

Hebrew for the Goyim

© 2008, Pat Mercer Hutchens, Ph.D

New President. After two years of campaign ads, speeches 24/7 and hundreds of millions of dollars, America now has a new President (as of January 20, 2009). President Obama's entire campaign focused on "change." The majority of the electorate bought it but many now ask the question, "Change from what to what?" Some no doubt feel like Bud Abbott & Lou Costello in their famous "Who's on first base" dialogue. Here's part of that exchange.

Q: If you're the coach, you must know all the players.

A: I certainly do.

Q: I've never met the guys...tell me their names and then I'll know whose playing on the team. I'll be able to say hello...

A: I'll tell you their names, but it seems to me they give these ball players now-a-days very peculiar names...**Whos** on first.

Q: Yeah, who's on first?

A: Right. **Whos** on first. **Whats** on second and **I don-know** is on third.

Q: You are the manager, right? You know the fellows names, right? Tell me the guys' names!

A: I just told you. **Whos** on first, **Whats** on second and **I don-know** is on third.

Q: You got a first baseman?

A: Certainly.

Q: Who's playing first?

A: That's right.

Q: Look - when you pay off the first baseman every month, who gets the money?

A: Every dollar of it.

Q: **Who** gets the money?

A: He does, every dollar. Sometimes his wife comes down and collects it.

Q: Whose wife?

A: Yes.

Q: Look, I'm only asking you, what's the guy's name on first.

A: No, - **Whats** on second base, **Whos** on first.

On it goes with neither one understanding the other, although each knows exactly what **he** is thinking.

We don-know. With a new President in office who ran on "change" but whose first choices for leadership are the old guard in Washington, *we don-know* what change means. Change from what to what? Supposedly the stock market went up a few hundred points because of one appointment, but went down almost 700 points with the same appointments in place. The point is: We don-know. Sometimes it seems to everyday people that nobody knows.

What we do know. When you get to the end of the day or the end of an election, believers in the Almighty God and followers of Jesus do what they have always done - hunker down, pray, trust God and review the marching orders found in the Holy Scriptures. There they find a call to pray for their leaders (I Timothy 2:1,2), clean up their own act (Isaiah, Chapter 1), trust God (Psalm 37:3,40) and live by faith (Hebrew 6:12). However, that faith is not neutral. Faith is not some generic,



Day One Creation (Dover Publications)

sort of believing in general and hoping for the best. Once I heard a pastor say, "Always pray for specifics. Some Christians' prayers are so vague, even the Devil don-know what to fight." Or, as an old adage says, "If you aim at nothing, you are **sure** to hit it." That is even true with prayer.

Uncertain times. Further, when we speak of uncertain times, we speak of uncertainty from *man's point of view*. God is always certain. *We don-know* what the future holds. God does. *We don-know* when present wars will end or the next wars begin. God does. *We don-know* what is going to happen. God does. In fact, the very *names* of Jehovah God indicate He does know, He does see, He does hear.

Jehovah Jireh. We sing the song, "Jehovah Jireh, Our provider..." yet many *don-know* what it really means. In Hebrew it is "Yahweh (יהוה) Yireh" (יראה) and comes from the great story of Abraham and Isaac found in Genesis 22. Let's review it. After years of waiting for a son, Abraham and Sarah had Isaac, but then God tested Abraham and asked him to "take your 'only son, whom you love' and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there for a burnt sacrifice." Abraham took his son, two young men, wood for the altar and set out to do just that. When Isaac asked, "My father, where is the *lamb* (השה) for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God (אלהים) will see (יראה) to it (לו)." Later when God *did* provide a ram (איל), Abraham called the name of that place *Yabweh* (יהוה) *Yireb* (יראה). Since everything is present tense to The Eternal One, it translates, "Yahweh SEES." Not Yahweh saw, will see, might see, can see - but SEES.

What does it mean? President Obama may have good vision - he may even have some good ideas. But his or anyone else's "seeing" is **not** what the Bible means when it says *Yabweh Yireb*.

The letters. Resh (ר) is a letter which signifies movement and is found in the word *head* (ראש *resh* ראש), which also *begins* with

the letter *resh*. The origin of *resh* is sourced in Egyptian hieroglyphs, where a dotted circle stood for what the sun represented - the Eternal God as Creator, Source of all life and light, whose principle stands for all creation. The drawing of an eye with rays coming out of it was a symbol of *ra* (רא), which combines *alef* (א - God, higher power) with *resh* (ר - movement). **Visualize God as rays** (ra - רא) of **light** (אור God *is* light) coming from the furthestmost reach of the universe to earth - to "see" one of his children in distress. That is what "Yahweh Yireh" means. Not just that the Eternal One stares through the heavens just to look around and see what's going on down on planet earth. No, when God **sees**, it means God comes to the rescue.

Human fathers. Imagine a loving father "seeing" his little boy fall on a concrete side walk and get a bloody nose. Imagine hearing the child scream over and over, "Daddy, daddy." Would the father say, "Oh, yes, my son, I see you there with your bloody nose. Yes, I do indeed see. From now on, son, you may call me, 'Daddy sees.'" A thousands times No! That father would rush to the aid of his little one, pick him up, clean him up and meet his every need. Why? Because a father's *seeing* makes a way to *do something*, to help, to provide an answer. He rushes to the little one's side and saves him. That is meaning of this title, *Yabweh Yireb*. And it pleases the LORD when his followers call out in faith and trust, just as Abraham did when he started up the hill to surrender Isaac. Abraham confidently told the two companions he took with them, "You *stay here with the donkey...I* (אני) *and the lad* (הנער) *we will go* (נלכה) *yonder; and we will worship* (נשתחוה) *and we will return* (נשובה) *to you.*" General Douglas McArthur could not have said it better. Only Abraham did not say "I will return." He said "**We will return.**" That's faith. Already on the mountain was a ram with his horns stuck in a thicket.... waiting.

So Who's on first? Who's on second? Who's on third? Who's pitching? Who's catching? Who's in the end field? Our God is. Who owns the team and knows our names? Who knows the outcome? Who hears us when we pray? Who provides for our needs? Our God does. And His name is **Yabweh Yireb**. Could we hear three cheers for Almighty God, the Manager/Owner and for His Anointed One, Jesus!

NOTE: Please go to the back of the magazine to see the painting "Father Make a Way." This painting is about Abraham's plea to God even as he walked up Mount Moriah - similar to the prayer of Jesus, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me."

TJCI is now on Facebook!

Because of the increasing popularity of social networking, *The Jerusalem Connection, International*, has branched out to the realm of Facebook.com. Social-networking Web sites, such as Facebook, form tightly knit online communities and provide an outlet for communicating information quickly and easily. TJCI is using its presence on Facebook to provide an outlet for discussion of pertinent information; to promote various events, fundraisers and humanitarian causes; and to bring a voice for Christian Zionism to Facebook.

To become a member and connect to other Zionist friends on the TJCI Facebook page, login to Facebook and type "The Jerusalem Connection" in the search box on the upper left. Join the friend network, write a message on the wall or watch the videos, and share the TJCI group with your Facebook friends!

