



Q & A with Dr. LaSalle Vaughn author of

The Next Great Move of God

Christians Returning to Their Hebraic Roots

Q. Why are you such a strong catalyst for Christians returning to their Hebraic roots?

A. Very simply Jesus is a Jew. “He’s the same yesterday, today and forever.” He celebrated the Shabbat, the Feast Days, and also studied the Torah. Christians, like the Prodigal Son were scattered into the nations. With loose living, we worshiped any way we wanted, became intoxicated by the world, and eventually denied the Jewishness of Jesus, thereby rejecting their heritage. Today we have experienced a famine of God’s teaching and instruction. We must come back to our Hebraic roots, our forefathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob because a famine of the Word is coming (Amos 8:11).

Today, Christians who observe Shabbat and the moadim are called by other Christians “religious” and are said to be acting as if they’re still under the law. However, this couldn’t be further from the truth. According to a *Time Magazine* article titled “Re-Judaizing Jesus” by David Van Biema, Vanderbilt University New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine says, “If you get the [Jewish] context wrong, you will certainly get Jesus wrong.”

The Prodigal Son realized his need to be restored to his father. When we realize we have to go back and be restored to the hearts of the fathers of our faith: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to the Torah, we too have come to our senses. The church as a whole is still a long way off. However, God feels compassion for those who are returning; therefore, He is beginning to open up to us the secret things of God.”

As a catalyst for Christians returning to their Hebraic roots of their faith, we’ve produced of two major conferences- *Celebrate Israel* and *Days of Elijah Conference*. These powerful conferences have been built to encourage both church leadership and individuals to return, embrace and celebrate the Hebraic Heritage of the Christian Faith.

Q. You have authored a powerful new book titled “The Next Great Move of God.” What do you believe that move will be?

A. The next great move of God is for the church to know that the root of Christianity is biblical Judaism and to learn how to look at Scripture in light of our Hebraic heritage. I believe these are the Days of Elijah.

(cont.)

Although many churches teach that God will send Elijah the prophet in the *flesh*, which will cause children to return to their natural fathers (Malachi 3:5-6), I believe this Scripture has a profoundly deeper meaning. God is sending the *spirit of Elijah*. His people will be compelled to turn their hearts back to their spiritual fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Malachi tells us that before the Messiah's imminent return, something significant will happen in the lives of believers. As we remember the Law of Moses, His people will begin to study God's teaching and instruction – the Torah – and then He'll send the spirit of Elijah and restore all things.

Gal. 3:29 declares "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's children and heirs to the promise."

The Next Great Move of God is designed to help us navigate our way back to our Hebraic roots so we can reclaim our inheritance as God restores all things.

Q. You said "Most Christians are well versed on the topic of salvation, but never leave the foot of the cross." What exactly do you mean?

A. Many Christians are saved but not converted. The majority of Christians don't realize that this walk is a lifestyle of obedience to the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Many Christians have this misconception that we're no longer "under the law." And it's true that we're not under the legalistic part of the law, because Jesus fulfilled the requirements that were necessary for salvation. But He tells us in Matthew 5:17, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law [Torah] or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill." God's teaching and instruction still stands today.

As a result of this misconception, many Christians are likely to live defeated lives, and experience many years of struggle and frustration. The purpose of this book is to equip Christians to look at their Bible through Hebrew eyes, thus helping them understand the need to be obedient to the entire Bible in their daily walk. They will learn the true meaning of the Holy Scriptures, and the principles necessary to enjoy a victorious life in Christ.

Q. Dr. Vaughn, why do you believe Christians have veered off course from the original design the Lord gave us for his body of believers?

A. The first century church clearly identified with Judaism. The primary reason for the drift of the second century church to its final divorce from Israel in the seventh century is that some of the early church fathers were anti-Semitic.

Some of these major influences were:

1. In 325 A.D., **Constantine** convened the Council of Nicea, where it was decided: that God's holy days were replaced by man's holidays. God's feast days were changed so that there would be a universal church.
2. **Eusebius**, who is credited with being the father of church history, wrote *Ecclesiastical History* during the reign of the Constantine. He believed the Church was the New Israel and had replaced Israel in God's plan.

3. In 1542, **Martin Luther** wrote a 200-page book entitled *Against the Jews and Their Lies*. Where he was once sympathetic toward the Jews, Luther describes the Jews as “alien murders and blood thirsty enemies.”

They all rejected the Jewish roots of Christianity and deceptively moved the church into a separate false belief system.

Q. What do you believe the “one new man” teaching is that is revealed in Ephesians 2:14-16?

A. The one new man is a total representation of both the Jewish and non Jewish believers in Christ. God is bringing the whole house of Israel back together again. The *house of Israel* includes the church of the Lord Jesus Christ because it involves the multitude of nations. Scattered all over the world, we began to get involved in pagan worship; however, we did embrace Jesus as Lord. Now, God is drawing the church back to our Hebraic roots. The *house of Judah* represents the Jewish people. The house of Judah has held fast to its Hebraic roots. God is causing the Jews to embrace Yeshua as their Messiah, and the church to embrace their Hebraic roots. When this happens, God will take the *house of Israel* and the *house of Judah* and form one new man according to Paul in the book of Ephesians:

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

—Ephesians 2:14-16

I believe God is calling His people back to the land of Israel, and is calling Christians back to their Hebraic roots.

Q. Why do you believe it is important for all believers to honor the appointed feasts the Lord gave the children of Israel?

A. As we recognize and honor God’s moadim, He’ll meet with us and reveal Himself in special ways. In biblical times, like the men of Issachar, the apostles and prophets were adept at determining the times and the seasons. Because of our ill-fated separation from the Jewish faith, Christians have lost this crucial key. Honoring the feast days will help us discern the seasons and understand the times in which we live.

According to Leviticus 23:1-2, God’s appointed times, His rehearsals, His feasts days, are not solely a Jewish custom. These are God's moadim, and I believe He wants everyone to recognize and to honor them.

Our church celebrates all the feast days and also hosts two Hebraic conferences, Celebrate Israel on **May 14th – 16th**, which commemorates Israel becoming a Nation. This year Robert Stearns will be our keynote speaker and the Day of Elijah Conference on **November 12-14**. Bill Cloud is our annual speaker for this Hebraic roots conference. People that want to learn more about the importance of Israel and Christians returning to their Hebraic roots are welcomed to attend. The celebration of God's appointed feast days is an essential step for Christians to embrace fully their Hebraic roots.

Q. What are the differences between traditional Christians' perceptions of Yeshua and those of believers who embrace their Hebraic roots?

A. Many Christians go to church, hear the Word of God, and are full of biblical knowledge. They know how to *say* the right things in Christian circles, but don't *walk out* the lifestyle taught in the Bible? There seems to be little distinction between the behavior of the average Christian and the behavior of the people in the world today.

In the last days, there will be two prophetic churches on the scene. One that identifies with Rome and one that identifies with Jerusalem. The church that identifies with Rome will be the harlot of the beast (Revelation 17:5,) and the church that identifies with Jerusalem will be the bride of Christ if they live holy (Revelation 19:7). Embracing your Hebraic roots will cause you to identify with Jerusalem.

Q. You believe the prosperity of our nation and the individual who lives in America – is tied to the nation of Israel. Please explain this from a biblical perspective.

The US is blessed because we bless Israel. As Christians, we believe that we've been grafted in and that we share in the inheritance of Israel. In Genesis 12:3, the Bible clearly tells us that God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse her. Psalm 122:6 says, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.'" I believe that God will give the body of Christ creative ideas, divine wisdom, divine favor, knowledge, and tremendous prosperity.

Anyone can pray for the peace of Jerusalem, but not everyone can love her. When you love Jerusalem, you take on a different mind-set. Loving Israel means we love everything about Israel – especially her people. The latter part of this Scripture is the missing link to our prosperity. If the church loves Israel, it'll prosper. Supernaturally, God can place love in your heart for the city of Jerusalem.

Heaven forbid the US pressures Israel to divide Jerusalem or give up more land. I have dear Jewish friends in Judea and Samaria some of which we visited during a trip to Israel last year during Thanksgiving. We took 160 people to the City of Efrat near Bethlehem, for a wonderful time of dialogue at the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation founded by Rabbi Shlomo Riskin.

Q. Your church is definitely distinct. Tell us why you incorporate Davidic worship, the Torah and celebration of the feasts into your services.

A. As the Bible says in the book of Proverbs, "The steps of a good man are ordered by God." One of the chapters in my book "The Great Next Move of God" is entitled "Returning to the Ancient Paths." God is ordering us to return to the ancient paths, our Hebraic roots. In our quest to learn more about Yeshua, we embrace His roots, heritage, and culture. We study the Torah. We embrace

Jewish history and customs. We sing Hebrew songs. We travel to Israel and we pray daily for her. I firmly believe that the God of Israel, His Word, Land, and His people are inseparable. To understand one, we must study and embrace them all.

Q. Dr. Vaughn, your church has a deep love for Israel. How did you become such an advocate for the Holy Land and the Jewish people?

A. In 1980, my daughter, Erica, and I traveled to Israel. There I realized that throughout the first century, Jewish and non-Jewish believers observed the Sabbath, celebrated the feast days, and studied the Torah. I never thought these things were important to me because, after all, I'm not a Jew. I began to contemplate the Jewishness of Jesus. If God came to earth as a Jew and selected Jewish followers, then the Jewish nation of Israel and all things Jewish must be special to Him.

For over thirty years, I've been traveling to and leading groups to Israel. Every time I go to Israel I become more passionate about my love of the land, people, the Torah, and the God of Israel.

I'm also honored to be working with Pastor John Hagee as the City of San Antonio Director for Christians United for Israel (CUFI). We're traveling to Israel in March, as well as preparing for the annual CUFI Washington DC Summit on July 20th-22nd, where thousands personally lobby our representatives to support Israel.

**For more information about this author contact
Bring It On! Communications
rhonda@bringitoncommunications.com
(541) 549.1139**

Biography of Dr. LaSalle R. Vaughn author of
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Dr. LaSalle R. Vaughn, a retired USAF officer, author, international speaker and pastor of *New Life Christian Center* is a well-respected lecturer and Bible scholar who believes in empowering people through education, and community revitalization. He is the founder and Pastor of New Life Christian Center (NLCA-1987). New Life is one of the largest multicultural congregations in San Antonio, Texas with over 4,000 members and partners worldwide.

Dr. Vaughn is the chairman and CEO of the International Community Development Corporation (ICDC). Since 2002, this organization has played a fundamental role in developing city plans to invigorate sectors of San Antonio. The mission of this corporation is to develop the community through a holistic approach of empowerment and revitalization by linking and leveraging local, national, and international resources. The services provided by this organization benefit the community in the areas of education, community development, and family and social programs such as: *The New Beginnings Program* – a faith-based life skills mentoring course, and *The San Antonio 9-11 Memorial & Educational Initiative* – A San Antonio Homeland security education site. In 1997, he instituted *The New Life Christian Center Toy Give Away* an annual toy giveaway uniting with local businesses to give thousands of toys to inner city children each Christmas.

As a retired Career Air Force Officer who trained officers and conducted top-secret missions in the Middle East, Dr. Vaughn received his call to pastor while in Egypt. Under the direction of Dr. Vaughn, New Life is a unique blend of cultures with Davidic worship, Torah studies and the celebration of Jewish Feasts. Dr. Vaughn and New Life's love for Israel is unmistakable by its many pilgrimages to this Holy Land, the annual Celebrate Israel Conference, Days of Elijah conferences and the Jewish influences concerning the New Life campus layout.

God commissioned Dr. Vaughn to create a little piece of Israel in San Antonio. The result is the Galilee Prayer Garden. The garden is a beautiful reminder of our beloved Israel with an outdoor sanctuary with seating in the form of a menorah, a lake in the shape of the Galilee, stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a 6 foot menorah, and a replica of the Western Wall. The stones used to build the wall were taken from the same quarry in Israel where the stones were taken to build Solomon's temple.

As a strong catalyst for Christians returning to their Hebraic roots of their faith, Dr. Vaughn has produced of two major conferences – *Celebrate Israel* and *Days of Elijah Conference*. These powerful conferences have been built to encourage both church leadership and individuals to return, embrace and celebrate the Hebraic Heritage of the Christian Faith. Dr. Vaughn, not ashamed of his commission from GOD concerning Israel, has been quoted that “*The next great move of GOD will be to have Christians returning to their Hebraic roots.*”

Dr. Vaughn celebrates 40 years of marriage with his wife and best friend Portia Brooks Vaughn. Together they have three married, adult children and five grandchildren (Solomon, Zachary, Zoe, Sydney, and LaSalle VI).

For more information on this author contact Bring It On! Communications
rhonda@bringitoncommunications.com or (541) 549.1139

Suggested Interview Topics and Questions for LaSalle Vaughn author of
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TOPICS:

- Christian-Jewish relations: how and why Christians should support Israel
- The challenge with the American church today.
- Why church “as usual” doesn’t work.
- What it’s like for a retired Air Force officer to pastor a multicultural church

QUESTIONS:

1. **Why are you such a strong catalyst for Christians returning to their Hebraic roots?**
2. **You have authored a powerful new book titled “The Next Great Move of God.” What do you believe that move will be?**
3. **You said “Most Christians are well versed on the topic of salvation, but never leave the foot of the cross.” What exactly do you mean?**
4. **Dr. Vaughn, why do you believe Christians have veered off course from the original design the Lord gave us for his body of believers?**
5. **What do you believe the “one new man” teaching is that is revealed in Ephesians 2:14-16?**
6. **Why do you believe it is important for all believers to honor the appointed feasts the Lord gave the children of Israel?**
7. **What are the differences between traditional Christians’ perceptions of Yeshua and those of believers who embrace their Hebraic roots?**
8. **You believe the prosperity of our nation and the individual who lives in America – is tied to the nation of Israel. Please explain this from a biblical perspective.**
9. **Your church is definitely distinct. Tell us why you incorporate Davidic worship, the Torah and celebration of the feasts into your services.**
10. **Dr. Vaughn, your church has a deep love for Israel. How did you become such an advocate for the Holy Land and the Jewish people?**

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