

The Chosen People

MAY 1990 ISSN 0164-5323

LET MY PEOPLE



THE SOVIET JEWISH EXODUS

IN.



From the President

The winds of change are sweeping across the world. In the past few months we have watched the spectacular break up of the Communist hold upon the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc nations.

Overnight the Berlin Wall came tumbling down. The pressure for the reunification of Germany has already begun. Rumania has voted to establish itself as an independent country. Other nations are following its lead.

One by one, Communist dictators are falling. And even in the Soviet Union, where the Communist party reigned supreme, it is now recognized as *one* of many political systems. Freedom and democracy have become bywords in countries where just a few months ago one could be imprisoned, exiled or killed for just saying these words.

When President George Bush met with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev a few months ago, gale force winds swept through the region creating havoc, delaying the meetings. Several news commentators remarked, "... while the winds of change were sweeping through the nations, the one who controlled the winds and the nations was showing that he was still in charge." And so He is.

Certainly what is taking place in Europe, as well as the events in the Middle East, fit into Biblical prophecy. I believe God is setting the stage of world history for the soon return of our Messiah, the Lord Jesus. I believe that God is giving to us as believers, a window of opportunity, an open door, for us to bring the Gospel to those who have long been imprisoned by political ideology—to those who have not had an opportunity to hear the message of salvation.

Amongst the people of the world there is a growing hunger to hear the truth—and to know the truth. We do not know how long this open door of opportunity will last. Certainly no one could predict the speed at which the Berlin Wall came tumbling down.

Realizing the urgency of the hour, Sam Nadler, our Executive Director, along with Albert Davis (Israeli), a Russian Jewish believer and our missionary amongst the Russian Jews in Toronto, are visiting the Soviet Union. Albert is also our speaker for Chosen People's Russian language radio broadcast into the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc countries.

Sam and Albert will be exploring new and effective ways in which we can minister to the Soviet Jews. While freedom is being proclaimed in the Soviet Union, it is also creating, for Russian Jews, an unprecedented wave of anti-Semitism and persecution.

The Russian people are turning against the Jews in the Soviet Union, claiming it is because of them (the Jews) that they have suffered under the present Communist system for so many years. After all, they say, Trotsky, Lenin and Marx were all Jews.

The Soviet Union has plans to release over 150,000 Soviet Jews to go to Israel. However, the Arab world, again using the Palestinian problem, is putting pressure on the Soviet Union not to let Jewish people emigrate to Israel. It is ironic that when freedom is finally coming to the Soviet Union, the Jewish people who have long suffered under the Communist regime, are still being persecuted.

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The Chosen People

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Arabs and Jews who agree on little else can agree on this: George Bush is less sympathetic to Israel's concerns than any U.S. president in the four decades since that nation's birth. President Carter harbored grudges at stiff-necked Israelis but was constrained by the unity of our ally under Menachem Begin, the strong ties to the Democratic Party of most Jewish voters, and the reputation of Israel as a valiant ally under siege.

Those protections have been stripped away, Bush is dealing with an Israel paralyzed by parliamentarianism, with a voting group here that goes mainly against Republicans anyway, and with commentators holding Israel to wartime rules never applied to its neighbors.

Bush has long resisted America's special relationship with Israel. His secretary of state, James Baker, delights in sticking it to the Israeli right. His national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, and chief of staff, John Sununu, abet that mind-set.

Arafat Finds A Friend

The basic U.S. policy shift was noted last week by no less an authority than Yasir Arafat. "This administration is the first American administration that speaks of the end of the Israeli occupation," he said, hailing James Baker for telling Israelis "to forget the dream of a Greater Israel."

Arafat knows who his friends are; he accurately senses a historic change in White House support of Israel's right to decide its future.

This is the first administration to openly threaten to cut aid to Israel; Baker enlisted Bob Dole in a scheme to drive a rift in American ethnic groups by shifting aid from Israel to Poland. This is also the first administration to tie aid directly to Israel's willingness to conform to U.S. policy demands: Unless the West Bank is barred to Jews who want to move there, no loans will be guaranteed to help Soviet Jews start new lives.

Is Bush Condemning Soviet Jews To Death?

By WILLIAM SAFIRE



ROBERTA BARNES

Bush, by extending his anathema on "settlements" to a portion of Israel's capital, is the first to raise the prospect of a divided Jerusalem. Bush pretends that his bombshell, which brought down the Likud government, is no change in U.S. policy; that legalistic half-truth fools nobody.

No previous administration shut its eyes to clear evidence of terrorism: Despite a rise in attacks on Israelis by Palestinian Arabs, and hundreds of assassinations of intifada Arabs by PLO hit men, Bush holds that if no proof can be produced to show Arafat personally ordered the terror, the PLO is innocent.

With such diplomatic strengthening, the PLO was able to prevail on Mikhail Gorbachev to renege on an agreement with Israel's airline to transport Soviet Jews directly to safety. Another terrorist group was able to bring the Hungarian government to its knees, at least temporarily

canceling an escape route.

That's why Arafat is so high on the Bush administration. That's why Iraq's Saddam Hussein, recipient of a fresh \$500 million in U.S. loan guarantees, feels no restraint in building poison-gas plants and missiles, hanging anybody who dares to inquire.

No wonder that mainstream Jewish groups in America have belatedly come to the conclusion that Israel's friends are in the Congress, not the White House. And no wonder that Israeli diplomats are straining to build new ties in Central Europe, against the day Bush decides that Israel has lost strategic significance.

Pressures Build In Russia

This administration's policy, grimly fixed on imposing a PLO state in disputed territories and the Old City of Jerusalem, comes at the worst moment for millions of Jews in the Soviet Union.

Great political-cultural pressures are building in Russia. Forgive me for sounding alarmist, but if resurgent Russian nationalism turns anti-Semitic, as it so often has, no one can say how many scapegoats will be slaughtered.

Gorbachev, to gain American trade opened the gates to let Jews out; Bush closed American gates, directing the refugees to Israel, which exists to receive them; but Arab leaders, emboldened by the Bush-Baker mind-set, have used terrorism and diplomacy to close off the escape route to Israel.

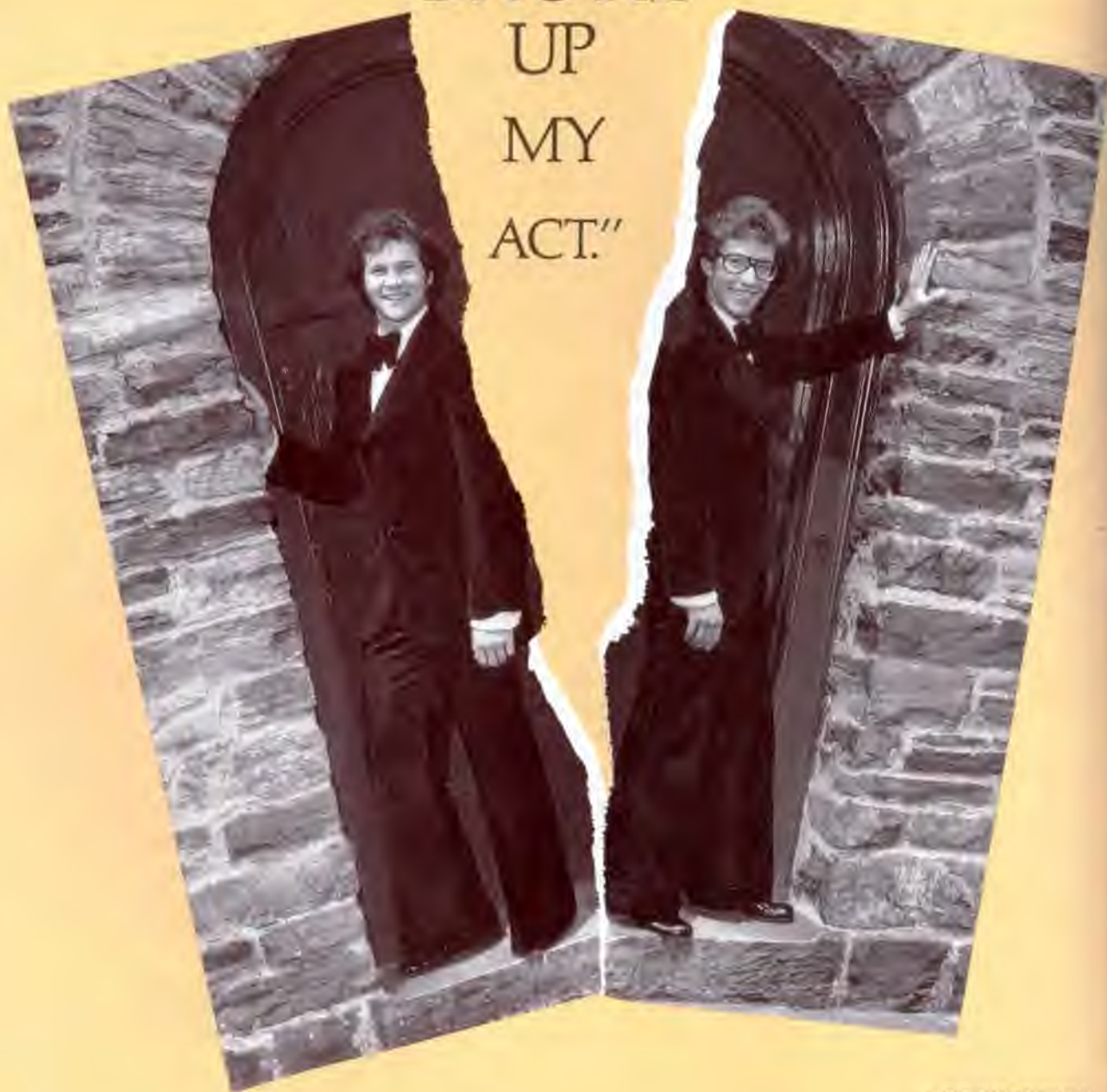
Come the first pogrom, which God forbid, who in the Bush White House will accept responsibility for failing to facilitate the new exodus while there was still time?

Who among supporters of Israel will step forward on some future Passover and admit they were so caught up with the "peace process" that they refused to confront the real possibility of a death process?

William Safire is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist. Copyright ©1990 by the New York Times Company. Reprinted by permission.

A
BUMMER
I N T H E
BORSCHT BELT
OR,
"HOW JESUS
BROKE

UP
MY
ACT."



Called a modern David, Marty Goetz sets most of his tunes to lyrics from scripture, from psalms that minister to the soul.

Can this be the same man who won the Variety Artists Award for Best New Act in the Catskills—the Borscht Belt, the ultra-Jewish center of glib entertainment.

His wife, Jennifer, says that the multidimensional Marty is intense and intense, that he is both the quiet person of music and the fast-witted performer. She also explains that Marty ponders a situation at length, but then acts decisively when the time comes.

This testimony is about such a time.

Never in Print

Marty has been a believer for over ten years, and his public testimony has primarily been through his music. His testimony has never been in print. Three years ago, when his grandmother died, he was faced with questions: "What did I do to reach her for Messiah? What have I done to reach my family?"

"God had separated me out to be a witness to His people. I realized I had been so busy trying to make myself 'good enough to serve god,' trying to 'prepare myself for more ministry,' that I simply wasn't being faithful."

Praying to find a balance, Marty eventually saw God calling him to a wider commitment for his ministry.

"I had a calling to my people. Faced with this, I knew that everything—my music, my touring, my life—would have to be as a follower of Messiah. As simple as it sounds, I had never told God, 'Take me. Use me.' I was always too busy trying to do the right things."

Marty's new sense of commitment led to this testimony in print: "It's not just my music that should testify to Messiah," he now realizes. "It's my life. He is calling to Israel *now*, and I want to stand up and be counted."

Marty grew up in Cleveland,

Singing duo Bert and Marty were SRO in the Catskills until Bert (he's the guy on the left) became a Christian. Marty hated his partner's witnessing so bad he figured a solo in tinsel town would cure his blues. Boy, was he in for a surprise.

where his family observed strict Jewish customs. After Hebrew school and Bar Mitzvah, he went to an extension of Bar Mitzvah training for older boys. Yet spending time in synagogue did not bring Marty close to God.

"God was a little like my Orthodox great-grandfather: awesome, frightening, and strict, with a long beard and a black coat, with a rigid set of rights and wrongs."

Marty also belonged to the Cantor's Club, a group being trained in Jewish liturgical music. Although the religious aspects of Judaism seemed distant to Marty, the Hebrew liturgy and songs were hauntingly personal. These songs, soundings in his soul of some deeper voice, stayed with him as he grew older and

branched into other types of music.

By the time he was in high school, Marty was playing rock and roll. ("I liked playing, but couldn't stand the noise," he admits. "I'd have to stuff cotton in my ears to play.") During college, at Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburgh, he broke into show business, spending his first summer break on a road show that traveled to Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Marty found his niche in Broadway-style reviews. On his return from Wyoming, he and a friend, Bert Lloyd, formed a two-man act called Bert & Marty. The two were a popular duo for several years. When Marty graduated from college, they decided to try for the "big time."

"We decided to go to New York City and give it two weeks. If we couldn't make it there in that time, I was going back to Cleveland and Bert would return to Altoona. During our first week there, we met an agent who booked us into a resort hotel in the Catskills."

Summer Retreat

Off they went to the Catskills, the venerable summer retreat for hun-



dreds of thousands of East Coast Jews. But about this time, Bert began to do strange things. He began carrying a Bible around all the time.

"I knew Bert was interested in the Bible and Jesus. But since he was a Gentile, that was ok. But the more interested he got, the more uncomfortable I got. I figured it was only a matter of time before he began to try to make me listen to his "shitick".

"Things went great for us that summer. We won the Variety Artists Award for the Best New Act in the Catskills and returned to New York, where our act was booked at the Commodore Hotel."

Their act ran into trouble when Bert started attending a new church.

"He was really different. He was going out handing out tracts. He was talking about being born again. What was intolerable was that he was talking to *me* about being born again. We'd been partners and best friends for five years, but now I actively disliked him. I knew my reaction was irrational, but I couldn't help it. I hated being around him."

Marty began playing piano around New York and developed a following, including several Broadway performers. Settling in at Beefsteak Charlies, a piano bar and restaurant in Manhattan's theater district, singing

and playing nightly with New York's stars-to-be, Marty Goetz was finally going somewhere.

"The only problem was that I felt like I was being plagued by born-again people. It seemed that everywhere I turned, I was hearing 'born again, born again.' Even the President (well-known evangelical Jimmy Carter) was born again. I hated them all. I decided it was time to get away from everyone and everything and go to Hollywood."

"I knew Bert was interested in the Bible and Jesus. But the more interested he got, the more uncomfortable I got."

A Calling to Hollywood

Telling his friends that he had a calling to go to Hollywood, Marty hopped on a plane. Even there he wasn't safe from the born-again plague that seemed to be afflicting him. "My airplane seat mate was born again!"

Once in Los Angeles, Marty finally

succumbed to the nagging questions inside of him. He started to read a small pocket Bible.

"From the very first page, I fell in love with Jesus," he remembers. "When I read His genealogy, 'Jesus . . . son of David . . . son of Abraham, . . .' I was amazed He was so Jewish. The more I learned about Jesus, the more I recognized a great Man. A great Jew. I couldn't read the Gospels often enough. Everything I had learned in religious school, in Hebrew school, in synagogue started to come into synch.

"I wanted to believe and I might have, but I still felt like I couldn't. Jewish people just didn't. I didn't know why, I just felt a desperate need to resist."

Marty got in touch with a Christian friend living in Los Angeles whom he had met through his ex-partner, Bert. When he called and described what he was going through, his friend, kept saying, "Uh huh . . . uh huh . . . God's working in your life." When he needed a place to stay while he made additional connections in Hollywood, Marty went to see this friend.

Being with Christians gave Marty a glimpse of their lives, in contrast to the show business people he knew. He recognized the reality of their beliefs, but still . . . they were Gentiles. It was different for them.

Spiritual Dilemma

One night Marty was alone, standing on the patio looking up at the sky, wondering what to do about his spiritual dilemma.

"The phone rang as I stood outside looking at the sky. When I went to answer it, I looked over to where I had been standing. The door was framed by trees in the foreground, and in the distance were telephone poles and one very bright light. In a glance, I saw a brightly lit white cross



Bert and Marty during their Catskill days



Jennifer and Marty Goetz (pronounced getz) have been married five years. They currently live in the San Fernando Valley.

coming across the distance to me. I knew. I can't say how or why, but I interrupted the person who was calling and said, 'I think I'm having a conversion experience.'

"The person on the phone was a Christian, but I think he was taken off balance. 'Oh, that's nice,' he said."

Fortunately for Marty, others were more enthused. When he told his friends that he wanted to believe in Jesus, they prayed with him. The following Sunday they took him not to one church, but to two. At the second service, singer Wendell Burton sang "Jesus, You're a Stranger to Me," and Marty responded to the altar call.

Marty became involved with a church and was encouraged to meet several other musicians who knew the Lord.

"Music was my natural response to God," he explains, "and the people I met helped me put music in its proper perspective."

The Hebrew liturgy Marty had loved as a youngster began to come back, encouraging him to express his new relationship with God in the same personal, expressive style.

Eventually, Marty moved into Christian music circles, sharing his

music in shows and concerts. For the past ten years, he has traveled around the country singing in churches, has appeared on Trinity Broadcasting Network and has recorded three albums.

Since 1979 he has worked with Debby Boone, traveling as her conductor and pianist when she played in clubs and on TV. Now that she performs Gospel concerts, he opens with his own music and then accompanies her during performances. Three of his songs appear on her albums.

But as Marty said, "This is a time in my ministry when God wants more than my music. Romans 10:1 has become more real to me recently: 'Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they

Since 1979 he has worked with Debby Boone, traveling as her conductor and pianist when she played on TV.

Now that she performs Gospel concerts, he opens with his own music.

might be saved.' " To this end, Marty has been working with our Chosen People Ministries' outreaches across the country, and he often leads the music at Beth Ariel, the Messianic Congregation he and his wife attend.

"What I am really seeing," Marty concludes as he asks for prayer for his ministry, "is that what God wants isn't for me to do this . . . or to do that. He wants my life." ☺

Continued from page 2

The world is rapidly shrinking. As the reunification of Germany takes place, the United States of Europe is formed and coalition governments and cooperation exist between the Soviet Union, Europe and the Western nations, the intensity of world concern will continue to focus more upon Israel and the Middle East. This is the stage upon which the final battle for civilization will be fought.

It is to this arena of human history that our Messiah, the Lord Jesus, will return. And before He does return, and before that great and terrible period called The Tribulation, we have the opportunity to reach many Soviet and East European Jews.

Will you pray with and for us: for wisdom as we seek to develop new programs; for resources as we seek to implement new programs; and for God's special blessing to open the eyes and hearts of many Jewish people to the message of the Gospel.

In Messiah

HAROLD A. SEVENER

COMING NEXT MONTH

Be sure to watch for your next issue of *The Chosen People* magazine for instructions on how to order the new 1990-

91 Jewish Art Calendar. We've made some changes you've requested and we know you'll want to reserve a copy.



From the Field

Your prayers and support for this ministry do make a difference. Here are just three examples.



"CLOSING THE DEAL"

MICHAEL RYDELNIK
Long Island, NY

Dorothy is a Jewish believer who attends the Olive Tree Congregation. She's a great lady—fun, full of enthusiasm for the Lord, and outspoken the way only a New York Jewish woman can be. A true Jewish mother par excellence.

As you'd suspect, Dorothy also witnesses regularly to neighbors, co-workers and friends. A few months back, she came to me with a problem. "It's easy for me to witness, but I'm having trouble closing the deal," she said.

Together, we agreed to hold a small Bible study. She'd bring her friends together twice a month and I'd come in and teach, answer questions and discuss objections.

At the first meeting there were five of us. Our topic was "What is the Bible?" The second meeting focused on "Evidence for the Resurrection," and six unsaved women (five Jewish, one Gentile) asked

searching questions about the empty tomb.

Pray for this fledgling group, for Dorothy's active witness and for the Spirit to move these women's hearts closer to Him.



A PLACE TO FEEL COMFORTABLE

HOWARD SILVERMAN
Los Angeles, CA

Don got our number out of the phone book and called the office one day.

"I'm Jewish and my wife gave me a copy of the Bible," he told me. "I read it. Now I believe that Jesus is the Messiah."

He went on to explain that he was from New York, now a businessman in California and all of his life he had had problems in his relationships. His wife thought that a biblical perspective would help him.

"I've gone to a couple of churches, and I believe like they do. But I don't feel comfortable there," he explained. "What should I do?"

"Come get together with other Jewish people who

believe as you do," I replied. I invited him to our Shepherd of Israel Congregation. Not too long afterward he showed up. One of the members is now meeting with Don regularly for discipleship.

It's great to see how God reached out and brought Don to Himself. I'm looking forward to learning more about him, and watching him mature in the Lord. In the meantime, please pray for this new brother and pray we would be available to many others who are looking for a place to feel comfortable.



Michael Campo

DON'T FORGET OHIO!

The second week of every month Chosen People Ministries worker Michael Campo goes to Ohio for several days of ministry: a Bible study in Columbus on Monday, one in Akron on Tuesday, and usually several opportunities to share our ministry in churches on Sunday and Wednesday.

It's a 400 mile drive each way, but in the few years Michael has been going,

he gets more excited about the ministry each month. It's a growing ministry, and an opportunity to multiply our missionary work—primarily because even though Michael goes only once a month, the work in Ohio goes on full time. This is thanks to the tireless efforts of contact workers Wilma Koch in Columbus; Wayne and Marilyn Kaipainen and Yvonne Becker in Akron—as well as many others whose ministry is crucial.

A number of Jewish people have come to faith and each month, there are interested unbelievers at the Bible studies. There is also a group of 10-12 people that is interested in forming a congregation with a more permanent Jewish outreach. At this point, they are praying about the possibility, and ask our Chosen People family to pray with them.

Please keep this work in prayer. Pray for Michael, as he makes the drive each month. Pray for Wilma, Wayne, Marilyn and Yvonne. And pray for the unsaved Jewish communities of these cities, that we may be part of reaching them with the message of Messiah.



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

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.”

— Sam Nadler, Executive Director
Chosen People Ministries

That’s why Chosen People Ministries produced “Messiah in the Passover.” With so many biblical references in the Passover story concerning atonement all pointing to the Messiah, we felt it would make the perfect subject for a film.

If you were unable to view “Messiah in the Passover” during its broadcast last month perhaps

you, your Bible study group or Sunday School class would like to purchase a copy.

“Messiah in the Passover” explores the fascinating links between the Jewish Passover and the Last Supper. You’ll learn the significance of our Messiah’s last hours on earth as He Himself celebrated the Passover with his disciples. And you’ll see a dramatization of a Jewish Passover Seder—as it is still observed by Jewish people all over the world.

Your personal study of the Word, your Sunday School class and your Jewish friends will be blessed as you share this professionally-produced and fascinating video with them.



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

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- Please send me _____ copies of “Messiah in the Passover” (VPAS). I enclose \$19.98 for each video (\$23.98 in Canada).

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OVA5



ISRAEL REPORT:

A View From Within The Land

Chosen People Ministries worker in Israel, Avner Boskey gives a first hand report on the current situation in Israel.

FROM AVNER BOSKEY

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

In the Book of Zechariah the Lord of Hosts proclaims: "I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, but I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster . . . he who touches you touches the apple of His eye" (Zech. 1:14-15; 2:8).

Once again Israel is back on the front pages of the world's newspapers. In Quaddafi's Libya, a fire severely damages a pharmaceutical plant. It's West German designers however acknowledge the plant to be for the production of chemical weapons. The plant's "pharmaceuticals" remain stockpiled for use in a future *jihad* (holy war) to be waged against Israel. In Britain employees of Iraq Airlines are arrested attempting to smuggle nuclear triggers out of Britain for use in the presumed development of an Iraqi nuclear bomb. In Iraq, President Saddam Hussein threatens to unleash his nerve-gas warheads against Israel and destroy half the nation.

In the West Bank in Gaza the 200th Palestinian is brutally hacked to death by underground Arab terror gangs for supposedly collaborating with Israel. Various Arab countries attack free immigration to Israel in world forums, attempting to prevent Russian Jews from fleeing the Soviet Union and moving to any part of Israel. At the same time, provocateurs associated with the Russian anti-Semitic organization known as *Pamyat* (Remembrance) attempt to organize a nationwide *pogrom* (mob attack) for early May on all Jewish communities in the U.S.S.R.

In the middle of these sobering and threatening events, the President of the United States takes the time to express his opinions on national television as to whether or not Jews (Israelis and immigrants) should settle in all parts of Jerusalem and exercise full sovereignty over the entire city.

What in the world is happening? How are these events viewed in Israel today? How do Jewish believers understand these events

in the light of the Scriptures? And what are Christians to do?

The world is getting increasingly impatient with Israel's defensive and occasionally cocky attitude, its crushing security concerns, and its historically justified mistrust of Gentile nations who seek Israel's welfare. The fact that Israel has been chosen by God irritates a world which rebels against the God of Israel and His Messiah (Psalm 2:1-3).

The forces of Islam as well, tend to view Israel as both a military and a theological threat, an enemy to be vanquished. The roots of Moslem hatred for Jews sink deep into the Koran.

The basic response in Israel to this worldwide stirring of anti-Semitism is three-fold: those on the political right wing shrug in sadness, explaining that all the world is against tiny Israel. What is needed, they say, is a strong, ever vigilant army and a top-notch intelligence agency. Coupled with this comes a profound distrust of any internationally mediated peace treaty, one which most right wingers feel would lead to a gradual dismembering of the State of Israel.

Those in the political center and on the left wing are also in accord that only *Israel* can adequately defend its own interests; nevertheless, they believe that some form of peace treaty may serve to prevent or postpone an all-out Mid East war, and may be the door to greater understanding and coexistence between Jew and Arab.

The religious Jewish parties in Israel (10 – 15% of the electorate) tend to be hawkish in their politics; all of them, however, are convinced that Israel's true need is for repentance and a "conversion" to ultra-Orthodox Judaism (the vast majority of Israelis are secular).

One thing unites Israeli left and right, religious and secular, and that is Jerusalem: no one believes that Jerusalem should be redivided; everyone believes that Jews should be free to live anywhere they want in Jerusalem; and, most importantly, nearly all believe that full Israeli sovereignty should never be relinquished over any part of Jerusalem. This last point has never been straightforwardly addressed by the diplomats of the world.

Most Israelis feel a sense of foreboding about the current situation. No one is happy about it. Even some Jewish believers in Israel tend to align themselves politically, and view prophetic events with either a left or right wing bias. But many believers here are not surprised at the turn of events, for we see that the prophetic Scriptures have something to say regarding international attitudes toward Jerusalem in the last days (Joel 3:1,2, 11-16; Zech. 12:3-4, 9-10; 13:8 – 14:4). We remember that Israel is God's chosen instrument, and that the Gentile nations will

bring judgment or blessing on themselves based on their treatment of Israel (Gen. 12:3; Zech. 8:22-23; 14:17). Though many are the judgments yet to be poured out on the world *and* on Israel, we see God's faithfulness to His covenant promises in all of these events (Jer. 1:10; 31:28). The God of Israel will similarly be faithful in bringing His promised redemption to all who wait for Him and call upon His name (Joel 2:32; Isa. 8:17; 25:9; 30:18) and He will redeem Israel from all her iniquities (Ps. 130:8).

Zionism will never solve all the problems besetting the Jewish people, nor will the Israel Defense Forces always triumph over their enemies (Ezek. 36:16-23, 32; Zech. 14:2). True security for Israel will only be found through trust in Messiah Yeshua. Only when Israelis hear the Good News of Messiah's sinless life, atoning death and earth-shattering resurrection; only when God's chosen people call upon the name of the Lord Yeshua in faith, will we as a nation be saved and delivered.

Therefore we urge you to pray for the spread of the Gospel among the Jewish people, both here in Israel and around the world (Romans 10:14-15). We especially ask you to pray for us as we equip the new congregation recently planted in North Tel Aviv, Congregation *Keren Yeshuah* ("Horn of Salvation," cf. Luke 1:69). Approximately 30 adults and 10 children attend regularly. Pray that God will grant us the wisdom and strength to disciple these precious believers, teaching them to walk humbly and yet boldly with their Lord as we spread the Good News together of Israel's triumphant and soon coming Messiah Yeshua.

Avner will be sharing about the work in Israel at the following churches next month.

Sunday, June 3, Gospel Light Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX (512) 490-9099. Highland Hills Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX (512) 534-5466. Tuesday, June 5, Fellowship Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX (512) 623-2240. Wednesday, June 6, N.W. Community Evangelical Free, San Antonio, TX (512) 680-3041. Friday, June 8, Grace Bible Church, San Marcos, TX (512) 392-6312. Sunday, June 10, Spring Bible Church, Spring, TX (713) 353-4002. Spring Creek Baptist, Spring, TX (713) 367-2572. Tuesday, June 12, Bridgestone Baptist Church, Spring, TX (713) 350-8700. Wednesday, June 13, North Austin Christian Church, Austin, TX (512) 836-3282. Sunday, June 17, Oakhill Bible Church, Austin, TX (512) 892-6112. Tuesday, June 19, Mrs. Jackie Hager (Bible Study), Flint, TX (214) 839-6291. Sunday, June 24, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, OK (405) 722-2550. Hillsdale Bible Church, Hillsdale, OK (405) 635-2226. Wednesday, June 27, Free Methodist Church, Midwest City, OK (405) 732-0648. Friday, June 29, Fellowship Bible Church, Tulsa, OK (918) 481-1445. Sunday, July 1, Community Bible Chapel, Dallas, TX (512) 690-0419 and other churches in the above areas.

For further information or if you would like Avner to come to your church call Michelle Barnett at (704) 357-9000.

"No, Ma'am. Yes, Ma'am!"

"I don't need to plan an estate, I don't have one!" cried the elderly widow. "You must think I am really rich!"

"No, ma'am," the man replied sympathetically.

"Then what is your angle? What do you want from me? Everybody wants something," she complained. "Now, don't you go looking at my antiques! I promised those to my grandchildren! Everybody who comes in here says, 'Oh, look at these antiques!' I can tell you what they are thinking. My sisters say, 'I want this when you're gone.' Well, I'll tell you, they won't see a thing!"

"No, ma'am," his experience had prepared him to know that there are emotional considerations that must be taken into account.

"Everything you see out there is ours," she gestured expansively. "This land has been in our family for generations. It hasn't always been easy. We used to say we were dirt rich. But, I remember back in the thirties when even that was blown away. This used to be all cornfields when I was growing up. We worked hard, just to keep our farm. Farming isn't so good now, but the city has come out here. The city wants to condemn this property so they can steal it from me. I'll sell it when I'm ready, and not before then. Is there anything wrong with that?"

"No, ma'am," he sighed. If she only knew what he knew, she might be ex-

cited at the prospect of selling now.

"Then what good are you?" she said exasperated.

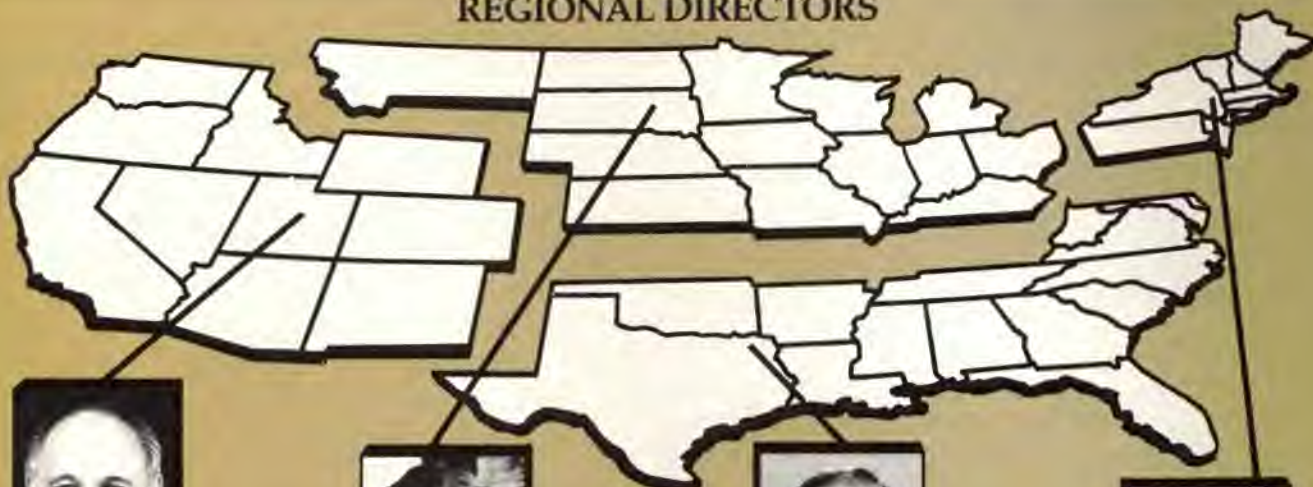
The man sighed with relief. At last she had asked! Now he could show this woman how she could avoid capital gains taxes on the sale of her farm . . . remember her grandchildren with those valuable antiques and also bless them with a sizable trust income. He could show her how she could also be enjoying an income that would free her cash flow worries for the rest of her life.

"Can you do all these things and remember my favorite work, Chosen People Ministries, too?"

"Yes, ma'am!" he replied. "This is called estate planning."

Do you have an estate plan? If we can help you, please call or write us using the envelope enclosed in this magazine. You might be glad you did!

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The Prophet Daniel

The prophet Daniel teaches us that consistency in our lives is the reward of yielding ourselves to God's Spirit.

HAROLD A. SEVENER

Daniel had just been made the third highest ruler in the land by Belshazzar before the night before Belshazzar died. "Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom. That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom" (Dan. 5:29-30).

Evidently, Daniel remained in this position during the administration of Darius. However, Daniel was not popular with the other administrators. Recall that during Belshazzar's reign, Daniel was no longer a friend of the court as he had been during Nebuchadnezzar's reign. The duties and responsibilities he had been given by Nebuchadnezzar had been given to pagan rulers. Obviously, he had been reduced to the position of a captive, just another Jew in exile.

One of the Exiles

That Daniel was no longer a governmental leader seems clear from the way Belshazzar addressed him: "Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah?" (Dan. 5:13). Nebuchadnezzar had changed Daniel's name to Beltshazzar; however, Belshazzar simply addressed him as Daniel, as one of the exiles.

Now, with God's judgment, the conquerors themselves had become the conquered. The Babylonians were now the subjects of the Persians. Those who had been rulers were now being forced to serve the Medes and the Persians. The sins of jealousy, anger, frustration, and, yes, even anti-Semitism began to raise their ugly heads.

As before, when Daniel had been elevated to a high position, he continued to maintain his righteous life style. He would not allow himself to be corrupted by the king's court. In so doing Daniel distinguished himself among all of the administrators and satraps by his exceptional qualities. So exceptional was Daniel that the king made plans to set him over the entire kingdom (cf. Dan. 6:3). At this the other administrators and satraps were outraged! An account of their behavior is given in Daniel 6:4, 5: "At this the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he

was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. Finally these men said, 'We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.' "

Righteous in Word and Deed

What a fantastic testimony to the character and life of Daniel! His actions were perfectly consistent with his words. He was righteous in both word and deed. What a different world this would be if every believer had the character of Daniel! Since the politicians and pagan religious leaders could find nothing wrong with the way Daniel ruled over the kingdom, since they couldn't find any corruption in his civil life, they attacked him where they knew he would be most vulnerable—in the area of his faith and worship.

God does not promise us an "eternal high" when we accept Yeshua as our Savior and Lord. There are peaks and valleys in our walk with the Lord. But as we yield ourselves to Almighty God there comes a consistency in our life, that God will never leave us nor forsake us, regardless of the circumstances.

These men evidently had their own CIA. They watched Daniel for many months until they became thoroughly familiar with his habits. According to Daniel 6:10, Daniel went up to his room three times each day. He got down on his knees, and he prayed and gave thanks to his God, just as he had always done. This practice of praying three times each day is still carried on by the Jewish people. They have morning, afternoon, and evening prayers. Note also that Daniel prayed facing Jerusalem. In the synagogues today every building is built so that the worshipers face Jerusalem. This practice is based upon the longing of the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem, to have the city and the Temple rebuilt. Perhaps many of these customs and traditions

that are still kept by Jewish people today originated with Daniel's life style and godly habits.

Daniel must have established a faithful remnant of believers in the captivity, who longed to return to Jerusalem, who looked forward to the fulfillment of God's promises. Daniel as a man of God, maintained a consistent prayer life; he consistently worshiped his God. Would people, if they were following us around day by day, find that we too are consistently worshiping God in word and deed? Would our actions so demonstrate our faith that they would know that we would deliberately disobey any decree forbidding us to pray and worship? The faith Daniel demonstrated caused him to lead a committed and consistent life.


God does not promise us an "eternal high" when we accept Yeshua as our Savior and Lord. There are peaks and valleys in our walk with the Lord. But as we yield ourselves to Almighty God and allow His Spirit to work through us, there comes a consistency in our life, a consistency in our walk, a reality and an assurance that God will never leave us nor forsake us, regardless of the circumstances.

Spontaneous Responses

Daniel had learned this truth, and it was this truth that he was practicing in his life. Daniel didn't worship God because he *had to*; he worshiped God because he

wanted to. His heart was right toward God. He desired to worship and praise His holy name. Praise, worship, and prayer are the spontaneous responses of hearts that love God and that recognize His sovereignty over their lives; that recognize that His plans will always work out to His glory and for their good.

Now these pagan administrators and satraps, knowing of Daniel's disciplined life, drew up a decree for King Darius to issue which was designed to bring the king's judgment upon anyone who worshiped anything or anyone other than the king himself. Daniel writes, "So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: 'O King Darius, live forever! The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, o king, shall be thrown into the lions' den. Now, o king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.' So King Darius put the decree in writing" (Dan.6:6-9).

The pagan leaders knew Daniel would not obey such a decree. Perhaps they remembered the refusal of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to worship Nebuchadnezzar's gold image. But they obviously forgot God's faithfulness to his children! 

DR. JACOB

DR. MICHAEL PERI

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Meet Your Chosen People Ministries National Ministries Representative

The National Ministries Representative equips the Church with the Jewish roots of Christianity and the history and world 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 Feasts of Israel. All who hear their "Word from the Lord" will be challenged to fill your minds... please call or write Michelle Barnett, National Church Ministries, Chosen People Ministries, 300 Cedar Stream Dr., Charlotte, NC 28217-2800, (704) 457-9000.



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