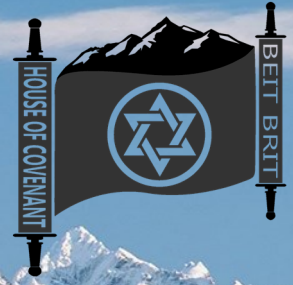


# House of Covenant NEWSLETTER

September 2025



## APPRECIATION - *Dan and Moriah Evans*

At House of Covenant, we thrive because of the individuals who faithfully give of themselves to support our congregation. This month, we're pleased to highlight a couple whose contributions have brought life, joy, and strength to our gatherings: Dan and Moriah Evans.

Dan has been a consistent and dependable presence, serving both on the security team and working around the property. Through both contractor work and moving tools and supplies between locations, he's been a steady presence to rely on. Whether it's ensuring the safety of our congregation during service or helping with building needs, his diligence has been a welcome blessing.

Moriah brings creativity through her shared leadership of the dance team. We've enjoyed many dances she's choreographed, all of which reflect her love for our Father and His people. Not only does she praise and dance up front, but her work with the children in our preschool ministry reflects a heart dedicated to nurturing the next generation with love and intentionality.

And of course, where would we be without our youngest helpers, Presley and Josie, who are a special part of our community. Many times these joyful little twins joined in blessing both the bread and congregation after service. Their enthusiasm—especially when dancing up front with their mom—offers a beautiful image of childlike faith in action.

Whether through security, praise & worship, or simply showing up with joy, every act of service is deeply appreciated.



## RESOURCES

To view teachings online, search YouTube for [House Of Covenant In Bend Oregon](#).

For recommended books, resources, and study materials visit [lostintranslation.org](#).

Tithe online! Visit our website at [www.houseofcovenant.org](#).

## WHERE TO FIND US

**Phone:** (458) 899-4922

**Email:** [office.houseofcovenant@gmail.com](mailto:office.houseofcovenant@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.houseofcovenant.org](http://www.houseofcovenant.org)

**We meet at:**

21300 Bear Creek Rd.  
Bend, OR 97701

**Office hours:**

Tuesday - Friday . . . . . 10am - 6pm

Saturday . . . . . 10am - 3pm

Sunday - Monday . . . . . Closed

**Mailing address:**

House of Covenant  
PO Box 8224  
Bend, OR 97708

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU: David and Jessica Ryals *Written by Kayla Spears*

David and Jessica Ryals have been a faithful part of our congregation in both ministry and relationship for many years. They remain as living testimonies of how God answers prayer and weaves our lives together for His purposes. When talking with them, I found it endearing to witness the spark of excitement and genuine love of God throughout the conversation.

### **A Foundation of Faith**

Dave grew up in the California Bay Area alongside his father who was the principal of a Christian private school. Throughout the difficult circumstances his family faced in his early life, he remained confident in God's presence. Dave was always aware of God, but it wasn't until high school that he embraced a personal relationship with Him.



Jessica became a believer at age five and was raised with a deep awareness of the Holy Spirit and a calling to intimacy with Yeshua. From a young age, she carried a unique passion for the Jewish people and a desire to live a life fully surrendered to God. As she said during her teenage years: *"I want to be married to You. I want to be Your disciple."* I had to smile when I heard about Jessica's friends pointing out her intensity.

Prior to meeting Dave, Jessica didn't want to date just anyone. She wanted God to choose and make it obvious to her and her future husband. Dave and Jessica met 3 months later. It was clear God had answered both of their prayers for a partner who was passionate about Him and one another. Their connection blossomed into a deep friendship and eventually marriage. Jessica stated that it brought tears to her eyes when reflecting on everything they'd been through in their 20 years of marriage, and 28 years of knowing one another.

### **Led by the Spirit to Bend, Oregon**

Before settling in Bend, Jessica felt led by God to develop a relationship with Dave's family - particularly with his mother, Trish, and stepfather, Michael Christopher, both active members of House of Covenant. During this season, God even told Jessica, *"I have some things about Torah I want to teach you."* As the story unfolded, Jessica also formed a meaningful discipleship relationship with Rabbi Adam, which provided spiritual encouragement she hadn't found elsewhere.

Jessica recalls God sending her to Bend as a part of His plan to begin revealing to David his Jewish lineage, and roots that the Enemy attempted to minimize in his family line - things that, Dave admits, *"As a young guy, I probably wouldn't have pursued on my own."*

When they were first married, Dave was amidst his military service. He served in the US Airforce as an aircraft armament systems specialist and was even deployed twice during Iraqi Freedom. It was during this service that Dave and Jessica spent the first months of marriage in England. After Dave's military service, their time living abroad, and schooling in Reno, the Ryals felt a divine pull back to Bend. They knew God had more to teach them.

### **Called for Such a Time as This**

When asked about what God's calling is upon their lives, they were quick to answer. Jessica feels called to be a Ruth-like figure, holding fast to the covenant and standing as a bridge between their family and the Jewish roots of faith. Dave embraced this journey with her, growing into the spiritual leader and covering Jessica had prayed for. Together, with their daughter Isabelle, the Ryals are pursuing holiness through vulnerability and surrender to the Lord, believing God wants to refine His people and use them to shift the culture of the world around them.

Dave and Jessica remarked, *"The more God reveals to us of Himself, the more we feel we are just scratching the surface. The Father has revealed to us independently, and together, that His children need to know that the process of growing in Him is safe. It's at times painful, but safe. God desires us to take part in His plan if we're willing to go through the fire!"*

### **Going Forward**

As Dave and Jessica continue their walk with the Lord, their story is a beautiful reminder that God is faithful to lead, shape, and bless those who seek Him with open hearts. Their journey encourages us all to trust in the process, lean into His presence, and say "yes" to the adventure of walking in covenant with Him. We're grateful to walk alongside the Ryals as part of this community, and we look forward to all that God will continue to do in and through their lives.

## In Memory of Charlie Kirk – A Voice Silenced, A Light Undimmed

Shalom,

This is not an article I wished to write. It certainly is not a typical “Chai with the Rabbi.” I write today with a heavy heart, grieving a tragedy that should never have occurred.

On Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> on the campus of Utah Valley University, Charlie Kirk was brutally and senselessly murdered. He was 31. He leaves behind a wife, two children and a legacy that speaks to courage, conviction and faith. Though I never met Charlie Kirk, his words, like the call of a shofar, called many to clarity in an age of darkness and confusion. His voice reached across the podcasts and campuses of this country. As the co-founder and executive director of **Turning Point USA** (an American nonprofit organization that advocates for conservative politics on high school, college and university campuses), he became a national figure – one who stirred minds, challenged assumptions and spoke boldly into the cultural and moral decline of our time.

President Donald Trump said of him, *“No one understood or had the Heart of the Youth in the United States of America better than Charlie.”* A fitting tribute. But it is not the political accolades I wish to dwell on – it is his heart and soul.

Charlie Kirk was not just an impassioned, public speaker - he was a man of faith. A staunch Christian, a believer in Yeshua our Messiah and as First Fruits of Zion recently wrote, *“he was a man who carried a deep love for Israel and the Jewish people, which he expressed publicly and in his personal life.”*

Because of close friends like Ben Shapiro and Dennis Prager, the same article states, *“Some of those relationships might have pointed him toward the Sabbath. Kirk and his young family began observing the biblical Sabbath in recent years, incorporating elements from Jewish observance. He referred to the Sabbath as God’s gift to mankind. In addition to welcoming the Sabbath on Friday nights with a traditional meal and greetings of “Shabbat Shalom,” Kirk said he intentionally unplugged by shutting down his phone and placing it in a drawer for the duration of the Sabbath. He made it his routine to spend the day resting, reading the Bible, praying, and spending time with family. He encouraged others, especially young Americans, to adopt the practice to heal mentally and connect with loved ones and God.”*

### A World of Darkness

Because of his willingness to fight the evil in our country, Charlie Kirk was cut down. He was martyred for standing for biblical values and for daring to speak against the darkness of this age. His was a voice calling for cultural clarity and for moral restoration. He strove to foster discussion and debate godly principles. And for that, he was slain in front of thousands, witnessed by millions. He was not killed for violence. He was not killed for a crime. He was killed because he spoke truth – God’s truth – in the public forum.

Charlie is now beholding the radiance of our Divine Creator. But we, who are left behind in this broken world, cry out with deep grief and righteous anger. How could such a senseless, brutal act befall a man whose mission was not violence, but truth? Not division, but conviction?

Charlie Kirk and others like him are fighting for the soul of our nation and are taking a stand against the rising tide of darkness that seeks to hijack and corrupt our culture, our Judeo-Christian values, and subvert our way of life.

### Salt and Light

In Matthew 5:13-16 Yeshua states,

*“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt should lose its flavor, how shall it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a lampstand, so it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*



Everything Yeshua did, teaching Torah, manifesting the miracles of the Kingdom of Heaven, confronting the leaders and teachers of His time ... all of it was working to change, clarify and restore our Heavenly Father's kingdom to the Children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Yeshua's words in Matthew 5 are a call to us to do the same ... all to bring glory to our Father in heaven.

So, is the battle we wage spiritual or cultural? The answer is: BOTH! In Hebraic thought, there is no separation of the two, they are intertwined. A culture reflects the soul of its people. If we wish to heal our nation, to restore our country to biblical standards and morals, then we must begin with the soul of the people. Without Yeshua, all our efforts are empty and useless. Only in relationship with Him, built upon the biblical principles of God's Word, can a nation be redeemed. That process of redemption begins with our hearts first. Once we walk in covenant with our holy Savior and King, then we can influence the hearts and souls of others.

*"A culture is comprised of people. We cannot affect one without affecting the other. A culture is simply a set of shared attitudes, values, practices, and social norms that characterize a group of people or society. It includes elements of language, religion, food, music, and customs that shape the identity of a community."*

To be clear, the war between God's light and the Adversary's darkness is both spiritual and cultural. They are inextricably interwoven.

### **Reflection on Courage, Remembrance and Faith**

How do we respond to such baseless hatred? We remember the words of our Savior and King, *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* – John 16:33.

*"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."* – Luke 6:27:28.

We live in days of great confusion, of spiritual warfare, and of cultural upheaval. And in such days, all of us long for clarity. It is in that spirit I was struck by the words of Charlie Kirk, when asked in a podcast, *"How would you want to be remembered?"*

His answer was simple and intentional: *"If I died? I want to be remembered for courage for my faith. That would be the most important thing. The most important thing in my life is my faith."*

Those are not empty words. They are powerful and profound. So where courage is lacking, be the one who brings it. Where the truth is hidden, uncover it. Where faith is mocked, stand firm.

Judaism teaches that remembrance is not a passive act, but an active one. Zakhor! – Remember! – is a mitzvah. We do not merely think about those who came before us; we carry their light forward. When a loved one or one who inspired us passes, we do not only mourn them – we become them, in the best way. We take the torch of their goodness and run with it, further and brighter.

So, I say to you: Shine brighter! Do not be silent! Live the Torah boldly! Cling to Messiah Yeshua with courage and with deep joy! Do not cower in fear for: *"God will not forsake His people. He will never abandon His inheritance."* – Psalm 94:14.

Every generation has its battles – physical, cultural, and spiritual. And every generation needs its warriors – not just with swords or strategy, but with prayer, with lovingkindness, and with faith that burn steady. So, join with me: Pray for those fighting on the front lines. Pray for their families. Pray for our nation, that it may return to righteousness. And remember the words often attributed to the philosopher, Edmund Burke: *"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."* Let us not be the generation that did nothing. Let us be the generation that rose with faith, with courage, and with unshakable hope in the return of Yeshua, the Light of the World.

Love and shalom,  
**Rabbi Adam Spears**

## ***A Watchful Look at Prophecy Unfolding in Our Day***

### **The Red Horse Rider**

In our study of Revelation 6 we saw the second horse rider—this one fiery red. We taught that this rider is not just about war in general but really represents the descendants of Esau, Israel’s brother. Even today his descendants live in and around the Promised Land and are set against the people of Israel. They want nothing more than to tear down what God has built up.

### **Psalm 83: A Three-Thousand-Year-Old Warning**

The psalmist saw this long ago:

*“They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones. They have said, ‘Come, and let’s wipe them out as a nation, so that the name of Israel will no longer be remembered.’ For they have conspired together with one mind; they make a covenant against You.” (Ps. 83:3–5)*

Then we are given a list of the families and tribes who would one day come against Israel:

- The tents of Edom (Esau’s line) and the Ishmaelites (from Abram and Hagar)
- Moab and the Hagrites
- Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek
- Philistia with the people of Tyre
- And Assyria, the old name for the people we now know as Iranians

These ancient names are not just history. They stand for real peoples—Arab tribes from Esau and Ishmael, remnants of Canaan, and the Assyrians who today are the Persians: the Iranians. They have been resisting God’s people since the beginning.

### **Looking at the Last Few Years**

Now let’s look at what has been happening in just the last few years with these same peoples:

- Egypt (a past enemy of Israel though not in the Ps. 83 list) has been thrown into chaos—political intrigue, economic collapse. They no longer have the strength to make war.
- Jordan has lost its influence and can no longer sway events in Israel.
- Syria has been bombed out, overthrown, and left in shambles.
- Lebanon is broken—bankrupt, divided, unable to govern itself.
- Hamas and Hezbollah—for decades a constant thorn, firing missiles and sending terrorists—are for all practical purposes destroyed. They simply don’t have the power to keep it up.
- Iran has taken heavy blows, from U.S. bombings under President Trump to Israeli strikes that set back their war-making abilities. Yet prophecy tells us they will return one last time at the very, very end, this time allied with Russia. We can already see those relationships forming.
- Even the tribes in Yemen, included in the Psalm 83 list, have been neutralized recently.

It is nothing short of remarkable. Nations and groups that for centuries have raised their fists against Israel are now being reduced, restrained, or removed from the stage altogether.



## **The Temple Mount: A Stirring That Cannot Be Ignored**

And while these enemies fade, something new is stirring in Jerusalem.

- For the first time in living memory, Jews have been allowed to pray on the Temple Mount. This has always been blocked by Muslim and Jordanian authorities—until now.
- It has been reported that Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made provocative statements about rebuilding the Temple and has even walked the tunnels beneath the Mount.
- Ordinary Israelis are waving flags on the Mount and in Israel, demanding the rebuilding of the Temple—something never seen since Israel became a nation in 1948.
- Israeli political forces are now asserting administrative authority over the Temple Mount.
- And we must not forget—those rare red heifers have been identified and are in Israel, ready for the day they will be needed. Priests have been practicing the burning of the red heifer, making sure this required ritual to begin the rebuilding of God's Temple, is exactly as commanded.

## **Living in the Days of Fulfillment**

So, let's take stock. Psalm 83 laid it out. Revelation 6 showed us the red horse and the order of Last Days events. The enemies of Israel are being pushed aside. The ideas of rebuilding the Temple Mount are awakening.

This is exactly the order of events the prophets told us would unfold before Messiah comes. And the surprise is not that these things are happening—it is that they are happening in our day, before our very eyes.

The red horse rides.

The enemies fade.

The Temple Mount shakes with anticipation.

Messiah is near—at the very door.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Rosh Hashanah (Feast of Trumpets) Service *Monday, September 22 at 6:30pm*

Rosh Hashanah (ראש השנה in Hebrew, meaning "head of the year") is the Jewish New Year. It is the first of the High Holidays or Yamim Noraim ("Days of Awe"), celebrated ten days before Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah is observed on the first two days of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. It is described in the Torah as Yom Teruah (יום תרועה), a day of sounding the Shofar. **Join us for our Rosh Hashanah celebration at 6:30pm, starting with fellowship and potluck.**

## Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) Service *Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00pm*

The Day of Atonement is the holiest day of the year mentioned in the Bible. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. The Jewish People traditionally observe this holy day with a 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. Yom Kippur completes the annual period known in Judaism as the High Holy Days (or "the Days of Awe"). This day is also called the Shabbat of Shabbats (the sabbath of sabbaths). **Join us for our service at 7:00pm! This is the time we wear white to show the reverent holiness of this appointed time of God.**

## Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) Service *Monday, October 6 at 6:30pm*

Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles, marks the seventh festival of God's appointed times. This is a remembrance of the Hebrews dwelling in tents during their wanderings through the desert for forty years. It is a time of celebration and thanksgiving to God for dwelling in our midst. This is also the time Yeshua our Messiah was born into the world! **Join us for our Sukkot Service at 6:30pm.**

## Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Service *Monday, October 13 at 6:30pm*

Shemini Atzeret (שמיני עצרת in Hebrew, meaning "the Eighth [day] of Assembly") is celebrated on the 22nd day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei (first month of calendar). In the Diaspora, an additional day is celebrated, the second day being separately referred to as Simchat Torah. In Israel, the holidays of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are combined into a single day and the names are used interchangeably. **Join our service and potluck at 6:30pm. Come ready to praise and dance!**

All upcoming events and services are listed on our online calendar at [houseofcovenant.org](http://houseofcovenant.org).

# CLASSES AND GROUPS *\*All events meet at 21300 Bear Creek Rd unless noted.*

### Hebrew Class

*On Break*

Kevin Wells: 541-480-5424

### Davidic Dance Class

*Mondays, 7pm*

Darla Estes: 541-550-6750

### Isaiah Study Group

*Thursdays, 6:30pm*

Sherel Stosik: 808-778-1172

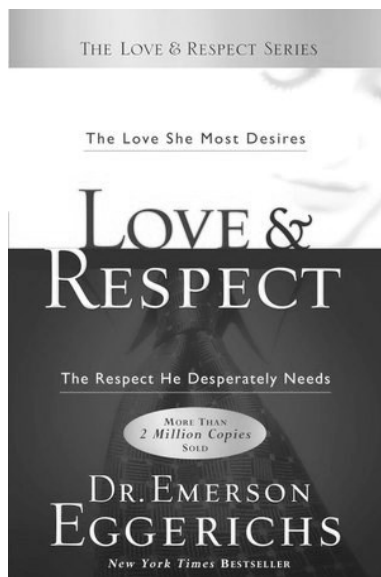
### Men's Group

*Every other Thursday, 6:30pm*

Jeb Anderson: 541-316-3570

*\*Location to be determined*

# FEATURES AND DEALS



## Love and Respect

*As mentioned in the June 2025 "Chai with the Rabbi" Article*

Whether your marriage is strong and you want to go deeper, or you're in a season of struggle and need real answers, this book is for you. Be it for yourself or for someone you know, *Love and Respect* is full of insight into how we connect with one another.

See **the bookstore counter** after service to pick up your copy while supplies last! Additional copies are available on [lostintranslation.org](http://lostintranslation.org).

*If you have items you'd like to donate or sell, reach out to [office.houseofcovenant@gmail.com](mailto:office.houseofcovenant@gmail.com). Include a description of the item, the sell price (if applicable), and any pictures.*