



# The Smiling Maven

Grace for Grace (John 1:16)  
חסד על חסד (יוחנן א'טו)

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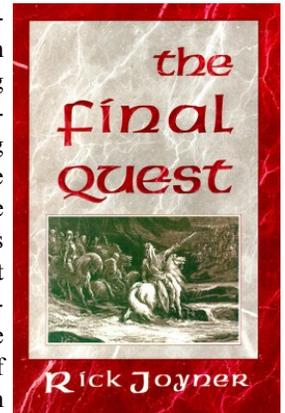
## Book Review—The Final Quest by Rick Joyner

This is the fourth of six ‘special’ book reviews. These books are *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, *Deadline*, *A Grief Observed*, *The Final Quest*, *Wild at Heart*, and *Mere Christianity*. Each of these ministered grace to me during a very difficult and dark time in my life. They each express something of genuine grace in a unique and dynamic way. Though I might say that *The Ragamuffin Gospel* was my favorite of the six, *The Final Quest* is the one with the sharpest and deepest surgical cutting knife.

*The Final Quest* is a vision book. Some people become uncomfortable with the very concept of visions. If you look on the inter-

net, you can easily find some negative reviews about this book. I am not usually excited about modern ‘prophetic visions’. Though I believe in the operation of the gifts, and the full gospel, including the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, there can be abuse with the operation of the gifts, and if not abuse, there can be plenty of pride surrounding the gifts. Sadly, our pride, in the light of the cross, and in light of God’s lowliness in ministering through these earthen vessels (our bodies), is itself an abuse of the Holy Spirit. Negative judgments regarding the gifts are often done out of pride as well. We are all needy people. What eases my heart concerning this

book is that there seems to be a genuine humility, simplicity, and un-dogmatic “thus saith the Lord”, in the expression of this vision. (The statement “thus saith the Lord” is not used in the book). Y’shua continually spoke God’s message, yet he rarely, if ever, used the term “thus saith the Lord. The gospels, the revelation of Messiah reveals something of the utter lowliness of the King of Kings. The knowledge of the Most High God is that He is the most low. That lowliness and the understanding of that lowliness in the expression of spiritual truth is badly needed in the body of Messiah, and in the lives of God’s people. The expression and impartation of that lowliness is itself a righteous judgment of the Holy One, the Holy One of Israel, the Messiah Y’shua. The Final Quest as a vision expresses something of that lowliness, and the Lord’s yearning to impart His love in that amazing lowliness. This is a message easily missed by human pride.



The Final Quest is only 158 pages, yet it cannot be read quickly. If it is read quickly, it probably is not being *read*. Obviously, one’s heart needs to be somewhat open and receptive to what the Holy Spirit would want to reveal through this message. Some books

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### Freedom and Holiness

- 1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?
- 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him.
- 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
- 5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.
- 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.
- 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth.
- 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
- 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.
- 12 Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

(Isaiah 53)<sup>3</sup>

### Ministry Update

The Smiling Maven is produced bi-monthly with the exception of July. We publish issues in September, November, January, March and May. We will not be producing a July issue, but we will be sending out a special Ministry Update to our readers. We will be sharing our ministry vision, prayer concerns, as well as some financial needs. Please watch for this important letter.

## The Home Front—Sweet Sixteen, Bar Mitzvah, and Shortened Vacation.

March was a month of celebrations. We celebrated Ruthe's Sweet Sixteen at the Faith Homes on March 10. Dad also took Ruthe out on to Dinner and to the Lincolnshire Theatre to see "Grease". Ruthe, a big fan of the movie Grease, enjoyed the play very much. Dad also took Ruthe to the motor vehicle bureau; yes, for Ruthe's driver's license. Since then, Ruthe has been racking up miles on the Toyota Corolla. Ruthe has been working three days a week. Those days she drives to school, and then drives directly to work. Yes, she enjoys driving. She does pay for gas, which at current prices, is not a lot of fun. Dad is proud of his driving, working, sweet sixteen sophomore daughter.

March 24, 2007 was Caleb's Bar Mitzvah. Over a hundred people attended this event at the Zion Faith Homes. Dad and Caleb had worked together many hours over the last few months preparing for this special day. It is worthwhile mentioning that Caleb was the one that initially expressed the desire to have a Bar Mitzvah. Dad was actually somewhat reluctant and unsure about proceeding; it was Caleb's desire and persistence that finally persuaded Dad that this was the way to go. Both are glad for the experience, and blessing of this special event. Dad is proud of Caleb's accomplishment.

The day after the Bar Mitzvah the Weiners went on vacation. The van and camper were all packed and "ready" for a big trip. The goal was to head south; maybe as far as Pensacola, Florida. However, this was not accomplished. Driving through Central Indiana the van developed numerous mechanical problems. We stopped and stayed at a motel. We were able to repair a number of the problems, but the van had developed some internal engine issues that made a trip to Florida less than ideal. We decided to camp for a week in Illinois. Though the weather was often wet and damp, we had a good time as a family. It seems that we accepted the disappointment and somewhat embraced the unique circumstances. Maybe, we were blessed with some extra grace. That grace, alone, might be the greatest and most important celebration.



### *The Final Quest (continued from page 1)*

are a good read; the reader reads a good book. This book, though, is one where the book reads the reader. An alternative title might be the Final Judgment Judgment, not for the world and the sinner, but for the body of believers. The body of Messiah is in need of judgment, not punishment, not destruction, not exactly human criticism, but the genuine judgment, dividing of the good from the bad in the very heart of the believer. Hebrews 4:12 states that the word of God divides asunder soul and spirit, joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. God is after our intentions, our true, unmasked, motives. As Joyner states at one point: "I now think that most of the right things that I did, I did for the wrong reasons, and many of the wrong things I did, I had good motives for."<sup>2</sup> It is not unlikely that all our hearts need this type of judgment.

This book might not be the best book for one who has not yet expressed faith in Jesus as Messiah. It may not be the best book for someone who has rather strong or dogmatic views about prophetic expressions. Yet for the one who is looking and willing to allow the Lord's judgments in their own heart, this book can be quite powerful, quite meaningful, and most important, it can be life changing. May Messiah accomplish all He desires as open hearts look to Him through this

#### Notes:

1. Y'shua—ישוע (Hebrew) Jesus
2. The Final Quest P. 63. Whitaker House 1996
3. **Isaiah 53**

This is a powerful messianic prophecy. Though considered messianic by the rabbis before Jesus of Nazareth walked the earth, it is now often argued by the rabbis that the passage talks about Israel and not the Messiah. That interpretation has a number of problems:

- 1) Verse 4-6 and 10-12 tells us that the suffering servant suffers for the sins of others. Only one without sin can be an atonement or covering for others. Israel is not without sin.
- 2) Verse 7 tells us that the suffering servant suffers quietly and willingly. Has Israel always suffered quietly and willingly?
- 3) Verse 8 and 9 tells us that the suffering servant died and was buried. Though Israel has suffered, Israel has not died, nor been buried.

Freedom is found in Isaiah 53 when we realize that the Messiah has given himself to atone for our sins. Holiness is found in Isaiah 53 because the pure and holy love of God is demonstrated through the Messiah's suffering.



**The Smiling Maven** is a bi-monthly Jewish flavored newsletter sharing God's incredible grace. There is coming a spiritual atomic bomb of that incredible grace. It is an imminent spiritual explosion soon to happen in Israel that will have a wonderfully awesome affect in Israel and all the world.

Life is often hard. Suffering is a real part of life. Sometimes suffering enables us to see more clearly the reality that God loves us. He loves us unconditionally; it is not based on how we are doing. We may begin to understand the wonder of God's salvation through Messiah Y'shua. Grace might actually be breaking through into our lives. It is the experience of grace that can generate the most genuine smiles. Maven is a Yiddish word that means a person with special knowledge or experience. Evidence of God's grace should be characterized by an ability to smile. The Smiling Maven newsletter is an encouragement for all of us to be smiling mavens, smiling people with special knowledge of God's amazing grace.

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Someone needing to Smile More

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Making sure that our English keeps people smiling.

Production Assistant.....Ruthe Weiner  
Often producing more smiles than her dad.

Quality Control.....Caleb Weiner  
Smiling, especially while playing on the computer.

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