



Watchman's

Prayer Letter

Christian Friends of Israel

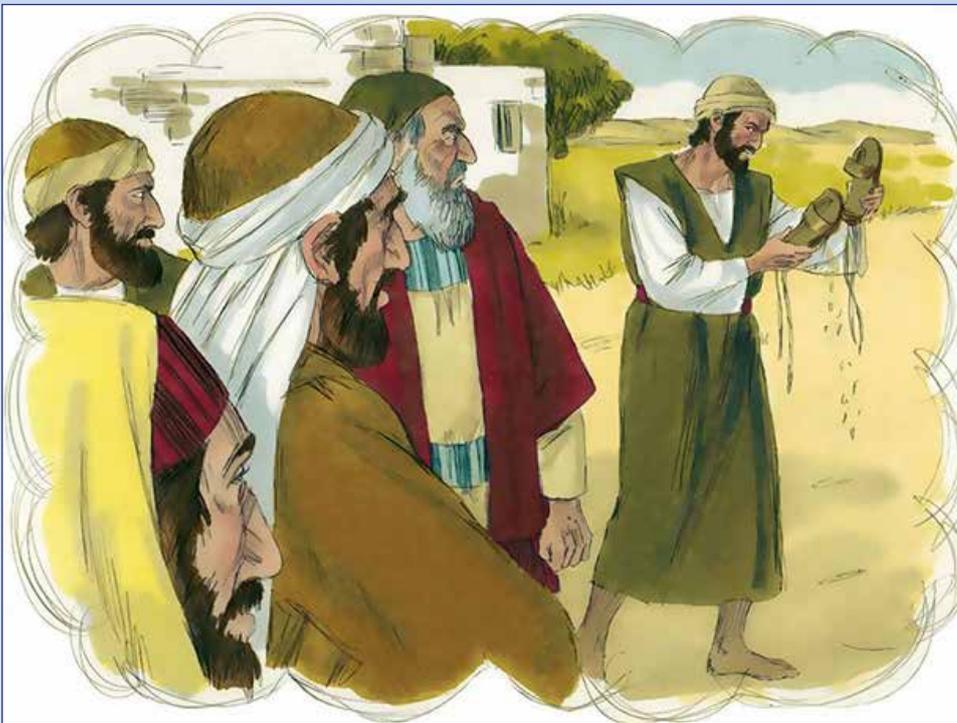
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July 2018 / Jewish Year 5778

Shaking the Dust From Our Feet

“And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them” (Luke 9:5).



“The standard interpretation of the apostles’ dust-shaking action proposes that Jesus turned the concept of the impurity of Gentile lands against the Jewish inhabitants of cities within the (ritually pure) land of Israel. This interpretation concludes that shaking the dust from their feet dramatically symbolized that Jesus’ apostles would henceforth regard the Jewish inhabitants of a city that had rejected their message as though they were cut off from Israel. It is time for this mistaken interpretation to finally be shaken as dust from one’s feet. It is a powerfully visceral and evocative demonstration of disapproval.

As a seminary student I once performed a dust-shaking rite, based on my understanding at that time of Jesus’ command in the Gospels, when concluding a visit to the Flossenbürg extermination camp where Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed by the Nazis on April 9, 1945. My visit to Flossenbürg was part of a week-long study tour in which we visited sites in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic that were of significance in Bonhoeffer’s life. Flossenbürg was the last concentration camp we visited on the tour and shaking the dust from my feet was a way for me to express my rejection not only of horrible atrocities carried out by the Nazi regime, but also my repudiation of the anti-Judaism which has contaminated Christianity for so long and which helped make the atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis possible.” (Introduction quoted from article by Joshua N. Tilton, Jerusalem Perspective, JerusalemPerspective.com, Founder, Dr. David Bivin).

I can say a big “Amen” to Joshua’s disgust with historical Christianity and how it represented the Lord in the wrong way to His Own People, for centuries. It would be one thing if it were all in the past; however, we find Replacement Theology and the anti-Semitism it brings with it much too prevalent in our churches today. A lot of this has to do with ignorance, and yet much of it derives from spiritual pride. Let us be the generation that shakes off the dust from our feet, of anything that looks like anti-Semitism, and throw it in the dust bin of history. The contamination which Joshua loathes, should never have been allowed, nor should be tolerated now, in the halls of any modern day “church”. It is the time of reconciliation with Israel. A time when Jewish-Christian relations are at an all time high. Let us not do anything that would remind Jewish people of the atrocities they suffered at the hands of so-called followers of Christ. We are repairing the damage inflicted from an historically poor testimony against Israel.

Let us Go to the Throne Room of Prayer:

- **Pray fervently for** the Magen David Adom rescue units in Israel as they work around the clock to stockpile critical medical supplies in preparation for any inevitable attack, large or small. Pray for more ambulances, respirators, IV kits, trauma equipment and medical supplies to be provided to them. Also vast amounts of emergency blood will be needed in case of a critical emergency. May we be discerners of the times. **“...you cannot discern the signs of the times” (Matthew 16:3).**
- **Beseech the Lord for** an outpouring of His Holy Spirit as prophesied by the prophet Joel. May God reveal Himself to the Jewish people in a deeper way, not by might or power, not by force or flesh and blood but by His Spirit. **“...flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:17).**
- **Proclaim His Word that** all of Israel will begin to follow the Lord with sincere hearts and with one voice. Many love the Lord God of Israel here, but we need all of Israel to step up to the challenge of becoming a **“light to the nations” (Isaiah 49:6).** **“So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has said we will do” (Exodus 24:3, KJV).**
- **Join Together in Agreeing with God’s Word.**
- **Thank God that** all of Israel will stay together and no one will abandon the nation in time of war. Pray that Israelis will not be afraid and leave their brothers behind. May the fathers tell the sons all the Lord has done to bring them to this place, as in the days of Egypt. **“...for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt” (Exodus 13:9).** It is the Lord who has brought Israel out of the graveyards of the nations today. May all Israel praise the Lord.

The Jewish people have suffered enough from phony, misleading and anti-Semitic Christianity, past and present. Let us be genuine in our relationships with the Jewish communities wherever we live, and to the nation and people of Israel. The hard work it has taken for pioneer ministries to till the soil of hard ground, turn it over with the unconditional love of Christ, and plow it with compassion and hearts of love, have cultivated the ground in this part of the world. Thank you for your support of ministries like Christian Friends of Israel and its ongoing work in the nation of Israel. *God bless each of you.*

In His Service,

Sharon Sanders

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