

The Chosen People

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**"For I will take you
out of the nations...
and bring you back
into your own land."**

(EZEK. 36:24)

**Israel's Independence Day
May 8, 1992**





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

God is a Zionist! For He Himself has established Zion as a place of refuge for His people (Isa. 14:32), and a land deeded to His people through promise and covenant (Gen. 12:7).

The fact that the Jewish people are the inheritors of the land of promise is an issue resolved in the Word of God.

But, there are two additional issues we cannot deny: 1) that God has brought Israel back to the land; and 2) that the Jewish people in the land are in desperate need of a Savior.

To those who are students of prophecy, it's very clear that God promised to bring His people back to the land in a state of unbelief. It's only in the land, and through the Tribulation period, that they will be brought to a place of recognizing their desperate spiritual state and to calling out to Messiah, indeed the Pierced One (Zech. 12:10; Hos. 3:5).

Though they be in unbelief and, therefore, act in ways that are less than perfect, there's no doubt that God has promised them the land, and in 1948 brought them back to this very land of promise. Now, the world system is judging Israel and it seems the Jewish people are expected to act as a redeemed people, though they are not yet redeemed by the Redeemer.

Honestly, there also seem to be some Christians who are more interested in the politics of foreign countries than in missionary work in those foreign countries. It would appear that some Christians are setting up a straw man—labeled the Christian Zionist. Christians who believe in God's promise and prophetic plan for Israel are being ridiculed for supporting the Jewish people's right to a homeland, though the Jewish people are still unregenerate. We must beware of smoke screens and red herrings. The issue for Christians today is not to sit as judges over Israel's government and internal policies. Our concern is to get the Gospel to the Jewish people and to believe God's promises.

Once the Jewish people come to faith in Jesus, then they will be able to love as they are loved, and have wisdom to deal with the kinds of issues that are greater than themselves. There can be no doubt that God's redemptive plan for this world includes His desire to reach the Jewish people with the Gospel. Nothing must distract us from this. And because we believe His promises towards Israel are true, we must also unequivocally recognize that He has deeded the land to the Jewish people. In fact, all who believe the promises of God for Israel are Christian Zionists.

Sincerely,

SAM NADLER
PRESIDENT, CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

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Comfort My People

by Larry Jaffrey
Southern Regional Director

"Coalition forces have started bombing Iraq!" With that statement the world became tense with anticipation wondering what the outcome of the conflict would be. How many soldiers would die? Would the world ever be the same again?

Those who love Israel and the Jew-

ish people had another question that night. Would Saddam Hussein bomb Israel? The amazing background to that question was: although Israel had purposely remained neutral in the conflict, yet her safety was still being threatened. The leader of Iraq had decreed, if he was attacked by the Coalition forces, he would attack Israel. That first night we went to sleep euphoric, because of the apparent

Since Israel declared its independence 44 years ago and became an independent state several wars, conflicts, bombings and constant tension have made living in Israel quite stressful. In a land so racked with strife can anyone find comfort?



success of the bombing and because Israel had not been attacked.

Israel's Comfort Shattered

The first night's euphoria changed 24 hours later, when it was reported that Iraq had sent missiles into Israel. Hearing how the Israelis had to flee to specially sealed rooms tugged at our hearts. Realizing once again there was potential for Jewish people to be killed by chemicals, even by chemicals made by the same companies who made them for Hitler, shocked our senses. The words of Jeremiah rang so true concerning Iraq's attitude toward the Jewish people. "'Go away! You are unclean!' men cry to them. 'Away! Away! Don't touch us!' When they flee and wander about, people among the nations say, 'They can stay here no longer'" (Lam. 4:15 NIV).

Saddam Hussein attacked Israel not because she threatened his nation, but because he hoped to use the hatred of the Jews to his advantage. Killing innocent civilians and driving Israel into the sea was more important to him than protecting his own people. The hatred Hussein expressed has been the constant plight of the Jewish people, since the destruction of the first Temple.

God's Lasting Comfort

Does not God care for His people anymore? Again the words of Lamentations seem so prophetic, "Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long? Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure" (Lam. 5:20-22 NIV).

Yes, God does care! Isaiah emphatically states the Lord's feeling on the matter. "'Comfort, O comfort My people,' says your God" (Isa. 40:1 NASB). We find the result of that comfort in Isaiah 49:13 where it is

written, "Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people, And will have compassion on His afflicted."

How does this comfort come about? Through the Servant mentioned earlier in the passage. And who is this Servant? None other than the Messiah. The first four verses of Isaiah 49 beautifully portray the life of Jesus.

1. Called and named while in the womb (v. 1)
2. His words like a sharp sword (v. 2)
3. One through whom God will show His glory (v. 3)
4. Ministry was seemingly a failure (v. 4)

Verses 5 and 6 outline the purpose for the Messiah's coming.

1. To "raise up" and "restore" Israel
2. To be the source of salvation for the nations

Messiah's coming, it is impossible for one to say he loves Jesus and at the same time be anti-Semitic. One cannot accept His being the "light" to the nations without acknowledging He also came to "restore" the nation of Israel.

These are not mutually exclusive purposes. Amazingly, God has designed it so that as the Gospel went out to the Gentiles, Israel has been restored both spiritually and physically. Even at the end of the Tribulation, salvation of Gentiles is tied to the salvation of Israel and the establishment of the Messianic kingdom (Rom. 11:25,26; Matt. 24:13).

Isaiah shares this principle when he writes, "Thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations, and set up My standard to the peoples; and they will bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters will be carried on their shoulders'" (Isa. 49:22). Though this prophecy is

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Messiah Came to Comfort

Verse six is an interesting study. The Messiah was to come to "restore" Israel. The word "restore" is used two ways in the Prophets: first to restore to a covenant relationship and second to bring back to the land. Here we see the Messiah's purpose to bring Israel back to God and to the land. But, God says this is "too small" a thing for the Messiah, so He will also make the Messiah a "light" to the nations in bringing His salvation to them.

Realizing the full purpose for the

to be ultimately fulfilled at Jesus's second coming, the principle still is applicable today. As Gentile nations see God for who He is, God will use this change of heart in the nations to restore Israel.

Physically Restoring Israel

An amazing study of history is to see how God used Gentile Christians to impact the founding of the nation of Israel. Remember, the state of Israel came into existence as a result of a

vote of Gentile nations. Interestingly, it was the impact of Christians upon their governments which led to the positive vote.

est to her husband.

A few days later, Mr. Miles met with her husband and shared what the Scriptures had to say about the

An amazing study of history is to see how God used Gentile Christians to impact the founding of the nation of Israel. Remember, the state of Israel came into existence as a result of a vote of Gentile nations.

On November 2, 1917, the Balfour Declaration was signed in Britain giving that empire's support to the founding of a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine. The declaration received much opposition, but it was the influence of President Wilson of the United States which helped tip the scales in favor of the declaration. President Wilson himself was greatly influenced by his faith in God and the Scriptures. He is quoted as saying to a rabbi acquaintance, "I am the son of the manse, son of a Presbyterian clergyman, and therefore I am with you completely and am proud to think that I may in some degree help you to rebuild Palestine."

As the United Nations was considering the future of Palestine, President Harry Truman formed a Palestinian Commission to make recommendations on the position our nation should take regarding the issue. At that time, George Miles, former president of Washington Bible College, was conducting a Bible study in the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC.

Following a study on the Abrahamic Covenant and the land God promised to Israel, a visitor came up to Mr. Miles and introduced herself as the wife of one of the men on the Palestinian Commission. She told Mr. Miles that the information he shared that evening would be of great inter-

land promised to the descendants of Abraham. Impressed by what the Bible had to say and stating that this was information the Commission needed to hear, he asked Mr. Miles to outline on a map the land promised to Abraham. Gladly, Mr. Miles obtained a map and outlined the territory God promised to His people.

We will never know the influence this brief encounter had on the United States' decision to vote for Israel. What we can see, though, is how God placed Christians in special positions at this important time in history.

Spiritually Restoring Israel

Not only did God use the Church to comfort Israel physically, but He has designed His plan so the Gospel going to the Gentiles will also comfort and restore Israel spiritually. This plan is found in Romans 11:11 where the Apostle Paul writes, "I say then, they (the Jewish people) did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But, by their transgression salvation *has come* to the Gentiles, to make them (Israel) jealous."

Here Paul is saying that God's plan for restoring Israel spiritually is by giving the Gospel to the Gentiles. This, in turn, would make the Jewish people desirous of having the same relationship with God.

Salvation's Lasting Comfort

The effectiveness of this plan can be seen throughout Church history. As individuals come to the Messiah they become burdened to give the Gospel back to the Jewish people. Their zeal and love for God is noticed by Jewish individuals, which results in provoking those Jewish people to desire the same type of relationship with God.

The results of the principle working can even be seen on our staff. Many of those with Jewish backgrounds can point to a Gentile Christian who had a great impact on their spiritual pilgrimage to Jesus.

Yes, God desires to see His people comforted. He has seen fit to do this by having the message of salvation go to the nations. They, in turn, will comfort the Jewish people by supporting their having their own land and by desiring to see them find the Sar Shalom (Prince of Peace).

How can we in a practical way share our desire to comfort the Jewish people because of the salvation we have received from God? Here are just a few ways we can provide comfort for them . . . God's way.

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6).
- Support the right of Israel to exist as a nation.
- Take a tour to Israel.
- Take a stand against any anti-Semitism in your community.
- Make certain your life is above the standards of the world because of what Jesus has done in and through you.
- Help reach Jewish people with the Gospel, the eternal comfort of God.

As the Jewish community of the world is crying out for comfort, let us be ready to share the comfort God wants them to have . . . the comfort that can only come from the Messiah. ☞

30 Seconds to

IT HAPPENED THREE times during the evening of March 19, 1992, on station WWOR, during the programs *New York at Night*, *The Evening News*, and *The Arsenio Hall Show*. Between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., this 30-second television commercial, featuring the testimony of Chosen People Ministries staff member Barry Berger, reached over one million residents of New York City.

Taking Aim

Transcending conventional methods of outreach, this unique opportunity for evangelism was targeted to the large Jewish population concentrated in that area. In that brief, but powerful 30 seconds, television watchers would hear the testimony of a Jewish believer in Yeshua (Jesus), memories of his conservative Jewish upbringing, his search for fulfillment, and the peace he ultimately found in Yeshua. The audience was then asked to respond for further free information. In a mere span of time—the same it takes to button a shirt or back out of a driveway—the Gospel message was shared in this unique and unexpected way.

The Opposition Arises

Prior to its airing, getting this Gospel message on New York television proved quite a challenge. Aiming for the broadcast networks of WPIX and WWOR, Chosen People Ministries found themselves in three long weeks of negotiations that would finally reach the general managers of the respective stations for final review and approval.

At the end of those three weeks, one station, WPIX, rejected the request for air time. The decision was made based on the station's belief



that the issue being presented was too sensitive, the spot too religious, and the broad statements being made too unsubstantiated.

Satan may have been trying to close the door on this prime outreach opportunity, but God had other plans. For the other station, WWOR, agreed to the air time purchase of three spots. The February '92 Nielson rating of combined audience delivery for the three spots to the New York area was estimated at 1,051,000 adults. An additional bonus was WWOR's super station cable network airing two of the spots in 26,000,000 homes across the United States!

Hitting the Mark

As the spots aired, Chosen People Ministries had telephone lines and staff members poised and ready for the response of those watching. And respond they did! A few of the calls were hostile, but that didn't deter the dedicated staff members receiving the calls. For on the heels of the negative calls came the positive ones . . . calls of questioning, calls of searching, calls of gratitude.

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Israel Cohen received a call from a Jewish woman from Long Beach, New York. She was an unbeliever, but expressed an openness to the message she had just heard. She readily gave Israel her name and address and said, "Please send me the information. I would like to know more."

Another caller, a Jewish believer from New Jersey shared from a grateful heart. The spot had given him the courage needed to stand openly for his beliefs. It also put him in contact with other Jewish believers who could

Impact

Little did the people know that while watching their television sets that night a powerful missile was being aimed at New York City. It came in the form of an unexpected testimony.



"Being raised in a Conservative Jewish home,"



"If you want to know more about the Messiah of Israel free information is available, just write to the address shown and it will be sent promptly to you without any obligations."

offer him understanding and support. What a powerful connection!

Opportunity to Educate

Michael Rydelnik, Chosen People's Northeast Regional Director found himself engaged in a 20-minute conversation of questions and answers, challenges and rebuttals, from a tenth grade Hebrew academy student. During their discussion, Michael was able to direct this young man's attention to Jeremiah 31 and the New Covenant, present the concept of inner peace brought by the Messiah, and address the seeming contradictions the young man raised. Upon questioning him, Michael discovered that he had only read portions of the New Testament, selected specifically by his instructors. "Reading God's Word out of context," Michael stated, "could lead to confusion and alleged contradictions."

Michael then challenged him to actually read the New Testament for himself, and offered to send him one, but the young man declined. Before hanging up the phone, the student admitted he had several things he now wanted to discuss with his Rabbi. Michael felt the call was time well spent. A young student had been challenged, and encouraged to read the Gospels to find the answers for himself.

Right on Target

Each time our evangelistic commercial was broadcast, the calls of response came in. Staff members eagerly sent out the information requested and prepared for additional follow-up.

Sam Nadler, president of Chosen People Ministries, sees the outreach as a success with unlimited potential. He has made a commitment to continue with evangelistic television spots, targeted to reach Jewish people with the Gospel.

Additional phone lines and personnel will be added as this vital outreach is continued. Sam stated, "As

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financial support for this outreach becomes available, our plans call for refining our efforts and expanding with additional spots in New York, Chicago, Miami, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities with high Jewish populations."

After all, only on television, somewhere between endorsements for the latest running shoe and most improved laundry detergent, could viewers be exposed to another endorsement of sorts . . . this one with life-changing possibilities. And only on television, could such a small segment of time make such a profound impact, touching viewers with the Gospel . . . a message that is always right on target. ☺



"Even my Bar Mitzvah could not hold my interest in God. . . ."



"Then a life of personal pleasure and materialism,"

"Left me empty and without personal peace."



"But now . . . I have found fulfillment and peace in the Messiah of Israel."

" . . . Yeshua . . . Jesus."

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES INVITES YOU TO ENJOY YOUR VERY OWN PASSOVER SEDER



Thousands of Christians have gained greater understanding of the Jewish background of the Lord's Supper using our easy-to-follow kit. One pastor wrote, "I have set up three Seder meals. This one, with your materials, was by far the best."

The kit includes: a step-by-step Haggadah (guide of the service), a Leader's Manual with Christological insights into the Passover service, full-color posters for advertising, a how-to-prepare booklet with menus and recipes, a cassette of traditional and Messianic Passover music along with "Songs For Passover," a song book of eight traditional and Messianic songs, including "Passover Lamb" and "Dayenu." The entire Christ In Passover Seder Dinner Kit comes packaged in a durable plastic case suitable for years of use.



\$24.95

Kit measures 9" x 12"



\$19.95

WHY WAS PASSOVER OUR MESSIAH'S LAST SUPPER?



You will find the answer to this and other questions about the Passover meal in our "Messiah in the Passover" video. It's a 30-minute presentation that vividly portrays the unique spiritual and symbolic relationship between Passover and Easter, presenting thought-provoking insight for both Jews and Gentiles.

Use this video and invite your Jewish friends to Passover. You will find this video presents the Passover in a way that is sensitive and relevant, yet clear that Jesus, Yeshua, is the Messiah of Israel.

This video is ideal for use in a Bible study, fellowship group, Sunday school class or for your own edification and knowledge. Purchase your copy today and help us reach your Jewish friends and neighbors and others around the world with the Gospel.

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES
1300 Cross Beam Dr., Charlotte, NC 28217-2834

Item	Quantity	Price	Total
Christ in the Passover Kit (CPKSG)	_____	\$24.95	_____
Messiah in the Passover Video (VPAS)	_____	\$19.95	_____

I have enclosed \$ _____
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Name _____

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Offer valid only in U.S. and Canada.

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Have your credit card number ready!

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From the Field



Israel Cohen



Irving Salzman

Brooklyn New York

Israel Cohen
Irving Salzman

On a cool, spring Saturday afternoon, Israel Cohen and Irving Salzman from our New York outreach, found out how "hot" it could get while passing out tracts on Avenue M in Brooklyn.

As they were handing out the literature, a Hasidic Jew approached Irving to talk. Another came up to Israel and started to push him. The pushing continued up the steps of the building until Israel was being pushed against a wall.

The whole scene was observed by a N.Y. Transit Authority policeman who stopped the situation and asked what was going on. Israel told him that he was being stopped from passing out tracts and that his Constitutional rights were being infringed upon. The officer asked Israel if he wanted to press charges, but Israel re-

plied that all he wanted to do was pass out his tracts.

The original transit officer was joined by several others who guarded Israel and Irving while they handed out tracts. Outside of this protective circle several Hasidic Jews began demonstrating.

With all the commotion and the police, almost all the people passing by wanted the materials that were being handed out. Israel and Irving are praising God for His protection and the increase in people reached.



Kiev Ukraine Vladimir Viner

In just one short year, God has truly blessed our outreach to the Jewish people that started in Kiev, in the former Soviet Union. Our workers have given out 15,000 Bibles, 50,000 Gospel tracts and 3,000 children's Bibles.

Vladimir Viner, now a Chosen People full time staff member, holds regular meetings in Kiev on Sundays. These meetings are attended by over 200 people and he is now seeking a larger place to meet.

The Bible studies in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine and Minsk, Byelorussia are doing so well that our staff cannot keep up with demand for follow-up. Please pray with us about the need for additional staff and a larger meeting place.



Tel Aviv Israel

Albert Israeli

In a space for only 15, it becomes standing room only,

when 25 people attend a Bible study conducted by our missionary Albert Israeli. Albert believes many more Jewish people would attend if there was additional space and he is looking for a larger meeting place.

Two new Bible studies have been started. One in, Herzliya, with eight attending and the other in Rishon. This has created a need for additional missionary personnel to accommodate the increase in ministry.

The need is particularly great due to the tremendous number of Soviet Jewish immigrants. Pray with us as we seek God's direction regarding how we can meet these ministry needs.

A Message On GOD'S LOVE FOR ISRAEL

Delivered by
SAM NADLER

at
BETH SAR SHALOM
A Messianic fellowship
in Charlotte, North Carolina

\$6.00
Each

This 40-minute
message provides
Scriptural insight

into God's heart—His love of Israel. In May, as the state of Israel celebrates its independence, this is a timely message all should hear. Use the envelope provided and request your copy today!

Offer valid only in U.S. and Canada

In the Image of Ruth



TESTIMONY OF EVA RYDELNIK

Like Ruth, I can say with my whole heart, "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

OF ALL THE women mentioned in the Scriptures, the one I identify most closely with is Ruth. The Lord called Ruth, a Moabite woman, to love Him, the God of Israel, and to spend her life among His people. From an early age, God blessed me with a deep love of Israel, even though I was born into a non-Jewish home.

My believing parents taught me the Bible and I became a believer as a child. Part of my education in the Scriptures included an appreciation of the Jewishness of the Messiah Jesus and an awareness of the special status of the Jews as God's chosen people. I remember my mother reading me the Christmas story when I was four years old and telling me, "You know, Eva, Jesus is Jewish." I thought, "Wow!! Jesus is just like the Schwartz family next door!"

God continued to develop my interest in Jewish things when my father went into business with a Jewish man. My parents often spoke with me about the teachings of Judaism, and I was sad to learn that most Jewish people did not recognize Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah. While I was in high school, I visited Chicago's old Jewish neighborhood, Maxwell Street. At that time there was still an open market area, and even some horse drawn wagons piled with merchandise. It was an amazing day . . . a trip back in time to another world. As I drove back to our suburban home, I remember feeling so sad that all these people were living without the hope and peace of the true Messiah.

In 1969, after high school gradua-

tion, I became a youth worker with a nationally known youth ministry. It was great teaching teenagers the Bible and helping them think through the issues of growing up. Although we sought to make our message relevant to everyone, Jewish parents usually would not allow their teens to be part of our activities. They often said, "Take my child off your mailing list. We know you are a Christian organization and we are Jewish."

A Life Changing Trip

In 1972, I went to Israel for the first time. I did not know anyone in the tour group, but the Lord gave me a seat next to a Jewish woman from Long Island. Since she had a daughter my age, we established an immediate connection and wound up spending

Of all the women mentioned in the Scriptures, the one I identify most closely with is Ruth. For the Lord called Ruth to spend her life among His people.

much of the trip together. When the subject of the Messiah came up, she looked at me sadly and said, "Jesus could not have been the Messiah. Where is the peace?" Although I tried to speak with her about inner peace, she just could not understand.

It was fantastic being in Israel for the first time. I was amazed at the

rebirth of the State of Israel, and understood it as a fulfillment of Ezekiel 37 and the "dry bones." Yet, as I spoke with the young Israelis, it was shocking to find so many of them who were totally atheistic, with no interest in God, even though they were surrounded by Biblical history.

Most of all, that trip to Israel broke my heart for the Jewish people as I walked, weeping, through Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Holocaust. Six million people, 1½ million of them children, were slaughtered because they were Jews! It was too sad for words.

The Fire was Kindled

When I returned from Israel, I began to read everything I could find about Jewish history and culture. A fire was kindled in my heart, and I knew that God was calling me into a life of outreach to Jewish people. In the fall of 1973, I entered the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, majoring in Jewish and Modern Israel Studies. The education I received at Moody was outstanding. It was so exciting to go to classes each day to learn the Bible. Classes in Messianic Prophecy, Jewish Culture and Communication, History of Modern Israel, and much more fulfilled my hunger for knowledge about God, the Scriptures, and the Jewish people.

As a student, I needed a part-time job and again, God more than adequately met my needs. He gave me a job working as a private secretary for Dr. Louis Goldberg, the head of the Jewish Studies Department at Moody! Working with him taught me

so much about Jewish people and how to effectively communicate the Gospel, as I typed letters and manuscripts for Dr. Goldberg. He and his sweet wife, Claire, took me into their hearts and made me a part of their family.

That trip to Israel broke my heart for the Jewish people as I walked, weeping, through Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Holocaust. It was too sad for words.

An exceptional part of the training at Moody, was the required field education/summer intern experience. I spent two summers working with Chosen People Ministries—one in the Coney Island branch and one with a traveling evangelistic team and children's camp program. This valuable field training, a forerunner of Chosen People Ministries' Summer Training Evangelism Program (STEP) gave me a wealth of experience in all phases of Jewish ministry.

God's Orchestration

The first summer I worked with Chosen People Ministries, 1974, I met a Jewish believer who was working part-time with Chosen People Ministries and entering Moody in the fall. We shared many common interests, especially our commitment to sharing the Good News with the Jewish people. Although I planned to reach

out to Jewish people as a single woman, God was beautifully orchestrating another plan for my life, and in May 1976, Michael Rydelnik and I were married.

After our marriage, Michael and I finished Moody and went on to earn our Masters Degrees. Everywhere we've lived, Michael and I have always shared our faith with the Jewish people in our neighborhood. We have been active in the local Jewish community centers and have served in various forms of full-time Jewish outreach. We now have two wonderful sons, Zach and Seth.

Since 1984 we have served with Chosen People Ministries in New York, where Michael is now Northeast Regional Director. In 1984, we began a Messianic Bible study in our living room, which has since grown into a fully functioning congregation, Olive Tree Congregation. It has been rewarding to see this body of believers grow and reach out to our Long Island community. Developing a Messianic children's program, which we call "Kibbutz HaOr" (Community of Light), and leading a variety of women's Bible study and discipleship groups, has been both challenging and exciting.

Like Ruth, I have been privileged to become a part of the Jewish people, although I am not Jewish. With Ruth, I can say with my whole heart, "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." Ruth became the grandmother of King David. I want to live my life introducing Jewish people to "Yeshua the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham."

**Eva Rydelnik is now a missionary on staff with Chosen People Ministries. ☺*

The Prophet Daniel



By HAROLD A. SEVENER, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

The writer of the Maccabees described the results of Antiochus's decrees: "Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, and every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king. Yes, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath. For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, that they should follow the strange laws of the land; and forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days: and pollute the sanctuary and holy people; set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts: that they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation: To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.

Profaning the Holy Covenant

"And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die. In the selfsame manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Judah to sacrifice, city by city. Then many of the people were gathered unto them, to wit, every one that forsook the law; and so they committed evils in the land; and drove the Israelites into secret places, even wheresoever they could flee for succor. Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Judah on every side; and burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets. And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire. And wheresoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any consented to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death. Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities. Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God. At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised. And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had

circumcised them. Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing. Wherefore they chose rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died. And there was very great wrath upon Israel" (1 Macc. 1:41-64).

From all outward appearances, it seemed that God had forsaken Israel and that Antiochus was in control. A similar situation will arise in the Tribulation: Just as Antiochus trampled down Jerusalem, so will the Beast, or Antichrist, trample the city during the Tribulation.

An Abomination in the Temple

The Abomination of Desolation which Antiochus erected in the Holy of Holies was a statue of Jupiter. He is identified with the Greek god Zeus and represents the god who rules over all other gods. It was the image of the Olympian god Zeus that Antiochus had struck on all the coins he issued throughout his empire. However, Antiochus had replaced the face of Zeus with his own image. Antiochus even sought to change the name of Jerusalem and the Temple itself. The writer of Maccabees wrote, ". . . And to pollute also the temple in Jerusalem, and call it the temple of Jupiter Olympius; and that in Garizim, of Jupiter the Defender of strangers, as they did desire that dwelt in the place" (2 Macc. 6:2).

The vision of the little horn given to Daniel (Dan. 8:9-12) was fulfilled in every detail by Antiochus Epiphanes. He prospered in everything he did, and truth was thrown to the ground (cf. Dan. 8:12). God, in His permissive will, allowed sin to run rampant. From all outward appearances, it seemed that God had forsaken Israel and that Antiochus was in control. A similar situation will arise in the Tribulation: Just as Antiochus trampled down Jerusalem, so will the Beast, or Antichrist, trample the city during the Tribulation. Just as Antiochus's false priest, Menelaus, was directing the people to worship Antiochus's image, so also will the

Beast's false priest proclaim and enforce the Beast's lies. Just as Antiochus set up an Abomination of Desolation in the Temple, so too will the Beast defile the Temple. The Beast, like Antiochus, will demand that all worship him, and anyone refusing to do so will suffer death.

Some may ask why God allowed Antiochus to usurp such power, and why He will allow the Beast to do the same thing. God gave the prophet Daniel His reason, which is found in Daniel 8:12: "Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it."

Sin of Rebellion

Although this verse is difficult to translate, the inference in the Hebrew language is that God allowed Antiochus to defile the Temple and remove the daily sacrifice because of the rebellion of God's people. In other words, it was because of the sin of rebellion (disobedience) within the Jewish nation that God brought such a great judgment, and it will be for the same reason that God will bring the Great Tribulation upon Israel and the nations.

Like the sin of lying, the sin of rebellion is Satanic. Satan was the first to rebel against God. In essence, rebellion is the declaration of the inner man saying, "I am going to do it my way; I will not submit my will to your will." Rebellion is diametrically opposed to obedience. It cannot exist along side of faith. Both sins—lying and rebellion—were present in the Garden of Eden, and both Adam and Eve succumbed to these sins. First Eve was deceived by Satan's lie; then after eating the fruit, she convinced Adam to eat it too. Scripture tells us, however, that when Adam ate of the fruit, he deliberately disobeyed God (cf. 1 Tim. 2:14; compare with Rom. 5:12-14). God wanted the children of Israel to be obedient to Him, to trust Him. Some within Israel had forgotten this, and others deliberately declared they wanted to do things their own way. Instead of trusting God, they put their trust in man and in man-made alliances.

We must remember that the visions described in this portion of the book of Daniel refer to God's dealings with Israel in history. After Israel had returned from Babylon, the Israelites continued to sin. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah had spoken directly to the people and in caustic language had upbraided them because of their sin. Even then, the people did not want to worship God in His way. Instead, they wanted to hold on to the superstitions and rituals they had developed in Babylon. Instead of being willing and anxious to work on the

Temple, the House of the Lord, they wanted to complete their own houses. They wanted to work on things that would satisfy themselves, placing God in second place in their lives.

Interestingly, God had made a promise to Israel. He had told the people that if they would return to Him, that is, repent, He would return to them, and His glory, which had left Solomon's Temple, would return and dwell in the Temple which Zerubbabel was building (cf. Zech. 1:1—2:13).

The Temple was rebuilt, but God's presence, His glory, never returned to the Temple Zerubbabel built. Instead, Antiochus Epiphanes erected his Abomination of Desolation in it.

Disobedience and rebellion cannot exist along side of obedience and faith. God's presence cannot occupy a sanctuary that is defiled by sin. This is why it is so very

God's presence cannot occupy a sanctuary that is defiled by sin. This is why it is so very important for believers to live lives that are righteous and holy. Their bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. God resides within them.

important for believers to live lives that are righteous and holy. Their bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. God resides within them. He demands their obedience, their faith, their trust.

A Remnant of Faithful People

Time and time again God extended His grace to the people of Israel, but they responded with rebellious and stiff-necked pride. Only a faithful few, a remnant of faithful ones, responded to God's grace. Such obedience often meant cruel death. I believe the writer of Hebrews referred to this remnant of faithful believers in Israel when he wrote, "Who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who be-

continued on following page

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DANIEL

came powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them" (Heb. 11:33-38).

Although a remnant remained faithful, for the most part the religious leaders and political rulers became arrogant and rebelled against God. The result of that rebellion was the judgment of God upon Israel through Antiochus Epiphanes, or, as the Jews called him, Antiochus Epiphanes, the madman.

God is long suffering, but He is also holy. He longs to have fellowship with mankind; He wants man to repent, but when man refuses, God's judgment comes. Sin always brings the judgment of God. He always judges a rebellious and prideful heart.

We need to learn the lessons of history. We need to humble ourselves and prayerfully seek God's will for our lives. We need to make intercessory prayer on behalf of our nation. Certainly if God judged the people of Israel for their sin and disobedience, He will hold us responsible for the sins of our nation, for we have far more revelation of His truth than Israel did. We are held accountable for His revelation. Israel came under the cruel domination of Antiochus Epiphanes as payment for its sin. In the Tribulation, Israel and the nations will come under the ungodly authority of the Beast (Antichrist) as payment for their sin.

MEETING NEEDS

By REV. DAVID HENSCHEN, *Stewardship Director*



As a student of stewardship, I have made an interesting observation. It seems that God created us with a built-in need to give. After all, we are created in His image and He gives so much.

While giving may be a very difficult concept for some, those who practice it seem happier than most. It's as if not giving to others is actually stealing from oneself, or robbing oneself of the joys that come with "cheerful giving." II Cor. 9:7 states "... for God loveth a cheerful giver." Of course, we know He loves a stingy grouch, too; Messiah died for all. But "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). If we store that treasure in others, then our heart will be with others; just as Messiah's heart is with us.

Giving When You Are Not Able

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord

thy God which He hath given thee" (Deut. 16:17). One of the most rewarding aspects of my calling is helping those who are suffering from financial difficulties and the maladies of age. Yesterday, I received a handwritten note that read in part:

"I can't get out now for I have no car anymore. I can't write out money orders anymore unless I get the Para-Transit bus . . . (my) friends (have) died and young people work, there is no one I can depend on. In Christ"

If it is true that we have a built-in need to give, then it is also true when we cannot give we become frustrated. It is not uncommon for folks to give consistently larger gifts every year until several years into retirement. Then tragically, inflation, lower income, or ill health forces them to cut back. Finally, many must stop giving altogether, causing them frustration and disappointment. I have received

numerous letters expressing the frustrations felt by those caring friends of this ministry.

The joy comes when I show them ways God has enabled them to plan gifts for the future that they are simply not able to make today. Giving as one is able may mean making special provisions in a will, an annuity that pays income for life, or a withdrawable gift that pays interest. Even those who believe they will have nothing of value left when they are gone are often pleased to learn that their few possessions can add up to a nice little gift toward the ministry.

Thus, needs are met. We gain a partner in building the future of Jewish evangelism, and partners regain the joy of giving.

Join us if you are able.

If you have included Chosen People Ministries in your Will, please let us know so we can say thank you!

NEWS & VIEWS

A Messianic Perspective

A Jewish Renaissance in Hungary

"There is a Jewish renaissance." So proclaims Budapest, Hungary's chief rabbi. Following fifty years of repressive communist rule, thousands of Jewish people in Hungary are openly identifying themselves as Jews and reclaiming their culture. Since communism's collapse, two Jewish schools have opened (and are filled to capacity); a kosher restaurant and a grocery have opened and Budapest's synagogue, Europe's largest, is being renovated.

U.S.A.

Responding to the ready and increasing harvest in U.S. Jewish communities, Chosen People Ministries (CPM) has welcomed Leon Engman to missionary staff in the Midwest; James Fox as missionary in the Northeast; Ken Alpren as missionary in the Philadelphia area; and Lydia Onbreit to Soviet Jewish outreach in the Brooklyn area.

Jews leaving Iran

German newspaper reports indicate that Jews are leaving Iran in large numbers. Although Israeli officials will not confirm the reports, there is a quiet move among the 25,000 Iranian Jews toward emigration. The quiet exodus happens when many leave Iran on trips and simply do not return. It seems Iranian Jews are sitting on their luggage waiting to leave.

Prayer Requests

- For God to open doors to begin a new outreach in St. Petersburg, Russia (formerly Leningrad).
- For the effective training and evangelistic outreaches of our Summer Training & Evangelism Program participants.
- We are in need of a building or large meeting place in Brooklyn to be able to conduct meetings and minister to the Jewish people in the Brighton Beach area.
- Remember the children attending summer camp, Simchat Yeladim (Joy of the Children). Pray for those children who need salvation or spiritual growth and also for our workers and their needs.
- Also, we need larger facilities for our meetings in Kiev (Ukraine), Tel Aviv (Israel), and Buenos Aires (Argentina).

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S DECLARATION

THE LAND OF ISRAEL was the birth place of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world. Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained faithful to it in all the countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and restoration of their national freedom.

ACCORDINGLY WE, the members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assembly by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, to be called Israel.

WITH TRUST IN THE ALMIGHTY GOD, we set our hand to this Declaration at this session of the Provisional State Council in the City of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath Eve, the Fifth of Iyar, 5708, the 14th day of May, 1948.