

The Chosen People

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Celebrating Our Fathers

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A daughter shares the Good News with her Jewish father

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FROM THE PRESIDENT SAM NADLER



Father's Day is not an easy time for me. Oh, I enjoy the attention my family gives me. But I can't help but remember my own father who died several years ago in unbelief. The knowledge of my father's lost soul serves as a constant motivator to get the Good News out to my people, while there is yet time. For "while there is breath, there is hope."

On Father's Day, I wonder how "father Abraham" must have felt about his quarreling children – the Jewish and Arab people. With a strong sense of hope for a peaceful resolution we further examine this issue of Arab/Israeli relations in Part II of "The Arab World In Prophecy." Yes, God can, and will in the Messiah, reconcile these peoples.

We have strong motivations to share the Messiah – compelled not only by the knowledge of the eternal condition of those who die without the Messiah, but also with the hope that God will secure a remnant of Jews today (Rom. 11:5), and fulfill His plans for the Arab world tomorrow (Isa. 19).

I believe God wants, in a special way, for each of you to be involved in Father's Day. Through your prayers and support, you can help "father" Jewish people in the faith. You can co-labor with God (II Cor. 6:1) as you prayerfully help in getting the Good News out. Now, wouldn't this be pleasing to the Lord, that He, our Heavenly Father, might have a wonderful Father's Day through us?

In Messiah's service,

SAM NADLER
PRESIDENT, CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

The Chosen People

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Tammy Rothspan holds steadfastly to the hope that somehow, through the power of love from a daughter's heart to a father's, the message of Jesus, the Messiah, got through. ♥



from a daughter's heart

tammy, a young Jewish woman, always believed that God loved and cared for her. Even while growing up, she had a sense that He was always watching over her. When she began dating Allan, the man she would eventually marry, they would have fabulous, in-depth discussions about God, creation, religion, and more. A good friend invited them to attend his immersion (baptism) service, and Tammy was touched. Then a co-worker began bringing her literature about the Messiah and encouraged her to seek answers. And then, her close friend became a believer.

Coincidence? No. The stage was set, the players were in place, and the time was ripe for Tammy to make a decision. Even after having a traditional

Jewish wedding, she would soon discover that her husband, too, had been a believer (in secret) for three years.

The more she learned, the more curious she became about this Messiah named Yeshua (Jesus). But overriding her curiosity was fear... fear of the reaction of her friends and family to the thoughts and questions that flooded her mind. After all, her father held a high position in the synagogue. He was a cantor, the synagogue official who sings portions of the liturgy during the service, and leads worshippers in prayer.

When Tammy's father was a young boy living in Germany, he would often go to a conservative synagogue on the Sabbath and stand outside the building to listen to the music. His family forbade him to go, because they, as Orthodox Jews, believed that music should not be played on

the Sabbath. But he so loved the music that he went anyway.

Tammy's father had been spared from the Holocaust; he was able to escape. Later, he served in the Israeli army and as a leading tenor in the Israeli opera. After the war, he came to the United States to pursue theater. When it didn't work out, he became a cantor and was miraculously reunited with the rabbi from the conservative synagogue in Germany. They worked together in the New Jersey area for the next 25 years. During those years, it was important to him to make sure that all the children he Bar/Bat Mitzvahed learned Jewish music, culture, and traditions. This was the love of his life that he shared with them. He directed Sabbath youth choirs and, for the Jewish holidays, adult choirs. With one of the youth choirs he recorded an album

Her decision created the greatest hurdle of all: how Tammy would share her new faith in Yeshua (Jesus) with her family. During one Friday night meal, they discussed various Scriptures, but Tammy never came out and told them... not until the news came out by itself.

and with another he sang at the grave site and memorial of Mickey Marcus (an American soldier who went to Israel willing to fight for her independence in the war of 1948). He also entertained at the Kessler Institute (a reputable rehabilitation center) in West Orange, New Jersey.

In addition to the fear Tammy was experiencing, she found herself experiencing another emotion as well. To her surprise, Tammy was finding herself more and more resentful of her close friend who had become a believer. After all, Tammy had known God all her life, so why did her friend seem to have something more? Eventually, she would come to terms with all of these emotions, and when she had, she knew that she wanted an experience like that of her close friend.

Her friend had gone out of town for a week and had scheduled to call her on a certain day. Tammy was looking for a specific sign, so she could know the Lord was real. She asked the Lord to let the call come one day early. Sure enough, the call came a day early, and Tammy was excited to share with her friend the personal confirmation she had received.

With this new affirmation, Tammy and Allan accepted a dinner invitation to meet a Jewish believer and to hear her testimony. During the meal, Allan confessed to Tammy and the others that he had been a believer for some time. Because Tammy was a cantor's daughter, he felt unsure about sharing his faith, and feared rejection. However, he did pray for her salvation and that she could know the Lord in a personal way. That same night of the dinner, Tammy asked the Lord to come into her heart and life.

This decision created the greatest hurdle of all... how to share her new faith in Yeshua (Jesus) with her family. During one Friday night meal, they discussed various Scriptures, including Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, but Tammy never came out and told them... until the news came out by itself.

She and her husband had been attending Beth Messiah congregation in New Jersey, pastored by CPM Missionary, Larry Feldman. When Tammy was pregnant with their first child, Beth Messiah threw her a baby shower. Her parents came and met the others in the congregation, asking who they were. When the truth came out, Tammy's father was upset with her. At

first their relationship was strained, but over the years, her father softened and agreed that she was old enough to make her own decisions. The hardest thing for him to accept was that she was still Jewish.

From the beginning of her father's retirement years, he was continually ill suffering one illness after another. After he suffered a heart attack, Tammy sensed that her father wouldn't be leaving the hospital alive, and that time was of the essence.

In the quietness of her living room, Tammy prayed that the Lord would give her the words needed to make an impact... the words that would somehow penetrate her father's heart, which was failing both physically and spiritually. Sensing the power of God, she sat and wrote her father a letter, and later slipped it under his pillow at the hospital. It was her mother and brother that read to him excerpts from the letter at his bedside. During his last week of life, several people from Beth Messiah came to donate blood and help in any way possible. Just hours before he died, Tammy and a friend, went to pray over and witness to her dad. During their visit, he moved his feet, legs and head and turned from side to side - activity that he hadn't displayed in days prior to their visit. It seemed as though he had come to life one final time.

On Christmas morning, Tammy's father died. Not only did Christmas signify life (through Yeshua's birth), but it also coincided with the eighteenth day of the Hebrew calendar, the day that represents her father's Jewish memorial day (Yohrzeit date). And as Tammy relates it, the number 18 has special significance in Jewish heritage... it stands for life - eternal life in Tammy's eyes. She also sees it as no coincidence that this number was always significant to her father.

Although it isn't known for sure, Tammy hopes that somehow, through the power of love from a daughter's heart to her father's, the message got through.

Editor's note: Tammy and Allan have been married for ten years and have three children, Elena (7), Rachel (5) and Karyn (2). They have attended Beth Messiah for 8 1/2 years. Tammy's mom has attended certain functions at Beth Messiah and seems very receptive. Tammy's letter follows...

Dear Dad,

I'm writing this letter to you because there are some things that I want to express that I wasn't able to, until now. I want you to know, Dad, that I love you very much, and despite your being angry and upset with what we believe in, my love for you cannot change. I know that since I've become a believer in Messiah, there has been a "wedge" between us. And I must write, in all fairness, that you've always told me that if I became a believer, it would cut off our relationship. But I consider myself very fortunate that we still do talk and that you love me, and feel that I'm old enough to make my own decisions (that's what you've told me).

Daddy, I want you to know that my Jewish heritage is very important to me. I am very grateful for all my Jewish training and experiences that I had growing up. Please do not feel that because of my faith, it meant nothing or that you failed – because it's not so!

I will never forget one Shabbat [Sabbath] evening when Allan and I had dinner over at your house, and we were discussing Biblical characters and stories (Moses, Red Sea, Sarah having her baby at 90, etc.). You mentioned that you did not believe that the things that God did for those characters in those stories were true. Daddy, I almost fainted! I couldn't believe that the stories from the Bible that I believed to be so true, from what you had taught me, you didn't even believe yourself! But those are just two stories from the Bible...there are so many more that show how God was faithful and preserved and sustained our Jewish people (Purim, Chamukkah, etc.).

When I think of all the things that you've been through from your early childhood to the present, it seems like God has sustained you, too. You have survived through horrible situations: car accidents, losing your fire on the bridge, and more. Yet you were so very lucky.

Why do I write these things? To me, it seems that there is a God who has really looked out for you all of your life. There is only one God...the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This one God, who has preserved our people to this day, also foretold a plan of a coming Messiah and a plan of salvation...not a "Messianic Age."

You see, up until the 13th century, this is what Biblical Judaism was. But then it was decided that Judaism was based on following traditions and doing good deeds and giving tzedakah [charity]. You even told me once that if I followed the traditions of Judaism, it would make me a good Jew. Unfortunately, that is not so. And all through the Scriptures, God spoke of the coming Messiah: where He would be born, who He would be born of, and what He would be like. In the past, I read to you some of the Scripture

verses, but you told me that I read too much into them. But, Daddy, it is so clear...plain as black and white. The Scripture verses are no coincidence. And the plan of salvation, which is to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile (it says so in the New Covenant), is so, so very important. You see, without a blood atonement (Leviticus 17:11), there is no way for our sins to be atoned for...and, Daddy, the minute Eve bit into the apple, we were all doomed. Mom has said to me many times why have you suffered over the last eight years with all your illnesses. What did you do to deserve what you're going through? Dad, you haven't done anything – it's the sin of mankind that has created all of our illnesses. And all of us need to make atonement for our sins. But, there is no temple, and no blood sacrifices anymore. That is why God sent the Messiah. Now, I know that when you even hear the word "Yeshua" your blood curdles – and I understand why – having been told that our Jewish people were being killed in the name of Jesus Christ hurts and makes me angry too! But those people were not believers in Yeshua, because He never taught about killing anyone! He taught about love, and for us to rely upon Him to get us through our lives. In the New Covenant there is a chapter that warns against false teachers and teachings; but those who know the Scriptures would know who the false teachers are.

But the bottom line, Daddy, is God wants us to make T'shuva [repentance] to Himself...He wants us to have a personal relationship with Him. The only way to do that, though, is through the Messiah. He is the intercessor for all of our requests. The Bible says the only way to get to God is through the Messiah. The only way to have the Messiah is to ask God to forgive you for the sins you've committed (I know it's a very humble, hard thing to do, but we all sin) and ask Him to come into your heart, and let Him know you believe He is Messiah. When you do this, Dad, not only are you forgiven of the sins you've committed, and will commit, but you also will have the gift of everlasting life and the assurance of going to heaven.

Do you know, Daddy, that every Rosh Hashannah and Yom Kippur you hope that God will open the Book of Life and that your name will be inscribed within that book. With faith in Yeshua, it is a definite! And not only that, but you will also experience a joy and a peace that you've never known.

There is no such thing as "resting in peace." It's a big misconception that was offered somewhere. There is either everlasting life with God or going to Sheol. So please, Daddy, please consider what I've written as the most important decision of your lifetime. I know one day God will take me home to Heaven to be with Him. When that time comes, I want to know that you will be there, too. ☺

SAM ON THE STREETS

It appears that more than a double wedding took place that day as new believers were taken as part of the "Bride of Messiah."

For two weeks in late April and early May, Chosen People Ministries' president, Sam Nadler, traveled through cities in Germany, Russia, and Israel. The purpose of his trip was to assess our ministry outreaches in those countries and to carry the message of salvation in Jesus the Messiah to unbelieving Jewish people.

During a previous trip to Kiev just a few years ago, Sam had the privilege of seeing several men come to faith in Jesus. Now these men were being raised up as elders in a congregation in Kiev. Sam taught the leaders of the congregation, the second one Chosen People has planted in Kiev, from the Scriptures concerning the character and responsibilities of an elder. At the congregational meeting that night, Sam was awed to see these elders in a leadership role with so many believers to care for and encourage. He and Chosen People Missionary Albert Israeli also had the opportunity of doing some street evangelism in a park in downtown Kiev. There, they preached the Gospel and shared the Messiah with many people, including several Jewish people. The people in the park were invited to come and join in a worship service to be held later that day in a building located across the street from the park, a building whose dark past was echoed by a large hammer-and-

sickle emblem still engraved in its walls. Many people, including some from the park, came to the service where the Lord had laid on Sam's heart Matthew 28:18-20. "We should go and share the message of Jesus because we are convinced of the Lordship of Messiah," he told those gathered. Sam also drew upon Isaiah 9:6 to convey that Messiah was to be none other than God come in the flesh, and that He would have all authority both to direct and to protect our lives.

After Sam had finished the message, he gave an invitation for any who desired to receive Jesus as their Messiah and Savior to step forward and acknowledge a need for forgiveness. Praise the Lord! Several Jewish people accepted Jesus as their Messiah! After one refugee woman from Tajikistan came forward and accepted Jesus, Sam said that, in a sense, she had been saved twice – once physically from the persecutions in Tajikistan, and now eternally in Jesus. Many of the other believers present rededicated their lives to the Lord and to spreading the Gospel.

The next day the Lord again revealed how He is moving in the lives of the Jewish people. Sam and Albert had the privilege of sharing in the double wedding of believers Dimitri and Luda, and Sasha and Elena. The wedding, as in any traditional Jewish wedding, was performed under a "chupah" (wedding canopy). Because Sasha's father was unable to attend the

wedding, Sam was made an honorary "pappa" and as such brought Sasha to the chupah. Following the ceremony, Albert explained that in a wedding, we experience the joy of two people being united to one another. This joy, however, is only temporary and will soon pass. He went on to say that when people are united with God through His Son, Jesus the Messiah, their joy never passes away because it is now complete and everlasting. Again, the invitation to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior was extended to those gathered. Several Jewish people accepted Jesus, including both parents of one bride and the mother of a groom! The joy at the birth of these new believers far surpassed the joy of the wedding. It appears that more than a double wedding took place that day as these new believers became a part of the "Bride of Messiah."

While the wedding offered a festive atmosphere in which to preach Jesus as Messiah, another opportunity arose for Sam and Albert to preach in more challenging surroundings – refugee camps, where thousands of Russian Jews temporarily live, in Germany. The Great Commission states that we are to go to all people everywhere. Next month, read how the Lord worked through Sam and Albert as they ministered in the camps.

These new believers in Jesus need our prayers. Pray, then, that these new souls will flourish in their love of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah. ☺

FROM THE FIELD

MISSIONARY REPORTS



Steve Sinar,
Church Ministries Coordinator

"Everything in the Passover Points to Our Savior."

FOR MANY GENTILE BELIEVERS, finding ways to share the Gospel in a way which is understandable to an unbelieving Jewish friend or spouse can be frustrating. As Steve Sinar, CPM Western Regional Church Ministries Coordinator, relates, "The Passover celebration is one of the best witnesses to relate Jesus to an unbelieving Jewish person. Everything in the Passover points to our Savior."

Steve recently was able to encourage a Christian woman whose husband is Jewish. Steve had gone to the store to purchase a tape recorder when the checkout clerk asked him what kind of work he did. Steve explained that he worked with Chosen People Ministries and proceeded to share with her a bit about the ministry and the Shepherd of Israel Congregation. The woman told him, "I'm a Christian and I've been praying to meet someone who could show me a way to share Jesus and the Gospel with my Jewish husband." She went on to say that she'd seen our Chosen People Ministries sign and wanted to know how she could attend a worship service. Steve invited her to come to the worship service at Shepherd of Israel Congregation the following week.

The woman and her daughter came to that service. The woman's daughter

had been struggling with her own Jewish roots and how she could relate to Christianity – a struggle lessened now by what she has learned by attending the worship service. The woman was also able to see more clearly how the Jewishness of Jesus and His fulfillment of prophecy could help her relate the Gospel to her husband. Since she has shared her new understanding with her husband, he has been "provoked to jealousy" (Rom. 11:11) to learn more for himself. In fact, her husband felt so curious about her faith in Messiah Jesus that he attended the Passover Seder with her. There, Steve had the opportunity to not only hear about the man's beliefs but to share his own with him.

Now that the ministry staff has explained the significance of the Passover celebration and how it points to Jesus as our atonement, please pray for this man, that the Holy Spirit will continue to draw him so that he, too, may share in the glory which awaits those who place their faith in the Messiah Jesus.

Steve also adds that many churches are becoming more open to Jewish evangelism due to the many Seders which were celebrated by CPM missionaries this past Passover season.

Wrapped Just Right

IN EVERY CHURCH ROSEMARIE visited, she had her radar on looking for something she could identify with as a Jew. At the request of her son, she had gone to a few churches, but attending church made her feel self-conscious of her Jewish culture and uncomfortable.

Her son Adam, who was a new believer, brought Rosemarie to the Son of David Congregation, a fellowship established by Chosen People Ministries and pastored by CPM Missionary, Scott Brown.

During the worship service,

Rosemarie joyfully participated, clapping and singing. After the service, Scott went to greet her and saw that there were tears in her eyes.

Scott and Rosemarie spent the next 45 minutes talking about the Bible, Jews, and Jesus. Her objections to the Gospel were well thought out. Clearly, she had spent time reading, thinking and talking about these issues. Scott admired Rosemarie's careful attention to the text and her teachable spirit.

When Scott asked if she believed the Scriptures which he had shown to her, she replied, "Yes, the Scriptures are very clear... but I don't believe that I believe them!"

"I can see that you're a woman who is not willing to compromise truth for tradition," Scott said. "Why don't you ask God to lead you to recognize what is true?"

Two weeks later, Rosemarie and Adam were at Son of David again. At the close of the service when Scott asked if any would like to come forward to receive prayer, Rosemarie almost lunged forward. Through tears, she told Scott, "I believe! And I know He is in my heart. I just wanted you to know that, too."

Rosemarie's Jewish cultural needs were deep-seated. While attending other churches, she could never hear the message of Jesus, the Messiah, because she was preoccupied with thoughts and feelings that she was out of place. It was the right message but in the wrong wrappings.

Son of David Congregation was wrapped just right for Rosemarie. The Hebrew liturgy, the recognizable terms, the Jewish presence, all served to clear the runway of obstacles, and allowed her to land safely into the Messiah's love.



Scott Brown,
Missionary

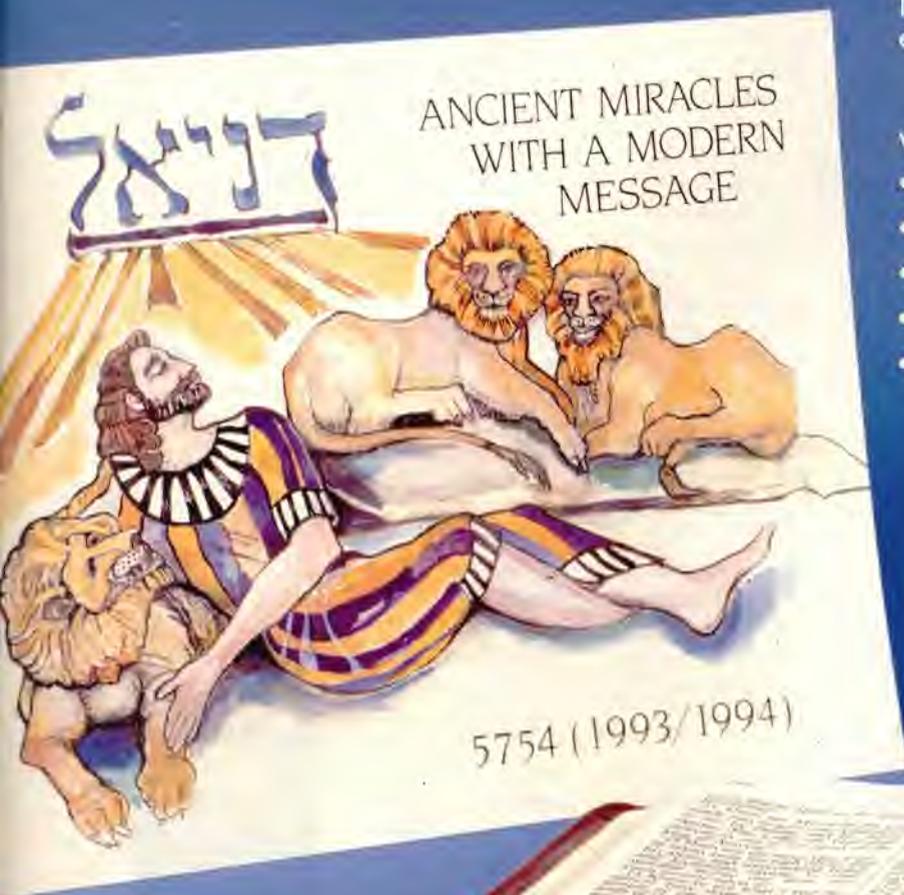
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THE ARAB WORLD

Editor's Note: This article is Part II of "The Arab World In Prophecy" which discusses the relationship between the descendants of the seed of Abraham and their role today in prophecy. The Apocryphal book of Maccabees quoted in the article is used as an historical reference, not as Holy Scripture.

The Scriptures describe both the origin of the term "Arab" and the type of people they were, and also delineates something of the

IN PROPHECY

ethnic origin of the people. The table of nations recorded in Genesis 10 lists a number of tribes who inhabited Arabia, as well as peoples who lived further east.

From out of the ark came the three sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth. From these three sons come all the descendants of the earth. From the line of Shem comes Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the Jewish people (Semitic people). From the line of Ham comes Ishmael - the Arab people (Hamitic people). And from the line of

Japheth comes all the other nations of the earth.

By the time of Solomon, the term "Arabian" was applied to many of the peoples and tribes living in the area south and east of Israel. The Old Testament Scriptures speak of the Queen of Sheba who came from the Arabian peninsula to visit with King Solomon (see I Kings 10:1-10), the kings of Arabia who traded with Solomon (see II Chron. 9:14), the Arabians who paid tribute to Jehoshaphat (see II Chron. 17:11), and the Arabs who invaded King Jehoram (see 2 Chron. 21:16,17).

The New Testament Scriptures and the Septuagint (a translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek made several centuries B.C.) use the term "Arabia" in reference to a territory as well as a people group (see Gal. 1:17, 4:25; Acts 2:11). In the books of the Maccabees, Arabia is equated with the Nabatean Kingdom in northern Arabia (I Maccabees 11:16). This is in keeping with the writings of Josephus, who identifies King Aretas IV (king of the Nabateans) as being an Arabian (see II Cor. 11:32 and *Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews*, xiv. 1:4. p. 290).

In choosing Israel to be a "light" to the

PART II

BY HAROLD SEVENER

bridge" between three major continents – Africa, Asia, and Europe. Other nations occupying the land bridge (Semitic/Hamitic nations) were people groups to whom Israel was to demonstrate both the oracles and the revelation of the one true God. Ultimately, both groups were to proclaim the message of God to the peoples of the world, including the descendants of Japheth. As such, the potential for peace and righteousness flowing out from Jerusalem to the nations of the world would be unlimited.

However, Israel failed – individually and nationally – to demonstrate and to communicate God's revealed truth to the surrounding nations. Her failure was due to the weakness of human flesh and to the sin-nature which all mankind possesses. But it was also due, in part, to Satan's attempt to destroy Israel, and thus to negate God's promises of salvation to all individuals and nations who believe His promises.

Scripture portrays Satan as one who is in total opposition to God's program of redemption in this world; he is the deceiver of nations. The animosity brought about by Satan's cunning lies has been evident since the very beginnings of the relationship between the "Arab" tribes and the descendants of Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob.

The book of Genesis reveals that Sarai, Abram's wife, was barren. But God had promised Abram descendants through his wife, Sarai. But since Abram and Sarai doubted God's promise, they agreed that Abram should take Hagar, the Egyptian, to be his wife. They reasoned that perhaps God would fulfill His promise of a son to Abram through Hagar (see Gen. 16:1-6). God is faithful to His promises; He had promised to bless the seed of Abram, and Ishmael, the son of Hagar, was Abram's seed. God, therefore, extended certain promises to Ishmael (see Gen. 16:7-16; 21:13,18). He promised that Ishmael would be a great nation, that he would live to the east (or in the presence) of his brother, and that the seed of Hagar, through Ishmael, would be so great it would be impossible to number them (see Gen. 16:10). Like the promises God made to Abram and Sarai on behalf of Isaac, His promises to Hagar and Ishmael were unconditional; they could not be

He promised that the seed of Hagar, through Ishmael, would be so great it would be impossible to number. Like the promises God made to Abram and Sarai on behalf of Isaac, His promises to Hagar and Ishmael were unconditional.

negated or broken. Hence, the descendants of both Isaac and Ishmael have become targets for the attacks of Satan as he has sought to destroy Abraham's descendants through the flesh.

Intermarriage between the descendants of Isaac and Jacob and the surrounding Semitic/Hamitic tribes further eroded the revealed truth of God and caused not only Israel to sin, but the surrounding nations as well. The idolatry and satanic worship of the surrounding nations soon found a place in the worship and liturgy of Israel. So extensive was Israel's involvement in these practices that they even erected pagan idols, and pagan sacrifices and worship were offered at the place of the Temple in Jerusalem (I Kings 11:1-8; Ezek. 8:6-18). Israel's failure to be a missionary nation to the surrounding "Arab" nations resulted in Israel being attacked by those nations. Nations through which God wanted His righteousness to flow became polluted with idolatry and sin. Conflict, hatred and religious idolatry triumphed!

With the Greek and Roman invasion of the Middle East, the stage was set for the peoples of the "land bridge" to be confronted by the final revelation of God – God incarnate in human form, in the person of the Messiah, Jesus. Scripture records that God sent His Son in the "fullness of time" (see Gal. 4:4) in accordance with the revealed prophecies of God to accomplish His plan and program of salvation. He came at a precise time; He came to live among exact people groups. What Israel had failed to accomplish as a nation, God would accomplish through all peoples, irrespective of their ethnic or national origin (see Rom. 10:12-20; Gal. 3:26-28).

Satan failed in his attempt to destroy the genealogical line of the promised Messiah (see Matt. 1:12-23; Rev. 12:1-5), but he did not give up. In his attack on the line of Shem (the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the Jewish people), Satan blinded hearts to the true message of salvation, and instead left behind an institutionalized set of rules and regulations – the teachings of men, from which religious fanaticism develops.

In his attack on the line of Shem/Ham (the seed of Abraham through Ishmael – the Arab peoples), Satan blinded their hearts to the true message of salvation and left instead an institutionalized reli-

gious political system whose growing fanaticism is threatening the world system of our day.

In his attack on the line of Japheth (the remaining nations of the world), Satan has blinded them to the true message of salvation leaving instead an institutionalized "churchianity." Sadly, many church programs are motivated by either political or monetary rewards rather than being motivated by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel message is weakened as the "church" seeks to mold itself to this world system rather than to penetrate society with the truth of God.

Satan will continue to use religious power and fanaticism to control the minds and hearts of men, a fanaticism which ultimately leads to religious violence such as we've seen by the self-proclaimed messiah of the Branch Davidian. It is also no coincidence that fanatic fundamentalist Islamic teaching is increasing, or that ultra-Orthodox Hasidic teaching is on the increase. Each branch of religion that has developed within the cradle of the Middle East has produced fanatical offshoots which have sought to establish their own kingdoms.

Terrorism in the name of religion, perpetrated by those who have their own political and economic agendas and who will stop at nothing to accomplish their goals, is still terrorism. It is this type of behavior, this kind of anarchy, that will ultimately usher in the Tribulation, and with it, the world ruler called the Antichrist.

Nearly one thousand years ago, as the calendar approached the year 1093, Pope Urban II urged Christendom to start a religious war, the Crusades, against the Muslims. Their religious war climaxed with the capture of Jerusalem in 1099. Now, as the calendar approaches the year 2000, a religious war between Christendom and the Muslim world once again seems inevitable. Like the earlier Crusades, this series of conflicts will involve the Jewish people and the Arab peoples. However, the final outcome of this confrontation will be different. During the Crusades, the nation of Israel did not exist; now it does. During the time of the Crusades, the city of Jerusalem was in the hands of the Muslim Arabs, now it is in the hands of the Jews. Jerusalem also became the capital of worldly Christendom; in the final conflict Jerusalem will be left in the hands

of a "Messianic" Jewish nation, with the Lord Jesus reigning from Jerusalem. During His reign all nations will be required to go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord (see Zech. 14:16-21). Among the nations living in the land will be the descendants of Abraham through Isaac, the descendants of Abraham through Ishmael, and the spiritual seed of Abraham through faith in the Messiah, Jesus. Each will have a part in the kingdom; each will share in the blessings of the Kingdom Age. God told the prophet:

"In that day five cities in Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the Lord Almighty. One of them will be called the City of Destruction. In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the heart of Egypt, and a monument to the Lord at its border. It will be a sign and witness to the Lord Almighty in the land of Egypt. When they cry out to the Lord because of their oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and he will rescue them. So the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and in that day they will acknowledge the Lord. They will worship with sacrifices and grain offerings; they will make vows to the Lord and keep them. The Lord will strike Egypt with a plague; he will strike them and heal them. They will turn to the Lord, and he will respond to their pleas and heal them. In that day there will be a highway from

Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. The Lord Almighty will bless them, saying, 'Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance'" (Isaiah 19:18-25).

Until that day, those who are of the spiritual seed of Abraham through faith in Jesus need to demonstrate God's love and presence in this world. They need to recognize that God has a divine plan for the Arabs, just as He has one for the Jews and the Gentiles. Jesus' death and resurrection is for the Arab world just as much as it is for Israel and all the other nations. God's kingdom comes through His Holy Spirit as He indwells Jews, Gentiles, and Arabs who, like Abraham, have "believed God" and have received righteousness through the finished work of His Son at Calvary. ☞

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THE PROPHET DANIEL HAROLD A. SEVENER

Editor's Note: Last month in "The Prophet Daniel," the angel Gabriel told Daniel that "seventy sevens" were decreed for the Jewish people and the holy city. The seventy sevens were to represent the immediate future of Israel if, as a nation, they repented, or they would represent the distant future of Israel if they continued in their unbelief and disobedience of the commandments of God. The seventy sevens were necessary to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

THE SEVENTY SEVENS USHER IN EVERLASTING righteousness when the very righteousness of the eternal God will be visible here on earth. This eternal dimension to God's righteousness dwelling upon the earth is in contrast to the transitory gifts of righteousness, grace and mercy that were seen throughout God's dealings with Israel. Daniel was given a glimpse of the wonderful, future Messianic kingdom which could only be established by the Messiah.

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The prophet Jeremiah spoke of a New Covenant which God would establish with the house of Israel. He said this New Covenant would be entirely different than the one God had established with His people at Mount Sinai. Unlike the Mosaic Covenant, this

New Covenant would provide forgiveness for and complete removal of sin. Jeremiah spoke of the wonderful conditions of this covenant when he said:

"The time is coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – the Lord Almighty is his name: "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the Lord, "will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me." This is what the Lord says: "Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done," declares the Lord" (Jer. 31:31-37).

The promise made by the angel Gabriel must have taken on great significance for Daniel, who had already been reading and studying the prophet Jeremiah. Not only did God promise everlasting righteousness, He stated that the seventy sevens were necessary to seal up the vision and the prophecy. These words not only express the idea that God was vindicating the truth of the vision which he had given to the prophet, thus establishing beyond any question the authenticity of the prophet's words, but it also refers again to that Messianic kingdom. At the time when the Messiah will rule and reign in righteousness upon the earth, there will no longer be a need for visions and for prophecy because they will have been fulfilled.

A further aspect is brought into view, as suggested by the use of the word "seal." The Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament)

translates the Hebrew word for seal with the Greek word for seal, "sphiragazo." This is the word the New Testament uses in Ephesians 1:13,14 and Ephesians 4:30 in reference to the Holy Spirit's ministry in the life of the believer. In the references in Ephesians, the seal is the "mark" of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, "guaranteeing our inheritance until the day of redemption of those who are God's possession" (Eph. 1:14). It is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who gives and energizes the gifts of the Spirit within the life of the believer. In a very real way, this indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, with the gifts that He gives, allows believers in this age to experience a "little bit of heaven right here on earth."

Visions and prophecy are gifts of the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and took up permanent residence in the lives of those who accepted Yeshua as the Messiah and Savior, the visions and prophecy were a sign of His indwelling presence. These sign gifts verified and vindicated the authenticity of the New Testament and the death, burial and resurrection of Yeshua, God's Messiah. The fact that God told the prophet Daniel these gifts would be sealed is a further promise of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit within the lives of believers. While these sign gifts are not necessary today, in that we have the completed revelation of God's redemptive program in the New Testament, Scripture indicates that they will once again be evidenced in the Tribulation (cf. Joel 2:28-32).

Finally, Daniel is told that the seventy sevens were necessary to anoint the most holy. The word translated "anoint" is the Hebrew word "Meschiach," from which we get our English word "Messiah." The Greek word is "Christos," from which we get our English word, "Christ." The word Messiah, or Christ, means anointed.

In this verse we find a dual fulfillment – the anointing of the most holy, or the anointing of the Holy of Holies, referring to the return of the visible glory of God to the Temple in Jerusalem. God's visible glory had departed prior to the destruction of the Temple by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. (cf. Ezek. 8:6; 10:3-5,18-19; 11:22-23). God had promised that He would be a sanctuary to Israel in all the countries where they were scattered (cf. Ezek. 11:16). He said He would bring them into their own land and give

At that time when the Messiah will rule and reign in righteousness upon the earth, there will no longer be a need for visions and for prophecy because they will have been fulfilled.

them an undivided heart and a new spirit (cf. Ezek. 11:18-20). He further promised that His glory would return to the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (cf. Ezek. 43:1,2; 44:1,2). It is this final return of God's glory, His Anointed One, which is referred to in the statement "to anoint the most holy."

For God to be a sanctuary to the Jewish people in all the nations where they were scattered, it was necessary that He dwell among them. He did this at Pentecost (Shavuot), when the Holy Spirit came and indwelt the 120 Jews to whom Peter preached (cf. Acts 2). He did so when the Holy Spirit came and indwelt Cornelius, a Gentile (cf. Acts 10). God is now dwelling among His people as He indwells believers, both Jew and Gentile. Since that Pentecost, God has been building a sanctuary for His name among the Jews wherever they have been scattered (cf. Eph. 2:19-22).

Through the centuries since that Pentecost, it has been the true believers who have lovingly helped, protected and provided sanctuary for the Jewish people whenever they have faced persecution from the nations. Sadly, Christianity has also had those who have falsely professed to know Jesus – those who would shame the Lord by never showing any love for the Jewish people, and in many cases by having been the instigators of hatred and persecution against Jews.

Within the program of God, His glory returned to Israel in His Messiah, Yeshua, but He was rejected and was put to death. As He ascended into heaven the promise was given that He would return (cf. Acts 1:8-11). When He returns, Jerusalem will be renovated, the Temple will be rebuilt, and God's glory will once again dwell in the Temple of Jerusalem. ❧

A Father's Loss

By David Henschen, Development Director Chosen People Ministries

I shot up out of bed. "Where is my wife? What is that noise?" It was 2:00 A.M., and my wife, Nadine, was crying in pain. She had never been pregnant before and hadn't immediately recognized that labor was beginning. How could it begin – Nadine was only in the fifth month?

As we raced to the hospital thoughts rushed through my head. "Is there any hope for this, our first child? God, how could you let this happen?" I frantically drove through the dark and empty streets running red lights and stop signs.

I didn't know how to comfort my crying wife. Her nervousness and tension only made the pain more unbearable. She let out another loud cry in agony. I felt helpless. "Lord get us there quickly and safely...and help!" I prayed.

When we arrived at the hospital, we hurried to the maternity ward where our doctor was waiting. The examination confirmed our unspoken fears. Labor could not be stopped, and our baby had no chance of surviving.

Then, suddenly, the baby wasn't in any rush. Hours began to pass, and the Lord began to calm us both.

The birth of this child, our first, was in 1985. It came at a time in my life when I had drifted far away from God. Not only had my relationship with the Lord deteriorated but relations with my wife, as well. My wife and I had naive hopes that this baby would help to save our marriage. Now those hopes were empty,

and we were depleted emotionally and spiritually.

How precious became those 12 hours of waiting. The Lord's presence graced the room, and for the first time in years we began to honestly communicate with one another. As we grieved our impending loss, we both rededicated our lives to God and to each other. I don't know if there was any other way to have reconciled our marriage, but God in His wisdom would allow our reconciliation to come through pain and loss, through the death of our baby.

Finally, the moment came: the birth of my son. I immediately picked him up and held him close. His lungs were straining for the oxygen that they were not mature enough to use. Life – precious life – was slipping from him.

I was awed by his beauty. He looked so perfect to me. What a joy in taking part in God's creation. What sorrow in the loss of this life. With tears of both joy and sorrow, my wife and I placed our hands on our beautiful little son. As we prayed, the Lord took that precious gift back to Himself. Our son was now looking upon the face of Jesus.

"Oh, God, I've given up my firstborn son...this hurts!" I cried. I then heard a quiet voice inside my heart respond, "I know."

Giving up my firstborn son was the hardest thing I had ever experienced. As a father, I could

Giving up my firstborn son was the hardest thing I had ever experienced. As a father, I could never have done it willingly. Yet, my Heavenly Father did.



never have done it willingly. Yet, my Heavenly Father did. He freely gave His firstborn Son as an atonement for sin – my sin, Israel's sin, and even the sin of the world. How He must have grieved. What love He has for us; what undeserved mercy we have received!

While I have since had two more wonderful children, I still long to have my missing child with me. Once again, God understands all too well. While He rejoices in all who come to Him, year after year, century after century, His arms are still outstretched, waiting for Israel to come home. But He will not force her. Instead, He calls each of us to join Him in accomplishing the desire of His heart – to help Him in leading Israel, His lost child, home.

Now they are coming one by one. But the time will come when the Jewish people will turn to the truth as a nation. Israel will come home and rejoice with her Heavenly Father. However, the reconciliation can only come through the sacrifice of the Son, God's Son.

What I have learned from the loss of my own son, and in my desire to follow God's heart, has led me to dedicate my life's work to bring the Good News to His lost child, the lost sheep of the house of Israel. My fervent prayer is that the Church as a whole will respond to God's grieving and share the Good News of Jesus the Messiah with their Jewish brothers and sisters. ☺

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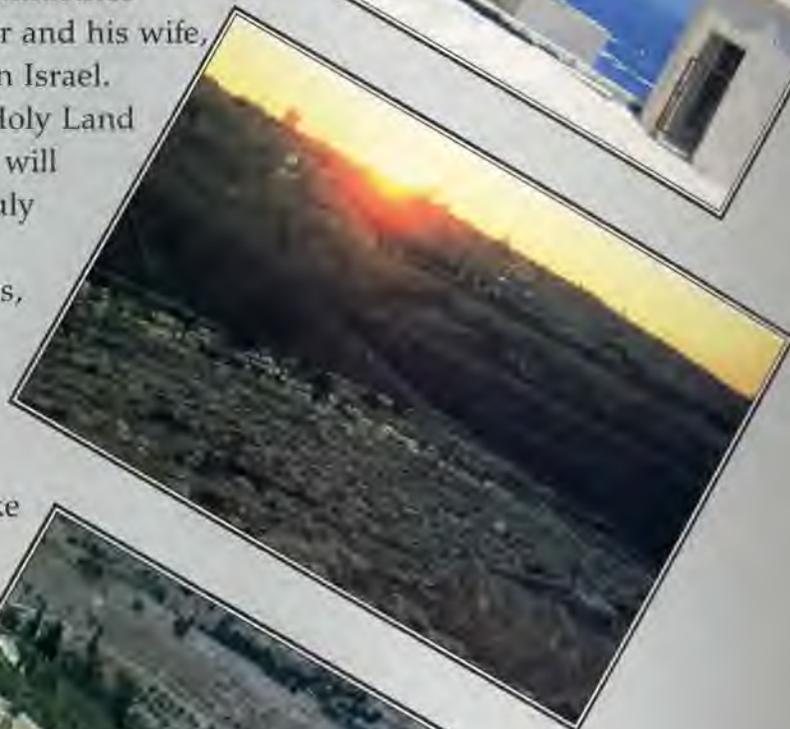
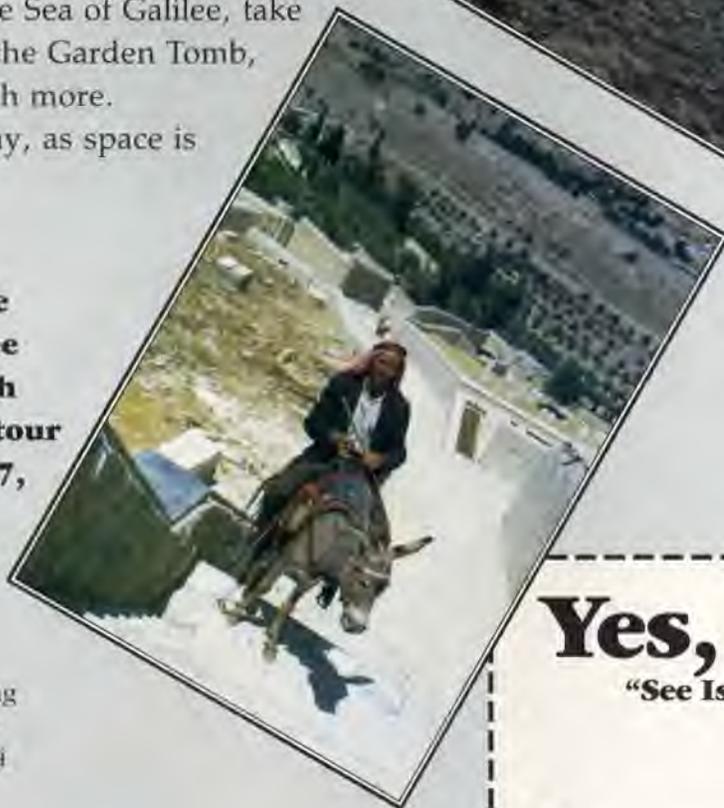
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