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# ONE NEW MAN

RECONCILING JEW & GENTILE IN ONE BODY OF CHRIST

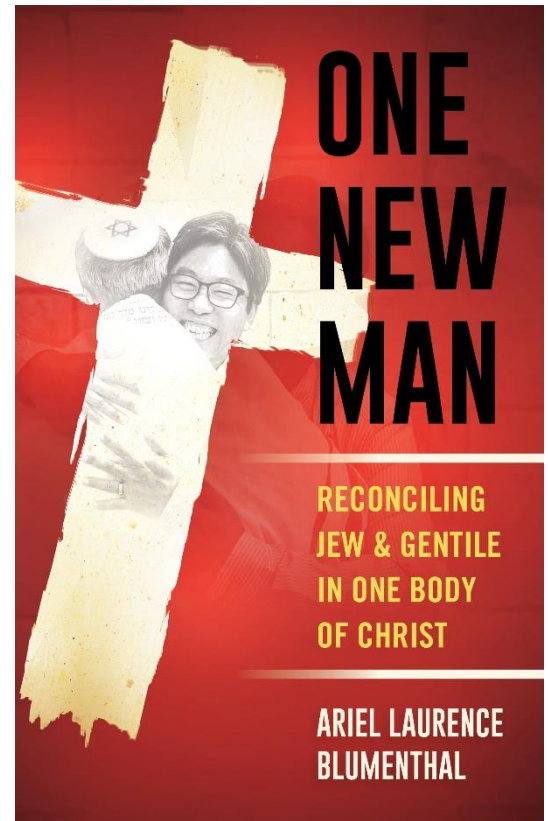
ARIEL LAURENCE BLUMENTHAL

There is a growing revival of Jewish Christians—the Messianic Jewish movement—and a parallel movement—the “Jewish roots movement.” As a result, an ancient dilemma has come to the forefront of theological discussion: What is the place of Mosaic Law in the life of the believer, whether Jew or Gentile? The current revival also draws attention to the biblical perspective of Jew and Gentile relations, and reflection on pertinent biblical prophecies. With the increasing confusion around these issues, just like 2000 years ago, the life, ministry, and teaching of the Apostle Paul is central to the controversy, and its resolution.

In *One New Man*, author Ariel Blumenthal unpacks the “mystery” found in the second and third chapters of the book of Ephesians. God is reconciling Jew and Gentile together “in His flesh” through the cross of Christ. Amazingly, this message of the “one new man” in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians preserves Israel and Jewish identity, while simultaneously upholding the God-given identity of every “tribe, tongue, and nation.” This powerful work of Jesus is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant and is at the heart of God’s redemptive plan for both Jews and Gentiles.

God’s plan to “restore all things” links Israel and the nations together in loving service to one another, and has been playing out on the stage of world history over the last 150 years. The gospel for both Jew and Gentile is at work in the world and is reconciling all things and all people to himself and one another.

Christians who want to better understand Israel, biblical prophecy, world missions, and the second coming of Christ in light of Scripture need look no further. Enabling readers to find a positive role for national and ethnic identities in their walk with Christ, *One New Man* is a powerful read—one you won’t want to miss.



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# About the Author

## ARIEL LAURENCE BLUMENTHAL



Ariel grew up in a Reformed Jewish home in idyllic New England. As a teen, he already had begun to ponder the meaning of life, and discovered Zen Buddhism while an undergrad at Duke University. He became a “JuBu”—a Jewish Buddhist who sat in meditation and yoga positions hours a day seeking “enlightenment.” One day in 1992 it happened—but from the most unexpected (Jewishly speaking) source! While attending a Korean-Japanese church in downtown Tokyo, his eyes were opened to the Gospel of *Yeshua HaMashiach*—Jesus Christ. He was born-again, never to be the same.

Since then, Ariel has served in the leadership of Messianic Jewish congregations—first in the USA, and since 1998, in Jerusalem, and has served as a missionary in Japan. Today, he co-pastors *Ahavat Yeshua* congregation in downtown Jerusalem, and teaches the Bible widely in his native English language—as well as Hebrew, Japanese, and Chinese. He holds a BA from Duke, and an MA in Biblical Studies from Yale Divinity School.

## Connect with the Author:

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# *What Others Are Saying About* **One New Man**

Ariel Blumenthal combines a love of the works of the Spirit of God with an academic analysis of the texts of Scripture. Ariel's views of Israel, the church, and the kingdom of God are profound and provocative.

—**Asher Intrater, Founder, Revive Israel Ministries, Ahavat Yeshua Congregation Jerusalem**

This is essential reading for everyone in the Messianic Jewish movement, and for all Christians who love the God of Israel.

—**Michael L. Brown, Ph.D., President, FIRE School of Ministry; author of *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus, Our Hands Are Stained with Blood, and The Real Kosher Jesus***

*One New Man* preserves a distinct ethnic and national Israel in God's unfolding plan, while at the same time establishing a true unity of Jew and Gentile in the Messiah. . . . Full fellowship in the commonwealth of Israel is now God's order for Jew and Gentile, with no possibility of superiority of one toward the other.

— **Daniel Juster, Th.D., Restoration from Zion, Tikkun International; past president, Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations**

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# Suggested Interview Questions

For Ariel Laurence Blumenthal, author of  
*One New Man*  
*Reconciling Jew & Gentile in One Body of Christ*

**Q: What first led you to research, teach, and write on this subject of *One New Man*?**

**A:** *One New Man* focuses on the reconciliation of Jew & Gentile through the cross. It's funny, that even though I'm Jewish and have been part of the Messianic Jewish movement for over 20 years, I didn't come to the *One New Man* primarily through this lens. I actually first started to think about it and search the Scriptures as a result of an intercessory prayer movement among Japanese & Korean Christians! I was serving as a missionary in Japan at the time, and was invited to participate in this movement of reconciliation and repentance for historic sins between these two nations. I saw the Holy Spirit work very powerfully through these meetings, and this drew me towards looking into how the Gospel functions in this way among people groups—between Israel & the nations, and then between all the nations and people groups.

**Q: What is this “One New Man” really about?**

**A:** First, the phrase comes from the teaching of Paul in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of his letter to the Ephesians. He is describing how the cross and the Gospel message serve to bring reconciliation, peace, and a new kind of harmonious relationship among people groups—first between Jew & Gentile, and then by extension to all people groups. It is the gospel message for a world in conflict—wherever there has been sin, hatred, and racism between different tribes, nations, and racial groups.

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**Q: Your book talks a lot about the Torah, the Laws of Moses, Foods, etc. If this is just about reconciliation between Jew & Gentile in Christ, why all of this stuff?**

**A:** Good question! I also was surprised when I began to research and teach on the subject to find these things so central to Paul’s teaching of the One New Man in Ephesians 2:14-16. For two individuals from disparate backgrounds to find peace and unity in Christ may be a challenge; but the bigger problem arises when we try to find this peace and unity on a larger scale—between nations, between churches, denominations, traditions, etc. Now we have a lot of baggage to deal with—historical pride and sin, traditions, culture, theologies, philosophies, national “myths” and the like. And, it turns out, it can be really hard for us as communities to “drop” this baggage in the name of reconciliation and unity with those who are different, or with those whom we have been in conflict with. The One New Man message is a kind of template, of how first we as Jews have to lay down our Torah-based culture of foods and festivals in order to birth true unity in Christ. The mystery of the One New Man is how these Mosaic commandments may still function as part of our Jewish identity, but no longer in a way that makes our culture and practice somehow superior, or more “holy” than that of other ethnic groups in the Body of Christ.

**Q: What does all this theological stuff mean for you in real life? Where does the “rubber hit the pavement” for you with this One New Man?**

**A:** Well, we are Jewish believers in Christ who live in downtown Jerusalem, Israel. It is an honor and privilege for us to participate in the amazing, miraculous restoration of our nation according to Biblical prophecy. There is great strength and blessing for us in our identity as Jews at this time in history. Our people and our nation are an ongoing testimony to the faithfulness of God and His word! The One New Man means that we are constantly thinking and praying about how we can share these blessings with our Christian brothers and sisters from among the nations. And, this starts for us at home in the Middle East, among Jew & Arab. Both as a family and as a ministry, we are focused on building bridges, on real relationships and partnerships with our Arab Christian brothers and sisters—here

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in Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, and throughout the Middle East. And, for us as a family, this also extends to the churches of East Asia—Japan, China, Korea, Thailand, etc. Through the One New Man understanding, God has given us a great heart to see revival, growth, and breakthrough for the church in all of these places.

**Q: What’s it like being a Messianic Jew, a tiny minority in Israel?**

**A:** Thank God, we’re not as tiny as we used to be! There are about 15,000 Messianic Jewish Israelis, in some 120 congregations. In addition, there is a similar number of Arab Christians and international Christians living in Israel. The Body of Christ here is very dynamic and growing all the time. Yes, we face a fair deal of pressure from the society, sometimes all out harassment, but the heart of the average “man on the street” is far more open to the Gospel than it used to be.

**Q: What do you think is the main message of One New Man to Christians in the USA?**

**A:** The US is an interesting and unique place for a few reasons. First, it is not a homogenous, “tribal” nation—like most around the globe—but instead a giant melting pot for all races and ethnicities, a place where all are supposed to “blend in” and get along. But as events over the last few years have proven, the whole ethnic/racial question—especially between whites and blacks—is something that we just can’t seem to shake in America. Historical sin and tension between people groups doesn’t just “go away” with time. I think *One New Man* can help American Christians think about the Biblical reality of tribe and ethnicity—what it looks like, and how it is supposed to function; how God intends it to be something that can both be celebrated and also a great blessing to the “other”—only if we have the mind and heart of Christ.

Second, America is a unique place because of the presences of such a large number of Jews—second only to Israel. This means that the One New Man template of reconciliation and unity between Jew & Gentile can be lived out here in a very profound way. On the other hand, as I point out in my book, there can be

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many pitfalls, things which have led to a lot of identity confusion among American Christians who have drawn close to the Messianic Jewish movement. Here, the role of the Israeli body is key.

**Q: The message of One New Man seems to have something to do with unity among Christians...is this true? How can this book contribute to such unity?**

**A:** Yes, the message of racial and ethnic reconciliation in Christ is obviously a key to unity in the church. Over 15 years of teaching this material, I've witnessed the Holy Spirit heal divisions among different nationalities, churches, and church movements. Also, as Messianic Jews in Israel our desire is to serve the church worldwide as an agent of unity. We believe all of this is preparation for His return!

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