

The Chosen People

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Is Hell Fair?

Will the Jewish people, who were persecuted for centuries "in the name of Jesus," be sent to hell for rejecting Him as the Messiah?



From the President

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. 28217-2834

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Credits: Woody Smith 3, 4.



Hell is a biblical truth that many find unacceptable. Just recently, 23,000 students at a conference in Urbana, Illinois, were given as part of their registration package a book that teaches that those who are "ignorant" of the faith would *not* go to hell.* Similar teaching was given these same students through a video at a plenary session (*Moody Monthly*, Feb. 1991).

How can these students be prepared to be missionaries for the Gospel and warriors for the Lord when the "nerve is cut" regarding the utter necessity for the Gospel?

A recent article on hell (*Christianity Today*, May 14, 1990) gives the impression that Christians in general and Christian leaders in particular are in great doubt and debate over the reality of hell. This is foolishness. Such writing clouds the issue, which the Bible makes *perfectly clear*: Without personal faith in Jesus the Messiah, neither Jew nor Gentile has any hope but only faces sure and eternal judgment for sin!

To teach otherwise is not only to be unfaithful to God's Word, but to undermine the Gospel itself. The Bible clearly teaches that there is sure judgment for the unbeliever (Jn. 3:36; 2 Pet. 2:4-9; Rev. 14:11). Sure salvation is only in Jesus (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:1); there is no other way to God but through Him (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12). Nor is there a second chance after death (Heb. 9:27).

Many Gentile Christians find it awkward to share Jesus with their Jewish friends. We as missionaries to the Jewish people face enough difficulties in encouraging these Gentile believers to overcome this sense of awkwardness, without having to overcome the added problem caused by some who would remove the urgent necessity that *all* people *must* hear the Gospel.

Brethren, the enemy of God wants nothing more than to make us think that there is no urgency or necessity to get out the Gospel. Nothing could be further from the truth! While it may yet be called "today," help us get out the Gospel, because for some, there may be no tomorrow. "I tell you, . . . *now* is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

SAM NADLER
PRESIDENT, CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

*Urbana is an annual conference for Christian students interested in careers on the mission field.

BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL

Steve Sinar was selling insurance and getting deeper in debt when he got the best tip of his life.

The pleasant voice on the telephone now greeting churches in Southern California for Chosen People Ministries belongs to Steve Sinar, 35, a friendly, likeable person with a ready smile. It's difficult to believe that this cheerful voice once carried a scared, frantic tone—the urgency of a man getting deeper in debt with each passing day.

In a sense, Steve Sinar was a product of his environment. He was the first-born son of a nice, middle-class Jewish family living in a suburban Jewish neighborhood and belonging to the country club. Steve was vice president of his junior high student council and played soccer on the varsity team. In short, he had the

conventional “Bar Mitzvah and bagels” Jewish upbringing.

Trappings of Success

“When I was growing up in Pikesville, Maryland,” Steve reflects, “my environment seemed to be so full of superficial things. It was as if the only things people thought were important were the trappings of success. Where people went, what they did, and what they drove were more important than who they were.

“My first look at something different came when I counseled at a youth camp during summer vacations. Working with teenagers, learning to share their hurts and fears, and having the opportunity to add a little something to each child’s life, gave

me a new look at people.

“It was my first real opportunity to notice that there were all types of people in the world . . . and all types of needs other than those in the world I had seen around me in Pikesville.”

Then, social science degree in hand, Steve entered the “real world.”

“I worked as a youth counselor and was really caught up in my job. Here was my opportunity to affect people’s lives.

“I thought everything was perfect until I ran into a major disappointment: I came up short on a state qualification test to continue youth counseling as a full-time position.”

From Job to Job

“Hurt and disappointed, I started





bouncing from job to job, always looking for that same satisfaction I received from counseling. I wanted to help and care for my fellowman. It's almost as if I believed that the job and the title could also make *me* a different person."

Eventually Steve ended up in Baltimore, selling insurance and making big commissions.

"In no time at all, I racked up more bills than I could possibly handle. If something made me feel good, I bought it. It didn't make any difference whether I needed it or could afford it.

"Did I have a new girl friend? Then I needed a new wardrobe. Was there a new disco? Then I had to be there.

"My whole identity seemed to be linked to *what* I was on the *outside* rather than *who* I was on the *inside*. On the outside I was smiling, as if everything was wonderful. On the inside I was hurting, and I knew it.

"My bills—and my life—were out of control. I'd wait until my apartment manager would glue a notice on my door threatening to evict me before I'd put together the money to pay the rent.

"I got to the point where I dreaded opening the apartment mail slot for fear of the bills. I would go for days at a time without checking my mail, letting it pile up. It became routine for me to be far behind. You know, I honestly thought there would never be any way out.

"When I dated, I made it sound like I was doing great, even though my financial status was a complete mess. The insurance business is a money business, and like real estate, you should always be doing well, so that's what I told people. Everything is great. And it *looked* great from the outside."

"My environment seemed to be so full of superficial things. It was as if the only things people thought were important were the trappings of success. Where people went, what they did, and what they drove were more important than who they were."

Religious People

"During my time selling insurance, sometimes I'd go into homes where I noticed the people were religious. In many of these homes I noticed a difference. These people—the ones who seemed to truly believe in Jesus—were always interested in me. (After coming to faith, I saw their gentle testimony in a new light.)

"But even though things inside me were awful, it seemed natural to try to appear more successful than I was."

Into this directionless life came a phone call from Don Goldvarg. Don was recruiting Steve to enter a multi-level marketing plan. Needing more money, and being attracted to the evident enthusiasm in Don's voice, Steve agreed to meet with him.

"From the time I met Don and his wife, Leslie, I knew something was different. They had joy, especially Leslie. She just bubbled over with joy.

I enjoyed going over to their house for the sheer pleasure of being with them. I recognized the quality they had as love. Once they shared with me that their love came from the Lord.

"It didn't even dawn on me to ask any questions about their faith, that's how consumed I was with my own way of living. It never occurred to me there could be a better way for me."

Noticing that Steve did not have plans to attend Yom Kippur services, the Goldvargs invited him to their congregation, which, by the way, is a Messianic Jewish congregation of believers in Yeshua, the Messiah. The Goldvargs mentioned that their twelve-year-old son was taking Bar Mitzvah lessons there.

"I agreed to go because I knew I wouldn't have gone to any other services. (I wasn't a member of any of the neighborhood synagogues.) Also, I admit that, by this point, I was a little curious.

"What happened at that service is difficult to describe."

Something Wonderful

"When we arrived, I noticed right away that the building was packed and that the people all appeared to be Jewish. I noticed that there was life and joy in the congregation, that there was something wonderful there. Sometime during the service, I understood that the difference was the Lord God of Israel, and I allowed His Spirit to penetrate my heart.

"Right away, I felt a change. I knew that Yeshua was my Messiah. What a great day to come to know Messiah—on the Day of Atonement. What a joy I felt to understand the true atonement of God.

"Perhaps most people want to

hear about the one-step, two-step, three-step way I prayed to receive the Lord. But all I know is that at some point, my spirit opened itself up and turned to God. I came out changed."

Steve was never the same after that Yom Kippur service. He met with the pastor of the congregation and became grounded in his faith, studying Scripture to understand that Messiah had given him a new life.

"Actually, during this time it was really hard. I knew I was a new person, but I was living with my girlfriend, and I didn't want to give up that relationship.

"Eventually, I couldn't get rid of the feeling that it was either her or the Lord. I couldn't live for both and she wouldn't live for Him. I moved from the bedroom into the den.

"After six months I decided to move out. At the last minute I couldn't leave. I called the movers to tell them not to come. But they had already left the warehouse and were soon at my door, ready to move me."

Like a Family

"The congregation became like a family to me, a place to grow in the Lord, and always very supportive. Yet, I remember being scared at first to enter the building. I was afraid that someone who knew me or my parents would recognize me.

"The biggest change that happened in my life, though, took place right after I came to faith. One day I sat down with my pastor and said, 'I know God doesn't want me to live this way. He wants me to be responsible to Him, and it's clear what He expects of me.'

"We got out every one of my bills and labeled several envelopes by category. Three months of overdue

"My bills—and my life—were out of control. I'd wait until my apartment manager would glue a notice on my door threatening to evict me before I'd pay the rent."

car payments went into one envelope. Electric bills, telephone bills, car insurance, and other notes went into another envelope. Miscellaneous expenses went into another. Then he helped me work out a payment plan to catch up on every bill.

"I quit my commission job, got a salaried position, and went on a budget. We staged a garage sale and sold almost everything I owned. Slowly but surely each debt was conquered."

Over the next several years, other changes occurred in Steve's life. He began to witness. Instead of seeing people as dollar signs who were going to give him fat commission checks, he began to care about them as people.

"When I'd make a sale or win an award, I'd praise the Lord in the office, always giving God the glory. This testimony to my unbelieving colleagues started to evoke feelings that I hadn't had since I was counseling teenagers: I saw that God could use me to make a difference in people's lives."

After three years, Steve began to think about serving the Lord in full-time ministry.

"Here was my opportunity to help people again, as I had once hoped to.

I wanted to share God's love, especially to my own Jewish people, who are so in need of answers. I saw hope and answers and healing in Yeshua, and I just couldn't keep quiet about it.

"I knew I would have to do some explaining to my parents and sister, because we were really close. I knew I was bucking the system, and I was concerned about how they'd feel in front of their friends.

"But as I looked around me and listened to the believers I respected, I knew that my duty was to be a full-time committed believer. If that meant being in the ministry, then I had to do it. Each one had worked through similar situations when God called them to service."

In the summer of 1989, Steve witnessed on the streets of New York, and in June 1990 he entered our Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP), afterward applying for a full-time administrative position with Chosen People Ministries. He is now our Regional Church Ministries Coordinator for the Western area.

"When I look back on how I was before I knew Messiah, I can only see the big difference the Lord has made in me. Scripture reminds us that 'if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come' (2 Cor. 5:17). Praise God! I can see how true it is!" ☺

Steve Sinar is an exercise buff who enjoys LA's casual climate because it is perfect for wearing one of his slogan T-shirts.



"Yeshua Son of David" starts the most conversations. And for all you matchmakers out there—Steve is single, personable, and a strong believer in the Lord.



Is Hell Fair?

Hell is fair. It's heaven that isn't fair.

By SAM NADLER
President, Chosen People Ministries

The prophet Daniel tells us that everyone has an eternal future: "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2).

The future of the believer in Jesus is everlasting life. The future of the unbeliever is also described as everlasting, but it is one of shame and contempt. The picture is clear: There are two destinies available for mankind—everlasting life and everlasting contempt.

The Bible doesn't say everlasting death, because the word *death* implies annihilation, which the Bible doesn't teach.

The truth of these two judgments is reiterated and expanded in the New Testament. The fact that Messiah, our gentle Savior, taught it so often emphasizes its reality and importance.

Recall the Lord's words in Matthew 25:46: "They [the unbelievers who did not follow Messiah in response to Him] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." Again He said in John 5:28, 29, "All who are in their graves will hear his [the Son of Man's, Messiah's] voice and come out—

those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

Heaven and hell do exist. Heaven will be populated by believers in Messiah Jesus, hell by nonbelievers (see Jn. 3:16-18).*

Sending nonbelievers to hell may seem unfair or unreasonable to some people. I've heard it said, "But my Jewish friends are as moral and good as any member of my church." True, many Jewish nonbelievers in Messiah Jesus are very loving, responsible, and moral. But by God's standard, which is the entrance requirement for heaven, *all* have sinned and fall short of the mark (see Rom. 3:23).

What is His standard, His mark? The very character of God Himself (see Lev. 19:2; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16).

Since we all fall short of God's standard, we all deserve hell. So for any of us to go to hell is fair and just. When looked at this way, *going to heaven is what seems unfair*—for getting into heaven is a matter of God's grace and mercy in Jesus.

God never disregarded our sin

**Hell is used to mean "final judgment," which is the common usage of the term. Technically, it means the "Lake of Fire," which is the "second death," into which even hell will be emptied (see Rev. 20:14, 15).*

debt. Rather, He provided a payment for our sins in Messiah. He paid for it Himself and declared that His payment for sin would be applied to any who would trust in His Son, who was the payment itself (see Jn. 5:24; 2 Cor. 5:21).

Thus we see that there are two judgments—heaven and hell. But are there *degrees* of these judgments? God's judgment concerning the degree of punishment and reward is based on three criteria: *works, knowledge, and position*. Let's look at each in turn.

Works

Some people think that their

good works count for something. And of course they do! They count, but *they can never purchase an entrance into heaven*. Rather, for the unbeliever, they can affect the degree of punishment received in hell. For the believer, they count regarding the degree of reward received in heaven.

At the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15), Messiah the Judge will judge the unsaved, not to see if any are worthy of salvation (for they wouldn't be at this judgment if they were believers in Him), but to deter-

A Jewish View of Hell

Most modern-day rabbis do not believe in a literal hell. They do not believe in any type of physical or spiritual punishment after death.

Orthodox Jewish scholar Dr. M. Friedlander wrote, "The detailed descriptions of Paradise and Hell as given in books both profane and religious are nothing but the offering of man's imagination" (*The Jewish Religion*, 2nd ed., London, 1900, pp. 223-24).

Morris Joseph perhaps best expressed the modern Jewish viewpoint on hell. He wrote, "Nor do we believe in a hell or in everlasting punishment. The pictures of penal fires with which some Jewish writers have embellished their descriptions of a future life are purely imaginary. . . . If suffering there is to be, it is terminable. The idea of eternal punishment is repugnant to the genius of Judaism. Here and there a Rabbi may be found advocating the notion; but such teaching does not represent the doctrine of any rational religion. God is supremely just, and He cannot conceivably inflict upon fallible man, prone to error, beset by fierce temptations, endless torments for his sins in this life" (*Judaism as Creed and Life*, London: Macmillan, 1903, pp. 144 ff.).

(Of course, these views of hell are from rabbinic tradition, not from the Bible, and are contrary to the scriptural view, which is taught by Chosen People Ministries.)

—Harold A. Sevener

mine the degree of punishment based on their deeds. Out of "the books" of their recorded works, their judgment is determined "according to what they had done" (Rev. 20:12, 13).

Simply put, if Bill and Sol, two unbelievers, die, and if Bill had stolen ten cars and Sol had stolen only one car, Bill's punishment might be greater than Sol's, for it would be "according to their deeds."

Knowledge

Often I'm asked, "What about those who never heard of Jesus, who never knew what God requires?" My answer is that all people have a conscience (Rom. 1:19-2:15) and guilt before God: no one, therefore, is "off the hook."

However, according to Luke 12:47, 48, those who are ignorant of Messiah and His desires will be punished less severely: "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who *does not know* and does things deserving punishment *will be beaten with few blows.*"

Using our previous example, if two unbelievers die—Bill and Sol—and if they each stole ten cars, Bill, who went to Sunday school and who *knew* the "facts of life," would receive greater punishment than Sol, who also stole ten cars but who was ignorant of the Gospel. The active principle here is "from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded" (Lk. 12:48).

Position

James gives us another principle of judgment for both believers and non-believers. He cautions us to be careful about seeking leadership or teaching positions, for people in these positions "will be judged more strictly" (Jas. 3:1).

In other words, teachers are more responsible and more accountable because of their influence either to help or hinder others. (For those "in the kingdom of heaven," see Mt. 5:19; for those outside the faith, see Mt. 23:13-35.)

Once more, to put it simply, two unbelievers die. Each had stolen ten cars. This time both had attended Sunday school, but Sol was the teacher and Bill the student. Sol's judgment will be greater than Bill's, for the former was in a *position* of greater responsibility and accountability.

Thus, God's judgment, whether it is based on works, knowledge, or position, is not only fair and reasonable but is also sure and final.

Therefore, let us tell our friends while we can. Let us warn them that their "sins will find them out" (Num. 32:23). The awfulness of eternal separation from God (even if the judgment is not as bad as Hitler's) should fill our hearts with compassion and concern and motivate us to tell all the people we can, while we can, of the salvation available in Messiah Jesus.

There is no second chance for any who die without the Lord (Heb. 9:27). So let us take the opportunity *now, today*, and not harden our hearts (Heb. 3:13, 15).

Those who stand with us at Chosen People Ministries understand that the love of God moves us to tell the Gospel message. Thank you for helping us share the very heart of God, who desires that none perish (2 Pet. 3:9) and who stands all day long with outstretched arms toward Israel (Rom. 10:21), pleading with His people Israel to return while they can.

From the Field



Steve Cagan

A 100% Kind of a Guy

STEVE CAGAN
Los Angeles, CA

Al first called our office looking for a rabbi to jointly officiate at his marriage to a Gentile woman.

"We don't have a rabbi," we told him, "but we do have a congregation of Jewish people who believe in Messiah."

That explanation interested this Jewish man in his seventies enough that he invited one of our Chosen People workers over for a visit. He was quite open to the Gospel and asked thoughtful questions.

"I'm a 100% person," he told us. He wouldn't believe unless he could believe fully.

Over the next few months Al and his fiancée visited our congregation several times, and we had long conversations about the Messiahship of Jesus. From time to time I'd lend him materials, including two videos showing Messiah in the Passover and in Yom Kippur. Just recently he told me that he was seriously considering Messiah. I wondered what that meant.

Well, in Al's words. "I'm

85% there."

Pray with us for this 100% person . . . to understand that 15% more can give him 100% life!



Irvin Rifkin

He Couldn't Believe He Was a Sinner

IRVIN RIFKIN
San Diego, CA

It's been four years or so since a Christian friend asked me to visit his Jewish neighbor. I went . . . and over the next few years, I went back several times.

Larry was a successful businessman in his forties. He wasn't opposed to the Gospel, but as an advocate of Eastern religions, he could not accept that he was a sinner. Yet as he read the Scriptures and saw his own life in that reflection, he slowly realized that he indeed needed a Savior.

Just a few months ago, over coffee at a neighborhood restaurant, he told me that he was ready to pray to receive Messiah.

I led in prayer. "Lord," I began. He followed.

"Forgive me for my sins,"

I continued. Larry made a slight sound. Then silence.

"I just can't say that," he told me.

Larry was still having problems seeing himself as a sinner. We talked for a while, and he tried to pray again. Literally, the words would not come.

A few weeks passed. Larry did some more reading, contemplating, and praying.

"I'm ready," he told me. "Let's try again."

This time, as I led in prayer, his words expressed what had already happened in his heart.

"Forgive me for my sins, and come into my life," he prayed.

Pray that this new brother will grow in grace and understanding.



Irving Salzman

The Rich Young Ruler in the Middle of Manhattan

IRVING SALZMAN
New York, NY

He walked up to our literature table in Grand Central Station, a sincere seeker, but

"convinced that we couldn't be right," recalls Irving Salzman (CPM Manhattan).

He was an older man, an Orthodox Jew wearing a yarmulke. But his questions—questions he couldn't seem to get answers for in the past—revealed that he had already heard the Gospel.

"It was strange," Irving remembers. "On this particular day I had an immediate, appropriate answer for every one of his questions. It seemed as though this man was receiving answers to questions that had plagued him for years."

Drawing one last distinction between Judaism and Christianity, the man explained, "We in Judaism believe that righteousness is achieved by performance of *mitzvot* [good deeds]."

His self-satisfaction collapsed with Irving's next response. Turning to Isaiah, Irving cited God's condemnation of ritual and works. "The problem," Irving countered, "is the attitude of the heart."

The smile on the man's face disappeared. "You're right," he confessed, looking as though all his objections to the Gospel were crumbling right before his eyes.

"Although the man was old, he reminded me of the rich young ruler, who was convinced of the truth but was unable to respond for fear of the cost," says Irving.

Pray that this man will count the cost and decide to follow the Lord.



First Call For Camp Simchat Yeludim!

It isn't too early to think about the best ever summer camp experience.



This summer from August 18 to 24, children from Messianic congregations across the country will congregate in Pennsylvania. They're expecting to hike, play soccer, and go canoeing.

Their parents also have high expectations: They want their children to learn more about Jewishness and belief in Messiah. They want their children to learn from the earliest age that believing in Messiah is very natural and that it is what God wants from the Jewish people.

Both children and parents will find what they're expecting at Simchat Yeludim (Joy of the Children) Camp. Here believers will learn how to witness to their Jewish cousins and grandparents who ask what and why they believe. They also will learn about being Jewish, disproving the main criticism the Jewish community



levels at Jewish believers:
"It may be fine for you to believe in Jesus, but your children will be lost as Jews."

"It's a full schedule, but it's great," says camp director Larry Feldman, whose parents sent him to Jewish youth camps from the time he was five years old. And he always loved it! To him, a Jewish camp with "Messiah in the middle" is perfect. "But camp has got to be lots of fun," he says. "At camp, I'm the biggest kid of all."

So this summer, approximately 100 children will learn canoeing and

hiking, will memorize Scripture, and will even learn a smattering of Hebrew. Like summer campers everywhere, they will make new friends. And for a few, the new Friend will be Messiah Himself. 😊

"Witness to a Jew? You Must Be Kidding."

Each one of us knows a Jewish person . . . an old high school friend, a shopkeeper, a dentist back home. But do we want to witness to him or her? Nooooo. "God will deal with them through their own faith. . . . Lord, what about the Holocaust? I just can't. . . . Lord, I don't know how."

For a few weeks each summer, Christians are learning how to share their faith with the Jewish people while experiencing the truth and blessing of Rom. 1:16—"the Gospel is to the Jew first."

STEP (Summer Training and Evangelism Program) combines fascinating instruction in the Jewish roots of your faith and exciting hands-on Jewish evangelism. You'll be trained in all the basics of ministry to the Jewish people including:

- Learning Jewish history
- Learning how to deal with Jewish objections to the Gospel
- Understanding Jewish traditions

STEP is hosted by Chosen People Ministries, one of the first missions to Jews in America. For more information, please clip the coupon below.

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Camp Simchat Yeludim, 1300 Cross Beam Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217-2834

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 I would like to help sponsor a child in this year's camp program. Please send me more information.

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- Please send me more information on the STEP program (June 17).

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The Prophet Daniel

By HAROLD A. SEVENER

Studying Daniel's vision of the fourth beast in Daniel 7:7, I believe, will lead one to a pre-millennial understanding of the Word of God. This truth will become clearer as we study the continuation of Daniel's vision in verses 8 through 10 and the interpretation and explanation given to Daniel by God in verses 15 through 28.

In Daniel 7:8-10, the prophet saw a little horn coming up among ten horns. (The horn represented a beast, an authority, or a kingdom.) Three of the ten horns were uprooted. Daniel described this little horn as having the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully. He then watched as the Ancient of Days took His seat in the heavens. Around the throne he saw a multitude of angels attending Him.

Judged by God

Then, in verses 11 through 14, Daniel watched as the horn that spoke like a man and blasphemed God was slain and was cast into a burning fire. The other beasts were stripped of their power and were ultimately judged by the Ancient of Days as He came in the clouds of heaven. Daniel then saw that the Kingdom of God would be established on the earth and would not be destroyed.

Next Daniel was given the interpretation of the vision (Dan. 7:15-28): The beasts represented the kingdoms of the earth, over which the Most High, the Lord God, would ultimately establish His Kingdom and rule forever. We have already identified the first three kingdoms—Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. But what kingdom does the fourth beast represent?

Recall the dream of the great image given to King Nebuchadnezzar. In the interpretation of that dream, Daniel was told that the fourth empire, as represented by the feet and toes, was a complete empire.

We identified that empire as the nation of Rome. We also indicated that Rome, as seen in Nebuchadnezzar's image, would dissolve among the Western nations of the world. It would ultimately form a ten-toed empire just before the Lord, the Messiah, would establish His own Empire.

Thus, Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 and

Daniel's interpretation of the dream form a "prototype" of Daniel's vision in Daniel 7. God repeated in Chapter 7 the same prophetic message He gave Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2, this time in vision form. The beast which had no counterpart in the animal kingdom was vicious and terrifying. It represented historical Rome and, ultimately, the nations of the world that would exist before the Lord returns.

Interestingly, the political, socioeconomic, and religious systems that began all the way back in Babylon were further developed during the Medo-Persian empire, were expanded by the Greeks, and were carried west by Rome. These systems were then adopted by the Western nations of the world.

Roman Influence

Thus, when the Roman Empire was split, its political, socioeconomic, and religious systems (which were borrowed from Greece, Persia, and Babylon) found their way into the Western and Eastern civilizations. Many of the Western and Eastern languages come essentially from Roman culture. The ecclesiology, liturgy, and worship of the great religions of the West and East also find their roots in the pagan mythology of Rome, Greece, Persia, and Babylon.

Few Christians realize that the non-Christian, secular celebration of Christmas is based on the Roman celebration of the festival of Bacchus. It has no basis in Scripture. Likewise, the secular, non-Christian celebration of Easter finds its origins and name in Greek and Roman mythology dating back to the Babylonian gods and goddesses.

We certainly rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Messiah, Jesus, and in His resurrection. We look forward with hope that we, too, will be raised from the dead as He promised. But the pagan celebrations surrounding these holidays are clearly attempts of Satan to blind the hearts of men and women, lest they believe in the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

Daniel wrote, "He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come

SIMCHA!

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES invites you to rejoice with us at a special gathering of believers in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) June 6 - 9, 1991.

The Joy of the Spiritual Life

from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings' " (Dan. 7:23, 24).

In this explanation the prophet was told that the fourth beast represented a fourth kingdom. This beast would itself trample down the kingdoms of the world in its ascendancy to world power. This was exactly what historic Rome did. In its might and power, it crushed all other nations. Then, it forced its own philosophy and religious practices upon these nations.

Recall that the Roman Empire, as seen in Daniel 2, was a mixture of iron and clay—a mixture that would not meld. Thus we understand that the essence of the Roman Empire was to remain intact throughout the nations of the world until the final time of judgment, which the New Testament calls the Tribulation Period. At that time, God would assemble it into the ten-horned empire.

Now what the prophet was not told was the length of the time period that would elapse between the rule of the fourth kingdom and the coming into power of the ten kings. It appeared from Scripture that all these things would happen simultaneously. However, we know this did not happen historically. We also know from Daniel 9 that a period of time would elapse between the destruction and the control of the world by the fourth beast and the rise of the final empire composed of the ten horns, which would establish their worldwide rule just before our Lord returns. We will study more about this when we discuss Daniel 9. ☺



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Special Music

SIMCHA! (JOY!) A weekend 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 the Spiritual Life*. There will

also be a special seminar on Israel, The Mideast and Prophecy.

COST: The cost of SIMCHA! will depend upon the accommodations you select. The price of all accommodations includes meals from Friday supper through Sunday midday dinner (3 days, 2 nights) and starts at \$115. For those who want even more SIMCHA!, we offer an **OPTIONAL EXTRA DAY beginning on Thursday, June 6, 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.

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES 1300 CROSS BEAM DR., CHARLOTTE, NC 28217-2834

Please send me more information on your special conference SIMCHA! June 6 - 9, 1991, at Word of Life Inn.

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RENDER UNTO CAESAR

The federal income tax deadline—April 15—is almost upon us—that dreaded day in our lives when we must “render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s” and pay our taxes.

Many of us have already completed and mailed in our tax returns; others are waiting until the last minute. They want to delay the inevitable for as long as possible. For some, there will be rejoicing as they anticipate the arrival of a refund check. But others will weep because of unexpected tax bills.

Proper financial planning usually means freedom from worry about the April 15 deadline and from the fear of having to pay added taxes or penalties. Scripture teaches that we should be good financial planners and faithful stewards of our assets.

Although Chosen People Ministries

cannot provide tax consultation or tax service, we can assist you in your long-range financial and estate planning. Our ministry provides several financial programs that may allow you to save significantly on your tax bill while providing you with additional income. Furthermore, these programs allow you to provide some present and future long-term financial assistance to Chosen People Ministries.

An excellent way to do this is through a Gift Annuity. A Gift Annuity through Chosen People Ministries will allow you to give a gift of property, stocks or bonds, cash, and so forth and to receive from us a guaranteed income for the rest of your life from that gift. Because it is an annuity, you will also receive a substantial tax benefit for your gift.

In addition, your gift will provide some current financial help to our ministry, enabling us to reach more Jewish people with the Gospel. Then, when the Lord calls you home, the remainder of your gift will be used at that time to reach many more Jewish people with the Gospel.

If you would like to receive information about a GIFT ANNUITY or some of the other financial programs available through Chosen People Ministries, please let us know by checking the appropriate boxes on the enclosed envelope in this magazine and by returning it to us. Your inquiry will be kept in strict confidence.

Through a Gift Annuity you will not only “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s, but unto God the things that are God’s.”



In Season and Out of Season . . .

. . . Reaching the Jewish people for the Messiah.

Chosen People Ministries would welcome the opportunity to visit your church. Speakers are available to share on a variety of subjects including *How to Witness to Your Jewish Friends*, *The Mideast and Prophecy*, and *Messiah in the Passover*. Contact the Church Ministries Coordinator in your area for more information.

Midwest	Terry Kanter	708/913-8268
Northeast	Joseph Dorais	516/939-2277
South	Ruth Bernstein	703/471-7593
West	Steven Sinar	818/884-8245

BY HAROLD A. SEVENER, President Emeritus

It was still dark when Mary arrived at the tomb. Trembling, she said to herself, "How could it be empty?" She had been there when the soldiers had rolled the heavy stone into place and had carefully affixed the official seal. Now the tomb was empty. How could it be? It was not possible.

During the years Mary had known Jesus, she had experienced peace for the first time in her life. She believed that God understood. She knew His forgiveness and love. In knowing Jesus, she knew hope. Now Jesus was dead. His body was missing, perhaps stolen, and there was no hope.

The darkness of the early morning dawn surrounded



her, . . . smothered her. Loneliness engulfed her, and the weight of her past sins pressed down upon her like water bursting from a broken dam. The reality of Jesus' death came crashing down upon her. If Jesus was

dead, . . . she was dead! God would no longer accept her. Her sins would no longer be forgiven. There could be no peace for her, ever.

Grief-stricken, tears streaming down her face, feeling hopeless and alone, she stumbled through the garden, not knowing where she was going but knowing that she had to find Peter. He would understand her pain. After all, hadn't he denied even knowing Jesus? If anyone would know what to do, she thought, he would.

She didn't have to run far. There in the distance, approaching the garden, was Peter, and with him was John, the disciple Jesus loved. Without even greeting them, Mary cried out, "They have taken away the Lord, and I don't know where they have taken Him."

Now waiting for Mary to continue, and without even noticing her anguish, Peter and John raced toward the tomb. They, too, found that it was empty, and they, like Mary, knew that all hope was gone.

Peter and John fled from the empty tomb, but this time Mary lingered. She began to cry once again. With each tear she prayed, "Please, God, don't leave me alone. Don't let me become what I once was. Forgive me. Change me." Exhausted, forgetting where she was,

she knelt in front of the empty tomb and looked inside. To her astonishment, the tomb was no longer empty. Two men dressed in white were seated where the body of Jesus had so tenderly and carefully been placed. One was sitting where Jesus' head had rested, the other where His feet had been placed.

Compassionately they asked her, "Why are you weeping?" As their words penetrated her grief-stricken heart, she knew these were not ordinary men. Without thinking she responded, "Because they have taken away my Lord." Even Mary did not realize the change that had taken place in her thoughts about Jesus. Earlier, to Peter and John, she had said, "They have taken away the Lord." But now she responded, "They have taken away *my Lord*." In her grief and loneliness, God had become personal. He had become real.

Mary's words had scarcely been spoken when she sensed the presence of someone behind her. When she turned, she saw a man whom she supposed was the gardener. He, too, asked her why she was weeping, and when she told Him, He gently spoke her name: "Mary." He said her name, and immediately she knew His name! Jesus. He was alive! His body had not been stolen from the tomb! The tomb was empty because He had risen!

Because Jesus was alive, Mary knew she could live. Because He was no longer dead, she knew her sins had been forgiven. She knew she would no longer be alone. Once again, peace flooded over her. In adoration, praise, worship, and love, she fell at His feet. With the message of hope and of His resurrection upon her lips, she ran from the garden—this time not in fear, but in joy.

Mary's message of hope and faith is the same message found upon the lips of all who have personally met Jesus. Like Mary, they call Him "my Lord."

Because He lives, we too shall live. It is in the resurrection of Jesus that we have hope, and it is because of the resurrection of Jesus that we are compelled to bring His message of hope to Jew and Gentile alike.

Understanding The MIDEAST And PROPHECY

Chosen People Ministries' latest video gives clear answers to tough questions.



Hopefully the crisis in the Gulf has been peacefully resolved, but it has opened a Pandora's box of questions for every thinking Christian.

- How do current events in the Middle East relate to Biblical prophecy?
- Is modern Iraq a prophetic fulfillment of Babylon rebuilt?
- What should Christians be looking for in God's prophetic timetable?

These and many other questions are fully discussed in Chosen People Ministries' latest video. This 30-minute VHS video features an information-packed discussion

with experts on prophecy and the Middle East like Dr. John Walvoord, Chancellor, Dallas Seminary, and author of the million seller *Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East*; Dr. Paul Feinberg, professor, Trinity Evan-



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gelical Seminary; and Harold A. Sevener, President Emeritus, Chosen People Ministries. Leading the lively discussion is Sam Nadler, President, Chosen People Ministries. \$12.95.

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Please send me _____ copies of "Gulf Crisis In Prophecy" (VGCP). I enclose \$12.95 for each VHS video tape.

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