



**The
Chosen
People**

MAY 1987 ISSN 0164-5323

Evangelicals,
Israel and the
Jewish people

**An Interview With
Jerry Falwell**

See Israel THROUGH Jewish Eyes



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The Chosen People

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE is published monthly (except August) as a medium of information concerning the Jewish people, Israel, and the work of the American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc., 100 Hunt Road, Orangeburg, New York 10962.

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MAY, 1987 Vol. XCIII; No. 9

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE (ISSN 0164-5323)

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Credits: Cover, 12, 13, Max and Hilla Jacoby

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From the President

Thirty-nine years ago this month Israel once again became a nation. The impossible became a reality. A modern miracle occurred in the Middle East. From the graves of nations the Jewish people came, shaking off the dust of history and sweeping aside the sands of time. They returned to rebuild the wasted cities, to reforest the mountains, to make the desert blossom like a rose, and to revive its national language, Hebrew.

Forced by their neighbors to constantly be on the alert, always the target for secret military or terrorist attacks, Israel had to develop its military strength, becoming the fourth largest military power in the world today.

Israel's present Jewish population stands at little over four million, which means that 31% of the Jewish people in the world today live in Israel — approximately one out of every three.

Centuries ago God showed the prophet Ezekiel a great valley full of dry bones. God asked him, "... can these bones live?" He answered, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know" (Ezek. 37:3). This is a profound answer because the prophet Ezekiel knew that God in His sovereignty was the One who controlled history.

God has indeed preserved the Jewish people. He's brought them back into their land and he's prospered them in that land. God had told the prophet that once the people were in the land, He would then begin to move upon them through the power of His Holy Spirit; not just physical life, but spiritual life also, would surge through them.

Amazingly, since the reestablishment of the nation of Israel, there have been increasing numbers of Jewish people coming to faith in Jesus as the Messiah. There has been greater interest in God's Word. Our missionaries have greater opportunities to tell the Jewish people about Yeshua. There has been an openness between evangelical leaders across America and the leaders in Israel, rabbis and others within the Jewish community. I believe that in all these ways, God is opening eyes and unstopping ears. He is demonstrating in His sovereignty that He is fulfilling His prophetic Word.

In this issue of *The Chosen People* we've tried to explain what it means for Christians to support Israel and the Jewish people. Our interview with Dr. Jerry Falwell gives a broad view of what the Bible says about the Jews as God's Chosen People. On the following pages, several leading evangelical spokesmen consider the Biblical perspective on evangelicals and Israel.

Finally, for those who haven't visited Israel lately or at all we have included comments of believers who have recently returned from one of our tours.

We're excited as we see the hand of God at work in history. We're confident that as we faithfully proclaim the Good News more and more Jewish people will respond.

Thank you for your faithfulness in praying for and in supporting our ministry. Truly, God is setting the stage of world history for the coming of our Messiah, the Lord Jesus. Time is short! We need to send more laborers into the harvest!

In our Messiah,



HAROLD A. SEVENER



An interview with Jerry Falwell...

To the Jewish people Jerry Falwell is Evangelical Christianity. Whether or not the rest of Christendom considers him to be their spokesman is academic; the Jewish mind perceives him to be synonymous with the desire to Christianize America and the possible rise of anti-Semitism.

To help our Jewish and Christian readers understand what Dr. Falwell is saying, Chosen People Ministries' Ben Alpert interviewed him at his Lynchburg, Va. headquarters. The interview began in Dr. Falwell's office but soon the continual flow of incoming telephone calls and interruptions prompted Dr. Falwell to adjourn the interview to the only island of calm at his own headquarters—the cab of a Chevy Blazer.

—Editor

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE MAGAZINE: Dr. Falwell, in your opinion, should Christians actively seek to bring Jews to Christianity?

FALWELL: Well, if we are going to be obedient to the great commission, we must aggressively attempt to win all persons to Christ, and the Jews, gentiles, black, white, that's all irrelevant. Our responsibility is to share the saving Gospel of Christ with everyone, everywhere, that includes the Jewish people.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: Would you say that today since the New Covenant is in effect that Judaism is an incomplete or out-of-date religion?

FALWELL: I would not use the word incomplete or out-of-date. I would say that Judaism gives an Old Testament perspective of a coming Messiah, but those who follow Judaism refuse to acknowledge that the promised Messiah has already come and whenever I meet with a Jewish person who is a follower of Jesus Christ, I look on him, or her, as a completed Jew.

I don't look on him, or her, as any

less or more Jewish. That is why I say to my Jewish friends, you should not be antagonistic towards us or frightened about us doing our evangelistic work. You do not cease to become a Jew because you've become a follower of the Nazarene. You are distinctively a Jew forever.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: As you advocate a return to Christian values within our society, is there a place for the Jewish community within this goal?

FALWELL: In 1979, Charles Stanley, D. James Kennedy, Tim Lahaye, and others joined me in forming the Moral Majority. We created it as a political organization with its membership predominantly conservative, religious Americans. We invited Jews, Protestants, Catholics, and all Americans who shared our views on social, moral, and political issues, to join us.

We have many conservative and orthodox Jews involved today in the Moral Majority and in our new organization, the Liberty Federation. We do this on a citizenship and political level.

We do not believe this in anyway violates any spiritual dogma that we as Christians must adhere to. At the same time, the United States is not a

"Our responsibility is to share Christ with everyone, but God alone can give the increase. True Christianity would never impose upon the rights of other persons."

Christian nation or a Jewish nation in a sense that we have a state church. We are a pluralistic nation and that simply means that there's room for everyone, and we must respect the rights and the values of all other persons.

However, it is fair to say that the population of this country is predominantly Christian and that the values of the Old and New Testament, which some prefer to call Judeo Christian, have from the inception of this nation been the dominant set of values that we have lived by.

They have served us well and, yes, we must have room for Jews and Christians to live peacefully together in this country, if we are to continue to be the great nation we have been.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: In mentioning this state religion, Dr. Falwell, many say that you're out to Christianize America. If that were true,

"I always attempt to lovingly inform the people on the historical, geographical, humanitarian, and theological reasons why a Christian must be pro-Jewish and pro-Israel. I don't always win that debate, but I always try."

Christ. They fear that we will "christianize" America in a sense that no other faith or religion will be allowed. For that reason, I don't use

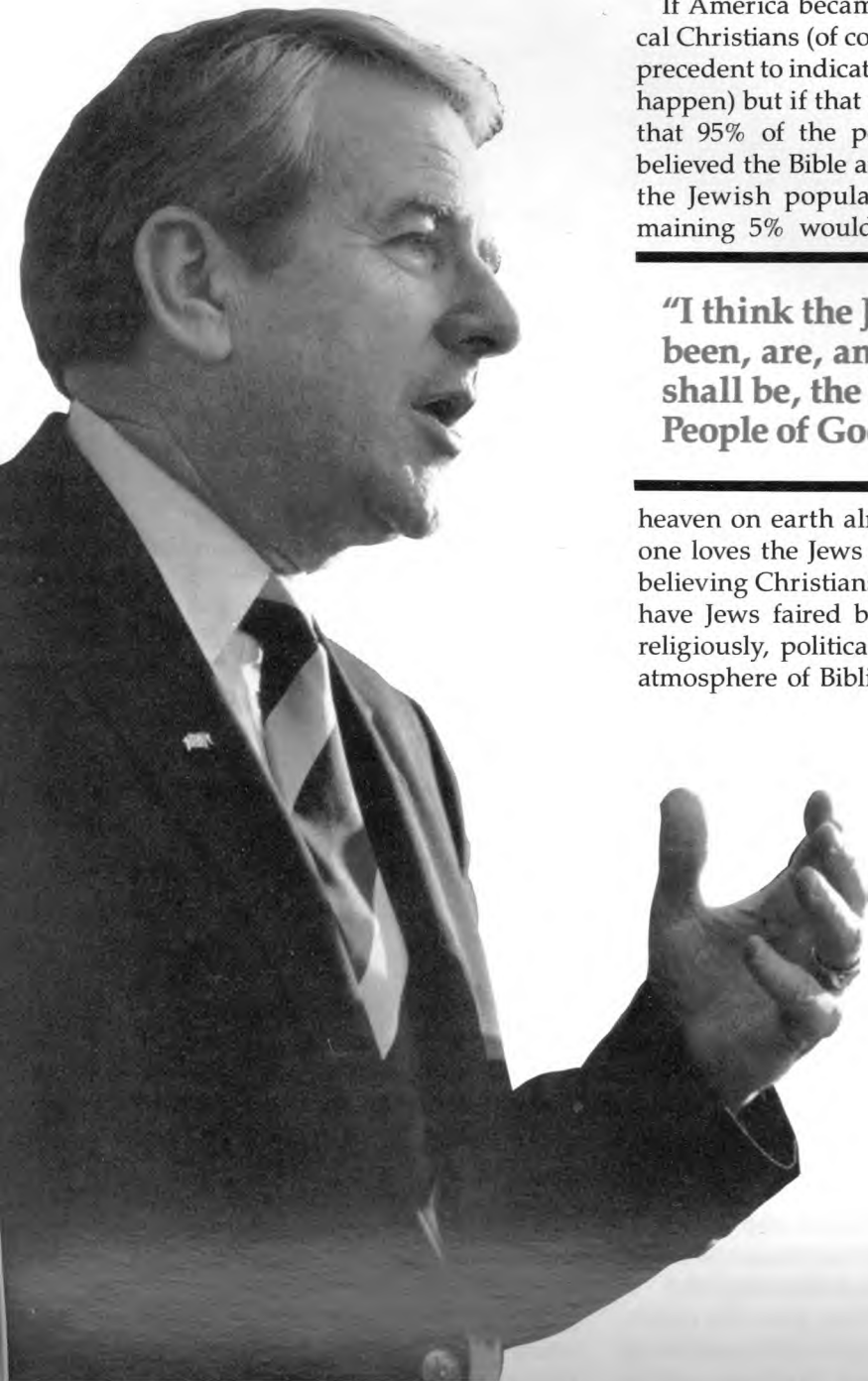


how do you intend to stop the inevitable anti-semitism whenever Christianity becomes a state religion?

FALWELL: Many Jews are frightened at the prospect of the success of evangelical and fundamentalist ministries in winning people to

the word christianize, I use the word evangelize.

In the first place, we're never going to lead every citizen in this country to the saving knowledge of Christ; however, we should try. We're never going to win every cit-



izen of this planet to Christ; however, in Matthew 28:18-20, we're commissioned to try.

Our responsibility is to share Christ with everyone, but God alone can give the increase. True Christianity would never impose upon the rights of other persons.

If America became 95% evangelical Christians (of course we have no precedent to indicate that could ever happen) but if that were the case, if that 95% of the population really believed the Bible and loved Christ, the Jewish population in that remaining 5% would be living in a

"I think the Jews have been, are, and forever shall be, the Chosen People of God."

heaven on earth almost because no one loves the Jews more than Bible believing Christians. And no where have Jews fared better — socially, religiously, politically — than in an atmosphere of Biblical Christianity.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: You mentioned "Christians." Do you believe that using that definition of Christianity, that Christians have contributed to anti-semitism throughout history?

FALWELL: It is very important to define the word Christian correctly. When the media makes reference to the word, Christian, it means Protestant, or Catholic, or Baptist, or Episcopalian, or Eastern Orthodox, or whatever.

When Bible believing Christians use the word, Christian, we refer to those persons who have a personal relationship with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We refer to those people who believe in the inerrancy of Scripture and the cardinal doctrines of Biblical Christianity. Those persons have never been involved in promoting anti-semitism. Those persons have never been a part of bigotry and mistreatment of other persons, Jewish or otherwise.

Unfortunately, when you look at the inquisition, the crusades, and many conflicts going on today in Ireland, Lebanon, etc., all in the name of God and Christianity, it is easy for an uninformed person to believe that Christians have been a part of the promotion of anti-semitism. I disagree that Bible believing Christians are guilty of this.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: Dr. Falwell, in your fundamentalist, conservative ranks, have you seen any anti-semitism, even in your inner circle? If you see it, how do you deal with it?

FALWELL: We have no anti-semitism in the Lynchburg ministries. Occasionally, I will meet with someone who has a problem in that area. Dr. Bob Jones feels sort of negatively towards Zionism. At least, I pick up that perception. And I have met some who have been influenced by the Jones' philosophy, who are really good people. I don't think these people are anti-semitic, but they have a resentment regarding

Zionism and the Jewish issue relating to the land of Israel.

I always attempt to lovingly inform the people on the historical, geographical, humanitarian, and theological reasons why a Christian must be pro-Jewish and pro-Israel. I don't always win that debate, but I always try.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: On God's perspective on the Jewish people, Dr. Falwell, is God finished with the Jewish people or do you think the Jews are still God's Chosen People?

FALWELL: I think the Jews have been, are, and forever shall be, the Chosen People of God.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: Do you think God gave the land of Israel to the Jews and they, therefore, have the right to call all of that land their land today?

FALWELL: I do. The Jews there are in spiritual blindness and do not fully understand their own prophetic destiny. In the land of Israel, you will meet many Israelis who are atheists. You'll meet many others who deeply resent Christians. Religious freedom is not provided to Christians in the land of Israel, as we consider religious freedom in America. You can get in trouble in a hurry

"The Jews have not been rejected in a sense that God as forgotten them, but for 2000 years the emphasis of the great commission has been the non-Jewish world. That is why your work is so important."

in Israel doing missionary work. Whenever I am with leaders of the Israeli government, I protest that. They know I am their friend, they accept it from me.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: Dr. Falwell, do you think that when God allowed the second temple to be destroyed in 70 A.D. under the Roman occupation that that was a sign from God of his rejection of their form of worship?

FALWELL: I think it was an outward manifestation of the fulfillment of our Lord's warning regarding rejecting the Jews and turning to the gentiles for this church age. The Jews have not been rejected in a sense that God has forgotten them, but for 2000 years the emphasis of the great commission has been the non-Jewish world.

"Whenever I meet with a Jewish person who is a follower of Jesus Christ, I look on him, or her, as a completed Jew. I don't look on him, or her, as any less or more Jewish."

That is why your work is so important. God wants that every person, and especially the Jews, should hear the gospel of Christ, and I think that the American Board of Missions to the Jews and other such ministries are fulfilling a very important role in God's plan for world evangelization.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: Do you believe that we are in the end of the age and the last days?

FALWELL: I do. I believe that the coming of Christ is imminent. I am not a date setter. I am not impractical about my premillennial views. I try to work and plan with the next generation in mind. I try to live in view of the fact that He may come in the next hour.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: Do you believe that the Jews will return to Israel before the "rapture"? Do you believe their return is necessary before the "rapture"?



Chosen People Ministries' Ben Alpert and Dr. Jerry Falwell

FALWELL: I do not believe anything must necessarily occur before Jesus can come in the "rapture." I do not believe that there is any unfulfilled prophecy as it relates to the Jews, or any other issue, to hinder his imminent return. The Jews are in the land today. Since 1948, they have been an accepted and bona fide nation.

I do not believe that one more Jew must go home before Jesus returns. On the other hand, since we are not clear as to when our Lord is returning, many more Jews may return to Israel, or there may be a net loss with many leaving Israel as is the case today.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: Dr. Falwell, we at the ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries are emphasizing now in major areas of the Jewish population a church planting ministry—that is, we're sending well-trained, well-educated missionary couples into cities of 100,000 or more Jews, and we're planting local, New Testament churches. The difference being is that these churches are Jewish oriented, they have Jewish sounding names and they worship in a way that is very comfortable to the Jewish people. Do you in your theological position, or in your

methodology, do you approve of that, or do you see or have any problems in establishing what we call a predominantly Hebrew/Christian church or congregation?

FALWELL: I think that is the biblical approach. I think further it is the only real answer how to reach the Jewish people. We do that with our mission's ministries in Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America, etc. It is

"We have many Arabs who are here as students at Liberty University... they don't feel that we are racists or bigots because we are pro-Jewish, pro-Israel... most of the Arabs I know who love the Lord and to whom we minister are as committed to Zionism as we are."

high time that somebody began doing that in the approach to Jewish evangelism. I commend you for doing it.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: Dr. Falwell, the fundamental Baptists of all the different camps have been the leaders in world missions. One of our teachers that we had in common, Dr. Fred Donaldson, said that the strong right arm of a fellowship to reach the world must be missions. We have often seen, in fundamentalists, that there is a lack of reaching the Jewish people in America with the gospel. In these very strong missionary oriented groups, can you share with me why you feel that is?

FALWELL: It really is a mystery to me. Fundamental Baptists have never had an effective and concentrated evangelistic effort to Jewish people. I've often thought there might be several reasons for that.

One, I don't think we have ever properly equipped ourselves for Jewish evangelism and so our feeling of unpreparedness could be one reason we have not fulfilled this responsibility. Another has been the great emphasis we have had on world missions outside the United States and probably explains why we have done so poorly in our efforts to reach people who live within our borders.

We are not only weak in Jewish evangelism in the United States, we are weak in our minority evangelism. We have done very poorly in the inner cities. We have very few churches in the major population areas, like New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles.

We, for some reason, have not focused our evangelistic attention

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on what we would call home missions. We somehow have the concept that missions must be outside the United States, when the Jewish community, the black, and the Indian communities in this country, and other minority groups, Hispanics particularly, are right next door and we're doing little, if anything, to reach them.

CHOSEN PEOPLE: On the other end of the theological spectrum, why do you think that the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church, historically or presently, have never been supportive of the Jewish people?

"When Bible believing Christians use the word, Christian, we refer to those persons who have a personal relationship with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We refer to those people who believe in the inerrancy of Scripture and the cardinal doctrines of Biblical Christianity. Those persons have never been involved in promoting anti-semitism."

FALWELL: I have often challenged the Catholic Church, and especially the Pope, to recognize Israel and establish diplomatic relations. They're talking about it now. They've always been reluctant, I would imagine, because of their fear that it might damage their relationship with Christian Arabs. I don't believe that for a moment it would happen.

We have many Arabs who are here as students at Liberty University. We have strong evangelistic ministries in Arab countries. We support pastors who are preaching in Israel to Arab audiences. None of them object to my support of the state of Israel. Once they get to know the Bible, they understand that the sons of Abraham are Jews and Arabs, and they understand fully that our position is a biblical one that the Abrahamic covenant is immutable.

They don't feel that we are racists or bigots because we are pro-Jewish, pro-Israel. They understand that we are obeying scripture, and most of the Arabs I know who love the Lord and to whom we minister are as committed to Zionism as we are. ☺

A Letter from Leah

It takes special grace to be a missionary in Israel. First they thought Leah and her late husband were traitors. Then they thought she was crazy. What would they say now if they knew about her dream?

Dear Prayer Partner,

It is now 38 years since my husband Jacob and I reached the promised land.

It was only through His grace that I am privileged to be here at all. In spite of the fact that we had opportunities to go to other countries, we had survived the Holocaust and therefore felt that our place was in Israel.

We felt that we had to build the country; the metropolitan city of Tel Aviv was then only a village. We also wanted to make our living "by the sweat of our brow," desiring that our testimony to our countrymen be most effective.

Traitors to Our People

Both desires were very difficult. For, though we worked very hard, there were days when we and our children were hungry, without enough bread to eat. In the minds of our brethren in the flesh, we were traitors to our people.

Slowly, the Lord helped us to win the trust of some and they stopped thinking of us as traitors and started thinking of us simply as crazy people.

Often I thank and praise the Lord for the strength He gave us to ignore the humiliation and continue to plant those seeds, with dreams that they would grow for His glory.

Not long ago, I met a lady who was very friendly. I shared with her that I believed the Bible, not only the Old Testament but the New as well.

She was quiet. Then, suddenly she embraced me and kissed me. "You are a sister to me not only in the flesh, but also in the faith," she said. "Glory be to the Lord that He has caused us to meet one another."

Yes, the seeds we and others have planted in this country have not all grown up in flowers and fruits to maturity, but I praise the Lord for the privilege of seeing that many *have* grown into the knowledge of His salvation.

Few Believers

When we arrived in Israel, there were very few believers, and those that existed were spread out in different congregations led by foreign leaders. As the Lord multiplied the brethren, He caused me to dream further ... to dream of making the testimony more effective and creating Hebrew congregations that would be led by Hebrew Christians. I believed it was very important that the Word of God be preached in Hebrew, so that our brethren coming into the congregation would see that he was among his own and hear the Word of God as he used to hear it in *cheder* (religious school). By His grace, this part of the dream has also been realized.

My dream has not been completely fulfilled yet. But, not because I am unhappy. The Lord called me when I was young and my burden was for my young generation. That young generation has now reached the golden age and I long for their salvation.



Now, the burden I have brought before the Lord is that he will establish old age homes for Hebrew Christians in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Beersheba.

Dreams Will Be Fulfilled

Nowhere in the Bible do I find a word saying that there is anything God cannot accomplish — He who created all the beauties our eyes see. It is in His power to make big things as well as small, so I have prayed that all of my dreams will be fulfilled.

Will you pray with me and share this burden, that the old shall live the remainder of their lives in an honorable way, as daughters and sons of the Heavenly King!

Thank you, dear prayer partners, for sharing my dream. May the Lord bless you.

Leah Goren

A series of coincidences have brought Avi, a young Israeli, across the path of several believers. Now ...

It's up to God

Sam Miller
Missionary, Houston

In a city as spread out as Houston, it's always amazing to run into someone you know in an unexpected place.

How much more of a "coincidence" it is to have two Christians (who have never met each other) *both* ask you to witness to someone they know!

That's why I didn't think it was any "coincidence" at all when a friend called and said she had witnessed to Avi — an Israeli I had called just a month or two before.

A Welcome Guest

I first heard about him from a Christian family who had met him while they were touring Israel. A friendship had grown and they urged him to consider himself a welcome guest in their home whenever he visited the U.S. Last fall, he accepted their invitation and came to see if he could find work in Houston.

Avi had occasionally gone to church with them and was interested in their faith, but didn't see that it could apply to him in any way. I really didn't have any advice to give the family, but I offered to call him myself. When I did, he was cordial

and open, but didn't seem to want to hear a great deal about spiritual matters.

Imagine my surprise when a few weeks later, a woman from our fellowship group called and said she met an Israeli at the drivers license office who she'd like me to talk to. It was Avi.

Always Tied Up

I called Avi again and this time we agreed to meet for coffee. One appointment after another got cancelled because Avi always found himself tied up with something else. Finally we met.

Never Argued, Never Agreed

Like most Israelis in their mid-twenties, Avi had served in the Army and faced many of life's deeper questions. Yet in talking, he said he felt the answers could be found through Orthodox Judaism. As I talked to him about God's love, he never argued, but he never agreed either.

Sam Miller, Chosen People missionary in Houston is a Jewish believer originally from Alabama. He came to the Lord in 1969.

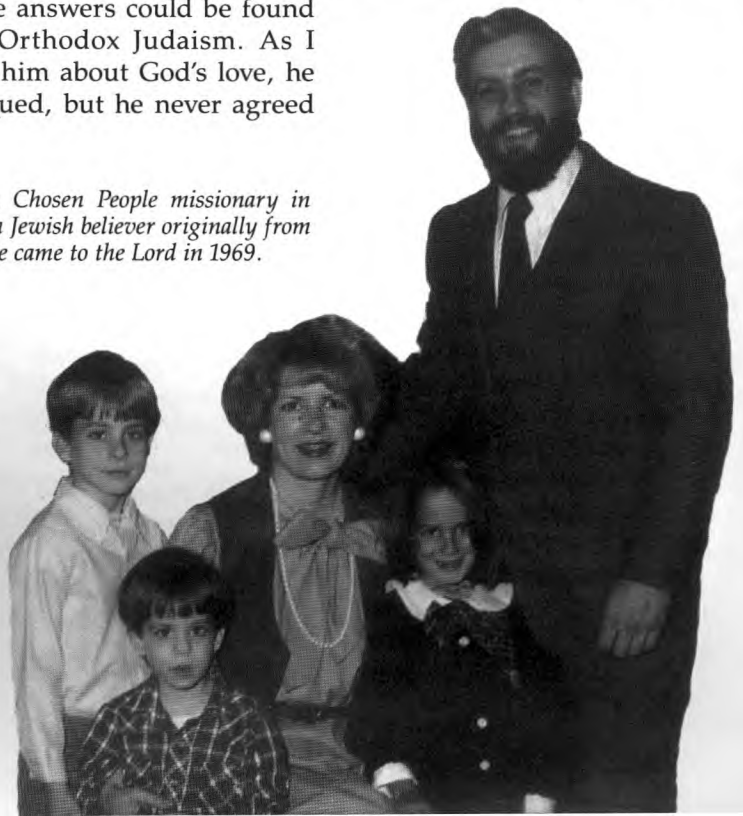
At that meeting I gave him some literature to read and a Hebrew New Testament. We agreed to get together again.

Looking Forward to Messiah

Our next meeting seemed no different from the first. He said he atoned for his sins through prayer and fasting, and that he was looking forward to the Messiah's coming.

He also said that he was beginning to read the New Testament.

So now, it's up to the Lord. I don't know what is in Avi's heart; only that God seems to have put several believers and witnesses in his path. I hope that many of our *Chosen People* family will join us in praying that Avi soon discovers the almighty hand behind the "coincidences" that have been coming into his life! ☺



NEWS FROM ISRAEL

ANCIENT BIBLICAL TEXT UNCOVERED

Scrolls preceding the Dead Sea Scrolls by 400 years are currently on display at the Israel Museum, as part of an exhibit from one of the richest finds ever unearthed in Jerusalem.

The texts, dated from the late period of the Judaeen monarch in the First Temple period, around the mid-7th century B.C., show the Hebrew tetragrammaton YHWH, and the traditional priestly benediction (Numbers 6:24-26):

"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant you peace."

Prof. Gabriel Barkay, the Budapest-born Jerusalem bred archaeologist who led the expedition, captured the excitement of this find when he said, "Finding this text was particularly moving to me. It is the text, found in every Jewish prayer book, and here I was on a scientific dig, and I found the same verses our people have been uttering in the same city for 2600 years."

ISRAEL SCENE, February, 1987, Page 20-21

DANNY KAYE—HIS DEATH MOURNED AS THE LOSS OF A DEAR FRIEND

When entertainer Danny Kaye died earlier this year, his passing was deeply mourned in Israel.

Ever since his first short visits to

Israel in 1950, Kaye had been a close friend of the country. Over the years, he entertained Israelis spontaneously in kibbutzim, in the streets and in special fund-raising performances. He promoted Israeli tourism, contributed to a variety of



causes and was an articulate spokesman for the Jewish state in the U.S.

At the outbreak of the Six-Day War, Kaye was at the Desert Inn, Las Vegas, where he was booked for a month. He asked the management to release him so he could leave for Israel at once. In Israel, he entertained the troops and wounded in hospitals throughout the country and subsequently embarked on a tour of Europe, U.S. and Latin America as a conductor of the Gadna Youth Orchestra.

In 1982 Kaye was honored by the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

and awarded its Lifetime Achievement Award. A Danny Kaye wing is planned for the university's Medical Education Center.

Jerusalem Post, March 14, 1987, Page 15

A FUTURE IN FUNGUS?

A new kind of fungus is being used at Tel Aviv University to remove heavy metals from industrial waste water, which can then be recycled for other purposes.

Prof. Margalith Galun, a botanist at the University, says she has developed an economical method of using fungi to clean waste water. The fungus has been shown to work well in the lab and the university is now seeking funds to apply it in industry.

A different fungus, one that gobbles up fungi of other types, has been isolated at the Hebrew University's Rehovot branch and is viewed as a hopeful weapon against powdery-mildew disease, which seriously damages agricultural produce.

Jerusalem Post, Week ending March 7, 1987, page 21

OVERLEAF INSTRUCTIONS

The following special centerspread can be used as a poster or prayer reminder. Carefully pry up the two staples, then gently remove the envelope and full color poster. Bend back the staples and your *Chosen People* magazine remains intact. (Photo by Max and Hilla Jacoby)

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May the



Those who love you be secure. (Psalm 122:6)



“ISRAEL? *what do you see in that place?*”

That's what someone asked Marvin Denney, Wilmington, Delaware, veteran of five tours to Israel with Chosen People Ministries. If you've never seen Israel "through Jewish eyes" and also wonder what the attraction is, perhaps you can begin your journey simply by considering the comments of the 22 recently returned folk at right.



The trip to Israel had even more of an effect on me than I expected. My primary purpose was the classic one: walk where Jesus walked. Yet day by day I found that my interest in the places of the past was being balanced by an increasing hunger to learn about the land and people of the present, and that my eyes were being opened to see the corporate and individual pain of the Jewish people and their need for the Messiah. This was to have been my once in a lifetime trip and already I want to return!

— Ann Jennerjahn, Garden City, NY



My trip to Israel with Chosen People Ministries has made the Bible come alive in a new and different way. Visiting places I had only read about has enriched my personal Bible study, improved my teaching and enhanced my witness. My trip to Israel has given me a common bond with my Jewish friends and business associates that was never there before. I strongly urge every Bible-believing pastor, teacher and lay person to visit the land of the Bible. The cost of the trip is negligible when compared with the insights gained.

— Dorothy Frederickson, Olney, MD

We found our trip to Israel most rewarding. It has long been our hope to go there. So many places which were formerly nothing but names on the pages of the Bible now have a relevance they never had before. We really learned a lot in the afternoon at the Bedouin tent. It was a memorable experience and one we'll never forget.

— Willie & Effie Bruce,
Motherwell, Scotland

As you travel through Israel, and see all there is to see, from the lovely Sea of Galilee to the panorama of beauty viewed from Masada, you understand why Messiah chose Israel for His very own. It's a beautiful country with people who are delightful, polite and willing to please.

—Constance Acquavella, Brooklyn, NY



It has been my privilege to make three trips to Israel, the last two with Chosen People Ministries. We saw the many contrasts in the land between the "old" and the "new." The Bedouins live in their goats' hair tents as they did in Abraham's time, and one afternoon extended to us their gracious hospitality. As we traveled modern roads in our motor coach we saw the newly developed fertile lands and settlements. Even though we heard many stories of fighting and unrest, I felt very safe at all times and look forward to returning again to the Promised Land. It gets better every time.

—Pauline Thiessen, Simcoe, ONT.



Words fail to adequately express the exuberancy that fills

one's soul in a fantastic look at the Holy Land through Jewish eyes! Our wonderful Israel pilgrimage with Chosen People Ministries far exceeded our hopes and expectations. As Bible students, we've found new meaning and new awareness of our heritage; both brought into sharper focus having been to and having seen "The Promised Land."

—Bill & Maude Nagle, Sunbury, PA



A trip to "See Israel Through Jewish Eyes" is an unforgettable

journey that links you to the legacy granted to the world by the Jewish people. As you return home, your every move will be built upon what you've experienced. Our link to the past gives confidence for the present and courage for the future. You haven't lived until you've walked through Israel.

—Steve & Bonnie Burr, Hopewell, PA

"I'll never forget walking below Jerusalem's streets in the excavated Rabbis' Tunnel, climbing Masada, or reclining on beautiful oriental carpets in the tent of Bedouins."

I have never enjoyed traveling and have often slept while friends exhibited their countless slides of trips to exotic places. But I was captivated one day by the invitation to "See Israel Through Jewish Eyes." I'm sure we did the usual things tourists do, but what a privilege to do the unusual! I'll never forget walking below Jerusalem's streets in the excavated Rabbis' Tunnel, or climbing to Masada to view the Beautiful Jordan Valley, or reclining on beautiful oriental carpets in the tent of Bedouins. Because of this trip, the Scriptures have more meaning to me than ever before.

—Chuck Masters, Orleans, CA



We have been to Israel three times and we always have a

desire to return. Going through the Rabbis' Tunnel with the Chosen People Ministries' tour was really special! It is always a blessing to go to the places where our Lord Himself lived and ministered.

—Bill & Mary Barnett, Oklahoma City, OK



I was pleased that Chosen People Ministries had their "See Israel Through Jewish Eyes" tour planned down to the smallest detail. I was in the company of Christians who love Israel as much as I do. My prayer is to have the faith to stand with the Jewish people, support them and pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.

—Marjorie Peters, Houston, TX



I loved every minute of the tour and enjoyed great fellowship with saints from all across the U.S. and even from Scotland. But the wonderful part was Israel itself. Starting from Tel Aviv, up to Mt. Carmel, to the Galilee, and then to Jerusalem, every experience was filled with a history that you could practically see acted out before your very own eyes. I'll always remember standing on the Mt. of Olives and looking across the Kidron Valley to the Golden Gate which one day will be unsealed as Jesus comes again to the Holy City. I praise the Lord for the trip and truly can't wait to return!

—Rick Kaplan, New York, NY

**AROUND US IS WAR;
IN US IS PEACE**

The Middle East totters on the brink of war.

Human blunders, human tempers, and human fear spill over into our daily news, making us ask "When," not if, "will there be war?"

Scripture commands us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and promises blessings to those who do. Often, in view of what appear to be the facts, it is difficult to know how to believe peace will ever come; short of the arrival of the Messiah.

Yet even where humans rule, God is in control.

Now is the time to pray for the nation of Israel: for her rulers, for her people. And now is the time to pray that they discover the only true peace: the peace of Messiah.

Your Chosen People missionaries are sharing that peace with the Jewish people every day and watching lives change through the love of God.

If you feel led to join in this very special blessing and be part of the Chosen People outreach, please consider standing with us in financial support.

Though the world around us is filled with talk of war, join us in sharing the peace of Messiah with a nation in need.

I also enclose \$_____ to help support the work of Chosen People Ministries.

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The "See Israel Through Jewish Eyes" tour with Chosen People Ministries was the fulfillment of a life-long dream. As a Jewish believer in Yeshua, this trip enabled me to really experience my Jewish heritage. I find that I see things as never before. The Bible is more alive as I recognize places where we went. Praise God, I was able to stand within Jerusalem's gates (Ps. 122), and I cannot wait to go back!

—Leslie Wright, Columbia, CA



"Going to Israel again! What do you see in that place?" After five trips with Chosen People Ministries this question is easy to answer. I LIKE to go to Israel! It's like a beautiful tapestry, with each thread important to the whole. To see where Jesus our Messiah was born, died and rose again, and where He will one day come again to set up His Kingdom, is very special to me. There is no place in the world that can begin to be compared with the Holy Land.

—Marvin Denney, Wilmington, DE

From the time we landed in Israel to the time our plane took off for home our days were filled with scenes, people, facts and events never to be forgotten: Two children on donkeys tending a camel herd by the Dead Sea, a bride in her gown and the groom in his tuxedo, walking to the Western Wall to pray, our Sabbath service on a boat on the Sea of Galilee. If we start planning now — maybe next year...

—Bob & Susan Owens, Newtown, PA



Memories of my tour with Chosen People Ministries warm my heart. Yes, it was special to enjoy highlights of the trip like the visit to the Rabbis' Tunnel, the Bible study with a rabbi, the visit in an Israeli home and the meeting with a government official. Seeing places and people that tie 4000 years of Jewish history and tradition together, helped us to learn so much more about the Patriarchs and something of what Israel is today. I want to go again one day with Chosen People Ministries.

—Doris Parrish, Oak Harbor, WA

What a privilege was ours—a trip to Israel with gentle, caring leaders, Harold and Grace Sevens. The hotels were excellent, the food elegant; all comforts graciously provided. We rode the Sea of Galilee, visited Masada, saw the headwaters of the Jordan River which nourish the tiny land of Israel. If you've never been—go. If you went years ago—go again; see what amazing things have been accomplished there.

—Bob & Betty Hubbard, Morrison, CO

Automatically Anti-Semitic



Tony's contempt for the Jewish people was automatic. What he didn't count on was a God that could change his mind and his heart at the same time.

Michael Campo
Missionary, Chicago

"All those years, whenever I saw a Jewish person, I automatically disliked him."

From my vantage point behind the steering wheel, I glanced sideways at my companion. I had known and been best friends with Tony since we were children, and in a very real sense I understood .

Tony and I grew up together in Chicago. Like many other boys in our neighborhood, we thought we knew all about Jewish people. They had killed our Savior, they tried to get the best of us in business, and they were very different from us "Christians."

Sinful Attitudes

Then, about 15 years ago, I found a personal relationship with Jesus. Over the years God showed me that these attitudes were sinful, a tool of Satan, and He replaced distrust and dislike with a burden and love for the Jewish people.

It was at my father's funeral that Tony and I were reunited. A few days later I found myself debating whether or not to call my friend. I really wanted to invite him to a monthly Bible study in South Chicago which Barry Berger and I were just starting. But, the Jewish Gospel music would surely turn him off, I thought, and the Jewish perspective on the Gospel would surely puzzle

him. The emphasis on God's love and provision for the Jewish people might even make him angry, I reasoned. Still, I felt a strong tug at my heart.

I called.

The study was titled "How to Bless the Jew." Only minutes into the study, I saw that God was doing something wonderful in Tony's heart.

He was eagerly reading every Scripture, asking questions and joining in the discussion. He literally radiated enthusiasm and more than once he'd see a verse and exclaim, "Look at this, just look at this!"

Scripture Came Alive

Afterward, as we discussed the Bible study, Tony was amazed at how much the Lord loves the Jewish people. The Scripture had come alive for him that evening, and rather than turning him off, the Jewish perspective had helped him understand the Gospel.

"I'll come back again next month," he told me as our evening was drawing to a close.

"Before you go, I'd like to ask you something," I paused for a second, feeling very awkward.

On the one hand, the last thing I wanted to do was to say the wrong thing or make him feel uncomfortable. On the other hand, I had specifically asked people to pray that


Tony would receive Christ that night. Because I knew they were praying, I did not want to lose the opportunity to allow God to answer those prayers.

"Would you like to pray to receive Christ?"

When he said yes I could have jumped up and down and shouted "hallelujah!" Instead we bowed our heads and prayed together.

Just about every day since then we've talked. His wife has now come to faith also, and his son and sister-in-law seem so open that I believe they will be saved any day. He is studying Scripture every day, attending church, and sharing his faith.

I don't think anything made me happier about Tony than what he said one day in the car .

"All those years, whenever I saw a Jewish person, I automatically disliked him," Tony told me. "Now I pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for God's salvation to extend to his people every day." 



A Chosen People missionary since 1984, Michael Campo has been working in the Chicago area since Feb., 1987.

EVANGELICALS ISRAEL & THE JEWISH PEOPLE



Dr. Leslie B. Flynn

There are all manner of opinions and viewpoints offered with regard to Israel, the Jewish people and the Gospel. But what does the Bible say? This month we contacted several evangelical leaders and theologians for their thoughts on the following questions:

What if any, is the view which Christians should have of the modern State of Israel? What, if any, participation should Christians take in the modern State of Israel? How can Christians pray most effectively for modern Israel? And finally, do the Jewish people need to hear the Gospel?

—Editor

DR. LESLIE B. FLYNN
Senior Pastor
Grace Conservative
Baptist Church
Nanuet, NY

As a boy, I heard my pastor teach that the Jews would go back some day to the land of Israel. That was in the 1920's. The idea seemed impossible of fulfillment at that time, but we all know how in 1948 Israel became a nation. It was a thrill for me to visit Israel in the 60's and see the land where then over two million had regathered since its restoration.



Dr. John F. Walvoord

I suppose my interest in modern Israel relates to Romans 11 and the figure of the olive tree. The natural branch, the Jew, was replaced by the wild branch of the Gentiles. However, when the fullness of the Gentiles comes, the natural branch, the Jew, will be grafted in. Then there will be a great turning of the Jews to the Lord. So I suppose my interest in modern Israel is in anticipation of the great turning of the Jews to trust in their Messiah.

DR. JOHN F. WALVOORD
Chancellor
Dallas Theological Seminary
Dallas, TX

I believe the formation of the modern State of Israel in May, 1948 was the first step towards Israel's ultimate revival and restoration as a nation. The formation of the State of Israel as a political entity is necessary because the next step in its restoration will be a peace treaty between Israel and a Middle East ruler who is yet to arise as indicated in Daniel 9:26-27.

The next stage of Israel's experience will be the breaking of the peace treaty three and one-half



Richard W. DeHaan

years before the Second Coming of Christ which is the Great Tribulation of the time of Jacob's trouble.

The fourth stage of Israel's restoration will come at the Second Coming of Christ when Christ will judge Israel, purge out un-

"To involve ourselves in missions around the world without observing the programmatic order that God set up 'to the Jew first and then to the Gentile' is to act in an unbiblical way in modern missionary movement."

believers (Ezek. 20:34-38) and gather the righteous remnant of Israel to live in the land promised Abraham from Egypt to the Euphrates.

According to the Bible, Israel is a special people God has chosen to be a channel of revelation of God to the world. Through Israel have come the prophets, the writers of Scripture, and, most of all, Jesus Christ.



Dr. J. Richard Chase

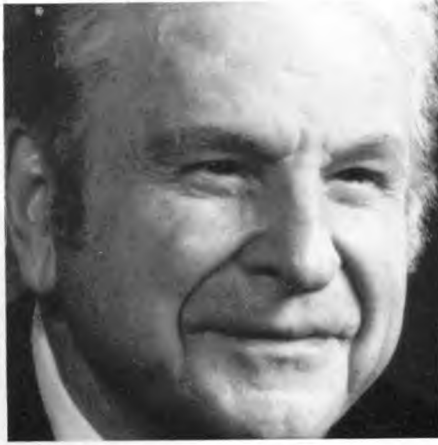
According to the covenant with Abraham, those who bless Israel will be blessed, and those who curse Israel will be cursed, a fact that is well illustrated in the history of Israel. It must be recognized, however, that the great majority of Israelites in the land are not Christians and cannot be expected to observe Christian standards or morality.

Accordingly, Christians cannot always approve the political actions of the State of Israel even though generally they are supportive of the people of Israel. While Israel has title to the Promised Land, it is quite clear in Scripture that they will never possess it until Jesus Christ returns in the Second Coming. Their present possession of the land must be dictated by international law and what is right under the circumstances. I personally believe that Israel is entitled to the land they now occupy including the West Bank.

Christians should be especially grateful to the Jewish people for what we have inherited through them in the Scriptures and in Jesus Christ. We should recognize that they are a special people in God's sight, and though they are still for the most part unrelated to



Dr. Ray Stedman



Dr. W.A. Criswell



Dr. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.

Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, I believe Christians should go out of their way to be friendly to the Jews and disavow the inquisitions and persecutions that have sometimes occurred in the history of the church. Christians should certainly not be guilty of anti-Semitism or any attitude that fails to recognize the special status of Israelites.

DR. RICHARD W. DeHAAN
President
Radio Bible Class
Grand Rapids, MI

Believing as we do that the judgment of God awaits those who unjustly oppress "the apple of His eye," it should be of vital concern to us that our national leaders act wisely, within the perfect will of God, in relation to the State of Israel. No nation can treat God's chosen people with contempt and hope to escape His punishment.

As a nation honors Israel, so God honors that nation.

DR. J. RICHARD CHASE
President
Wheaton College
Wheaton, IL

The "Modern State of Israel" and the "Jewish" people are not necessarily one and the same. One is an institutional form of governance and the other is a distinct people. The people are God's chosen and play a major role in Biblical history, past as well as future.

Christians are light and salt. They should be seen and felt everywhere—including modern Israel, United States, and Soviet Union—whenever possible and feasible.

Do the Jewish people need to hear the Gospel?

The New Testament says they do. I am unfamiliar with Biblical references that remove any segment of society from the "allness" of the Gospel message.

"Contrary to what some have attempted to argue in a strange doctrine that would allow the Jews to continue under a separate covenant, every Jewish individual needs desperately to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

DR. RAY STEDMAN
Pastor
Peninsula Bible Church
Palo Alto, CA

It is a secular state with little or no interest in fulfilling Bible prophecy, but unknowingly to it, being led by the Spirit back into the land to make ready for the program of the last days.

Christians should pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and pray for individual Israelis that their minds will be open to the testimony about Jesus.



Dr. Friedhelm K. Radant

DR. W. A. CRISWELL
Pastor
First Baptist Church of Dallas
Dallas, TX

What, if any, is the view which Christians should have of the modern State of Israel?

One of deepest sympathy and support.

What, if any, participation should Christians take in the modern State of Israel?

One of the best ways to help is to visit the state as a tourist.

DR. WALTER C. KAISER, JR.
Academic Dean and Professor
Of Old Testament
Trinity Evangelical
Divinity School
Deerfield, IL

Christians can pray not only for the peace of Israel but also for the mighty revival and turning back of the Jewish people to the Messiah. It remains one of the ironies of history that the people through whom the good news is come have themselves been left bankrupt. To involve ourselves in missions around the world without observing the programmatic order that God set up "to the Jew first and then to the Gentile" is to act in an unbiblical way in modern missionary movement.



Dr. David L. Hocking

Jewish people most certainly do need to hear the gospel. For the so-called "Two-Covenant Theory" which says that Christians are saved through Jesus Christ while Jewish people can only find forgiveness of sins through the Jewish traditions of the centuries is false. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament make the object of faith none other than the "Man of Promise," the Messiah, even our Lord Jesus. That is the point of Genesis 15 as well as Romans 4.

DR. FRIEDHELM K. RADANT
President
The King's College
Briarcliff Manor, NY

As a Christian who follows with keen interest the unfolding of God's plan for the peoples of the world, I rejoice in the existence of a strong State of Israel. Being a Christian who grew up in Hitler's Germany, I praise God for establishing modern Israel in our time and am well aware of its special role as a precursor to our Lord's return.



Dr. Jack Wyrzten

DR. DAVID L. HOCKING
Pastor
Calvary Church of Santa Ana
Santa Ana, CA

The return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Zechariah 12 teaches that the Lord will defend the inhabitants as well as pour out His spirit upon them, a clear evidence that the majority are there in unbelief in order for that event to occur.

We should pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6) and seek to help them in time of physical need or possible imprisonment (Matthew 25:37-40— "My brethren") and support their presence and right to the land (Genesis 12:3; 17:8).

How can Christians pray most effectively for modern Israel?

Pray for God's protection of His people, the peace of Jerusalem, the prosperity of the land but most of all, that the hearts of the Jewish people may turn to the Messiah in complete trust and faith!

Do the Jewish people need to hear the Gospel?

All people need to hear the Gospel (Romans 1:16; 10:1, 11-21)! We have a Jewish heritage, a Jewish Messiah, a Jewish leadership—the Church must understand that Gentiles are saved because of a promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3 cf Gal. 3:6-9) and that the Jewish people gave us our Messiah and our wonderful salvation (Jn. 4:22; Acts 3:25-26)!

DR. JACK WYRTZEN
Evangelist, Founder
Word of Life
Schroon Lake, NY

We are vitally interested in Israel and always have been, ever since we have known Jesus Christ the Messiah. God reminded Abraham that I will bless them that bless thee and I will curse them that curse thee and whenever we bless and pray for Israel God blesses us.

We need to pray for Israel, for they are headed for the time of Jacob's trouble and the time of the end, a time of great tribulation and we should win them and woo



Dr. Paige Patterson.

“The ‘Modern State of Israel’ and the ‘Jewish’ people are not necessarily one and the same. One is an institutional form of governance and the other is a distinct people. The people are God’s chosen and play a major role in Biblical history, past as well as future.”

them and love them as we try to bring them to Jesus Christ; their Messiah and ours.

DR. PAIGE PATTERSON
President
Criswell Center for Biblical
Studies
Dallas, TX

The modern State of Israel is *apparently* the beginning of the fulfillment of the regathering of national Israel prophesied in Ezekiel’s famous dry bones passage. Accordingly, Christians should support every good and noble effort made by the State of Israel including its right to exist as a free republic in the Middle East. This does not include support of all Israeli policy such as, for example, the failure of the State of Israel to have genuine religious liberty.

Contrary to what some have attempted to argue in a strange doctrine that would allow the Jews to continue under a separate covenant, every Jewish individual needs desperately to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Christians need to be especially careful that they present Christ in such a way that if there is an offense, it is in the Gospel and not in the method of presentation. Above all, Jewish contact with evangelical Christians should be contacts that would utterly convince Jewish friends of the genuineness of the love of evangelicals.

A Lasting Gift

The largest tangible support for the work of ABMJ/ Chosen People Ministries is individual contributions from its friends given during their lifetimes. As everyone knows, such gifts allow the donor both a federal and state income tax deduction.

One important criterion in determining if a gift qualifies for such a deduction is whether the donor expects—in the language of the tax code and regulations—a “commensurate financial benefit” in return for the gift. If such a benefit is even implied, the tax deduction is disallowable.

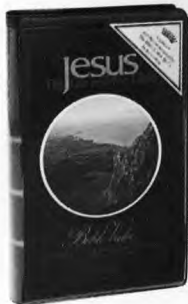
Many of this ministry’s friends are not able to render financial support—at least in the degree desired—because their income may be barely enough to meet the daily expenses of living. To these dear friends

—always faithful prayer warriors—and to others, as well, there may be an alternative way to tangibly support the work of the Mission. We refer to the gifting of assets after death, either by will or trust. Such a gift is also an allowable tax deduction from the estate value in determining the expense of transferring that estate. Of course, the “commensurate financial benefit” to the donor is not a criterion for the deduction of an estate gift! But the Heavenly Father promises to determine the “commensurate” rewards of such a gift for the donor in His heavenly kingdom.

We welcome your inquiry as to the many ways you might make such a final, lasting gift to help bring the Gospel to God’s chosen people. There is no obligation, of course.

For more information, please write THE PRESIDENT, ABMJ, P.O. Box 2000, Orangeburg, New York 10962 or phone 914/359-8535.

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—Harold A. Sevener, President, Chosen People Ministries



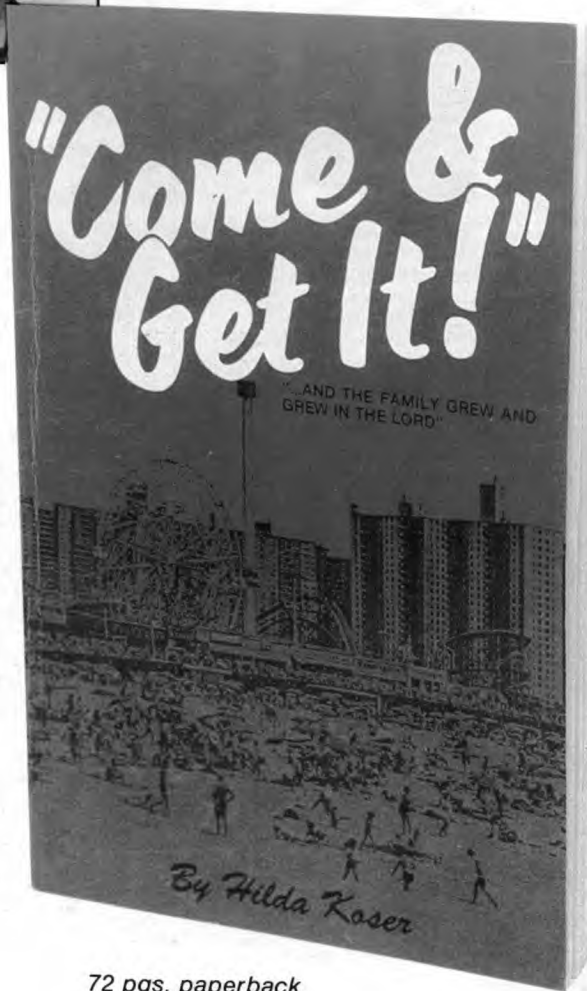
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By HILDA KOSER

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