**Vol. 5 - # 14 --**  © 2017 – D.v.D. EDITOR *Dirk J. van Dalen*, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, E.B.C.S.  **vabdalen3phd@gmail.com**

 *Shabbat* **✡**  Musings <>< 

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**Weekend of Tevet 5, 5778 – December 23, 2017 -–** ויגּשּׁ[Vayigash] Genesis 44: 18 – 47: 28.

***“Then Judah came near to him and said: O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord’s hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh.”***

-- Genesis 44: 18 --

This was Judah’s plea to his brother Joseph, again making one of Joseph’s dreams come to fulfillment. By now, Joseph has difficulty retain-ing his composure as none of his brothers had a clue as to who Joseph really was; the brother whom they had sold into slavery. Later the brothers will hear Joseph say that:***…“You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring about this day, to save many people alive.”* (Gen. 50: 20)**

Ya’akov’s sons paid a heavy price before they were made aware of whom they were dealing with, when they had come to Egypt for food. They initially did not get what they needed but eventually, they got a lot more than they bargained for, and the experience had been a scary one. It had been approximately fourteen years that they had maintained the lie about Joseph’s disappearance. For all these years they had been totally ignorant of God’s Master plan for the eventual birth of Messiah.

What does this have to do with “Christmas” and placing the birth of Messiah on the 25th of December? **NOTHING**! **NADA! ZILCH! NIXS!**

However, the 4th son of Ya’akov, Judah, became the Patriarch of the line from which Messiah would come forth. Ya’akov was very *specific* in deciding Judah’s genealogical position in his, then future, history.

***“Judah is a lion’s whelp;…He lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Messiah comes.”***

-- **Genesis 49: 9, 10** –

Wouldn’t it behoove us to be *specific* in deciding when Yeshua was really born?

**Some Additional Facts to Consider.**

December is the month of Hanukkah and per **John 10: 22** that’s in the winter.

**FACT**: In the winter there’re no sheep in the fields and no shepherds.

**FACT:** Torah **(Word of God)** was handed to Moshe during the first **Shavuot** after leaving Egypt.

**FACT:** Fast forward to the first **Shavuot** after the Resurrection, during which the Ruach Elohim **(Spirit of God)** was “given” to the Disciples.

**FACT:** People in the Roman pro-vinces were given two years to fulfill their registration obligations as decreed by Caesar Augustus **(Lk 2; 1).**

**FACT:** The reason for thecrowded situation in Jerusalem and Bethlehem was caused by the (male) pilgrims who came to Jerusalem to fulfill their Temple obligation on **Shavuot** in 6 BCE. The lack of lodging space had nothing to do with the decreed registration.

 **FACT: *“In the sixth month*** (Elul***\****) ***Gabriel went to Nazareth, to a virgin named Miriam. She conceived to bring forth a Son she named Yeshua”* (Luke 1: 26 – 33).**

**FACT:** Miriam’s relative Elisabeth is six months pregnant at this time Making John the Immerser 6 months older than Yeshua). **(Luke 1: 36-38).**

**FACT:** Elisabeth having another three months to go, means that John was born in Chislev (Dec.-Jan).

**FACT:** Miriam was pregnant when she visited Elisabeth means she con-ceived at or about the time Gabriel visited her in Elul. Nine months from Elul puts her in Sivan (May-June, the time of **Shavuot**).

**FACT:** At that time the shepherds and the animals are in the fields, the stables are clean. It is also the time-line as given in the Bible that puts the birth of Messiah at the time of **Shavuot**. In other words, in the Spring and on the same Feast of the LORD on which Torah and the Holy Spirit were given to mankind.

 **FACT:** This busts the Christmas-December myth asit was initiated and propagated by the Church of Rome and later continued by the “Christian” denominations that sprouted forth from the Reformation.

**FACT:** There’s nothing wrong with commemorating the birth of Messiah Yeshua. He is the ultimate “Christmas” Gift, but let the commemoration of His birth be driven by our knowledge of the biblical facts, not by the propaganda coming from the R.C.C.; Macy’s; Kohl’s; Wal-Mart; Kay Jewelers, The P.T.G.A. or any other finance-driven institution!

Have a Merry Christmas!



And Shabbat Shalom!

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**\*** Elul, (Aug.-Sept.) + 9 = Sivan [May-Jun. (Shavuot?)]