

Haverimupdate

STUDY COMMUNITY

JUNE
2020

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| Sivan | Tammuz | Av | Elul | Tishri | Heshvan | Kislev | Tevet | Shevat | Adar | Nisan | Iyar |
| JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MARCH | APRIL | MAY |

JUNE AUDIO & TRANSCRIPT
Claire R. Pfann

Following Jesus With Mark (part 2 of 5)

BONUS AUDIO
Wil Schonsheck

8 Words that Please the Lord

“The common Christian orientation to redemption is that we are saved in order to go to heaven. The biblical orientation by contrast is that we are saved in order to serve. Salvation is a gift of God’s grace but also a summons to His service. We are called out of darkness into God’s marvelous light in order to go forth into the world as priests under His kingship. Of course redemption has profound implications for life in the world to come. But the biblical focus is on this world and God’s purposes for it. We are redeemed in order to live redemptively as agents of the advancing Kingdom of God in the earth.”

~ Dwight A. Pryor

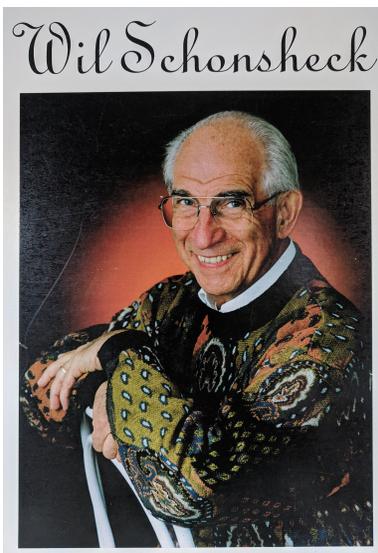
Shalom Kingdom Companions,

You want to live for the Father during these turbulent times. And you want that for your children, grandchildren and everyone you serve in Jesus’ name; me too. Here is your monthly infusion of Hebraic thought—prepared with a prayer that you’ll be empowered to think and act more biblically. Our keyword this month is the Hebrew word *emunah* (faith). What did it mean to Yeshua and his first followers?

A Portrait of Generational Faithfulness

I want to introduce you to Wilbur R. Schonsheck (1927- 2020). For over twenty-years, Wil invested his Spirit-gifting and prophetic counsel as a founding board member of JC Studies. He is one of the reasons the ministry is still reaching so many people today.

- ❖ Wil’s greatest joys in life centered around his family: his seven children and their spouses, his fifteen grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.
- ❖ An astute businessman, Wil worked into his later years, representing Canada Life Assurance Co. for over 60 years. He left a legacy of helping many clients receive millions of dollars in insurance proceeds to help their families survive and thrive.
- ❖ An influential leader, Wil was instrumental in building Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Kettering, Ohio, serving as president for 4 years and choir director and soloist for over 15 years.
- ❖ Wil shaped my life as we prayed together every Tuesday for ten years right up until weeks before he died. I have a notebook of Spirit-moments from our meetings.



I want Wil’s story to inspire and encourage you because it reflects God’s story written in us all. In our latest blog series, Dwight points out that Yeshua’s movement is an upside-down kingdom (read the excerpt on the back of this newsletter). What gets the King’s attention is not Christian celebrities but the life that reflects a long obedience in the same direction.

As a bonus audio this month, you can listen to Wil preach as a guest of Church of the Messiah here in Dayton, Ohio during the Feast of Pentecost in 2010. His message is called, “8 Words that Please the Lord.” You’ll find it, along with Claire Pfann’s second session in the Gospel of Mark at jcstudies.com/haverim.

Working Today for Future Generations

I received a phone call from a haverim supporter who contracted Covid-19 through her work as a nurse. She is well now, thanks be to God. Our conversation deeply touched me. First, she wanted to donate as an expression of gratitude, even amidst her suffering. Second, she shared about seeing spiritual growth in her son as she passes on her knowledge of God from a Hebraic perspective. Humbling and encouraging. Praying and working for the next generation is the best biblical response to whatever comes our way.

Opportunities for Engagement

Waiting for you at jcstudies.com/haverim ...

- Audio and Transcript: *Following Jesus (part 2)*
- Bonus Audio: *8 Words that Please the Lord*
- New Blog Series: *Where Are the Faithful?*
- Video: *How Shall We Live In Light of His Coming?*
- Coming Soon: *The Wonder of the Priestly Blessing*

The biblical concept of faith includes believing in God and things about God. But it is so much more than that. Translations of the Hebrew word include loyalty, fidelity, faithfulness. It is a rugged trusting, wrestling, persevering obedience rising from a heart filled with love. Emunah is hard work, like salmon swimming upstream, headed for home. The biblical key, as always, is God. Yaweh is Faithful!, says Yeshua as he laid down his life—daily. May the studies this month fuel the fire of our faith.

James

Whole Food for the Christian Mind

Big ideas, from my bookshelves, to help develop depth in a Hebraic, biblical approach to faith and practice



Our great Savior needs you in times like these. He needs faithful men and women to be his witnesses in this world by standing up for his divine law—for truth, justice, and righteousness.

Let's use Hab 2:4 as the springboard for our discussion. It is an important text cited repeatedly in the New Testament. *"Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith."* (ESV)

This word *faith* in Hebrew does not mean to the prophet what the word means to us in English. The Hebrew word for faith is *emunah*, and it is not so much belief in something, or trust and confidence in someone—although those are good things

and aspects of biblical faith. The foundation, the essence of faith, is not just an intellectual belief that God exists, nor is it only a matter of believing that Jesus was the Son of God who died for your sins and was resurrected.

In the fullness of its biblical understanding, faith has the core concept of faithfulness. The ESV and other translations have a footnote rendering the word *emunah* as faithfulness. That helps explain the sentence structure, not "live by faith" but "live by his faithfulness."

The first use of *Emunah* is found in Exodus 17:12. It is the story of Moses and the children of Israel coming out of Egypt and immediately encountering a test—opposition at the hand of Amalek. As long as Moses kept his hands aloft, holding the staff of God that parted the sea, Israel prevailed. "But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun."

The word translated steady/steadfastness is the Hebrew word for faith, *emunah*. What an important picture this is for the people of God. The essence of faith is not some kind of individual will-power; it is not some kind of super-confidence; it is not some matter of intellectual prowess in which if you believe hard enough, then things happen.

Do you see the fallacy of that way of thinking? It places all the attention on you: how hard you believe or, do you have enough faith? The point of the scriptures is that it doesn't take great faith; it takes faithfulness to a great God. Jesus taught that what we need is the faithfulness of a mustard seed, and mountains can be moved. Mustard seeds will fall in dry, barren places in the desert, in rocky areas where nothing else can flourish; it will embed itself and begin to develop steadily, and as it grows, it will literally move boulders.

Jesus is saying, "This is what faith is all about; it is persistence, it is being in the midst of a test, a trial, a desert and you hang on and hang in there—you are loyal, you are steadfast, you are steady, you are persistent. It is not so much the matter of the hare, it is the matter of the tortoise. Faithfulness is a kind of a plodding determination; as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

So, Habakkuk is saying to us, "The saved, the righteous, the justified person is one who lives by this determination to persist in God's ways; to obey God, to honor God, to be loyal and steadfast. Not blown hither and yon by cultural winds, whether secular or religious.

A Timely Reminder to Pray for the Shalom of Jerusalem

Every Jerusalem Day, I cannot help but reflect on the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 and Israel's victory parade on Independence Day in 1968. I had a front-row seat view of it, as it were; my father was in charge of it. My father, who was the commander of one of the three brigades that reunited the city, was put in charge of the planning and carrying out the parade.

But more than the personal recollection, I remember the electrifying atmosphere of those days and that day in particular. It is hard to describe the awe, and wonder, history, and above all, the sense of fulfillment in the air. "We were like those who dream." We were part of the fulfillment of two thousand years of history.

Many years have passed since then, and we have gone through much trouble. Several wars, intifadas, other terror attacks. Strong resistance of the nations to what I now know as a believer, to be God's plan for Israel. But this is not our greatest difficulty. There is another war, much more ferocious than all other wars, being fought over Israel's future — her restoration to God, through His Son. If you don't believe me, just read the book of Daniel, regarding the war in the heavenlies for Israel's restoration.

There, you will find that all hell is pitted against Israel's restoration to God. Not that it is in doubt, but we are in a war, a great war against God and Israel. Her restoration is a

great hinge on which history turns. As believers, we have no less a calling to this war than Israeli soldiers fighting for physical security.

It is here, though, that I feel the most profound concern. Christians readily understand and connect with Israel's physical restoration, but understand very little, the enormity of the battle for her spiritual restoration. That restoration is no longer a war between Israel and the nations, but a controversy between Israel and God!

And while indeed prayer for Israel's protection, politics, and place among the nations is important, it should not set aside the primary battle: prayer for her reconciliation to God through Messiah. There seems to be little understanding of the magnitude of the resistance to Israel's reconciliation, both from within the land and without.

The unification of Jerusalem to God is more fundamental to the reunification of all her parts. Don't forget, Jerusalem is the City of the Great King, not just the capital of Israel. It is now called in the book of Revelation "Sodom" (Rev. 11:8), but it will be called "The Lord our Righteousness." Jer. 33:16

I was there at Jerusalem's first unification, I long and pray and battle for her second, with her Savior and God.

- Special thanks to haverim Howard Graham for sharing with us this reflection from a Messianic leader in Jerusalem.