

A ROYAL PROCLAMATION FROM THE HOUSE OF DAWID

THE LEGACY OF AZUSA STREET

Shaleakh Yashah Ben Y'shua Yisrael אריאל

"Then YHWH answered me and said, 'Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it, because it will surely come; it will not tarry." - Habakkuk 2: 2-3

In the late winter of 1906, in the tiny 'colored' section of Los Angeles, California, a devout 'Christian' woman made a history-changing recommendation to her fledgling congregation - a group of families just broken away from the local Second Baptist Church, and in search of a new Pastor.

Sister Neely Terry recommended William J. Seymour, an itinerant holiness preacher whose sermon had impressed her while visiting Houston, Texas the previous year. Seymour's message centered on her own congregation's newly held belief in the "second work of grace" teaching of the holiness movement of the late 1800's. At the invitation of the group's leader Julia Hutchinson, brother Seymour boarded a train in Houston, arriving at Los Angeles in February of 1906.

The events that took place in the following three years forever changed the landscape of organized religion among 'African-Americans' (Hebrew Yisraelites) as well as in America at large and around the world.

In truth, this humble servant of Christ, a son of former slaves, was used of YAH in a mighty and miraculous way to restore the baptism of the Holy Spirit to the lost Kingdom of Yahuda, which as a whole, was held in religious bondage under the ritual-oriented European Baptist tradition.

Literally every religious organization in the world that preaches the 'full gospel' - the restoration of the so-called five-fold ministry and the gifts of the Spirit - traces its roots back to 312 Azusa Street; the humble, former stable-turned-meeting-house of Pastor William J. Seymour and the 'Apostolic Faith Mission.'

But although multiplied millions of professing believers from around the world profess to be Spirit-filled, or 'Pentecostal', the teachings of brother Seymour himself have been all but abandoned by the very movements and denominations they spawned.

For example, brother Seymour taught that speaking in tongues is *not* the initial evidence of being filled with the Spirit. But to be sure, his true legacy has been grossly violated by the so-called word of faith community, with its over-emphasis on tongues, and its preoccupation with material prosperity.

But the same is true of the Hebrew Yisraelite Movement, with its overreaction to Pentecostal excesses, and overlooking the key common points of doctrine we all share.

For example, Brother Seymour put in writing in a last request, that his successor be "a man of color." But this revelation has been ignored by most Yisraelite unaware Pentecostals, so-called blacks and whites alike, who in their cultural confusion, follow the leadership and doctrine of their Anglo-Saxon and Caucasian "word of faith brethren."

And in their cultural pride, many among the Hebrew Yisraelite-aware overreact to greedy sellout Pentecostal preachers by dismissing the monumental spiritual legacy of brother Seymour and the Azusa Street Revival altogether, without so much as a casual study of the matter.

After all, history reveals that the original teachers of our true identity as Hebrew Yisraelites emerged from the holiness movement - the same roots of Seymour, and by extension the Azusa Street Mission; and ultimately, the Pentecostal and Hebrew Yisraelite movements worldwide: Bishop Charles Harrison Mason of The Church of God in Christ (RIC), and Dr. Prince Shaleahk Ben Yehuda of the Original African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem (RIC).

Common roots. Selah.

So, why has this great legacy, which began as a genuine move of the Spirit among the lost children of Yisrael, degenerated into rampant spiritualism, materialism, denominationalism, and theological chaos?

In short, America's religious and social culture of "white supremacy..."

Nevertheless, the amazing legacy of Apostle William J. Seymour is destined to be fulfilled by its true inheritors - those in whom YAH has placed the revelation of the identity and destiny of Hebrew Yisraelites in Ha Mashiakh. This is YAH's true end-time strategy for bringing authentic racial and doctrinal unity to the body of Christ - the faithful remnant Kingdom Government of the Commonwealth of Yisrael.

Although he learned through hard experience that his true successor must be "a man of color," Apostle Seymour never received the revelation of the true identity of the so-called African-American community as Hebrew Yisraelites - and thus he was simply without the necessary resources to establish Kingdom order in the movement.

So often, we perceive those from among our Yisraelite-unaware Spirit-filled brethren as "sell-

outs", "house niggers" and "holy rollers." But the truth is, right from the outset, the Pentecostal-Apostolic Faith movement was mercilessly ridiculed by the 'white' establishment - and shamefully, in the same manner some carnal Yisraelite-aware express their condescending attitudes toward our Hellenized brethren today.

For example, the *Los Angeles Times* reported at the time, that a bizarre new religious sect had started with people "breathing strange utterances and mouthing a creed which it would seem no sane mortal could understand." They went on to say that "Devotees of the weird doctrine practice the most fanatical rites, preach the wildest theories, and work themselves into a state of mad excitement."

They further described the church thusly: "Colored people and a sprinkling of whites compose the congregation, and night is made hideous in the neighborhood by the howlings of the worshippers who spend hours swaying forth and back in a nerve-racking attitude of prayer and supplication... To top it all off, they claimed to have received the "gift of tongues," and what's more, "comprehend the babel."

Sound familiar, Hebrews?

Surely, the hour has come for the Hebrew Yisraelite community at-large to move beyond the smug superiority she often displays toward Israelite-unaware, Spirit-filled 'Christians'.

If we as faithful Yisrael would simply move beyond racial and cultural pride, we would see for example, that the *African Methodist Episcopal Church* (AME) believes "Jesus" is a so-called black man, and that the ancient Yisraelites were "black" as well.

It's no mere coincidence that it was the Methodist influenced holiness movement out of which brother Seymour emerged; and that the "tumble-down shack" (as the L.A. Times called it) he used as a meeting place was the former home of an AME church! Is this church not fertile ground for spreading our true identity and destiny?

As a matter of truth, there are *many* 'Christians' from all denominational backgrounds who know that 'Christ' is a "black" man - and some who manifest the fruits of the Spirit even *without* this revelation. And of course, there's the 'Seventh Day Adventist' denomination which keeps the Shabbat and honors the dietary laws.

My brethren, just like Yosef-Joseph, the favorite son of his father, rescued his brothers *before* they knew his true identity; so Y'shua, the favorite son of *His* Father, often rescues *His* brothers before they know *His* true identity as well.

The truth is, there are *many* among the Yisraelite-aware who came to Christ and were filled with Ruach Ha Qodesh *before* they discovered their true identity as Hebrew Yisraelites. Are they not spiritual sons of the Azusa Street legacy?

When I for one, was 'far from the peaceful shore', I called on Him with the Greek "transliteration" of Y'shua - "Jesus." But rather than being concerned about how I pronounced His name, He chose to rescue His drowning kinsmen *first*, and then make me aware of His name after I was safely ashore, and fully recovered from the shock and trauma caused by my distress. Very wise.

It is written, "The word of YAHUWAH came again unto me, saying, son of man, take one staff, and inscribe upon it, 'Y'hudah, and for the children of Yisrael his companions.' Then take another staff and inscribe upon it, 'Yosef, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Yisrael his companions,' and join them one to one into one staff; and they shall become one in your hand.

And when the children of your people shall say to you, 'Show us what these staffs mean.' Say unto them, thus says Adonai YAHUWAH, 'Behold, I will take the stick of Yosef, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Yisrael his companions, and will put them with the staff of Y'hudah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand'" (Eze. 37:15-19).

Although most of us are familiar with the *literal* meaning of this prophecy concerning the gathering together of the twelve tribes in the last days, we fail to see the full metaphorical aspect of this passage.

Allegorically speaking, the "Messianic" Yisraelite-aware community of today is like unto the Judean followers of Mashiach in the first century, who were chosen of YAH to take the Gospel to the 'Hellenized' Yisraelites scattered abroad. The Spirit-filled Yisraelite-unaware brethren are like unto those Greek Hebrews - following YAH; but without a *cultural* connection to the covenant.

In this final hour, our Father is raising up chosen vessels from among the Hebrew Yisraelite-aware to reach out in fellowship to our Yisraelite-unaware "Romanized" brethren.

And just as it was in the first century, when the apostles of Judah confirmed and established the Hellenized Yisraelite tribes scattered among the nations; the Hebrew Yisraelite-aware Apostles-Shaleakhim will confirm and establish our 'Romanized' Spirit-filled brethren scattered among the "denomi-nations." Selah.

Hear O Yisrael, and inner-stand - YAHUWAH our Father is moving among His Yisraelite-unaware "Sunday Christian" sons in a mighty way! Truly, the fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few...

Arise you Hebrew-aware, and be reconciled to your brothers, the sons of the 'Azusa Street Legacy' -stripped of their true heritage, and yet clothed in the Holy Spirit - that the House of YAH might be filled; and that the High Priestly Prayer of Y'shua our Messiah might finally be

fulfilled in our midst; that we all might be one, even as He and the Father are one!

May the Grace, Mercy and peace of Abba YAH be with us all.

YAH Khai v'HalleluYAH!!

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