

October 31, 2020
Letter to the Messianic Jews a 6.1-3
First Principles Part 4: Hands-On

Surgery report [nothing gory]
Well folks, a journey of 100 miles begins with a single walker.
[from Jeannemarie Stevenson]

Hip surgery patient's
best friend: grabber
stick.



Noon meal after 7 am surgery:
Barbecued beef! I ate it all!



I get by with a little help from my
friends!

Dawn and I are
otherwise
blessed to have
zero
prescription
meds.



Pino Noir
Pino Blanco
Pino Grigio



Pino Noir
Pino Blanco
Pino Grigio

Pino More





Israel news insight:
 In a moving video, StandWithUs educator @HusseinAboubak congratulates #Israel for achieving peace with several Arab countries over the last few months. Hussein grew up in Egypt and was taught to hate Jews and Israel. Today, he is an advocate for peace and tolerance.

[1 min, 38 sec video – <https://twitter.com/i/status/1320832575246458880>

Hussein grew up in Egypt and was taught to hate Jews and Israel. Today, he recognizes Israel as a “good neighbor” and a “wonderful country,” and he feels certain that the Palestinians will soon join the peace train.]

Many Palestinians recognize it as well – those that haven’t been brainwashed or are too afraid to speak out. Take the reaction of the 100,000 Palestinians living in the Emirates. Safe from Ramallah’s retribution, they openly welcomed the deal.

A Palestinian poet living in the Emirates said, “This important achievement is an answer to many Arab expectations that were lost, and to gambles that were disappointed.” The Palestinian Authority “took much from our lives and our dreams and exhausted budgets in the billions that would have been better spent on investment and development in the coming generations,” he said.

“When the Palestinians cried about the elimination of Qassem Soleimani, head of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, the most hated man in Iraq, in Syria and in the Gulf States – this was from our perspective, the end. They called this man the ‘Jerusalem martyr.’ This was the breaking point for Arab support for them.”

<https://worldisraelnews.com/uae-israel-deal-may-be-start-of-real-arab-spring/>



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

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] turning from works that lead to death, trusting God, and [Six principles]³ and instruction about washings, s’⁴mikhah, the resurrection of the dead and e⁶eternal 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, whoever noble it may appear, is wrought in the context of death: ego, lust, materialism?]

^{MJ} 6.1 The foundation of ₁turning from works that lead to death, ₂trusting God

This is MUCH MORE than mental assent to truth.

Faith is also a decision to receive/believe/trust the revelation.

[Eternal reward and punishment.]

Immersion: radical commitment to learn Messiah and His holy ways.

We are a minority but not on the losing side!

4s'mikhah סְמִיכָה noun [today's topic]

Why such a big deal over one word or phrase?

Equivalent to repentance, faith, immersion?

S'mikhah from
semekh סֵמֶךְ

fulcrum, basis, foundation, reliable source

Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it and I shall move the world. ~ Archimedes AD 340



<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fjoescarry.blogspot.com%2F2016%2F11%2Fwhere-to-put-effort-for-world-beyond-war.html&psig=AOvVaw1LHN-SI3IVm9WZcinaWEaX&ust=1604173756129000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCLj5jYmL3ewCFQAAAAAdAAAAABA-J>

samakh סָמַךְ verb

to depend on, to rely on, to trust;

(literary) to lean on, to rest on;

(literary) to strengthen, to support

[In the Amidah prayer, 18 blessings: somekh nofleem סוּמַךְ נוֹפְלִים]

4s'mikhah סְמִיכָה noun

ordination, graduation, Authorization, Certification, granting of authority, granting a permit to a person who completes the law of his studies or completes some advanced training to engage in his profession. "Cleared to launch."

epitheseōs te cheirōn
ἐπιθέσεως τε χειρῶν
of laying on then of hands

Greek:
properly to put, lay on (hands); used of the L-rd conveying supernatural encouragement and revelation by “the laying on of hands.”
[Intrinsic force in the Hebrew, acquired in the Greek]

Sense of the progression:

- We repent
- trust Messiah
- are immersed/dead to ourselves learn of Him
- Receive blessings and authority empowerment

[You are nobility, then sense of servant leaders. Significant!]

Smikhah used in three ways in scripture:

- Bestowing blessings
 - Upon children
 - Upon disciples
 - Upon pray-ers
 - Upon the sick
- Ritual substitution
 - Sacrificial animals
 - Levites
- Ordination
 - Moshe to Yehoshua/Joshua
 - Elders and rabbis
 - Conferring the Spirit

Bestowing Blessings

Mark 10.13,16 Now people were bringing little children to Yeshua so He might touch them...And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

Ber/Gen 48 14-15 But Isra’el put out his right hand and laid it on the head of the younger one, Efrayim, and put his left hand on the head of M’nasheh — he intentionally crossed his hands, even though M’nasheh was the firstborn. Then he blessed Yosef ...

Destiny!!

Mark 5.22-23 There came to him a synagogue official, Ya’ir by name, who fell at his feet and pleaded desperately with him, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Please! Come and **lay your hands on her**, so that she will get well and live!”

[Touching was important! Communicates warmth, immediate contact, intimacy, life!]

Varying ethnic practices. Generalizations risky: Secular Jews very touchy, huggy. Other Mediterranean groups, Latins, too.

Nordic, Scandinavian, Asian, not so much. (I could already be on politically incorrect turf.) Holiness group I came to faith in was highly restrained for the sake of purity. Sometimes clumsy. Annie Schumacher, taught us Sozo, advised for warmth of touch safely, the shoulder is pretty neutral, side hugs, neck hugs, through spouse.]

Acts 28.8 Now it so happened that Publius’ father was lying in bed, sick with fever attacks and dysentery. Sha’ul went in to him, prayed, **placed his hands on him** and healed him.

At the family Shabbat table



[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnaZqHy2ZHE&feature=youtu.be>]

- The spirit of joyful blessing should be the main thing people take away from our assembly.
- All the Messianic distinctives: holidays, dietary specialties, ancient prayers, geographical reality, should communicate warmth, joy, the covenantal and contextual reality of the Messiah.

[If communicate anger and those who practice otherwise, or at the sad history of anti-Judaic history in the body of Messiah, we have lost our authority.]

From our statement of faith:

7. I believe we are in unity with all believers, Gentile or Jewish.

Love is the KEY. We have no authority other than to love and bless as we declare truth!

[Not better, not lesser, just with covenantal responsibilities to serve and lead if they want us to. The main way to lead is to lead in repentance. Command leadership vs demand leadership.]

In the early days of the Messianic movement, Asher Intrater said he was trained to capitalize on the verse, when going to churches for fundraising:

Ro 15.27 For if the Gentiles have shared with the Jews in spiritual matters, then the Gentiles clearly have a duty to help the Jews in material matters.

[At lunch with Wes Hall, teacher at IHOPU, who said that he was teaching a class in Romans and his undergraduates took up an offering that he gave to me for our congregation. \$900 from undergrads!!

We are called to serve, Jews and Gentiles grafted in!]

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Lev 8.14

Aharon and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering.



* Aharon and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bullock. - Lev. VIII. 14.

Vayikra/Lev 1.4 **He is to lay his hand upon the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.**

[Courtyard of the Temple bare hands]

[\[https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblewalk.wordpress.com%2F2011%2F02%2F10%2Fthe-sin-offering-and-the-trespass-offering%2F&psig=AOvVaw0iHGYGygpB_mdIWKqG9jh2&ust=1604181950330000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCJDp69qp3e-wCFQAAAAAdAAAAABASJ\]](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblewalk.wordpress.com%2F2011%2F02%2F10%2Fthe-sin-offering-and-the-trespass-offering%2F&psig=AOvVaw0iHGYGygpB_mdIWKqG9jh2&ust=1604181950330000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCJDp69qp3e-wCFQAAAAAdAAAAABASJ)

Bamidbar/Nu 8.10-14 **You will present the L'vi'im before Adoni, the people of Isra'el will lay their hands on the L'vi'im, and Aharon will offer the L'vi'im before Adoni as a wave offering from the people of Isra'el, so that they may do Adoni's service. The L'vi'im will lay their hands on the heads of the bulls; the one you will offer as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to Adoni to make atonement for the L'vi'im. You are to place the L'vi'im before Aharon and his sons, and offer them as a wave offering to Adoni. In this way you will separate the L'vi'im from the people of Isra'el, and the L'vi'im will belong to me.**

Yeshayahu/Is 53. 6 **We all like sheep have gone astray. Each of us turned to his own way. So Adoni has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

[A reference to laying hands. G-d laid hands on Messiah and communicated ALL the sins of ALL of us.]

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Bamidbar/Nu 27.18-20 **Adoni said to Moshe, "Take Y'hoshua the son of Nun, a spiritual man, and lay your hand on him. Put him in front of El'azar the cohen and the whole community, and commission him in their sight. Delegate to him some of your authority, so that the entire community of Isra'el will obey him.**

Dt 34.9 **Y'hoshua [Joshua] the son of Nun was full of the Spirit of wisdom, for Moshe had laid his hands on him, and the people of Isra'el heeded him and did what Adonai had ordered Moshe.**

Bamidbar/Nu 11.25 **Adoni came down in the cloud, spoke to him, took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy leaders.**

Pirkei Avot, part of the Talmud

מֹשֶׁה קִבַּל תּוֹרָה מִסִּינַי, וּמִסִּינַי לִיהוֹשֻׁעַ, וְיְהוֹשֻׁעַ לְזִקְנִים, וְזִקְנִים לְנָבִיאִים,
וְנָבִיאִים מִסְרוּהָ לְאַנְשֵׁי כְנֶסֶת הַגְּדוּלָּה. הֵם אָמְרוּ שְׁלֹשָׁה דְבָרִים, הֵיוּ
מִתּוֹנִים בְּדִין, וְהֵעֲמִידוּ תַלְמִידִים הַרְבֵּה, וַעֲשׂוּ סִיג לַתּוֹרָה:

Moses received the Torah at Sinai and transmitted it to Joshua, Joshua to the elders, and the elders to the prophets, and the prophets to the Men of the Great Assembly. They said three things: Be patient in [the administration of] justice, raise many disciples and make a fence round the Torah.

[https://www.sefaria.org/Pirkei_Avot.1.1?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en]

Mtt. 23.1-2 Then Yeshua addressed the crowds and his talmidim: “The Torah-teachers and the P’rushim,” he said, “sit in the seat of Moshe

Shmot/Ex 18.13 The next day, Moses sat to judge the people, and they stood around Moses from morning till evening.

The seat of Moshe. The Midrash Rabbah says:

“They made for him [Moses] a katedra like that of the advocates, in which one sits and yet seems to be standing.” (Exodus Rabbah 43:4)

Pesiktu diRav Kahana^{1:7} mentions the seat of Moses, and the editors of the English edition comment:

“The particular place in the synagogue where the leaders used to sit was known metaphorically as the seat of Moses or as the throne of Torah, symbolizing the succession of teachers of Torah down through the ages.”

[*Stern’s Commentary (William G. Braude and Israel J. Kapstein, Pesikta diRav Kahana, Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1975, p. 17)*]



A Talmudic village (perhaps 400 years after Yeshua) the synagogue in the center of the community – not just a place of worship but the community center as well.

[https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&tbn=isch&q=moses+seat&chips=q:moses+seat+in+synagogue,online_chips:chair&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiYnMOPh5rZAhXlwFMKHAYtAysQ4IYILyGH&biw=1282&bih=933&dpr=1#imgdii=tzzvVoEFxQgdZM.&imggrc=xPwCVanN2-K1hM:]

This large synagogue dates to the mid-second century B.C. Two inscriptions found in 1979-80 indicate that the worshipers here (Israelites) were likely Samaritans who revered *Argarizein* (Mount Gerizim). (See Kraabel, “New Evidence of the Samaritan Diaspora has been Found on Delos.” BA 47:1; 1984).

[<https://ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com/tag/bible-atlas/>]

Close up view ...



[<http://www.bible.ca/synagogues/Moses-Seat-Metaphor-Pride-reader-leader-judge-Architectural-ancient-Synagogue-pre-70AD-standardized-typology-design-incorporated-adopted-similarities-into-church.htm>]

Messianic scriptures on laying on of hands for ordination:

Acts 6.5-6 They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Ruach HaKodesh...They presented these men to the emissaries, who prayed and laid their hands on them. *[Size problems.]*

Acts 13.2-3 One time when they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Ruakh HaKodesh said to them, “Set aside for me Bar-Nabba and Sha’ul for the work to which I have called them.” After fasting and praying, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

[Ravenhill: we pay the place is taken. They prayed, the place was shaken. (later) BTW, call for fasting on Nov. 3.]

Titus 1.5 The reason I left you in Crete was so that you might attend to the matters still not in order and appoint congregation leaders in each city — those were my instructions.

1 Tim 5.22 Do not be hasty in granting s’mikhah to anyone, and do not share in other people’s sins — keep yourself pure.

[Much easier to appoint than to disappoint!]

Acts 8.17 They began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Ruakh ha-Kodesh.

Acts 9.17 Hananyah / Ananias left and entered into the house. Laying hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Yeshua, the One who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming—has sent me, so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Ruach ha-Kodesh.”

From Daniel Pipes <http://www.danielpipes.org/>

Rather than the person, I advise a focus on a party's overall outlook. Does it take pride in American history or emphasize its faults? Does it favor the original Constitution or a living version of it? Does it emphasize individualism or equality? Does it focus on the free market or government oversight? Does it see the United States more as a force for good or ill in the world? *[Harvard trained, fluent in Arabic, one of the best Jewish commentators on the Middle East.]*

Is there a pattern of power?

- Repentance from dead works.
- Faith in G-d thru resurrected Messiah.
- Instruction expressed in immersion.
- Laying on of hands for service.

[Similar to Grow Conf: Love G-d, Healing in Discipleships/Home groups, training, engagement.]

Lost people reborn	Cup of Sanctification	Know G-d	Yokhanan/John Lion	Main service
Reborn people healed	Cup of judgment	Find Freedom Emotionally Jewishly	Luke Man	Home groups
Healed people trained	Cup of Redemption	Discover Develop your calling	Matthew Eagle	Training
Trained people mobilized	Cup of fulfillment	Make a Difference	Mark Ox: plow or sacrifice	Dream team

Cups:

1. out of Egypt,
2. Egypt out of you / deliverance,
3. back to original intention/after supper,
4. Praise

10 other scriptures where this pattern appears.

- Know G-d: the main weekend service
- Find freedom: intimacy and community of the small groups
- Discover purpose: discipleship and training
- Make a difference: Dream team

¹Tim 4.14-16 **Do not neglect your gift, which you were given through a prophecy when the body of elders gave you s'mikhah. Be diligent about this work, throw yourself into it, so that your progress may be clear to everyone. Pay attention to yourself and to the teaching, continue in it, for by so doing you will deliver both yourself and those who hear you.**

"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on, would save one-half the wars of the world." Thomas Jefferson



Firepit first burn, Sept 7, 2017

²Tim 1.6-7 **For this reason, I am reminding you to fan the flame of God's gift, which you received through s'mikhah from me. For God gave us a Spirit who produces not timidity, but power, love and self-discipline.**