

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City and Happy New Year!

Every year at this time, I try and remind the readers of the Chosen People newsletter of the importance and urgency of bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people.

This has been a *January tradition* ever since the founding of our Mission to the Jewish people by Rabbi Leopold Cohn in 1894. Throughout the combined 60-plus years that they led our ministry, both Rabbi Cohn and his son, Joseph, called upon all believers everywhere to take the Gospel **to the Jew first!**

The Apostle Paul made this plain when he wrote, *“I am not ashamed of the Gospel as it is the power of salvation to all who believe, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile”* (Romans 1:16).

However we interpret this great passage of Scripture, we must not allow Jewish evangelism to become the GREAT COMMISSION of the GREAT COMMISSION.

Clearly, reaching Jewish people for Christ is close to the Apostle’s heart! And even closer still to the heart of God.

Later in Romans (11:12,15) Paul links the Second Coming of Jesus with the salvation of the Jewish people. I have no doubt that Paul had the end in mind when he penned Romans 1:16. He urged the Roman believers to reach Jewish people so that the promised blessings associated with Jesus’ return would begin. In fact, the salvation of the Jewish people can be viewed as the first stage in establishing the Messianic kingdom on earth.

We Are Close!

I really believe the Second Coming of our Messiah Jesus is near!

Sometimes I fear saying this because I do not want to be wrong and sound like some type of “end times fanatic.” But the truth is...I am!

Just look at the “signs of the times!” There are wars and rumors of wars, nations are rising up against nations and the moral fiber of our world is collapsing. We know, according to passages like

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Matthew 24 (the Olivet Discourse), that these “signs of the times” will intensify, like birth pangs before the end comes.

So, what makes what we see today different from any other period in the last few millennia? After all, Christians have been expecting the Second Coming in every generation.

Let me explain.

The nation of Israel was established in 1948 and at this very moment we are fighting a battle in Babylon! A multitude of passages in the Old Testament are coming to fulfillment before our very eyes every day.

We might as well make commentary on the Book of Isaiah a regular part of the evening news!

One would need to stop reading the paper, disconnect Internet access and remove all radios and televisions from his or her house (not a bad idea!) – or just not read the Bible – to avoid the obvious. The Second Coming of Jesus is “around the corner.”

And it is because I am persuaded that the Lord is coming soon that we need to do more...RIGHT NOW – to reach His chosen people.

May I explain further? And if you could, please take out your Bible and read the Scripture passages I mention in the remainder of the letter.

The Holy Purpose for the Nation (Genesis 12:1-3, Isaiah 44:8)

God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees and said that He would create a nation through his descendants that would bring blessings to the world. The Lord also promised to bless those who bless the seed of Abram and to curse those who curse them.

God called the Jewish people to bless the Gentiles and to be His light to the nations of the world.

This great promise of blessing has and will continue to be fulfilled.

God gave the world His Word through the Jewish people.

He gave us the gift of His only Son through the Jewish people.

The nations of the world that have “cursed” the Jewish people have suffered and those that were great for a season have been brought low. This would include Iraq (Babylon), Rome, Greece and many other nations who have mistreated the Jewish people.

God is not finished with the Jewish people! The Jewish people were chosen for a purpose and His purposes for the Jewish people and the world are not completed yet. The Day is yet to come when the Jewish people will be used by God to bring even greater blessing to the world – when the Messiah returns and sits upon His throne in Jerusalem (Romans 11:11-15, 25-27).

The Failure and Future of the Nation (Matthew 23:37-39, Acts 3:19-26)

However, for this to take place, the Jewish leadership and people must respond differently than when Jesus the Messiah first dwelt among us.

Verses 13 through 36 are difficult for a Messianic Jew like myself to read, Jesus castigates the Jewish leadership for not responding to the Lord in the past and for ultimately rejecting Him as Messiah. He predicted judgment upon that generation of Jewish people – fulfilled with the

destruction of the Temple in 70 AD.

However, in this same passage He also promises that one day the Jewish people will cry out and believe in Him when they say, *Baruch habah bashem Adonai* – “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

These are the precise words called out by the Rabbi when the groom walks the aisle to take his bride. In other words, the day is coming when the Jewish people will recognize that Jesus – *Yeshua* – is the true bridegroom of the Jewish people.

He specifically says, “You will not see me until you cry out, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” This implies that one day the Jewish people will cry out for him and Jesus will return.

The Second Coming of Jesus is directly related to the end time repentance of the Jewish remnant and their calling upon the Lord to be saved.

The Jewish people need to accept Jesus in order to receive the national blessings (as well as the personal blessings of salvation) promised by God in the Old Testament and to fulfill this magnificent destiny of bringing His blessing to our broken world.

Peter confirms this in his sermon in Acts chapter 3. He calls upon the Jewish people to repent of their sins so that *times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord*; And, as Peter further testifies, “... **He shall send Jesus Christ**, which before was preached unto you” (Acts 3:20).

I believe this was a real offer on the part of Peter and on the part of God. The Apostle understood God’s plan correctly – that the return of Jesus would take place when the Jewish people turn from their sins and receive Jesus.

Jesus will physically return to earth and reign as King when the Jewish people repent and accept Him as Savior.

The Fulfillment of God’s Plan for the Nation (Zechariah 12:10, Romans 11:11-26)

We see this breathtaking moment predicted by the prophet Zechariah, who claims the Second Coming of Jesus will come about when the Jewish people put their trust in the One who was pierced. Within the context of this end-time prophecy, it is clear that the One who was pierced was Jesus.

God will be faithful to His promises and not allow His chosen people to be destroyed by the armies of the world (Zech 12:2-4). Jesus will save the Jewish people at the final moment! In that day, when the Jewish remnant call upon the Lord He will deliver them by sending His Son.

Paul knew that Jewish evangelism should be one of the church’s greatest priorities as the salvation of the Jewish people is linked to the Second Coming of Christ.

Now, that really puts his statement, to the Jew first, in a whole new light!

What Can We Do Now

Paul is not suggesting in Romans 1:16 that we should tell Jewish people about Jesus and then, when we are done doing that, to begin telling the Gentiles.

Paul is encouraging us to keep the Jewish people – His Chosen People – close to our heart and make Jewish evangelism a priority wherever we live and minister.

Paul adds in Romans 11:11 that it is the obligation of the Church to “make the Jews jealous.”

God wants to use you to help Jewish people come to know the Messiah – through your witness, prayers and support of ministries like ours.

Who knows whether or not the Jewish person you meet today and make jealous of what you have through Yeshua might not be part of the end time remnant God is preparing to cry out, “*Baruch haba bashem adonai.*”

Let’s continue to share His love with our Jewish friends, relatives and others within the Jewish community. The Lord wants us to make Jewish people jealous.

A New Covenant New Year’s Resolution

In light of the above, would you prayerfully consider making Jewish evangelism one of your **priorities this year?** I hope so!

When I began my ministry with Chosen People Ministries eight years ago, I was astounded to hear of the number of supporters and friends who prayed for the Jewish people first each day and who gave of their offerings to Jewish evangelism and to this mission **first** each month.

This may not be every believer’s understanding of Romans 1:16 – which of course I understand...yet, if many more born again believers make Jewish outreach a priority we could do so much more to reach Jewish people around the world for the Messiah Jesus.

One of the ways I can make giving regularly to Chosen People Ministries a bit simpler is for you to become part of our **Watchman for Jerusalem** society. There are lots of extra blessings for those who enroll that I cannot mention to you in a brief letter, but once we receive your completed form (see enclosed brochure), I will explain it to you thoroughly

I also realize that not everyone wants to or is able to give in this manner. Again, I understand and greatly value your support and prayers in whatever way God leads you to help our missionaries reach our Jewish people. But, we do especially cherish those who give regularly as it allows us to plan our evangelistic outreach. Our missionaries who raise their support especially need this regular form of giving, as they only receive their full package of salary and benefits if their support is fully raised.

So dear friend of the Jewish people, please review the enclosed brochure and use it to make a commitment to the Lord to regularly support our efforts to reach Jewish people with the Gospel.

A To the Jew First Gift

Your generous gift this month – even a one-time gift that you feel moved of God to send – will help considerably as January is traditionally a “tough” month for missions like ours. We really do need your help right now to support our dedicated missionaries on the field.

Your generous and sacrificial gift will be a wonderful way to say “thank you” to God and to the Jewish people for Jesus – the greatest gift of all.

May our Messiah fill you with His joy in 2005...and may the Messiah we long to see come soon. Keep looking up!

Your brother,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President
Chosen People
Ministries

PS. Please read the enclosed brochure and pray about giving to “the Jew first” this January!