messiah, starting with Yokhanan/ John the Immerser [Baptist]

[Not a Baptist, really John the Jew.]

Mark 1. 4-5 Yokhanan/John the Immerser appeared in the desert, **proclaiming an immersion involving turning to God from sin in order to be forgiven.** People went out to him from all over Y'hudah, as did all the inhabitants of Yerushalayim. Confessing their sins, they were immersed by him in the Yarden River.

[Whole new definition]

Acts 2.37-38 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Kefa/Peter and the rest of the emissaries, "Fellow brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and **let each of you be immersed in the name of Messiah Yeshua for the removal of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Ruach ha-Kodesh.**

Ro 6.3-4 Or do you not know that all of us who were immersed into Messiah Yeshua were **immersed into His death?** Therefore we were buried together with Him through **immersion into death**—in order that just as Messiah was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Southern Temple Mount Excavations



Mikveh at Qumran

[<https://www.bibleplaces.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Mikveh-west-of-Robinsons-arch-tb123109378-bibleplaces.jpg>
Archaeologists can identify a Jewish city in ruins by the mikveh]

[*Wikimedia Commons File:Qumran Mikveh 01.jpg*
Essenes immersed themselves daily. But only after a year of learning the discipline of the life of an Essene.]

Mikvah at Magdala, Galil on the shore of Lake Kinneret



Magdala Mikveh –
<https://www.magdala.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/004-A-Mikveh-1024x1024.jpg>

The Kansas City Community Mikvah is located at Kehilath Israel Synagogue, 10501 Conser St., Overland Park



run by the Kansas Mikvah Association – Note the tile: Jerusalem Stone!



Modern Mikveh

Conclusion: Immersion is a bold and serious statement of commitment to the spiritual immersion into the life, death, and resurrection of Yeshua, the Messiah King of Israel and Redeemer of all Nations.

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fjewishweek.timesofisrael.com%2Fmikveh-can-solve-conversion-problem%2F&psig=AOvVaw2OmTiwUsAO6B85zbyDMBek&ust=1599944423326000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRqFwoTCICS3M_4esCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD]

To a Jewish family, the immersion of a child was equivalent to his death. Sometimes Kaddish said.

How is it done?

Many customs and rabbinical ordinances:

- Fresh water, or running water, or rainwater
- Three times
- Total contact with water

[Among the Orthodox, totally naked. We don't require that!]

Didache

- was a first century document describing life in Messiah for new Gentile believers.
- Quoted in other church father documents, but lost
- 1873 discovered in a Constantinople library

1. Concerning immersion, immerse thus: Having first rehearsed all these things, immerse in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, in living water;

2. But if you have no living water, immerse in other water, and if you cannot in cold, then in warm.

3. But if you have neither, pour water three times on the head "in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

4. And before the immersion let the one performing and him who is to be immersed fast, and any others who are able. And you shall bid him who is to be immersed to fast one or two days before.

[<http://www.thedidache.com/>]

Three times and three verbal statements:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוֵּנוּ עַל הַטְּבִילָה.

1. Ba-rukh A-tah A-do-ni, E-lo-hay-noo Me-lekh ha-o-lam, a-sheer keed-sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav, v'tsee-va-nu al ha-t'vee-lah.

Blessed are You, Adoni our G-d, king of the Universe, Who sanctifies us with His commandments, and has commanded us concerning the immersion.

אֲנִי מֵאֲמִין בְּאֵב, וּבְבֵן, וּבְרוּחַ הַקֹּדֶשׁ.

2. Anee ma-a-meen b'av, oo-veh-bayn, u'v-roo-akh ha-ko-desh
I believe in the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

3. A brief exclamation of testimony and praise!

Past immersion celebrations for Or HaOlam:



Tomorrow, 2:30 p.m., Gardner Lake, address in bulletin.

Following repentance and commitment to discipleship, faith in Messiah → assurance of salvation

[Essenes one year of instruction and commitment]

Dr. Dobson: Our American culture has sought to deconstruct families and marriages through the media, through the sexual revolution, and even through law and policy. Consider these examples: In 1969, Congress foolishly created the Marriage Penalty Tax, requiring husbands and wives to pay higher taxes than cohabitating couples.

Or consider the media. Marriage and monogamy are mocked in music, television shows, and movies. Those who hold to any semblance of sexual ethics are ridiculed or dismissed as “old fashioned” and “prudish.”

Not only are the liberal media outlets bashing biblical masculinity and femininity, now the Hallmark channel is promoting movies that celebrate same-sex weddings.

Others are not just content to disincentivize or ridicule marriage and family—they aim to destroy it. In 2012, Marsha Gessen, a lesbian journalist, activist and author, stated during an interview with ABC Radio, “[I]t’s a no-brainer that the institution of marriage should not exist...”
[<https://familytalk.widen.net/s/qpd9pqq8w>]

Only six percent of the country has a biblical worldview, down from 12 percent 25 years ago. What’s more, 58 percent of adults (including 23 percent of Christians) believe that moral truth is up to the individual to decide.

So what can we as committed believers do to influence America when we only make up six percent of the population? It turns out we can do a lot. As we’ve seen across human history, God only needs a committed remnant to change the world.

[<https://www.frcaction.org/get.cfm?i=WA20120&f=WU20103>]

Psalm 31:2 – Be to me a rock of strength, a stronghold to save me.

Most adult Americans will remember where they were the morning of September 11, 2001. As horrific as the terrorist attacks were, they could have been much worse except for a heroic group of everyday people who were aboard Flight 93.

That flight, like others before it, had been taken over by hijackers whose aim was to “crash this airliner into symbols of the American Republic, the Capitol or the White House,” according to the 9/11 Commission. But those brave individuals decided to fight back against their hijackers. They sacrificed their lives but prevented an even greater blow to the nation than the two aircraft that struck the World Trade Center and the one that slammed into the Pentagon.

The cry of “Let’s Roll” was underpinned by their prior recitation together of The Lord’s Prayer. United Airlines Flight 93 crashed, upside down, at 563 miles an hour, outside the small town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, just 20 minutes flying time from the nation’s capital, because those passengers held onto the strength of the Lord and did not panic.

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Permanent representatives of the Arab League take part in an emergency meeting

The Arab League on Wednesday failed to pass a resolution proposed by the Palestinian Authority (PA) which would have condemned the normalization deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, *Times of Israel* reports.

[<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/286978>]

Y'khezkek / Ezk 37.5-6 Paras, Ethiopia and Put are with them, all with breastplates and helmets; Gomer with all its troops; the house of Togarmah in the far reaches of the north
[Persia/Iran, Ethiopia, Libya, Germany, Turkey.]

To begin with, some numbers: In France, around 15,000 Muslims convert annually to Christianity, according to a 2007 estimate. **About 100,000 American Muslims abandon Islam each year, reports a 2017 Pew Research Center survey.** This amounts to 24 percent of all Muslims in the United States, with Iranians disproportionately represented. These numbers roughly counterbalance those of non-Muslims converting to Islam. Reasons for leaving Islam vary: Pew finds 25 percent of American ex-Muslims have general issues with religion, 19 percent with Islam in particular, 16 percent prefer another religion, and 14 percent cite reasons of personal growth. Slightly more than half of those leaving (55 percent) abandon religion entirely and slightly less than a quarter (22 percent) convert to Christianity. **That's 22,000 / year!**

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PRAY WITH US ...

In thanksgiving for God's preservation of and mercy toward the United States.

For Americans to turn to the Lord and seek Him earnestly.

For courage for those in government to stand against all enemies, foreign and domestic.



The Return will prominently feature the Messianic Movement - with people like Paul Wilbur – Marty Goetz – Michael Brown – Rivkah Whitten – and more.

Jonathan Cahn: “There will be key times during The Return on the National Mall that I would love you who can make it to the National Mall – to join with me - I’ll be doing a number of Hebrew blessings – During that time I’ll call for Messianic Rabbis and leaders to gather around the stage area and bless the multitudes with me.”

Do you remember the point of the 40-Day Fast two summers ago? Lou Engle said that it was time for the Jews to rise into leadership in the Body of Messiah? Initiated by 40 day fast! Reinforced this month!

Prayer points:

- Have I truly repented of sin and the spirit of the world?
- Do I have faith in Messiah?
- Am I dead to self, and raised with Him?