

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

- George Burns

Money can't buy you happiness.... But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.

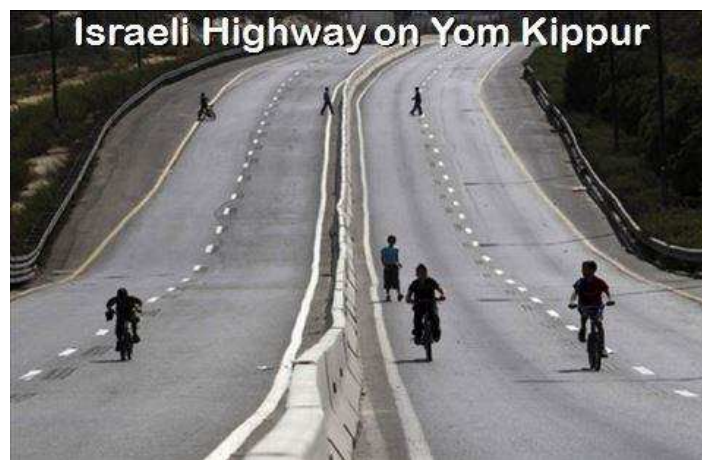
- Spike Milligan

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP.

- Joe Namath

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress.

- Will Rogers



Kerry insisted at the ceremony that it was a lack of a “two-state solution” - not Western apathy to brutal Islamism - that is to blame for the rise of the radical Islamist group Islamic State (ISIS).

“We need to find a way to create two states that can live together side by side, two peoples, with both of their aspirations being respected,” Kerry insisted. “I still believe that’s possible, and I still believe we need to work towards it.”

[<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/186236#.VEEicCJ4rYg>]

“There wasn’t a leader I met with in the region who didn’t raise with me spontaneously the need to try to get peace between Israel and the Palestinians, because it was a cause of recruitment and of street anger and agitation,” Kerry claimed, referring to a visit to Cairo that raised \$5.4 billion for Hamas in Gaza on Sunday.

He further implied that Israel was responsible for “humiliating” the Palestinians.

[<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/186236#.VEEicCJ4rYg> Who was at that conference?]

“When it comes to Israel, Obama is maximally ‘engaged’. While ISIS slaughters, China bullies and Putin invades, while Boko Haram kidnaps and rapes, while Iran’s centrifuges keep spinning as their leaders openly flout the IAEA, at whom

is Obama's rage directed? Israel, of course, for building some apartments in their capital, Jerusalem!

[<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/15815#.VEEmCyJ4rYg>]

In 2007, then-President George W. Bush predicted that pulling US troops out of Iraq too early could have disastrous consequences for the region.

Cf Korea

The Word, Our Delight

D'varim **בְּדִבְרֵים**

(Deuteronomy) 34.8-12

(from) *V'zot HaBrachah* וְזֹאת הַבְּרָכָה

(This is the blessing)

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 34.8

יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי וַיִּבְכּוּ ⁸
Israel the children of And wept

מֹאָב בְּעֵרְבַת מֹשֶׁה אֶת־
Moab in the plains of Moses

יָמֵי נִיְהַמְרוּ יוֹם שְׁלֹשִׁים
the days of so were ended. days: thirty

מֹשֶׁה: אֲבֵל בְּכִי
Moses mourning for weeping

[Origin of the Shloshim 30 days of mourning. Also for Aharon Bamidbar/Nu 20.29, for all relatives

From Chabad.org.

a. Haircutting, shaving, nail cutting, bathing, and the wearing of new clothes or newly laundered clothes

b. Getting married

c. Attending parties

d. Greetings may be extended by the mourner, but others should not inquire after his "shalom" as, obviously, he is not experiencing peace.

I don't recommend the above. Please bathe. I shower on YK. Spirit of rest, withdrawal]

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 34.9a

וַיְהִי־שֵׁעַ בֶּן־נֹון מְלֵא 9
was full of Nun the son of And Joshua

רוּחַ חֵכְמָה כִּי־סָמַךְ
had laid for wisdom; the spirit of

מֹשֶׁה אָתָּה יָדָיו עָלָיו
upon him: his hands Moses

[I'm 65. I think about the future. But, "Sixty is the new forty." legacy
<http://theothersideof55.wordpress.com/2013/11/24/sixty-is-the-new-40/>]

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 34.9b

וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ בְנֵי־אֱלֹוֹתָיו וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ
the children of unto him, and hearkened

יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעַשׂוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה
commanded as and did Israel

יְיָ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה:
Moses. ADONI

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 34.10

וְלֹא־קָם נָבִיא עוֹד 10
since a prophet there arose And not

בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כַּמֹּשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר יָדָעוּ
knew whom like unto Moses, in Israel

יְיָ פָּנִים אֶל־פָּנִים:
face, to face ADONI

[No magnitude of prophet, according to the Talmud

- in the days of Joshua [possibly wrote Torah, at least these last verses]
- or Shmuel [possible author],
- or Ezra [possible author]]

Yeshayahu/Is 52.13 ״See how my servant will succeed! He will be raised up, exalted, highly honored!

Tanchuma in Yalkut in Isa. lii. 13. ״the Messiah shall be exalted above Avraham, and extolled above Moshe, and made higher than the ministering angels;״

[Maimonides sees Moshe's greatness to lie in many things;

- as that the prophets prophesied by a dream or vision, but he awake and seeing;
- they prophesied by the means of an angel, and saw what they did in parables and dark sayings; but Moses not by means of an angel, but the Lord spake to him face to face;
- they trembled and astonished, but not so Moses;
- they could not prophesy when they would, but he at any time, nor did he need to dispose and prepare his mind for it;]

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 34.10

עוֹד	נְבִיא	קָם	וְלֹא- ¹⁰
since	a prophet	there arose	And not
יָדָעוּ	אֲשֶׁר	כְּמוֹשֶׁה	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
knew	whom	like unto Moses,	in Israel
	פְּנִים:	אֶל-	פְּנִים יְיָ
	face,	to	face ADONI
יָדָעַ, מְכִיר yada, makeer			

[Look at this verse again, word יָדָע

יָדָע yada to recognize, to be familiar with ; (biblical) to have sexual intercourse
 מְכִיר, makeer to recognize ; to be familiar with, to be acquainted with ; to know
 ; to introduce; to be introduced

Maimonides Hilchot Teshuvah, c. 9. sect. 2 Messiah equal to Moshe

Look at this verse yet again, consider last phrase]

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 34.10

עוֹד	נְבִיא	קָם	וְלֹא- ¹⁰								
since	a prophet	there arose	And not								
יָדַעַו	אֲשֶׁר	כְּמֹשֶׁה	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל								
knew	whom	like unto Moses,	in Israel								
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td>פְּנִים:</td> <td>אֶל-</td> <td>פְּנִים</td> <td>אֲדֹנָי •</td> </tr> <tr> <td>face,</td> <td>to</td> <td>face</td> <td>ADONI •</td> </tr> </table>				פְּנִים:	אֶל-	פְּנִים	אֲדֹנָי •	face,	to	face	ADONI •
פְּנִים:	אֶל-	פְּנִים	אֲדֹנָי •								
face,	to	face	ADONI •								

the Targums paraphrase it, "whom the Word of the Lord knew."

[Fits Simkhat Torah celebration כִּי we know G-d by the Word of the Lord. Double meaning.]

“Word” translates Greek “logos,” and corresponds to Aramaic “memra” (also “word”), a technical theological term used by the rabbis in the centuries before and after Yeshua when speaking of God’s expression of himself. In the Septuagint logos translates Hebrew *davar*.

[Word English, Logos GK, Memra Aramaic, Davar Heb, other names for the emanation/incarnation deity. Focus on Memra

While “logos” had a role in pagan Gnosticism as one of the steps through which people work their way up to God and as such found its way into numerous Jewish and Christian heresies, here it does not bespeak a pagan intrusion into the New Testament.]

- Targum Onkelos [Babylonian]
 - on the Torah
 - Onkelos the proselyte from the mouths of R. Eleazar and R. Joshua.
- Targum Jonathan ben Uzziel on the Nevi'im (Prophets) a disciple of Hillel

Targum Onkelos was read alternately with the Torah, verse by verse, and Targum Jonathan was read alternately with the selection from Nevi'im.

[These were more paraphrases/commentaries than translations. Give a lot of insight into the understanding of the hearers.

Michael Brown, Overcoming Objections #2 p 18-20]

Ber/Gen 3.8 translated from Hebrew They heard the voice of ADONI, God, walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze,
 From the Aramaic Targum And they heard the voice of the Word [memra] of ADONI God walking in the garden in the evening of the day.

Shmot/Ex 14. 31 When Isra'el saw the mighty deed that ADONI had performed against the Egyptians, the people feared ADONI , and they believed in ADONI and in his servant Moshe.

From the Aramaic Targum **And Israel saw the great strong hand of God, what He did to the Egyptians. They feared God and believed in His *memra* and in His servant Moses.**

Bamidbar 10.35-36 **When the ark moved forward, Moshe said, “Arise, ADONI ! May your enemies be scattered! Let those who hate you flee before you!”**

From the Aramaic **When they took the ark to move they waited till Moses prayed, and he asked for mercy from God and said, Reveal through thy *memra* the strength of God’s anger, that the enemies of thy people may disperse, and their enemies may not be able to stand against you.**

Ber/Gen 18.16 from the Hebrew **The men set out from there and looked over toward S`dom, and Avraham went with them to see them on their way. ADONI said,**

From the Aramaic **And the angels, who had the likeness of men...and two of them looked toward Sedom; and Abraham went with them. And ADONI said, with His Word,**

In ancient understanding, as seen in the Aramaic translations/Targums, G-d appears by His Word, a sort of emanation of Himself.

He also appeared in His written word.

In the Simkhat Torah dance, we are rejoicing in the revelation of the Word, in the words and in the Messiah.

[Image in bk of Revelation.

It’s VERY contextual to understand that the Father represents Himself by His Word, Davar, Memra, who appears as another Person.

Another Hebraic representation of this is the Shekhinah קוּנְיָוּת the Presence]

According to Saadiah Gaon [882–942 c.e.], the Shekhinah is identical with kevod ha-Shem (‘the glory of God’), which served as an intermediary between God and man during the prophetic experience. He suggests that the ‘glory of God’ is the biblical term, and Shekhinah the talmudic term for the created splendor of light which acts as an intermediary between God and man, and which sometimes takes on human form. Thus when Moses asked to see the glory of God, he was shown the Shekhinah, and when the prophets in their visions saw God in human likeness, what they actually saw was not God Himself but the Shekhinah.

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 34.11

לְכֹל- 11 הַאֲתוֹת וְהַמוֹפְתִים
In all the signs and the wonders,

אֲשֶׁר שְׁלַחַו יְיָ לַעֲשׂוֹת
which sent him ADONI to do

בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְפָרֹעַ
in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh,

וְלְכֹל- עֲבָדָיו וְלְכֹל- אֲרָצוֹ:
and to all his servants, and to all his land,

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 34.12

וְלְכֹל 12 הַיָּד הַחֲזָקָה וְלְכֹל
And in all hand, mighty and in all

הַמִּוֶּרָא הַגָּדוֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה
terror the great which shewed

מֹשֶׁה לְעֵינַי כָּל- יִשְׂרָאֵל:
Moses in the sight of all Israel.

Mes. Jews 1.1-3 In days gone by, God spoke in many and varied ways to the Fathers through the prophets. But now, in the acharit-hayamim, he has spoken to us through his Son, to whom he has given ownership of everything and through whom he created the universe. This Son is the radiance of the Sh'khinah, the very expression of God's essence, upholding all that exists by his powerful word; and after he had, through himself, made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of HaG'dulah BaM'romim.

Mes. Jews 3.3-6 Yeshua deserves more honor than Moshe, just as the builder of the house deserves more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything is God. Also, Moshe was faithful in all God's house, as a servant giving witness to things God would divulge later.

Mes. Jews 3.3-6 But the Messiah, as Son, was faithful over God's house. And we are that house of his, provided we hold firmly to the courage and confidence inspired by what we hope for.

When we dance with the Torah, we are dancing metaphorically with the Messiah.

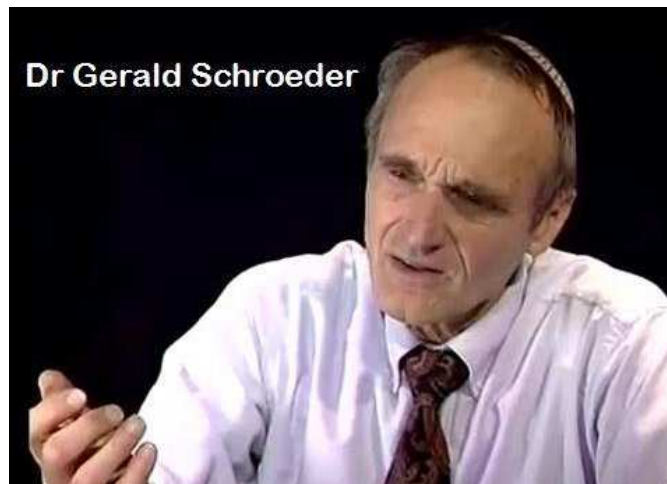
[Hold that thought, that word picture. Dancing with the Messiah in the Word/Memra.]

B' resheet בְּרֵאשִׁית
(Genesis) 1.1-5
(from) B' resheet בְּרֵאשִׁית
In the beginning

B' resheet (Genesis) 1.1

אֵת בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים 1:1
G-d created In the beginning
הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ
the earth. and the Heaven

[I am going to take this concept of the revealed Word/Memra, and apply in to creation in a way that may be surprising.]



Schroeder received his PhD in nuclear physics and earth and planetary sciences in 1965, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He worked five years on the staff of the MIT physics department. He was a member of the United States Atomic Energy Commission.

After emigrating to Israel in 1971, a researcher at the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He currently teaches at Aish HaTorah College of Jewish Studies.

Mishlei/Prov 3.19 ADONI by wisdom founded the earth, by understanding he established the heavens

יְיָ בְּחָכְמָה יָסַד אֶרֶץ ; כּוֹנֵן שָׁמַיִם , בְּתַבּוּנָה .

אֲנִי-חָכְמָה שְׁכַנְתִּי עִרְמָה וְדַעַת מְזֻמּוֹת אֶמְצָא .

Mishlei/Pr. 812 1 [am] wisdom, live together with caution; I attain knowledge and discretion.

•For centuries, Newton's laws = equals science. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

•Then refined and muddled by Einstein: When something accelerates
–time slows,
–mass increase

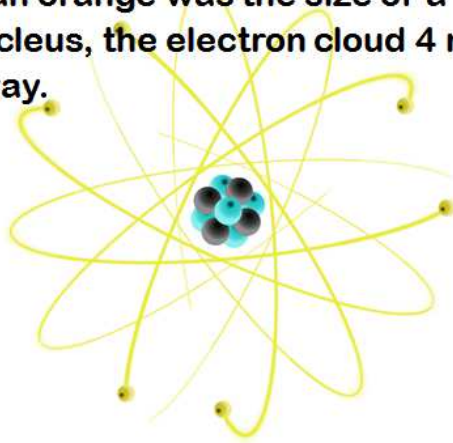
It doesn't just push back, it changes.

*[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steady_State_theory
Matter, time, and space all got flexible, stretchy, with Einstein]*

Then quantum theory, murkier still, whole just an idea.

It appears that matter is solid, actually mostly empty.

If an orange was the size of a nucleus, the electron cloud 4 miles away.



Heisenberg: inherit difficulties in material existence. Atoms do not exist as ordinary objects, like stones and flowers. Atoms are really ideas.

Ultimate reality not physical, laws.

Laws themselves = underlying reality. Nature's laws are G-d's thoughts. Laws of nature predate universe. Outside of time. Not physical.

[Heisenberg uncertainty principle was key to my coming to faith in 1969

Atoms are very tiny, even smaller than the light,

But they still are mostly empty, most mass is held very tight.

ADONI by wisdom founded the earth, by understanding he established the heavens

Wisdom = Laws = Memra / Word]

The steady state theory asserted...the universe has no beginning and no end.

Sir James Jeans, in the 1920s, was the first to conjecture a steady state cosmology...The idea was then revised in 1948 by Fred Hoyle and others.

Now with relativistic and quantum considerations, the universe HAS to have a beginning.

[Scientific dogma until about 60 years ago]

בראשית *b'raysheet* usually translated in the beginning...

בראשונה *b'rishonah* better word for beginning

Targum Jerusalem **First cause of wisdom**

In wisdom (בְּחֹכְמָא *be-hukema*) the Lord created. And the earth was vacancy and desolation,

[So, Beresheet Gen 1 is more a story of G-d's wisdom and causality. It's also a chronology, but it's more about explaining and celebrating causality. Divine wisdom/Memra.]

B'eresheet (Genesis) 1.2

תְּהוֹ	הָיְתָה	וְהָאָרֶץ	²
without form,	was	And the earth	
פְּנֵי	עַל-	וְחֹשֶׁךְ	וְבֵהוּ
the face of	upon	and darkness	and void;
אֱלֹהִים	וְרוּחַ	תְּהוֹם	
G-d	And the Spirit of	the deep.	
הַמַּיִם:	פְּנֵי	עַל-	מִרְחֹפֶת
the waters.	the face of	upon	moved

B'eresheet (Genesis) 1.3

אֹר	יְהִי	אֱלֹהִים	וַיֹּאמֶר	³
light:	Let there be	G-d	And said,	
		אֹר:	וַיְהִי-	
		light.	and there was	

I heard behind me a very loud sound - blessed be the glory of ADONAI from his place!

וַאֲשַׁמַע אַחֲרַי קוֹל רַעַשׁ גָּדוֹל: בְּרוּךְ כְּבוֹד-יְיָ, מִמְּקוֹמוֹ.

Barukh kvod Adoni mimkomo

G-d is called HaMakom, the place

All was created out of NOTHING:

- No matter
- No space [not a vacuum]
- No time [not a stopped clock]
- No energy

G-d, the eternal intelligence, expressed laws in Wisdom, and He was the Place.

[Energy = light and other radiation, and motion]

B'reshheet (Genesis) 1.4

וַיִּרְא 4 אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאֹר
And saw G-d the light,

כִּי־טוֹב נִבְדַּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין
that good: and divided G-d from

הָאֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ:
the light the darkness.

B'reshheet (Genesis) 1.5

וַיִּקְרָא 5 אֱלֹהִים לְאֹר יוֹם
And called G-d the light Day,

וּלְחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לַיְלָה וַיְהִי־
and the darkness he called Night. And and

וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב בֹּקֶר יוֹם
the evening were the morning day.

אָחָד:
the first

עֶרֶב שֵׁם ז' Erev masc noun
mixture; rabble, confusion

בֹּקֶר שֵׁם ז' masc noun

morning; [same root] examine, review, control, test, check, audit, investigate
*[So the universe moved from chaos to order.
Might say, How chaotic? Satanic destruction, gap theory? All I know is that G-d is building.]*

George Wald, Nobel Harvard Biologist Sci Amer 1950's atheist. Picture on my retina changes 20/sec. Quantum physics behind it. "It has occurred to me lately, with some shock to my scientific sensibilities, that the origin of consciousness is the same as the origin of the universe. Mind has always existed. Mind that composed physical existence."

[Mind → Laws

Mind = Wisdom = Memra/Word incarnate]

1 בְּרֵאשִׁית הָיָה הַדָּבָר, וְהַדָּבָר הָיָה עִם הָאֱלֹהִים, וְאֵלֵהִים הָיָה הַדָּבָר.
2 הוּא הָיָה בְּרֵאשִׁית עִם הָאֱלֹהִים.

[The Word, the Laws, the Order, the Memra, the Messiah, the Logos.]

3 הַכֹּל נִהְיָה עַל-יָדָיו, וּמִבְּלִעְדָיו לֹא נִהְיָה כֹּל אֲשֶׁר נִהְיָה.
4 בּוֹ הָיָה חַיִּים וְחַיִּים הָיוּ הָאוֹר לְבְנֵי הָאָדָם.
5 וְהָאוֹר מֵאִיר בְּחֹשֶׁךְ וְחֹשֶׁךְ לֹא הִשְׁגִּיחַ.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things came to be through him, and without him nothing made had being. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not suppressed it.

One of Sukkot's most joyous observances was known as Simchat Beit Hashoeivah, the Celebration of the Water-Drawing. When the Holy Temple stood, every sacrifice included wine libations poured over the altar. On Sukkot, water was also poured over the altar in a special ceremony. This ritual engendered such joy that it was celebrated with music, dancing and singing all night long.

Let us enter into His light, and celebrate His Torah.
Receive Him, to them gave He Power to become the sons of G-d, even to those who believe on His name.

After four years of forcing her extreme agenda on the city, Mayor Annise Parker may have finally picked a fight she's bound to regret. Five months after bullying her way into a Houston-wide "bathroom bill," Parker is furious that the city's voters won't roll over and accept it. Instead, America's fourth-largest city fought back, gathering three times the number of signatures needed to put the issue on the ballot. Furious with local pastors for leading the push-back, Parker decided to get her revenge by ordering a Soviet-style crackdown on area churches. In a story that's spreading like wildfire, the Mayor had the nerve to subpoena pastors for their sermons, text messages, photographs, electronic files, calendars, and emails -- "all communications with members of your congregation" on topics like homosexuality and gender identity. If she thought her religious "inquisition" would scare pastors, she's got another thing coming. Local Christians are more outraged than ever, igniting a firestorm that could awaken a sleeping giant in churches from coast to coast. "We're not intimidated at all," said Rev. Dave Welch. "We're not going to yield our First Amendment rights," he warned -- even if it ends in fines, confinement, or both. The Mayor reportedly attempted to douse the flames a bit by saying the subpoena was the work of pro-bono lawyers and that she was not aware of it until yesterday. Then, she doubled down with a tweet: "If the 5 pastors used pulpits for politics, their sermons are fair game." In a conversation I had this afternoon with a handful of key pastors, it's obvious

that this is a fight they're ready for. Pastor Steve Riggle, a friend of FRC's, sees right through the Mayor's agenda. "This is an attempt to chill pastors from speaking to the cultural issues of the day," he told Fox News's Todd Starnes. And if she doesn't pull her attack dogs off the city's churches, the joke will be on her. It just might end up being the most ingenious way of getting liberals into the pews yet! "Political and social commentary is not a crime. It is protected by the First Amendment," Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) pointed out. This is the "wall of separation" Jefferson talked about: protecting *churches* from the government (not the other way around). The Left is fond of misrepresenting the third President's famous letter, but Annise Parker's intrusion is exactly what the Founders were concerned about. But what did we expect in a country where four little letters -- LGBT -- are trumping the letter of the law? "Even in Houston," Erick Erickson writes, "you will be made to care." Unfortunately, Houston is learning a hard lesson about the importance of elections. As frustrating as it is, this is what happens in a city where only 16 percent turn out to vote in the mayor's race. For now, though, local churches have a message for the government: go ahead and monitor our sermons. You obviously need the messages more than most.

[[http://www.drjamesdobson.org/about/preserving-the-family?sc=FEM&mc=FEM1014NL&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_campaign=2014109%20Newsletter%20\(FEM1014NL\)%20\(4\)&spMailingID=9636945&spUserID=MTk2NDM5NTE5MAS2&spJobID=400709403&spReportId=NDAwNzA5ND AzS0](http://www.drjamesdobson.org/about/preserving-the-family?sc=FEM&mc=FEM1014NL&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_campaign=2014109%20Newsletter%20(FEM1014NL)%20(4)&spMailingID=9636945&spUserID=MTk2NDM5NTE5MAS2&spJobID=400709403&spReportId=NDAwNzA5ND AzS0)]



ZHANG FUHENG In 1979 I became quite ill. I could not move except for my mouth. I wept almost everyday; I even cursed my own birthday and considered suicide.

There were very few Christians in China at this time. One Christian man who

lived in a village at some distance, had his twin daughters taken away from him and sold into servitude.

When he came searching for his daughters (but did not find them), he heard about my illness and came to share the “good news” about salvation with me. At that time I received new hope in my heart.

I began to pray to be healed. I prayed day and night for a week. Nothing seemed to happen. One morning I woke and saw the blanket was on the floor and realized I must have moved. I sat up, got out of bed and went downstairs. Everyone was shocked. Everyone in the house received the Lord.

The next week we opened the house to tell people about what happened. 200 people showed up including Christians from the surrounding villages. Of that group, 60 people from our village received the Lord, and a house church was started overnight in our home.

We had no Bibles at all. Someone from another village lent me his “bible” for one month, which was only part of the New Testament, with several books missing. I didn’t know what to do, so I copied by hand the Scriptures that had been given me, before I had to return it.

(Just recently, 40 years later, the two daughters of the man who first shared the gospel with me were located, and their family reunited.)

Part Two - House Churches

In 1949 Mao ordered all foreign missionaries and businessmen to leave the country. Local Christian leaders were jailed. 1949 to 1979 was a dark period with much suffering. People wept and prayed. In 1979 the new Chairman Deng Xiaoping started the “Open Door Policy” allowing some business and trade to return.

At that time there were two types of churches: those registered with the government (the “three self” churches), and those unregistered, mostly in the villages. We in the villages could not relate to the registered churches. Their structure seemed foreign and Western to us, and unbiblical. We did not know what to do; so we just started reading the book of Acts. There we found all the answers. We felt the new house church movement was restoring the original apostolic tradition.

(In recent years there has been much reconciliation between the registered and unregistered churches.)

We believed in Acts 1:8 to receive power and be witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. We had spiritual fire, healings, and deliverance from demons. I traveled to many villages, sharing my testimony. Within 7 years, I started 200 churches with some 30,000 members.

In 1983 came a new wave of intense persecution. I could not live in my home village for 5 years, just occasionally slipped in at night to visit my parents. The elder Chinese believers were scattered and persecuted. Suffering became so much a part of their lives, that some of the younger Christians who had not yet

gone to jail began to pray, “God, why have I not gone to jail? Have I sinned? Is there something wrong?”

Christian leaders in the villages were beaten, shot or hanged; many were jailed repeatedly; women were stripped. My wife used to say of me, “My husband has the spiritual gift of being jailed.” Most of the pastors had no Bible or training. As the gospel spread in the wake of the persecution surrounding the death of Stephen the first martyr (Acts 8:1), so did it with us. In 1979 there were 700,000 Christians in China. Our house church movement has grown to 70 million believers! That’s a 100 fold growth.

Part Three – Back to Jerusalem

The Chinese church is the largest in the world; the Israeli Messianic remnant is the smallest. Yet we see you as our “elder brother.” The original apostles were the root which sprang out to all the branches. We have come back to you. We are not “without hope” because we are one in the family of Jesus.

Why did the Jews suffer so much in history? You are a miracle. The restoration of Israel is an act of God; and so is the restoration of the Messianic remnant. Many Chinese tourists come to Israel and when they see what has happened, they become believers in Jesus.

There was an early revival in China in the 1920’s. Those early Christians had a vision to bring the gospel “back” from the ends of the earth (China) to Israel. They dedicated themselves to the “back to Jerusalem” movement. They felt they had received eternal life from the Jews and wanted to return to them the same grace.

So a large group of them started out on foot to walk toward Jerusalem, first into the far west of China. But in 1949, after the Communists came to power, the borders of China were shut tight. Since they could not leave, they set up a community in Xin Jiang Province near the border.

These young Christians prayed for decades with this vision. They grew older. When our pastors received the same vision, we traveled out to see them. Many had died. We told the elders who met us, “Take heart. We will go to Arabia and to Jerusalem.” They wept and hugged us saying, “Now, Lord, Your servants may depart.”

The Chinese Church loves Jesus, loves Israel, and loves the Arabs. Today we are here, hugging you. Just as the Sun rises in the East, so will this revival return to Jerusalem.