

Sukkot in Jerusalem 2008 and its Dangers

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By Joseph F. Dumond

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Shabbat Shalom Brethren,

I have received many emails asking if I am OK. These people have not received a News Letter in a few weeks and were concerned about me. I appreciate being missed.

I was away the past two weeks in Israel keeping the Feast with a few brethren and showing them the lies and the truths that are so visible in the land of Israel and at Jerusalem. I was also there continuing my search for the Tomb of King David which I believe I have found. I was also searching for the Ark of the Covenant. I know where it is but do not as yet have access.

This is where I have been the last two weeks, and if you tune into KMLS-FM 101.9, American Jewish Messianic Radio Broadcasting station at www.FM1019Messianic.com, you can listen to some of the lessons I taught our little group around Jerusalem as I explained many of the truths and lies that dominate our understanding or misunderstanding of current teachings, that many Messianic groups promote without so much as any thought or research.

It is because of my research and in the field searches and explorations that Ray Maccabbe of KMLS FM has called me the Indiana Jones of our day. It gives me a good laugh.

Before I begin I want to share a comment I received.

Dear Joseph,

I have listened to your Jubilee Video many times and have sent it to friends. Most people I send it to say that your video really opened their eyes and woke them up! B in Oklahoma

Brethren Once again I am asking you to send the link of the DVD to as many as you can. https://sightedmoon.com/sightedmoon_2015/?page_id=251 Or order a copy for yourself or your home group or your congregation or church library. I make no money on this and am not here to profit from Yahweh's sheep. But thousands are seeing the truth that this DVD is teaching, and many are shocked that no one else is teaching it. NO ONE! They are also shocked to learn just how far into Yahweh's punishment we already are and how soon things are going to become very dangerous for all of us.

There are now over 8400, receiving this newsletter. I pray that each one of you will add ten brethren to the e-mail list, so they too can receive this newsletter. We are also heard on KMLS FM 101.9 Radio, and there are talks of some sort of Television program coming soon.

All of this has happened without our begging the readers for money, or guiltting them into tithing. We do not except tithes, as I feel this is for the Temple and the tribe of Levy. I am not of the tribe of Levy.

All of these things have taken place with little or no money. It is truly Yahweh doing a work, and I get to watch in the front row. It is awesome.

As I said I was in Jerusalem with a few people showing them around the last couple of weeks. It was very demanding organizing trips and teachings and watching for danger.

Many people and my small group included do not believe me when I say that there is danger in certain areas. They are very naive, and my group of Americans were also naive of this danger.

In 2005 I had very real looking toy gun put into my stomach and the youth said American, bang bang, American bang bang. I assured him I was Canadian. The gun turned out to be plastic. But later that same week the IDF, Israeli Defense Force, shot killed a youth who also had a plastic toy gun. They do look real.

In 2006 I was harassed going up the mount of Olives in one of my searches by persons of the demonic influence. Then this year while I was stealthily exploring the entrances to certain caves and tombs in the Kidron Valley I heard a group of youths point at me and call out certain names. I do not know what they said. I then began to look in this one tomb, with the entrance blocked by the sepulcher that had been moved. I could hear the large sofa chair that the youths were playing with rolling down the hill and getting closer to me. I tried to duck into the tomb but could not get past the sepulcher. I squeezed into the door frame as much as possible and waited for the chair to hit me in the back. The noise stopped directly above me. But the chair had been lit a fire before the Palestinians had shoved it down towards me. It was now a roaring flame reaching up to 8 feet in height.

Yahweh had stopped it right at the edge of the tomb I was in. Had it gone over the edge I would have had a serious problem to deal with, being stuck in a tomb with a burning chair at my back.

sukkot 2008 & 2007 016.jpg

When I pursued the youth they all ran for home. This then gave me a unique opportunity to explore some 9th century BC Tombs without being stoned or harassed.

Each year I visit our Fathers Home I meet some new people who want to tour with us. They also sit in and listen to the things I am teaching the group and get excited to learn those things I present.

This year a lady from Holland and others from France joined us. After we had all left to return to our homes one lady from Holland was walking through the Kidron by herself. She was sexually assaulted by some youth as she went down the steps. She has given me permission

to share these things with you all for your own safety in the future. Your prayers for her recovery and continued growth would be appreciated.

I have also told you of my own experiences for your own safety. East Jerusalem and the Kidron valley and especially Silwan are not safe for the naive person to wander around in alone. Random attacks do occur and have been reported in the news leading up to and during this year's Sukkot in Jerusalem.

I have also received the following letter from one of the people in our group. Stephen Denke has written the following and I want to share it with you. After I returned on Sunday I began to work many long hours this week in construction. I also had a severe case of the flue starting Sunday. I was exhausted and tired and jet lagged all week. So tired I almost did not send out this News Letter. Thank you to those who have written and prayed for me.

Here is Stephen's Letter. I will try and add the pictures later.

Greetings and good tidings from the Holy Land!

To everyone who receives this, I wish to share my "good report" from the recent visit Jeshurun and I had to Israel for the 2008 Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkoth. This trip, billed under the slogan "This Year in Jerusalem!" was originally planned as a high school graduation present to my son Jeshurun. As it turned out, though, it was a dream come true for both of us. Although we did not get to see every location we might have hoped to see in the 12 days we were in the Land, we did get to see the best of the best. We will wait until next time to see those sites that we missed.

Our trip began Oct. 13, 2008 from Philadelphia International Airport. We traveled down with my friend Judy Mitchell for our departure to Israel aboard separate transcontinental flights. Just after we were dropped off at the airport, Jeshurun realized that he had accidentally left his passport in the car. Thankfully, we were able to retrieve it an hour later, while we waited patiently on pins and needles for its return. After that, everything went smoothly and without any problems.

[CityWallZion.jpg](#)

I had not flown since I was 9, when my family returned from Japan to the U.S. So, admittedly, I boarded our Air France extra-large Airbus plane with some trepidation and much humility. Nevertheless, our flight to Paris and connecting flight 10 hours later to Tel Aviv went without incident, although we weathered some turbulence over the Atlantic along the way. While in Paris, we made good use of our layover time to take the RER train downtown into the center of the city and explored the heart of Paris along the banks of the Seine River. This was our first visit to Europe as well.

By the time we arrived back at Charles DeGaulle Airport, we were exhausted. With no lockers at the airport to keep our carry-on luggage, we roamed Paris with fully loaded backpacks, which weighed us down somewhat from more fully enjoying our brief stay in the "City of Lights." When departure time arrived for our second flight, we were only too happy to settle into our cramped seats aboard a smaller Airbus plane for the final leg of our journey to Israel.

JerAtNight1.jpg

We arrived at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel shortly after 11 p.m. After being questioned by Customs, we met up with Judy and our tour leader, Joseph Dumond (of www.sightedmoon.com), and left in his rental car for Jerusalem. While at the airport, I immediately noticed the summer-like humidity and warm evening air. The rows of Middle Eastern palm trees outside and balmy scent in the air confirmed that we had arrived in a faraway, exotic place, much unlike anywhere I had visited before. I thought of Psalm 126:1-2, a Song of Ascents:

“When YHWH brought back those that returned from Zion, We were like unto them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing: Then said they among the nations, YHWH hath done great things for them.” (ASV)

By the time we drove off to Jerusalem, it was well after 1 a.m. Even after a long day of traveling, my eyes felt no time for slumber. Instead, as we drove down Route 1, a state-of-the-art, well-lit expressway connecting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, my heart raced with excitement as I yearned to see the Holy City for myself. The excitement mounted as we exited into the modern infrastructure of West Jerusalem. Finally, as we proceeded from one street to another, my eyes beheld the golden stone walls of the Old City, bathed in light. I gasped at its beauty. At last, I thought, I finally have made Aliyah. What a wonderful sensation it was to be here!

Although it was already past 2 a.m., we drove through the city. From the numbers of pedestrians we saw, it was obvious that not everyone was asleep. There were still a few Orthodox and Hassidic Jews, in their distinctive black suits, walking the streets, carrying their lulavs and Etrogs, symbols of their Sukkoth celebration.

There was still a hint of festival in the balmy air. With my jaw agape and my eyes in amazement, we sighted the Western Wall and the Temple Mount above it before exiting onto the Ophel Road and outside the city walls, lit up like a jewel in the night. What I experienced was a brief but delightful taste of what was to come in greater portions in the days ahead.

The days that followed were the stuff of daydreams. What a feeling to actually be in Jerusalem, rather than just wishing to be there.

Our temporary home during our visit was the French convent Maison D' Abraham, the House of Abraham, located in East Jerusalem on the southern summit of the Mount of Olives. We stayed in bungalows with shared restroom and shower facilities. A stone wall surrounded the convent. At the entrance was an automatic gate, which connected to Panorama Street.

Outside the walls was the Arab neighborhoods of Ras El Amud and Silwan, the latter based on the Hebrew term “Siloam.” Silwan extended both south and east of Jewish Jerusalem as it followed the Kidron Valley away from the Old City. As we were to discover later, this is a part of Jerusalem far removed the Holy City we had come to expect, a neighborhood mired in the politics and culture of the Third World. The view of the Old City, crowned with the Muslim Dome of the Rock above on the Temple Mount, and the most ancient section of Jerusalem,

the City of David, to the south, was spectacular. Mr. Dumond would have much to say about these landmarks in the days to come.

We slept through the pervasive Muslim calls to prayer, which begin as early as 4:30 a.m. from the many minarets that form spires throughout the eastern and southern Jerusalem landscapes. As tired as we all were, we also slept through the 6:30 beeping of my watch alarm, only to finally awaken at 7:20, sufficient time yet to report for breakfast in the convent's dining hall.

After sampling the convent's standard breakfast fare of pita bread, buns, and boiled eggs, we quickly showered and dressed for the day's itinerary: a trip up to the Temple Mount. We hastened down Panorama Street, up Jericho Road, down and then up the Kidron Valley pedestrian passageway, and then up the Ophel Road to the Dung Gate. I arrived panting and breathless. Now I know what is meant by the phrase "going up to Jerusalem." Coming to Jerusalem requires much effort as one walks upwards. Perhaps to keep people focused on the joy of coming to Jerusalem, the psalms of ascents were written to be sung as people hiked upwards so they would arrive with singing rather than grumbling. In any event, it was a humbling experience. Feeling somewhat exhausted but full of excitement, we proceeded through the Western Wall security, maintained by the Jewish authorities, and then above to the Temple Mount security, which is under the Muslim authorities. For a moment, it seemed like we had entered into the Forbidden City, a place whose Islamic overtones made me feel very foreign.

Having some extra time on my hands before the trip, I was able to review two of the books Mr. Dumond recommended: *The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot* and *The Secrets of Golgotha*, both by Dr. Ernest L. Martin — whose work is featured at www.askelm.org. Both of these books provide a fascinating unconventional look into Jerusalem's ancient history.

Using these books as a foundation for his own unique understanding of Jerusalem's storied history, Mr. Dumond explained the ancient purpose of the Temple Mount as an elevated platform used during the 1st Century A.D. for the Romans to maintain the uneasy peace in Jerusalem. Here is where the Fortress Antonio, the barracks for thousands of Roman soldiers, was located, along with various Roman administrative buildings, including the Praetorium, Matthew 27:27, Mark 15:16, and the Pavement, John 19:13, where the Messiah (whose proper Hebrew name was "Yah'shua) was tried before Pilate before being sentenced to death.

He also explained the backgrounds of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which had been constructed in part from stones from Herod's Temple and was later, over time, referred to as the rebuilt Temple of Solomon. This mosque faces south toward Mecca but through the original locations of both Solomon's and Herod's Temples. South of the Temple Mount beyond the Ophel is the City of David, where the Gihon Spring also is located.

The Dome of the Rock was built later and is situated on an outcropping of rock, which may have been the place where the Messiah stood as He was condemned. It seems much myth and legend regarding Muhammad's supposed flight to heaven from this spot was later developed. Mr. Dumond spoke on how the evidence for this as the location of the Temples

and the rock being the site where the Ark of the Covenant rested is lacking, especially when compared to what the Bible and other ancient historical records say, especially Josephus' writings on the subject.

[EJerusalem1.jpg](#)

Simply appalling to me about the Temple Mount was the abundant litter and waste material in the areas under construction. In that the Muslims consider this site their third holiest site behind Mecca and Medina, I found the blatant disregard for the upkeep of this "sacred" property rather disturbing. Sadly, it seems this same concern about the lack of tidiness came to our attention whenever we visited certain areas, much to our shock and dismay. Perhaps this is just my Western sensibilities speaking here, but I was actually quite offended that filth and squalor seeming have become the norm among the people in these areas. Meanwhile, in the Jewish communities we visited, we generally found that the land received the respect and upkeep befitting it. What a contrast! It seemed that some areas had been blessed while others were cursed.

Over the succeeding days, Mr. Dumond continued to explain and demonstrate to us that the location of the Messiah's death on the tree and burial, as described in the N.T. (Nazarene Testament) could not have occurred at the traditional locations claimed by the churches. One such example is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which Dr. Martin is convinced was originally the tomb of Hasmonean king John Hyrcanus before the Romans desecrated the site and built a temple to Venus over it.

During our visit, I found that a feeling of gloom pervades the Church of the Holy Sepulcher with its darkly lit chambers and Byzantine iconography. Expanded throughout the ages, a sense of uniform coherence is missing there. Not surprising to me is that the various denominations that share space there reportedly quarrel among themselves over in-house "territorial issues." Good grief! Perhaps it's because of places like this that the Almighty, in His infinite wisdom, chose to keep the location of Moshe' sepulcher secret lest a shrine such as this resulted, Deuteronomy 34:6.

[GardenTomb2.jpg](#)

Mr. Dumond also showed how the Garden Tomb and the skull-like escarpment nearby at the foul-smelling bus station, both on the northside of the present city wall, do not qualify either. With the large water cistern beneath it, I question whether the Garden Tomb might have been constructed as a deliberate hoax - as in another invented pilgrim site. Why would anyone wish to pollute their water supply with a dead body interred on site? Also, the burial place for the Garden Tomb looked like it was designed for someone the size of a child, not a full-grown man, even for those times when people were of shorter stature.

In his discourses, Mr. Dumond urged the group to look east of Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives for the true execution and burial sites. In accordance with Biblical typology, it could be argued that the Messiah's place of death corresponded with the location where the red heifer was sacrificed. From this location, one could see in through the Temple doors to the Holy Place. Similarly, from the place of the Messiah's execution, the Roman centurion apparently was able to see the curtain covering the Holy of Holies ripped in two from

top to bottom as the Messiah died, thus prompting him to declare that this truly was the Son of the Almighty, Mark 15:39.

[WesternWall13.jpg](#)

For these sites to be determined with any accuracy, one must be able to determine where the Temples of Solomon and Herod were situated. Josephus' descriptions show that their location could not have been on the Temple Mount. Ezekiel 47:1-2 also indicates that the Temple must be situated over the Gihon Spring, which is located several feet south of the Temple Mount, in the ancient City of David. Before ending our stay, we explored this area. Much of the area is currently being excavated. In that the Messiah prophesied in Matthew 24:2, Mark 13:2, and Luke 19:44 that not one stone of the Temple would be left upon another, it is doubtful that much of anything remaining of Herod's Temple will be found by archaeologists.

The original Temple, built by Solomon, is thought to have been totally destroyed by the Babylonians around 586 BC. The Second Temple was built by Zerubbabel and the returning exiles from Babylon. The temple was renovated under the Hasmoneans following its defilement by the Greeks, as recalled each year during the Feast of Dedication, or Chanukah, and refurbished further under Herod the Great during the First Century, BC.

In our visit, however, we saw the remnants of the Jebusite wall, which predated both Temples. We also saw the location where it is thought that some of the Judean kings, descendants of David, were buried. Mr. Dumond believes the true tomb of David, mentioned by Peter in Acts 2:29 and also by Josephus in his histories, is located adjacent to Hezekiah's Tunnel, which ran from the Gihon Spring to the Pool of Siloam. Part of the tunnel would have been underneath the Temple complex. Hezekiah's Tunnel, mentioned in 2 Kings 20:20 and 2 Chronicles 32:30, along with Warren's Shaft, which likely was the passageway David's men used to penetrate and conquer the Jebusite city, 2 Samuel 5:8 and 1 Chronicles 11:6, are vindications of the Biblical record. No journey to Jerusalem is complete without a trip through the dark and watery passageway of Hezekiah's Tunnel, ending at the Pool of Siloam. Thankfully, we were able to arrange a visit on our last day in Jerusalem. It was definitely the highlight of our trip!

These passageways confirm the Bible's veracity in the face of the numerous modern-day critics and naysayers — or worse, those who have “devised” sites and locations based on their own non-Biblical subjectivity, such as by Roman emperor Constantine and his mother Helena. If one wishes to truly enjoy the Holy Land for what it is, he should come Bible in hand and use the Scriptures as his guide. On the trip back to the U.S., we met an Australian traveler on our return flight to Paris who had been on a tour that had done this very thing. He told us they didn't bother visiting any church sites. Instead, everything evidently was done by “the Book” (the Bible).

Since our visit to Jerusalem was during the feast of Sukkoth, the Western Wall was regularly crowded with men and women who had come here to pray. The wall was built down below with huge Herodian stones weighing several tons called ashlar and forms the western wall of the Temple Mount, which rises several feet above the ground level below. Stonework from

other more recent eras appears above. It is thought that this is all that remains of the Temple complex. Thus, it is considered Judaism's most holy site. It is thought that when Herod's Temple was destroyed, the Shekinah Glory of the Almighty withdrew behind these stones. However, Ezekiel 11:23 shows otherwise: "And the glory of YHWH went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city." This would indicate that the Shekinah Glory relocated to the Mount of Olives.

Mr. Dumond noted that because of its significance, Olivet, being part of the mountains of Moriah, also likely was the place where Abraham offered Isaac, Genesis 22:1-14 - not in the city of Salem, where Jerusalem now stands. It also may have been the location where Jacob had his dream of the angels ascending and descending, Genesis 28:10-19, the place that he called "the gate of heaven."

While much of our stay in Jerusalem was spent visiting the Old City, some side trips also were taken to see other areas without venturing into Palestinian-controlled areas. Among the places we visited were the following sites: on Oct. 19, Qumran, Ein Gedi, Masada, the ashen remains of Gomorrah, and Kalia Beach on the Dead Sea; on Oct. 20, Megiddo, Nazareth, Cana, Tiberias, Capernaum, and the Mountain of the Beatitudes; on Oct. 23, the Elah Valley (where David slew Goliath) and the conquered city of Lachish. Before returning to the airport on Oct. 26, we also visited the seaside communities of Caesarea and Netanya. One regret is that along our travels, we missed out from taking the time to stop and snack on St. Peter's Fish, native only to the Sea of Galilee.

Among the museums we visited in Jerusalem were the Dead Sea Scrolls Museum and the Rockefeller archaeological museum. Zedekiah's Cave, between the Damascus Gate and Herod's Gate, also was especially fascinating. The Burnt House, which presented the story of Jerusalem's downfall in 70 A.D. and the Temple Institute, both located in the Old City, were fascinating places to visit. Regrettably, we were unable to arrange a tour in English of the Western Wall Tunnel.

A couple of times during our stay we walked up to Ben Yehuda Street in West Jerusalem to check out the street action there. It can be rather colorful at night, especially after the Sabbath ends. On our first day of touring, we walked to the Knesset parliamentary building, attended a unity event in a nearby park and walked along a parade of many nations showing their support for Israel as we returned to the Old City. Even some Orthodox and Hassidic Jews came out to watch the parade and give their visible approval to Israel's gentile supporters.

One other location in Jerusalem bears special mention: a couple of times we went through... hell, a mostly desolate place which should be rendered in our English Bible translations as "Gehenna" or the "Hinnom Valley." This was the valley to the west of old Jerusalem referred to as Tophet, 2 Kings 23:10, Isaiah 30:33, Jeremiah 7:31-32, 19:6-14, where child sacrifices to Molech occurred. It also was a place of refuse. In the future, it will be made into a place of judgment, Matthew 23:33, Mark 9:43-47. The Hinnom, Tyropoean, and Kidron valleys all intersect at the southern end of the City of David. Together, they form the Hebrew letter "Shin", which is thought to represent the Almighty's majestic title "El Shaddai." The letter "Shin" also

appears on mezuzahs, the ornamentation placed on the doorposts of Jewish homes in observance of Deuteronomy 6:9.

Other sites we visited around Jerusalem included Paster Noster Church, where Dr. Martin seemed to have erred in concluding that it was the location of the Messiah's tomb. For one, there's no room for a rolling stone. Moreover, it took a very steep hike up the Mount of Olives to arrive here. It was doubtful that a cadaver could have been transported up here under the circumstances with very little time remaining before the annual Sabbath day began, the First High Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Luke 23:50-56, Leviticus 23:4-8. We also saw the Muslim building that was used to designate the location of the Messiah's ascension. Apparently, the Muslims reportedly had once used this simple structure and the surrounding area as a prison. The grounds inside the wall were barren of any plant growth. Frankly, it's bleakness was not inspiring that an event as awesome as the Messiah's ascension had actually occurred there. What a disappointment!

We also drove through nearby Bethany and Bethphage, which were prominently mentioned in the evangels as places that the Messiah traveled through. On another occasion, we drove through the Arab neighborhoods south of Jerusalem and momentarily got lost trying to find out way back to the convent. However, in the driving around, we saw some magnificent views of the city from that direction - the view of one coming up from Bethlehem. Nevertheless, we returned in time for dinner - to the delicious full-course French cooking we enjoyed every night. Bon appetit!

As expected, the time to leave Israel and return home to the U.S. was very saddening. Our 12 days in the land was the trip of a lifetime, one I will always treasure as one of the best times of my life. I look forward to coming back, perhaps sometime soon. SPD

Shalom

Joseph F Dumond

www.sightedmoon.com

True site of Original Temple on left side of picture with Fort Antonio where the Temple Mount now is to the north. [sukkot 2008 & 2007 002.jpg](#)

Dome of the Rock where Pilot Judged Yahshua. This was never the Temple. Nor was the Temple near this spot. This was Fort Antonio.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 003.jpg](#)

This was the true site where Yahshua was buried, in the Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea on the Mount of Olives. [sukkot](#)

[2008 & 2007 004.jpg](#)

Sitting in the Hulda gate near the Pool of Siloam.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 005.jpg](#)

This is the church of the ascension. This is not the place of the ascension. It was at the

Temple during the wave offering on the Sunday after the Sabbath during Unleavened bread.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 006.jpg](#)

The Sphinx at Gormorrah which was destroyed by fire and Brimstone almost 4000 years ago.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 008.jpg](#)

Digging out the sulphur balls and the brimstone from the ashes of Gomorrah.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 013.jpg](#)

Thousands of Jews crowd the Kol tel. But this is not near where the Temple once stood.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 007.jpg](#)

And thousand of Christians crowd the streets in support of Israel, put on by the ICEJ.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 011.jpg](#)

They come from all around the world.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 012.jpg](#)

We played in the Dead Sea.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 009.jpg](#)

And we Mikvahed in the living waters which flow from below the Throne of Yahweh.

[sukkot 2008 & 2007 010.jpg](#)