



And He will lift up a standard for the nations,
and will assemble the banished ones of Israel,
and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the
four corners of the earth. Isaiah 11:12

RESCUE | RETURN | RESTORE



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Shavuot and the Language of Aliyah

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro

The book of Acts of the Apostles begins with an account of the last words spoken on earth by their beloved Rabbi from Nazareth, Yeshua. It then goes on to record the dramatic events that followed. Thanks to their obedience to Torah and their Rabbi they would go on to change the world forever.

The Torah and almost all the prophets speak of a day when Jewish people would live outside of the land of Israel and be scattered throughout the other nations of the world. The Torah also commands that the Jewish men appear before their God in Jerusalem three times a year for the Feasts of the Lord. The three pilgrimage Feasts are Pesach (Passover) Shavuot (Pentecost) and Sukkot (The Feast of Tabernacles). Thus Torah observant families would make aliyah or ascend to Jerusalem three times a year.



So when the book of Acts records; *“And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.”* (Acts 2:5) it was not a random day or in any way a coincidence. It was directly due to their obedience to the Torah’s pilgrimage command regarding the Feast of Shavuot. (Ex. 23:14-17, Ex. 34:22-24, Duet. 16:16)

But the significance of the Shavuot recorded in the book of Acts goes even deeper in regards to the aliyah that is occurring today. The fact that the Jewish people had been scattered into the nations created a communication problem that did not exist when the Torah was first given to Moses at Mt. Sinai. Thus, God overcame the language barrier by supernaturally speaking through these Galilean fishermen in the language of everyone present.

Not relatively long after these events the Jewish people were dispersed for a second time and are still scattered into the four corners of the earth. So whenever I visit with our National or Regional Directors overseas, we have interpreters along to facilitate communication. Recently I asked our Field Operations Manager, Pat Frame to list some of the languages that the Ezra International team speaks. The following list is not all-inclusive but was her immediate response off the top of her head: Russian, Ukrainian, Armenian, Azeri, Spanish, Moldovan/Romanian, Belorussian, German, Hungarian, Georgian, Turkish and English.

Today many of the Jewish people of the nations are not even aware of their right to return or of how the Torah and the prophets speak of the re-gathering to the land of Israel. **So how do they find out? Who is telling them? Who is speaking their language?** The faithful staff and volunteers of Ezra International are part of the lasting legacy of the Disciples and the book of Acts and they speak their language. The representatives to whom I must speak with through interpreters are the very people whom God is using today to clearly communicate to these Jewish families

around the world. With no language barrier to overcome, God is using them to fulfill His purposes in nation after nation where Ezra is working.

Ezra International donors are directly responsible for the sending out these modern day "Fishermen" (*Jeremiah 16:16*) from the nations. Every month hundreds of Jewish people are responding to the call to return home to Israel. They are clearly hearing the language of the Aliyah!