

The Chosen People

APRIL 1990 ISSN 0164-5323

The Symbols of Passover

see page three



From the President

For Christians the term, Easter, means the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, but interestingly this word is not used in the Greek New Testament nor is there any celebration of the resurrection of Jesus recorded in the New Testament. Its celebration and the date of Easter was fixed by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

The Council ruled that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. This means that Easter Sunday falls anywhere between March 22nd and April 25, depending upon the year.

This time for the celebration of Easter was fixed by the Council of Nicaea so that Easter and the day of Passover, which was celebrated by Jews and by Jewish believers, would not fall on the same day. As a result, two separate holidays and two separate traditions developed side by side.

Christians celebrated Easter. Their traditions incorporated the coloring of Easter eggs, the myth and stories of Easter bunnies, baked or glazed ham at the festive meals, and fluffy hot cross buns became a unique part of the Easter tradition. The Jews and Messianic Jewish believers, on the other hand, continued to maintain their tradition of Passover which had been handed down to them by their forefathers.

There are no hot cross buns in a Passover celebration. It is the Feast of Unleavened bread and all leaven must be removed. No baked ham is served — its simply not kosher. There are no Easter bunnies, Easter baskets, colored eggs, etc. Instead, there is the traditional retelling of the story of the Exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt.

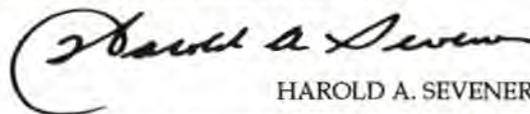
It was this traditional Passover meal that Yeshua (Jesus) was keeping with His disciples when He broke the matzoh (the unleavened bread) and told them that "This is my body given for you."

The early Jewish believers celebrated the resurrection of Jesus in their Passover. The Passover tradition and ceremony took on special meaning and significance based upon the ceremony that Yeshua kept with His disciples.

It is that special significance and unique symbolism between the traditional Passover and the Lord's Supper which we have captured in our latest video, "Messiah In The Passover," which will be shown on over 450 Christian television stations throughout the United States during Easter and Passover week.

It is our prayer and earnest desire that many Jewish people and many Christians will watch this special telecast of "Messiah In the Passover," and that in viewing this film both Jews and Christians will realize why Yeshua so earnestly desired to keep Passover with His disciples.

Perhaps if the Church and more Christians would recognize the paganism surrounding so much of the Easter celebration, and would begin to remember Passover as it was celebrated by the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, commemorating His death, burial, and resurrection, more Jewish people would respond to the Good News of salvation that we proclaim.


HAROLD A. SEVENER

P.S. A replica of the ad we've placed in Christian magazines this month appears on the back of the Chosen People magazine. You can use it to order your own copy of "Messiah in the Passover" or note its broadcast time in your area.

The Chosen People

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE is a medium of information concerning the Jewish people, Israel, and the work of the Chosen People Ministries, 1300 Cross Beam Drive, Charlotte, N.C. 28217-2800.

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A Searchlight from Calvary

By FRANK POTTER
Carolina Church Ministries

The Passover Seder, in which so much of Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment is centered, is bathed in a light which shines down through the centuries right from Calvary. A Levitical feast (Leviticus 23), Passover is still celebrated in Jewish homes today [this year April 9] and still presents a striking and vivid picture of Messiah. It presents irrefutable proof of the truth of Scripture and the validity of God's Word.

The Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage as the "Angel of Death" struck down the first born of the Egyptians, forcing Pharaoh to release the Israelites enabling them to leave the land of Egypt forever.

To the believer, Passover speaks of the redemptive grace of God through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

Searching for Leaven

Even before the holiday begins, the symbolism is in place through a ritual of searching the house for any evidence of leaven. This search points to the fact that the Israelites had to prepare for their journey in haste and had no time to bake their bread in a normal fashion. Yet the search for leaven also speaks to us of the spiri-

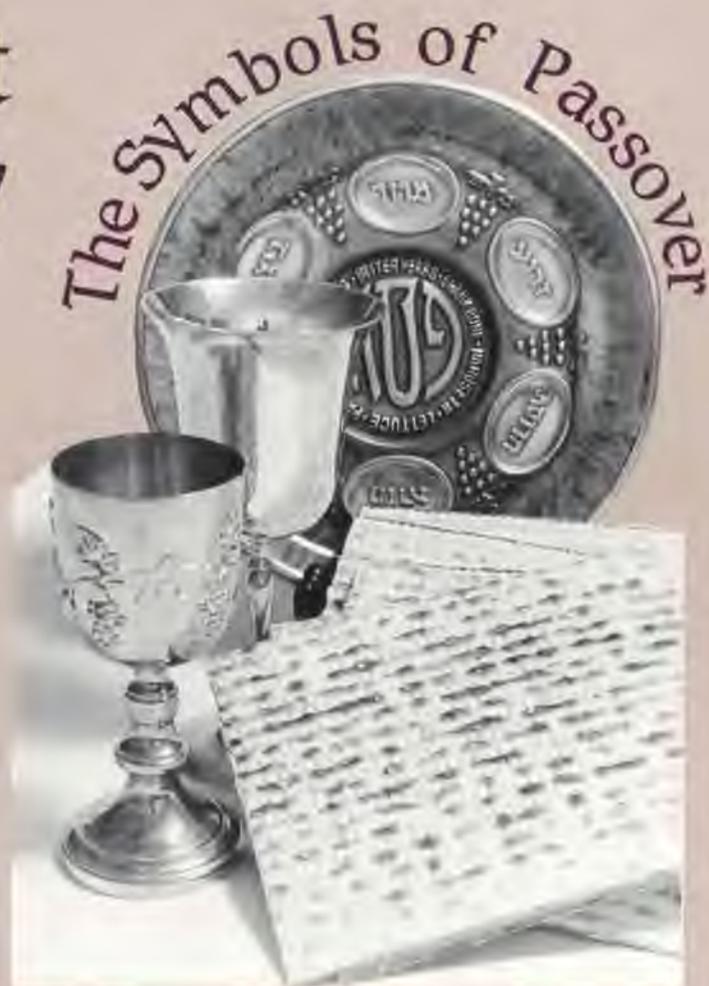
tual cleansing of our hearts that there might be no sin found in us, as leaven in Scripture usually symbolizes sin.

The lighting of the candles, which officially ushers in the feast of Passover, by the woman of the house reminds us that it was from the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15) that the Messiah would come forth to perform His redemptive ministry and bring "light" into the world (Jn. 8:12).

To commemorate the Feast of Passover, a ceremonial dinner, a Seder (say-der), is observed on the

first and second nights. Seder is the Hebrew word for order or division, as the meal is lengthy, reflecting on the Biblical account of the first Passover.

The four cups around which the Passover Seder is centered are also steeped in spiritual significance. The Cup of Sanctification commemorates God's promise to deliver His people from physical as well as spiritual bondage and to sanctify (separate) a people unto Himself, to be His ambassadors to a lost and dying world. The Cup of Plagues has to do with



Celebrated for thousands of years and still observed by the Jewish people today, the Passover ceremony still preaches its own unique Gospel.

God's Judgment and as He caused His wrath to fall upon Pharaoh, God's judgment will fall upon all men who refuse His offer of forgiveness, redemption, and reconciliation in Messiah Jesus.

A Symbol of Redemption

Then there is the third cup which is the Cup Of Redemption. It is the symbol of redemption in which God bought back His people through the "purchase of blood" that was shed on the cross by the Lord Jesus. The One who knew no sin, became sin for us, (2 Cor. 5:21). He took our place on the cross, that we might pay the debt that we in fact owed, and that we might inherit eternal life through our faith in His atoning sacrifice on our behalf.

No longer is there a need for a human high priest to make atonement year by year for the people by use of a sacrificial animal. For Messiah has become our "propitiation," our sacrifice and faith in Him and His sacrifice provides atonement once and for all. "It is finished."

The fourth and final cup symbolizes the regathering and restoration of the Jewish people unto Himself and represents the hope of all who believe in Messiah Jesus that He will one day return and take us home to be with Him. It is traditionally called the "Cup of Praise."

Passover Elements

There are also other elements of the Seder meal which are symbolic: **parsley** which symbolizes freshness or newness of life in Messiah; **salt water** which represents the tears of the Israelites in Egyptian bondage, and reminds us in Messiah all tears of anguish are replaced with tears of joy; **horseradish** which reminds us of the bitterness of physical or spiritual bondage; **charoseth** (mortar), a sweetened mixture of apples, walnuts and cinnamon to symbolize deliverance from bondage both physical and spiritual; a **roasted egg**,

a symbol of the "burnt offering" or sacrifice, which cannot be made because there is no physical Temple standing in Jerusalem in which to perform it. In this we see God has made provision in His "burnt offering:" the sacrifice of Messiah.

To the believer, Passover speaks of the redemptive grace of God through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

The Perfect Lamb

A **shankbone** is a reminder of the death of the perfect lamb whose blood was applied to the doorposts of the houses of the Israelites so that the "Angel of Death" would pass over them on that fateful night in Egypt almost 4000 years ago. On the Passover table is another item—one of the great mysteries. It is a "Unity" or Matzoh Tosh; a bag in which three pieces of Matzoh are placed in separate compartments.

Traditionally there have been a number of rabbinic theories to explain this. One theory specifies that the three separate matzohs represent the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Another theory states that they represent God, the High Priest, and the Jewish people.

I believe, however, that these three pieces of matzoh are a picture of the trinity of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

At one point in the Passover Seder, the middle matzoh is taken out and broken in half. One half is returned to the center compartment and the other half, the Afikomen, is wrapped separately and hidden later to be searched for by the children and to be redeemed by the elder of the home.

Messiah's Body

The matzoh (unleavened bread), baked so it is pierced and striped, is a symbol of Messiah's cruel and painful death on the cross (Isa. 53:5; Ps. 22:14-18). The wrapping of half a broken matzoh symbolizes Messiah's body, broken for us and laid away in a rich man's tomb, to rise again on the third day according to the Scriptures.

After the serving of the traditional Passover meal, the children search for the "Afikomen," that broken middle matzoh hidden earlier, and bring it back to the table to be "bought back," or redeemed by the elder of the home.

The word "Afikomen" given to this half of the broken middle matzoh means in the Greek, "I have already come." What clearer message can God give to the Jewish people than that the Lord Jesus was the long awaited Messiah.

In the closing moments of the Passover celebration, the other half of the broken matzoh that was placed back into the center compartment of the "unity" or "Matzoh Tosh" is removed and unwrapped, presenting a clear-cut symbol of the resurrection.

Elijah, Messiah's Herald

The final ceremony to be performed in the Passover Seder is to open the door and look for Elijah the herald of the coming Messiah. The door, as always, is then closed, and a combined mournful, yet hope filled chorus of voices join in reciting, "Next year in Jerusalem." Next year we will celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem, if Messiah comes.

To the believer in Jesus, this ceremony demonstrates the truth that Messiah has come. This is the message that needs to be shared. Neither Jew nor Gentile needs to wait until next year. Today is the day of salvation, now is the acceptable time.

Today, right now, all can pass over from death to life through faith in the finished work of Calvary by the Lord Jesus, the Messiah of all mankind.

Praise His Holy Name! ☺



Passover For Your Sunday School Class

Passover is an ideal holiday to teach God's plan of redemption to your Sunday School class. It presents many opportunities for pictures and graphics that illustrate both an Old and a New Testament principle.

The following activity is one which Chosen People worker Eva Rydelnik says can be used very effectively with classes as young as 3-years-old (with a lot of help) and as old as 10-years-old (with more opportunities for interaction).

MAKING A SEDER PLATE

Start out a week or two ahead of time by telling your class the Passover story, reading from Exodus 12. Explain that Passover is still celebrated in Jewish homes today, and that to begin the holiday, there is a family meal called "Seder." (Seder is the Hebrew word for "order" and the seder follows a specific order which reminds people of the original Passover.)

Before class, prepare cut-outs of items to go on the seder plate, or provide a picture that the children can copy. The six items are: parsley, horseradish, shankbone of a lamb, charoseth, hard boiled egg, container of saltwater.

MATERIALS: white paper plates, crayons/pencils, glue, scissors.

IN CLASS: explain the meaning of each item on the Seder plate and discuss the significance for believers in Messiah:

parsley (or lettuce) — represents life

horseradish — represents the bitterness of slavery
shankbone of a lamb — represents the spotless lamb who was slain, and whose blood went on the lintels of the homes of the Israelites. This blood saved the Israelites from death (the 10th plague that God visited on Egypt).

charoseth — this is a mixture of apples, nuts, honey and grapejuice, prepared in a paste-like form to represent the mortar the Israelites used in building bricks for the Egyptians. Let your class discuss the harshness of life before redemption. The charoseth on the Passover table is sweet to remind us that as our redemption came close, even the most bitter of labor was sweet. If your class is old enough, compare the harshness and sweetness of life with and without Messiah.
hard-boiled egg — the egg represents resurrection. Discuss why redemption and resurrection belong together.

salt water — salt water represents tears that the Israelites shed while waiting for their redemption and during the Seder, the parsley is dipped in the salt water to remember that life is immersed in tears. Your class can discuss what life is like for those who don't know redemption in Messiah.

ACTIVITY: After discussing Passover and the Seder plate, have the children color a white paper plate and then glue (or draw) the items onto the plate. Write the word "Passover" in the middle. When you are done with the activity, review each item.

Pressing On Toward The Mark

By SAM NADLER
Executive Director, Chosen People Ministries

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Elohenu Melech Ha'Olam..." As I hear my son saying the blessings over the bread and the cup at our Friday evening meal, I almost have to laugh — for I truly wonder at God's provision and direction in my life. When I was growing up in Queens, New York, Jewishness aroused more

It wasn't until I came to faith in Messiah Jesus that I came to realize that being Jewish wasn't just some accident of nature, but that God had a plan and a purpose, not only for my people, but also for me.

questions than answers. For me, being Jewish was not altogether meaningful on a very personal level. In fact, it wasn't until I came to faith in Messiah Jesus that I came to realize that being Jewish wasn't just some accident of nature, but that God had

a plan and a purpose, not only for my people, but also for me.

My father was a very practical man, and our involvement as a family in Judaism had more to do with our responsibility in the community than in reflecting upon any personal faith or genuine religious convictions.

I was Bar Mitzvahed Orthodox, though shortly afterwards I gave up any pretense of religious involvement. At that point, life seemed to be an opportunity to be enjoyed rather than a question to be answered. So during my time in college and later in the Army, I basically sought pleasure, looking for "the most out of life" and to find whatever satisfaction and happiness that was available in an otherwise confusing world.

In my early twenties I found myself traveling around the country, trying to fill the void in my life with "wine, women and song," as the cliché goes. When I first met some believers in Jesus, I laughed at them, thinking "what an awful waste of time" all their religion was. In fact, I ridiculed and tried to humiliate the very first person who told me how much I *needed* Jesus. Ten months later I wrote that same person a note,

thanking her for putting up with my mocking her — for now I was a believer in Yeshua (Jesus) as well.

On January 10th, 1972, I found myself facing the fact that Jesus is the Messiah. I had become fully convinced in my mind and heart. Though I was not able to articulate it the way I can now, I cried out to Jesus to forgive me and save me, and He did.

On January 10th, 1972, I found myself facing the fact that Jesus is the Messiah. I had become fully convinced in my mind and heart. Though I was not able to articulate it the way I can now, I cried out to Jesus to forgive me and save me, and He did.

Shortly afterwards I became convinced that God wanted me to bring the message of Messiah to my people. I went to Bible college first in San Francisco, and later graduated from Northeastern Bible College in New Jersey. I then served as an evangelist with Jews for Jesus, as did my wife, Miriam. We traveled with their singing group and proclaimed the Good News throughout the U.S. and even in Israel, and started their New York branch.

In 1979 I was led to work with Chosen People Ministries once more. (I first started working with Chosen People *before* Jews for Jesus existed.)

Over the years with Chosen People Ministries, I've seen the growing need for congregations to be established in Jewish communities so Jew-

ish believers can grow along with non-Jewish believers in the grace of

In the U.S. and overseas many more missionaries are needed. Israel, Europe and South America are all crying out for the Gospel to be brought to the Jewish people.



Messiah and maintain a viable testimony to the Jewish people. I know that, by the grace of God, our staff will be touching the lives of many Jewish people — maybe some like myself for whom the traditional Jewish experience has not met the personal needs that can only be met through the Messiah of Israel.

In my present position as Executive Director of Chosen People Ministries, I have the opportunity of overseeing the work around the world. I'm excited to see congregations planted and the evangelistic

work extended — not only in North America, but also in Israel, South America and Europe.

As we look around the world and ahead we see great needs, but an even greater God who can meet all these needs and fulfill His purpose. In the U.S. and overseas many more missionaries are needed. Israel, Europe and South America are all crying out for the Gospel to be brought to the Jewish people.

With 350,000 Jewish people in England, 500,000 in France and over one million in the Soviet Union, more must be done.

Over the years with Chosen People Ministries, I've seen the growing need for congregations to be established in Jewish communities so Jewish believers can grow along with non-Jewish believers in the grace of Messiah and maintain a viable testimony to the Jewish people.

With over 700,000 in Latin America, more must be done.

With over three and a half million in Israel and six million in the United States, more must be done.

We must ask more of ourselves as we press on toward the mark. And we ask you to look to God with us that He may raise up many more Christians who will love the Jewish people and who will stand with us in reaching out with the Good News to them. Then, for them, being Jewish can be meaningful, purposeful and fulfilling as the Messiah is exalted in their lives. ☺

For our Chosen People workers, many visits to the unsaved are at the request of family members concerned about a relative who is sick or facing death.

What Do You Say To Someone Facing Death?



We talked to Gary Derechinsky, our Boston-area worker and spiritual leader of Congregation Beth El-Shaddai, about calling on someone in this type of situation.

The most desirable person to talk to is someone who has already been thinking about spiritual matters and wants to know about eternal life. But what do you do when the person you are visiting is curious, but not ready to receive the Lord?

"For some, this is the first and last time you will see the person — literally their doorway to eternity. Other times, it is only the initial visit of a longer relationship. I try to be sensitive to the Spirit about what type of relationship I will be entering."

Gary told us about two visits he made recently where relatives had asked us to make contact. We hope you will join us in praying for these people.

Marc

Marc suffers from Multiple Sclerosis, a disease which in its most advanced stages is disabling. Because my wife Marilou also has MS, I am familiar with many aspects of the disease and its effects.

I had been asked to contact this Jewish man in his late 40's by his cousin, a Jewish believer. It is interesting the round-about way the Lord has used to put her and I in contact: Chosen People Ministries

had participated at Congress '90, a large conference sponsored by the New England Association of Evangelicals.

"For some, this is the first and last time you will see the person — literally their doorway to eternity. Other times, it is only the initial visit of a longer relationship. I try to be sensitive to the Spirit about what type of relationship I will be entering."

Marc's cousin had seen an ad in Church Life Magazine, saying we would be at Congress '90. Excited to find other Jewish believers, she called and asked if we had regular services in her area. I invited her to Congregation Beth El Shaddai, and she began attending each week. After about a month, she asked if I'd mind visiting Marc.

I called him on the phone and introduced myself. Uncertain as to my welcome, I was happy to hear that his cousin had told him I'd be calling and that she was attending our congregation. He said

he'd be happy to have me stop by any time. A few days later, I went by.

Prayed for Opportunities

When I got to Marc's home, an attractive house in a well-to-do neighborhood, I was greeted by his mother, who often stopped in to keep him company during the day. I wondered if he would be uncomfortable about discussing spiritual things with his mother there, but reminded myself I had prayed for opportunities. What kind of opportunities I'd find were up to the Lord.

We all sat down and started to talk about one thing or another. Family...work...the type of things strangers say to get to know one another. After a few minutes, Marc changed the conversation somewhat. "My cousin told me your wife has MS," he said, "would you mind telling me how you two have coped with it?"

I told him frankly some of the struggles and victories we had, and how God's presence made a very real difference in our outlook.

He confided that his approach was markedly different: he had traveled through Europe and gone to various hospitals in Boston, taking part in experimental programs and test treatments. As he talked, I sensed

that his was a desperate search for both a cure and for hope.

Need for Hope

His mother began to share her need for hope also. Like many families of people with MS, she felt an unnamed guilt that her child would have this disease. We were able to talk quite frankly, about the realities of the disease and the hopes for a cure.

Feeling inadequate to step into his shoes, I could only share from my experience. "To Marilou and me, the greatest hope isn't in the promise of a cure, though we know that a positive attitude is very important. The greatest hope is the promise through Messiah that she will be with Him forever, in a body not subject to limitations."

Marc's reaction was guarded, but his mother responded right away, "Oh, I could never get through this without God. I pray all the time."

This gave us an opportunity to talk about going beyond belief and having a personal relationship with God. It was a little like the woman at the well, comfortable with talk about religion instead of a relationship.

I had a sure feeling that my job wasn't to try to convince them, only to clarify what a relationship with God was. I explained the trust and love that you can have through Messiah. The most natural thing seemed to be to invite them to join us at Congregation Beth El Shaddai, and I silently thanked the Lord (again!) for our new facilities with easy access for a person in a wheelchair.

Soon it was time for me to go. Marc said he would enjoy it if others from the congregation wanted to stop by and meet him. He said that when the weather got warmer, he'd like to come to some of our services. I hope that our Chosen People readers will pray for him, and for his mother, in these next few months.

Mr. & Mrs. Blum

After leaving Marc's house, I de-

ecided to stop by and visit another couple who lived nearby, whose name I had also received from a relative.

Mr. and Mrs. Blum were in their 80's. I first heard about them when a Jewish believer Ned, living in Virginia, called and asked me to visit his grandparents.

Ned had an interesting story: his parents were born-again believers, and he and his father (whose parents Ned was asking me to visit) had shared their faith with the family. Mr. and Mrs. Blum were not opposed to their son's belief, but they just felt that "we are too Jewish to change our ways."

But his grandfather had been quite ill lately, and Ned felt the time was imminent for them to hear the gospel again. After hanging up, I called the Blums and introduced myself and they told me to stop by any time.

I had a sure feeling that my job wasn't to try to convince them, only to clarify what a relationship with God was. I explained the trust and love that you can have through Messiah.

Unfortunately, with the press of other details, I put it off for a few weeks. Ned called again and told me his grandfather had been in the hospital and was quite ill, and I realized the seriousness of getting out there as soon as I could.

Finding myself not too far away from the Blums after my visit with Marc, I decided to take a chance on stopping by. When I got there, both Mr. and Mrs. Blum were happy to welcome me in.

Shared a Faith

They didn't seem to think it was odd that I didn't really know their grandson. Learning that my association with Ned was developed through the telephone they showed

me his picture and told me about different members of the family. They understood that the reason Ned had asked me to come by was because of his concern for their spiritual welfare, and that gave us the opportunity to talk about spiritual matters...their role in the synagogue, their outlook on God and some other general feelings.

Mrs. Blum, the more outspoken of the two, bluntly asked, "Are you a born-againer too?"

I smiled at her description. "Like Ned and your son, I am born again. But one of the reasons they thought I might stop by was because I'm part of a unique congregation. We believe Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and worship Him in a Jewish context. I think you'd be very comfortable at our congregation." I went on to explain about the Jewishness of Messiah, and how Jews can believe in Jesus.

Jewishness and Jesus

"This is the first time I've heard such a thing!" Mrs. Blum admitted. The three of us talked about Jewishness and maintaining our Jewish identity. "We didn't think you could be both," they told me.

To both Mr. and Mrs. Blum, belief in Messiah had always been an either-or situation. Either believe in Jesus or keep your Jewishness and deny Him. They were clearly open to the ideas I was sharing.

For several hours, in a relaxed environment in their living room, we talked about faith in Messiah. Like Marc, the Blums were not openly ready to consider more serious spiritual matters, but were open to further visits and agreed to visit our worship services.

Perhaps more for the Blums than for Marc, there is an immediate question of time...how long will they have to consider the claims of Messiah. What day will be too late. I hope that our Chosen People family will pray that this couple finds their Messiah soon. ☺



Invite a Jewish Friend to Passover

We hope you'll be tuning in this month to Chosen People Ministries' latest video program, "Messiah in the Passover." Check the schedule below or your local listings for the broadcast times in your area.

NATIONAL

On Family Cable Network and other affiliated stations. Friday April 13, 9:00 PM Eastern, Saturday April 14, 10:00 PM Eastern. Check Your Local Listings.
On Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). Sunday April 8, 11:00 PM Eastern, Thursday April 12, 9:00 PM Eastern, Saturday, April 14, 10:30 AM Eastern, Monday April 16, 2:30 AM Eastern. Check Your Local Listings.

ALABAMA

Mobile, WHBR-TV 33, Sunday April 15, 8:30 PM Central.

CALIFORNIA

Concord, Fresno, WFCB-TV 42, Saturday April 14, 6:30 PM Pacific.
San Francisco and affiliates Check your local listings.
Sacramento and affiliates Check your local listings.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Metropolitan Washington, DC area, WTKK-TV 66, Sunday April 8, 5:00 PM Eastern.

FLORIDA

Orlando, WTGL-TV 52, Sunday April 15, 9:00 PM Eastern.
Pensacola, WHBR-TV33, Sunday April 15, 8:30 PM Central.
Tampa, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, WCLF-TV 22, Sunday April 15, 3:30 PM Eastern.

GEORGIA

Columbus, WSWS-TV 66, Sunday April 15, 10:30 PM Central.

ILLINOIS

Chicago, WCFC-TV 38, Sunday April 8, 2:30 PM Central.
Decatur, Springfield, WFHL-TV 23, Friday April 13, 8:00 PM Central.

KANSAS

KYFC-TV 30, Thursday April 12, 7:00 PM Central and Saturday April 14, 3:30 PM Central.

MICHIGAN

Grand Rapids, WTLJ-TV 54, Friday April 13, 9:00 PM Eastern and Sunday April 15, 6:30 PM Eastern.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro, Winston-Salem, WEJC-TV20, Sunday April 15, 6:00 PM Eastern.

OHIO

Dayton, Springfield, WTJC-TV 26, Friday April 13, 8:00 PM Eastern and Sunday April 15, 7:30 PM Eastern.

OKLAHOMA

Tulsa, KWHB-TV 47, Tuesday April 10, 8:30 PM Central.

PENNSYLVANIA

Altoona, Johnstown, WKBS-TV 47 and Pittsburgh, WPCB-TV 40 on Monday April 9, 10:30 PM Eastern; Tuesday April 10, 3:30 PM Eastern; Thursday April 12, 9:00 AM Eastern; Saturday April 14, 4:30 PM Eastern (tentative).

TENNESSEE

Nashville, WHTN-TV 39, Sunday April 15, 7:30 PM Central.

TEXAS

Houston, KLTJ-TV 22, Wednesday April 11, 9:30 PM Central and Friday April 13, 7:00 PM Central.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee, Racine, WVCY-TV 30, Monday April 9, 9:30 PM Central; Thursday April 12, 6:30 PM Central; Saturday April 14, 7:00 PM Central.



SIMCHA!

**CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES invites you to rejoice with us
at a special gathering of believers in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) May 17 – 20 1990.**



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Joy of Israel Congregation
Fairfield, CT



SAM NADLER
Executive Director
Chosen People Ministries
Charlotte, NC

SIMCHA! (JOY!) Three joyful days of fellowship, teaching, and relaxation as we joyously lift up the name of Yeshua. You'll study the Bible from a distinctively Jewish perspective. Enjoy special music and relax amidst New York's beautiful Adirondack mountains.

LOCATION Word of Life Inn at scenic Schroon Lake provides outstanding accommodations, excellent food, and a wide range of recreational activities which include boating, fishing, swimming (in an indoor pool), jacuzzi, game room, tennis and much more.

PROGRAM The theme for SIMCHA! is The Joy of Messianic Living – Studies in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12).

COST The cost of SIMCHA! will depend upon the accommodations you select. The price of all accommodations includes meals from Friday supper through Sunday Mid-day dinner. (3 days, 2 nights). For those who want even more SIMCHA!, we offer an **OPTIONAL EXTRA DAY beginning on Thursday, May 17 for a small additional fee.**

Schroon Lake is also accessible to many Canadian cities via I-87. Please clip coupon and send for our SIMCHA! brochure containing further information.



"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12).

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Please send me more information on your special conference SIMCHA! May 17 – 20, 1990, at Word of Life Inn.

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WLPO

The Prophet Daniel

HAROLD A. SEVENER

In last month's issue: Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall for Belshazzar, the King of Babylon, signaling the end of his reign and God's judgment. While Belshazzar feasted and drank, the Persians were marching up the Euphrates dry river bed to conquer his kingdom, Babylon.

Cyrus, the Persian king, under the direction of two Babylonian deserters diverted the course of the Euphrates river into a new channel. Then he waited for this great feast to take place for he knew the king and the leaders would be drunk. He led his Persian troops up through the dry river bed, through the two-leafed gates of brass which opened upon it, and into the city itself. He precisely fulfilled the words of the prophet Isaiah (cf. Isa. 44:27-45:2) and the prophecies of Jeremiah (Jer 51:28-32).

According to Daniel 5:30, on the very night of the feast the rivers were diverted to allow the Persians into the city. Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain and Darius, the Mede, took over the kingdom.

God will fulfill His will with both individuals and nations. In His sovereignty He allows kingdoms to rise and fall.

Notice how precise the Word of God is. We are told that Darius, the Mede, was sixty-two years of age when he took over the kingdom. God's timing is always perfect. The sin of Belshazzar had run its course. God had prepared new leadership.

I am always amazed to see the way God works behind the scenes of history. Nearly twenty years before the fall of Babylon Cyrus came upon the scene of history in Persia. He was an Asiatic conqueror whose advent had been foretold a century and a half earlier by the prophet, Isaiah.

Isaiah wrote, "Who says of Cyrus, He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please: He will say of Jerusalem, 'Let it be rebuilt,' and of the Temple, 'Let its foundation be laid'" (Isa. 44:28).

Isaiah wrote further, "This is what the Lord says to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut" (Isa. 45:1).

Raising Up Cyrus

God knew the follies and the foibles of Nebuchadnezzar. He knew his shortcomings and his failures. All the while that Nebuchadnezzar was in charge of the kingdoms of the world, God had told the prophet Isaiah that He would raise up a man by the name of Cyrus. Cyrus would replace Nebuchadnezzar and who would allow the Jewish people to return from their captivity in Babylon.

How patient and loving our God is—working behind the scenes of history to perfect His program. If God does this for unbelievers, how much more we as believers should trust Him for every circumstance of our lives! How much more should we claim the promise that "all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purposes" (Rom. 8:28).

Knowing that God is the author of history, the One who controls history, should give us confidence and boldness in our daily lives. Regardless of our circumstances we should realize that God is with us—and if He is with us, who can be against us? He has promised that He will never forsake us. We can trust Him wholly!

Thus in God's time, at His *precise time* the kingdom of Babylon was taken over by the Medes and Persians and placed in the hand of Darius the Mede.

Mystery Man

Historians have difficulty trying to identify Darius. The name itself is not a proper name, but is an appellation which was borne by many different men and simply means, "the subduer." Scholars have made many attempts to identify exactly who Darius was.

I believe the most able attempt was done by Dr. James G. Whitcomb in his book, "Darius the Mede." He argues that Darius was another name for Gubaru, the governor of Babylon, who was referred to in various sixth century B.C. cuneiform texts. If this is so it would certainly be in keeping with the way the Medes and the Persians governed the empires they conquered.

Darius appoints 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom. He also appointed three administrators over the 120 satraps, one of whom was Daniel. ☺

The IRS Wants to Give You Money!

Did you realize that the IRS may be on your side if you are planning a gift to Chosen People Ministries? Now, planning a gift may mean more to your tax planning than you have realized. Federal tax laws have been created to profit those who give. Tax deductions, which could mean extra cash, are yours for the taking.

While President Bush and Senator Robert Dole have promised relief for the capital gains tax, we are still being taxed. Unless you have discovered the advantages of charitable giving, you will probably have to pay, at least, a 28% tax upon the sale of your assets that have increased in value.

A good idea is to avoid capital gains and save money by planning a gift to your favorite ministry by using your appreciated assets rather than cash. That way, you not only satisfy your desire to give to the Lord, but you save the capital gains tax and you also

receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of your gift.*

That is being a good and smart steward!

Some people still need the income from their assets or at least part of the principle value. This is a routine situation for many charities. There are plans that can make this possible.

One such plan is called a bargain sell. If you sell appreciated securities to a charity for the purchased price, you will receive the basis in cash and receive Federal tax deductions for the difference between what you paid for the stock and the fair market value. Only part of the increase is reportable for tax purposes.

Another way to receive additional income from a gift is to fund a life income agreement with appreciated securities or other assets. You can receive income now and plan a substantial gift to a ministry for sometime in the future. You can also claim a current deduction for the gift amount planned.

While most believers in Messiah do not plan their giving around the tax laws of our nation, it makes good sense to save a dollar or more when we can.

If you would like some help capitalizing on these tips or would like to hear more about giving securities or other appreciated assets, we can assist you with your gift planning needs. Please call us or write using the enclosed envelope. ☺

**To deduct the full fair market value of securities you must have owned them for 1 year and 1 day. An Alternative Minimum Tax may be applicable for some. See your tax consultant.*

Neither the author, nor this organization is engaged in rendering legal or tax advisory service. For advice and assistance in specific cases, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained. The purpose of this article is to provide accurate information of a general character only.

Meet Your Chosen People Ministries[®] National Ministries Representatives

The National Ministries Representative acquaints the Church with the Jewish roots of Christianity and the history and word of the Jewish people. Each of these men is an avid student of God's Word and teaches in the following areas: The Jewish Perspective of the Scriptures, Israel in Prophecy, and God's Plan of Redemption Through the Feast of Israel. All who hear their "Word from the Lord" will be challenged! For more information on a program or presentation to fit your needs, please call or write Michelle Barnett, National Church Ministries, Chosen People Ministries, 1320 Cross Creek Dr., Charlotte, NC 28217-2800, (704) 357-9600

MR. BARRY BERGER

DR. BEN ALPERI

TOM HUCHEL



May 5 Pogrom in Russia?

With the new freedom in the Soviet Union, and the resultant movement within the Baltic republics for independence, many citizens of the USSR are feeling that their world is collapsing. This sense of helplessness has led some Russians to seek refuge in a sinister nationalism: pamyat, which means memory. A recent article in the *Washington Post* revealed the sinister aspects of the National Patriotic Front Pamyat.

Pamyat has distributed leaflets calling for Jews to be banned from seeking higher education and from holding public office or any important jobs. In a few cases, its members are alleged to have attacked Jews in their homes or interrupted literary meetings in Moscow, Len-

ingrad and the Ukrainian city of Kharkov.

Earlier this year, Pamyat called for a national pogrom against Jews on May 5, 1990.

According to a recent article in Toronto's *Globe and Mail*, most Russians said they knew nothing about Pamyat except what they read, saw or heard in the media. Some Russian Jews are dubious. "Who can tell if this is just rumors or reality," a Jewish doctor is quoted as responding, "(but) who wants to be dead?"

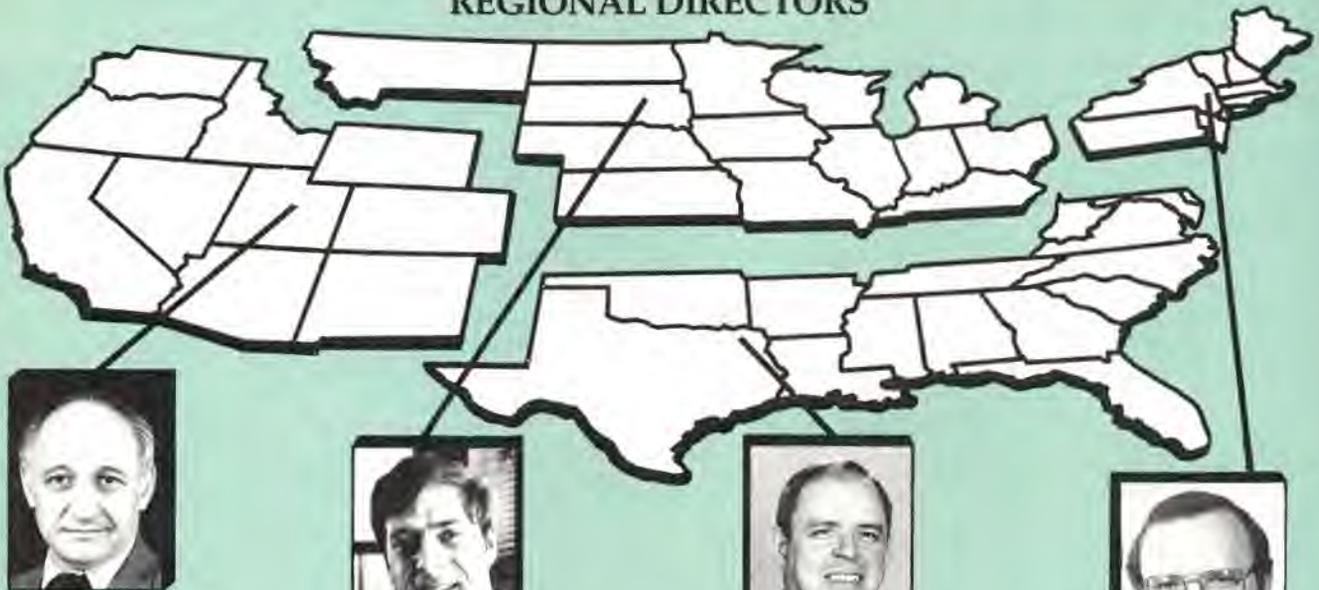
While the reality of pogroms is in question, there is little that the changes in Eastern Europe are bearing some anti-Semitic fruit. An editorial in the *Washington Post* pointed out that too little attention is being given to the dangers posed

by the growing aggressiveness in the Soviet Union of "extreme right-wing, virulently anti-semitic groups that seek to subvert *perestroika*, to blame the country's past and present problems on the Jews and (as some of their propaganda states explicitly) to 'finish what Hitler started.'"

The *Post* said that a wave of pogroms along the lines of Kristallnacht cannot be ruled out.

"The stakes are high," the *Post* declared. "If (the neo-Nazis) prevail and *perestroika* collapses in an orgy of chauvinism and racism, the results are likely to include...the outbreak of civil war (in the Soviet Union)...and (in this age of nuclear and chemical weapons) an international catastrophe." (*Washington Post*; Sunday, February 18, 1990.)

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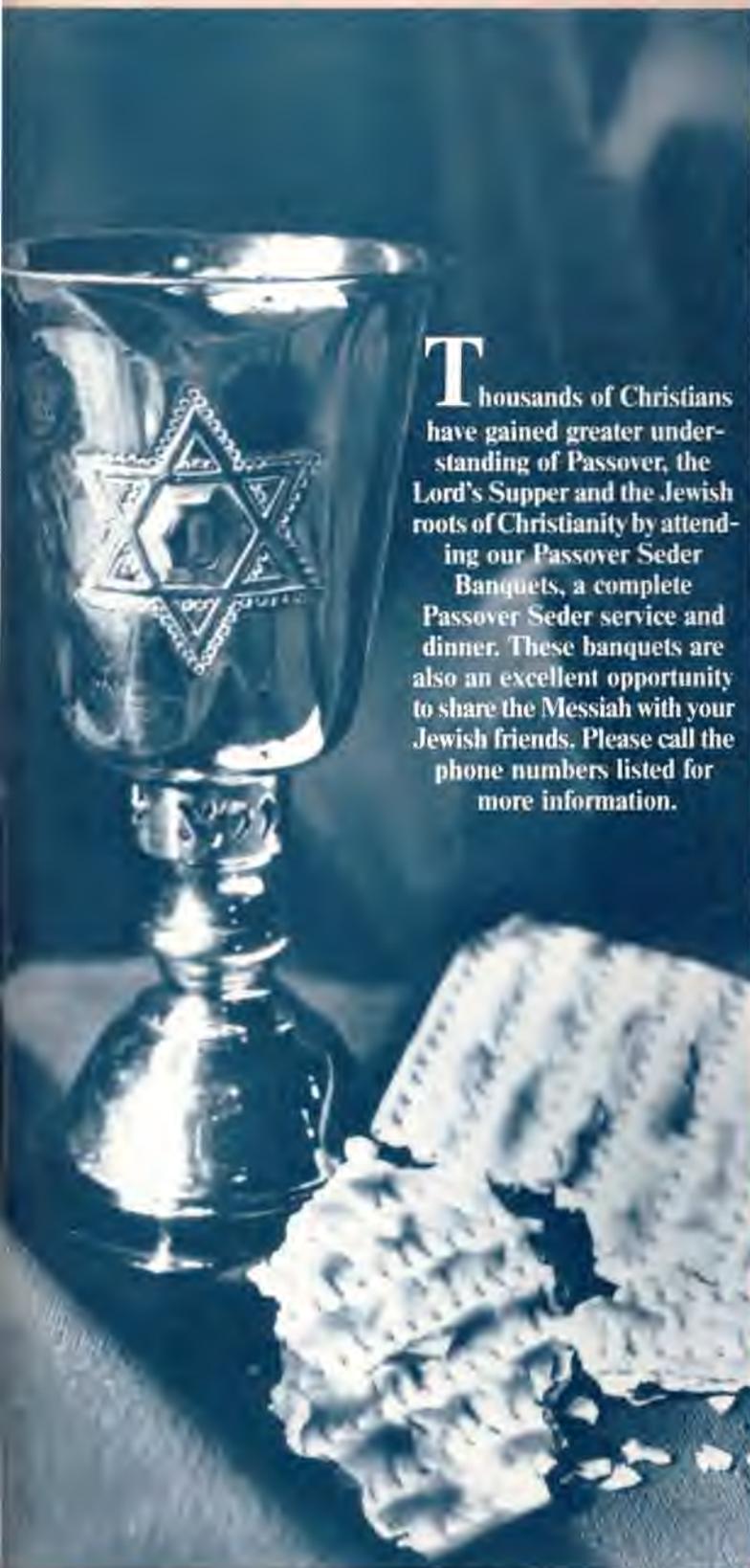
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Attend a Chosen People Ministries Passover Seder Near You.



Thousands of Christians have gained greater understanding of Passover, the Lord's Supper and the Jewish roots of Christianity by attending our Passover Seder Banquets, a complete Passover Seder service and dinner. These banquets are also an excellent opportunity to share the Messiah with your Jewish friends. Please call the phone numbers listed for more information.

NORTHEAST

LONG ISLAND, NY - Olive Tree Congregation, Tuesday, April 10, 1990 - 7:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (516) 939-2277

LIVINGSTON, NJ - Beth Messiah Congregation, Saturday, April 14, 1990 - 6:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (201) 535-3954

NORWOOD, MA - Beth El Shaddai Congregation, Tuesday, April 10, 1990 - 7:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (617) 255-9931

STRATFORD, CT - Joy of Israel Congregation, Tuesday, April 10, 1990 - 7:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (203) 732-8291

BRISTOL, PA - Chosen People Ministries, Saturday, April 14, 1990 - 6:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (215) 943-9189

MIDWEST

GRAND RAPIDS, MI - Chosen People Ministries, Saturday, March 31, 1990, (Please call for details) (312) 338-5959

CHICAGO, IL - Light of Israel Fellowship, Saturday, April 7, 1990 - 6:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (312) 943-0466

MT. PROSPECT, IL - Chosen People Ministries, Friday, April 6, 1990, (Please call for details) (312) 338-5959

AKRON, OH - Beth Sar Shalom, Saturday, April 7, 1990, (Please call for details) (216) 836-0540

COLUMBUS, OH - Beth Sar Shalom, Monday, April 9, 1990, (Please call for details) (614) 885-8546

SOUTHERN

ROCKVILLE, MD - Son of David Congregation, Tuesday, April 10, 1990 - 8:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (301) 989-2532

BROWARD CTY, FL - Chosen People Ministries, Friday, April 13, 1990 - 6:30 P.M., (Please call for details) (407) 395-7417

PALM BEACH, FL - Chosen People Ministries, Saturday, April 14, 1990 - 5:30 P.M., (Please call for details) (407) 395-7417

MIAMI, FL - Chosen People Ministries, Sunday, April 15, 1990 - 6:30 P.M., (Please call for details) (407) 395-7417

WESTERN

WOODLAND HILLS, CA - Shepherd of Israel, Tuesday, April 10, 1990 - 6:30 P.M., (Please call for details) (818) 884-8245

LONG BEACH, CA - Beth Sar Shalom, Thursday, April 12, 1990 - 6:30 P.M., (Please call for details) (213) 635-8531

SAN DIEGO, CA - Beth Sar Shalom, Thursday & Friday, April 12 & 13, 1990 - 9:00 A.M. & 5:30 P.M., (Please call for details) (619) 583-3336

SACRAMENTO, CA - Shepherd of Israel Fellowship, Friday, April 13, 1990 - 6:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (916) 722-6615

VACAVILLE, CA - Chosen People Ministries, Thursday, April 12, 1990 - 6:30 P.M., (Please call for details) (707) 448-3124

DENVER, CO - Roeh Israel, Monday, April 9, 1990 - 7:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (303) 320-0899

CANADA

MONTREAL, CANADA - Chosen People Ministries, Friday, April 6, 1990 - 7:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (514) 483-4079

TORONTO, ONTARIO - Olive Tree Congregation, Saturday, April 14, 1990 - 6:00 P.M., (Please call for details) (416) 665-4695

TORONTO, ONTARIO - Beth Sar Shalom (Russian Speaking), Saturday, April 14, 1990 - 5:30 P.M., (Please call for details) (416) 665-0760



“If Only My Grandfather Could’ve Seen Passover Like This.”

— Sam Nadler, Chosen People Ministries

Passover was always a joy at my grandpa’s house as the family gathered to celebrate our family tradition and the historic release of the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt.

Since my grandfather passed away, I have come to faith in Messiah. I can only wish that he had the opportunity to understand the true meaning of this holiday which he celebrated his whole life. If only some Christian neighbor or co-worker would have shared with him the truth about Messiah Jesus, the Passover Lamb.

It’s too late for my grandfather, and this breaks my heart. But there are many more Jewish people who need to hear and *can* hear the Good News. If only you, Christian friend, will take this opportunity.

During Easter week, TV stations across the country will air “Messiah in the Passover,” a professionally produced video re-enacting an actual Passover Seder.

Check your local newspapers Easter week for the time and schedule of “Messiah in the Passover’s” broadcast. Invite your Jewish friend to watch it with you . . . or alert him of its broadcast . . . or purchase a video copy of the program so that your friend can see it for himself.

This video presents the Passover the way I wish my grandfather could have understood it. It is sensitive and relevant, yet clear that Jesus, Yeshua, is the Messiah of Israel. Won’t you help bring the Gospel to your Jewish friends and neighbors? If you won’t . . . who will?

Invite a Jewish Friend to Passover

“Messiah in the Passover” will be broadcast the week of April 8-15 on the following stations. Check your local listings for additional stations and schedules or call us at (704) 357-9000.

ALABAMA Mobile, WHBR-TV 33, Sun. 4/15; **NORTH CENTRAL CALIFORNIA** check local listings; **METRO WASHINGTON, DC AREA**, WTKK-TV 66, Sun. 4/8; **FLORIDA** Orlando, WTGL-TV 52, Sun. 4/15, Pensacola, WHBR-TV 33, Sun. 4/15; Tampa, St. Petersburg, WCLF-TV 22, Sun. 4/15; **GEORGIA** Columbus, WWSW-TV 66, Sun. 4/15; **ILLINOIS** Chicago, WCFC-TV 38, Tue. 4/10; Decatur, Springfield, WFHL-TV 23, Fri. 4/13; **KANSAS** Shawnee Mission, KYFC-TV 50, Thurs. 4/12, Sat. 4/14; **MICHIGAN** Grand Rapids, WTLJ-TV 54, Fri. 4/13, Sun. 4/15; **NORTH CAROLINA** Greensboro, WEJC-TV 20, Sun. 4/15; **OHIO** Dayton, WTJC-TV 26, Fri. 4/13, Sun. 4/15; **OKLAHOMA** Tulsa, KWHB-TV 47, Tue. 4/10; **PENNSYLVANIA** Altoona, WKBS-TV 47; Pittsburgh, WPCB-TV 40; **TENNESSEE** Nashville, WHTN-TV 39, Sun. 4/15. Family Cable Network and other affiliated stations.



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

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Please send me _____ copies of “Messiah in the Passover” (VPAS) to share with my Jewish friends. I enclose \$19.98 for each video (\$23.98 in Canada). Please send me more information on your ministry. I’ll be watching Easter week and praying for the ministry of this film.

Name _____

Address _____

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