



# Out of Zion

July 2024 Newsletter

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*"For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:4"*

## For An Angel Went Down.. Troubled the Water!

*...and whosoever stepped in was made whole. We are experiencing amazing changes in the lives of men, women and children from all over the Holy Land. Won't you join us in our endeavors?*

The New Testament recounts a fascinating story about an angel troubling the waters, bringing hope and healing to those who sought it. This narrative is found in John 5:1-4, where the Apostle John describes a pool in Jerusalem called Bethesda. According to the scripture, a multitude of sick people—blind, lame, and paralyzed—would lie in wait at the pool, anticipating a miraculous event. At certain times, an angel would descend and stir the water, and whoever first stepped into the pool after the water was troubled would be healed of their ailments.

This miraculous account captures the essence of divine intervention and the yearning for spiritual and physical healing. It reflects a time when faith and the belief in miracles were central to the lives of those who sought solace and restoration. The story of the angel troubling the waters resonates deeply with the faithful, symbolizing the power of God to bring about profound change and healing.

Fast forward to the present day, and we find that the Jordan River has become a modern-day site for spiritual renewal and healing. This year, there has been a notable increase in the number of baptisms taking place in the Jordan River. Christians from around the world travel to this historic river, where John the Baptist baptized Jesus, to participate in this sacred rite. These baptisms are a powerful expression of faith and commitment,

echoing the transformative power of the waters of Bethesda.

The connection between the troubling of the water at Bethesda and the baptisms in the Jordan River is profound. Both involve water as a symbol of cleansing, renewal, and divine grace. For those being baptized in the Jordan, the experience is often described as life-changing, much like the healing that occurred at the pool of Bethesda.

The act of baptism signifies a rebirth, a washing away of sins, and the beginning of a new life in Christ.

This year, the Jordan River has witnessed an influx of pilgrims seeking to deepen their faith through baptism. These individuals are drawn to the river not only by

its biblical significance but also by the desire to experience a tangible connection to the divine. The sacred waters of the Jordan offer a moment of spiritual clarity and a reaffirmation of faith, much like the waters of Bethesda offered healing to those who believed.

In essence, the story of the angel troubling the waters and the modern baptisms in the Jordan River are united by the enduring power of faith and the belief in divine intervention. Both narratives remind us that water, as a symbol of God's grace and mercy, continues to play a pivotal role in the spiritual journey of believers. As the waters of the Jordan River continue to welcome those seeking baptism, they stand as a testament to the timeless and transformative power of faith.



**We stand amazed at what God is doing in the middle east....**every one of our leaders are dedicated to strengthening and edifying those given to us by the daily miraculous intervention we are experiencing on a regular basis.

Honestly, it's humbling to realize that *'for such a time as this'* our dreams and hopes for the hearts and lives of precious souls are coming to pass.

*Shawn & Tammy Turner*





Believers from all over the holy land gathered in Jerusalem for this years **GENERAL CONFERENCE ISRAEL 2024**...Raanana, Jerusalem, Levanda, Hagana (Tel Aviv), to pray, sing and celebrate through song, prayers, testimonies and preaching. Lives were forever changed.



The services were anointed with **strength and power**.....Lives were utterly transformed by the electrifying power of the preached word, leaving everyone profoundly changed and ignited with an unquenchable inspiration to serve our living God.



**Dr. Dan Butler speaking**...We were thrilled to be surprised by Dr. Dan Butler from Bellflower, California, who joined us in Israel for our General Conference. He graciously consented to deliver an inspiring and hopeful message. Thank you, Dr. Butler!

**Associated Ministries of UPC Israel**



**THE HEIFER** not only had to be "without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke"

...but its horns, hooves, and even eyelashes had to be red. Numbers 19:2



**The Tanach, or Hebrew Bible, references the Red Heifer in the book of Numbers 19:1-22.**

This passage outlines a critical aspect of purification laws in ancient Israelite practice. According to the text, the Red Heifer must be without defect or blemish and must never have borne a yoke. The heifer is to be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in the presence of the priest, who then takes some of its blood and sprinkles it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting. The entire heifer, including its hide, flesh, blood, and offal, is to be burned, along with cedarwood, hyssop, and scarlet yarn. The ashes from this burning are gathered and stored in a clean place outside the camp, to be used in making the "water of purification" for the

Israelite community. This water, mixed with the ashes, is used to purify individuals who have become ritually unclean by touching a dead body. The purification process involves sprinkling the water on the unclean person on the third and seventh days of their impurity. On the seventh day, after being sprinkled, the person must wash their clothes and bathe, becoming clean by evening. The ritual of the Red Heifer underscores the importance of purity laws and the lengths to which the Israelites went to maintain ritual cleanliness before God.



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