

## A MESSIANIC ENCOUNTER IN JERUSALEM

In September 1995 Barbara Richmond led a group on a tour of Israel, as she frequently does. On their free day, she went into the Old City of Jerusalem. Suddenly, over her left shoulder she heard a man's voice call, 'Barbara'. She turned to look, but didn't see any one she recognised. The only male on that little street was a man she described as 'in full black attire, big beard, curls on the side' - an Orthodox rabbi. She thought that he couldn't have been the one to say her name because they don't even speak to women in public. In fact, she avoided eye contact as she knew this sometimes offended them. She turned back, thinking may be she had been mistaken.

A few seconds later, she again heard the voice say 'Barbara - isn't that your name?' She looked again & discovered the rabbi was looking right at her. **'Don't be afraid,'** he said. **'Come here.'** She moved toward him. He told Barbara his first name & said, **'I wanted to tell you that I am a believer that Yeshua is the Messiah. As a matter of fact, there are 40 of us rabbis in the community to whom, as we have been studying the Torah, the Ruach ha 'kodesh (the Holy Spirit) has shown that Yeshua is the Messiah.'**

The rabbi added, **'at present we are secret believers, not because we're afraid but because the Lord, the Holy Spirit, has not told us to speak out our testimony yet. The Lord has told us to pray for our brethren, so we are meeting at midnight & we are praying.'**

Barbara asked the obvious question, **'But how did you know me? Why are you telling me this?'**

The rabbi replied, **'I don't know you. But last night we were praying & one of the other rabbis came over to me & said, "Tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, you go to (name of the street she was on), & you will see there an American woman with black hair. Her name is Barbara. Give her this message."'**

The rabbi then gave Barbara the message.

He said, **'The Lord wants you to know that what was spoken over you 26 years ago, He is about to bring to pass.'**

Barbara was stunned, & overwhelmed with emotion. Only her husband knew that exactly 26 years ago, as a new believer of only 3 months, she had gone to an Full Gospel Businessmen's meeting in New York City where Kathryn Kuhlman, the evangelist with a powerful healing ministry, was one of the main speakers. Kuhlman pointed directly at Barbara, as she often did with people, & said: 'The Lord is going to take you to the nations & is going to do miracles at your hands, but you are going to have to wait a few years to see it come to pass.' Barbara had never forgotten this.

He added, **'The other thing that the Holy Spirit told this brother is that when you get home from this trip, you will have a letter from Africa waiting for you, inviting you to minister there, & you should go. It is the Lord who is opening this door, & it will be a turning point in your life.'**

When Barbara got back home to the US, a letter from Africa was waiting for her! It was an invitation to speak, which she obviously accepted. She reports that miracles did indeed take place there, & that it was definitely a turning point in her life. She says there are people who know nothing about her Jerusalem experience who come up to her & said, 'Something really changed in Africa. We enjoyed your teaching before, but this is just a totally different plane.'

Barbara has been to Israel since, but has not seen the rabbi, nor has she revealed his name, honouring his request. She says: **'My prayer is that this testimony will cause people to realise the lateness of the hour. When God moves sovereignly like that among the Jewish people (revealing the Messiah & manifesting gifts of the Holy Spirit described in the New Testament) - & among the most religious of them - the coming of Jesus is getting close! I pray everybody who hears this will be taken up with the urgency of the hour.'**

A more recent communication from the rabbi to Barbara revealed the stunning news that several hundred Hasidic Jews in Jerusalem now believe that Yeshua is the Messiah! The rabbi says to please pray for them, as when their numbers reach about 50% they plan to go public, which could cause great repercussions. Jim Bramlett adds: There is no doubt that Barbara is a totally reliable witness. She is the Director of Women's Ministries at a central Florida church and is a popular Bible teacher, speaker, seminar leader, author & radio host.