



Good News for the Rich & the Poor: Part 1

By Jim Myers

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ, וְקִיַּמְנוּ, וְהִצַּעְנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

*Blessed are You, O' Lord our God, King of the universe,
for giving us life, for sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this season.*

The **February 2023** issue of this newsletter was about the most important discovery I have written about in my 40 years of writing newsletters -- *Be Wise, Establish Order, Maintain Justice*. It wouldn't have happened without Dr. Ike Tension and Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor as team members in biblical research and very close friends, for 35 years. Jeffrey passed away in September 2020 and Ike in March 2022.

The important discovery was reports from scholars explaining “**an ancient way of thinking shared by the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and Israelites.**”

BHC's Linguistic Models and Databases confirmed the reports. Why is this so important? In order to accurately understand **the books in the Old Testament** (Jewish Holy Scriptures), the **teachings of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, and Luke**, and **Acts and James**, readers **must absolutely use that “ancient way of thinking.”**

At that time, I was just beginning to create the **Linguistic Models** required to do it. I had done it before when I was training to translate ancient Hebrew and Greek texts. You will understand what that experience was like if you choose to learn how to Explore the Bible with me. I have been working with ancient languages and cross-cultural communications for 40 years. I am not a rookie.

However, something very unexpected after I wrote that newsletter. I was in the process of creating the new Linguistic Models – *and then **October 7, 2023** happened!* My wife **Susan is the Executive Director of Southwest Jewish Congress**. We are not Jewish. We were not Roman Catholics or Protestants either. We were trying to figure out how to be followers of the Jewish Jesus. My research naturally led us to places where we could interact with Jewish people and Jewish institutions. Susan went so far as looking for a job with a Jewish organization in late 1980s. She has come a long way since then!

Beginning on the morning of October 7th, I began to see what Jewish means today. I had been a surgery technician in the United States Air Force, and we contentedly trained for situations like that. Homes and other places had been built with “safe rooms and spaces.” Civilians had been trained to carry out plans in their areas. Part of their culture was, “**be ready when someone tries to destroy our generation**.” *That was something that had been handed down from one generation to another since the 5th century BCE.*

I had a front row seat as Jewish communities around the world quickly mobilized and stood ready to support their fellow Jews in the State of Israel. Volunteers were asking for instructions for where they could go to help. Susan was a hub in multiple Jewish networks. And the Susan began been receiving messages from the networks linked to the State of Israel, National Jewish institutions, FBI, and Homeland Security – about potential threats to her organization and her. *That changed everything for me!*

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I closed my February 2023 newsletter with these words: “The point I want you to understand is this: *The **eternal destinies** of the people in the parable of the Great Day of Judgment were **determined by their actions, not their beliefs!**”*

- I knew that their actions were called “**TZEDAQAH**.”
- I also knew the people attacking Israel were shouting, “**Death to America!**”

By December 2023, multiple streams of information were talking about this situation becoming World War III. *Security agencies around the world knew it!* Below is a list of newsletter titles between then and now. They reveal the desperation I was feeling.

- Be an Informed Bible Reader
- A Heritage of Light for All Nations!
- Building Lives 1st Teams & Safety Nets

- The Kingdom of Elohim is Coming!
- Sacred Truths of the Wisdom Scroll
- Discovering Our American Heritages
- Understanding Our Livewired Brains
- Understanding the Immediate Threats to Our Families & Communities!

There are lots of great facts-based information in them, but my new Language Models were missing a key piece of information. A couple of weeks ago, right before **Passover**, I found the key when I was reading Luke 2 again.

³⁹ Hence they fulfilled all the requirements according to the Torah of the LORD, and returned to the Galilee unto their own village Nazareth. ⁴⁰ So the child (Jesus) continued to grow and become strong, ever increasing with wisdom, as the favor of God was with him. ⁴¹ Now his parents went up every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. ⁴² When Jesus was twelve years old, they made the pilgrimage for the feast according to the custom.

The requirements mentioned in verse 39 were *circumcision, naming, and the Redemption of the First-Born Son* (Jesus) and *the Purification of Mother* (Mary). Between verses 39 and 41 was a 12-year period, in which “*Jesus continued to grow and become strong, increase with wisdom, as the favor of God was with him.*” Verse 42 revealed that during that period “*they made pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem on the feast of Passover.*”

Life in Judea and Galilee was becoming increasingly more difficult. Rome was putting increasing pressure on them. Rich Jews refused to lend money to poor Jews. Powerful Jewish groups -- Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, Herodians, and Zealots – disagreed about how the words of the Torah should be interpreted. Some Jews were attacking other Jews who disagreed them; some even stabbed them!

The trip above in Luke was made in 6 CE. It was even more dangerous. **Judea and Galilee were now under direct Roman rule** that also included **Idumea, Samaria and parts of Philistia**. Roman soldiers were everywhere. Rome demanded higher taxes. Dozens of “**Anointed Ones**” (*Christs / Messiahs*) were stirring everyone up by claimed they were going to defeat the Romans. How did the Roman’s react? They put thousands of Jews to death by crucifying them, while torturing others.

Everyone focused their attention on one man – **Hillel, the Nasi of the Great Sanhedrin.** Rich and poor Jews were talking about his interpretation of Deuteronomy 15.

¹ At the end of *every* seven years you shall grant a release of *debts*. ² And this *is* the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent *anything* to his neighbor shall release *it*; he shall not require *it* of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the Lord's release . . . ⁹ Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,' and **you have an EVIL EYE** against your poor brother and **you give him nothing**, and he cry out to the Lord against you, and it become sin among you. ¹⁰ You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because **FOR THIS THING THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BLESS YOU** in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. ¹¹ For **the poor will never cease from the land**; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'

Hillel had taken a radical step by creating a new legal device, "**a prosbul.**" It allowed creditors to avoid the cancellation of debt required by the Torah, by **transferring its collection to the court, a corporate body that was not bound by the commandment.**¹ Hillel created "**a loophole in the laws of the Torah.**"

⁴³ While Joseph and Mary were returning home after the feast of Passover ended, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not realize this. ⁴⁴ Supposing that he was with others in the caravan, they traveled a day's journey. They looked for him among his relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem earnestly looking for him.

⁴⁶ After three days had passed, **they found Jesus in the Temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.** ⁴⁷ **Everyone who heard him was marveling at his wisdom and they way he answered questions.**

⁴⁸ When they saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "*Son, why have you treated us this way? Look at how your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere!*" ⁴⁹ But he said to them, "*Why have you been looking for me? **Did you not understand that I must be about my Father's work?***"

¹ *The Life and Teachings of Hillel* by Yitzhak Buxbaum © 1994. Jason Aronson Inc. Northvale, NJ; pp. 52-54.

⁵⁰ **They did not understand the saying which he spoke to them.** ⁵¹ Then he went with them, and they came to Nazareth where he continued to be obedient to them. His mother was treasuring all these things in her heart. ⁵² Jesus kept growing in wisdom, in stature, and in favor before God and people.

What had Jesus been during the four days he was without his family left? It sounds like he stayed close to the Temple. This is what was going on there.

Teachers of the Torah, preachers, and prophets were attracted to Jerusalem throughout the year, and they invariably found a ready audience among those who had made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. **The feast afforded an unusual opportunity for anyone who had some message to the people – who were there in large audiences.** Visitors had to do the purification rituals before entering the Temple. They entered through the southern gates, turned right and customarily circled the inner walls before prostrating themselves thirteen times in front of the gates, which led to the inner courts. *Their prostrations before God gave rise to an exaltation of the spirit and a heightening of religious fervor.*

The study of the Torah was also very important and there was a **bet midrash** (*house of study*) located within the courtyards of the Temple. **The Sanhedrin met in there, too.** On **Sabbat and holidays it convened as an academic body,** rather than as a judicial body.

The Temple was a place for **the cultivation, preservation and dissemination of the Holy Scriptures, historical narratives, and genealogies.** Problems related to the transmission of the text and authenticity of various scrolls of the Scriptures **were examined in the Temple.** Scribes and correctors sat in the Temple and worked to supply scrolls to those who could afford them.

There was a Torah Scroll in the Temple called ‘the Scroll of the Court.’ It was read to the public by the scribes, and used to correct other copies.²

That was probably the first time Jesus had time to experience the full impact of being a Jew in the Temple environment. It is clear that his teachers – *parents, extended family*

² *The Jewish People in the First Century: Historical Geography, Political History, Social, Cultural, and Religious Life and Institutions* edited by S. Safrai and M. Stern in co-operation with D. Flusser and W. C. van Unnik; © 1976 Van Gorcum Fortress Press; pp. 773-865-866.

members, and teachers at his local synagogue -- had done a very good job teaching him the Torah and other Hebrew Scriptures.

It was the words that Jesus said to his mother, after they found him sitting among the teachers at the Temple, they contained the key I had been missing -- "**I must be about my Father's work.**" He had not known that when he arrived at the Temple -- and it was unknown to his own mother.

I tried to put myself in his shoes and visualize something in Temple environment that would have been **the source of information about "my Father's work."** I was standing in **one of the wonders of the ancient world.** It was commissioned by Herod the Great. The people associated with Temple were all What would have caught the attention of a 12-year-old boy? Put yourself in his shoes in that environment -- **this was the closest a human could come to Elohim** (*the Creator of the Skies and the Earth*), **Yahweh** (*the Planter of the Garden in Eden*). Suddenly you surrounded by the most beautiful music and you hear these words.

Great is **Yahweh!** Much praised is the City of our **Elohim**, Mount of His Holiness. Fairest sights, joy of the whole earth. Mount Zion, by the sides of the north. The city of the great king. **Elohim** is known in the city's palaces is known as "**the Stronghold.**"

Behold! Kings have assembled and they came together. They saw *it, and* so they marveled; they were terrified and fled away. Trembling gripped them, convulsions like a woman in birth pangs . . .

Walk around Zion, encircle her, count her towers. **Mark well in your hearts, her ramparts, raise up her palaces; so that you may recount it to the generations that follow.** For this is **Elohim**, our **Strong One** forever and ever; He will **guide us like children.**³

The psalm ended with "**He will guide us like children.**" That is what **a Father** would do! Is he supposed to do "**Elohim's work?**" Then the music began again.

Hear this! All of you **AMIYM**, **people inhabiting the world of the living!**
Both children of **ADAM**, and children of **ISH** --
together the **rich** and the **poor.**

³ Psalm 48 BHC Translation

My mouth shall speak wisdom,
the thoughts and plans of my heart,
intelligence and skills . . .

Why should I be fearful in times of trouble,
when the crooked or wrong works of the cunning and crafty ones surround me?

People who trust wealth, power, and property;
they themselves boast about the abundance of their riches --
[yet with all of his riches] a brother cannot in any way be redeemed **by an ISH.**

He cannot give **Elohim** a ransom for him.

Too costly is the redemption of a soul;
and it is unattainable forever. . .

Fear not, when an **ISH** gains riches,
when he increases the glory of his house.

For upon his death he shall take nothing at all;
his glory shall not descend after him.

Though **IN HIS LIFETIME, HIMSELF, HE MAY BLESS;**
others will praise you, **if you do acts like the Creator did for yourself.**
You shall come to the place of your fathers (the edge of the grave);
for eternity they shall not see light.

ADAM is glorious **but if he does not understand (what he is),**
he is likened to the large dead animal that cannot speak!⁴

I believe 12-year-old Jesus grasped these clues for finding wisdom:

- Discover the differences between ELOHIM and YAHWEH.
- Discover the meanings of AMIYM, ADAM, ISH.
- Discover how an ISH can bless himself while he is alive.

Jesus saw the most “learned man in the Temple,” Hillel, and shared his experience with him. Hillel’s questions created the path for Jesus to follow as he searched for the things above. Hillel lived for three more years, and I believe Jesus went to his school when he was in Jerusalem. Eighteen years later Jesus was teaching this (Matthew 6:19-24):

⁴ Psalm 49.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures with Elohim**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore you have a **GOOD EYE, your whole body will be full of light (LIFE)**. But if you have an **EVIL EYE your whole body will be full of darkness (DEATH)**. **If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve Elohim and wealth.**”

Now it is your turn: Listen to these words with your ears and your heart!

Hear this!

All of you **AMIYM, people inhabiting the world of the living!**

Both children of **ADAM**, and children of **ISH** –
together the **rich** and the **poor**.

My mouth shall speak wisdom,
the thoughts and plans of my heart,
intelligence and skills . . .

I will help those who want to understand the teachings of Jesus and Hillel about ELOHIM and YAHWEH; AMIYM, ADAM, and ISH; blessing yourself while you are still alive; and how to explore Elohim’s Wisdom and Yahweh’s Justice.

- Option 1: **Observe our teachings** by following us on the Internet.
- Option 2: Train to become **BHC Explorers** by **following our Guides to Explore the Bible, Biblical Heritages, and their Belief Systems**, as part of our network.

Acquiring this wisdom is something that must be done each day. There are no quick and easy one-time rituals that will save you – and your family -- from the crooked and wrong works of the cunning and crafty ones that are destroying lives in our neighborhoods and communities. Choose an option when you are ready. But Choose Life Now! **BHC**