

The Chosen People



Volume XIV, Issue 2 March 2008

The Righteous Gentile and the Jewish People

"Garden of the Righteous among the Nations"

- Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

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To Whom Honor Is Due

Righteous Gentiles

of Jewish Evangelism

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom from New York City! Thank you for caring about reaching Jewish people for Jesus the Messiah. Your love, prayers and support are a great encouragement to our staff across the globe.

In March we celebrate the Jewish festival of Purim (see last month's newsletter) and we are on our way to Passover on April 19. Purim and Passover are two festivals that speak of the powerful hand of God in delivering the Jewish people from certain destruction.

The Lord used Esther and Moses as His instruments of deliverance for His people. But God also uses non-Jews to help the Jewish people! In this issue, we want to focus on some Gentiles who have taken to heart the Scriptural promise, *"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you"* (Genesis 12:3a). These men and women have been used by God to bless the children of Israel!

The Righteous Gentile in Jewish History

I would like to introduce you to a term that is well known in the Jewish



community: the "Righteous Gentile." It is traditionally used to refer to those Gentiles who have been a great help to the Jewish communities of the world in times of persecution. At *Yad Vashem*, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, there is a place called the "Garden of the Righteous among the Nations."

This term was popularized as a way to honor non-Jews who protected and saved the lives of Jewish people during the Holocaust. Many of those who saved Jewish people during these difficult days were motivated by their love for the Jewish Messiah. How could they allow His kinsmen according to the flesh to be mercilessly slaughtered? This

caused many dedicated believers in Jesus to risk and sometimes sacrifice their lives to save Jewish people from certain doom.

I want to expand the definition of Righteous Gentile to include those who have been involved with saving the lives of Jewish people by helping us come to know Jesus as our Messiah. Therefore, in some ways you are a Righteous Gentile! Your love for Jewish people that motivates you to reach out to Jewish people with the Good News about Jesus is a sign of your love for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and for the Jewish Messiah!

There is a splendid example of a Righteous Gentile in the New Testament, and I would like to introduce you to him.

At Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, there is a place called the "Garden of the Righteous among the Nations."

The Centurion: A Role Model for Righteous Gentiles

I am sure you are familiar with the centurion in Luke chapter 7. A number of Roman centurions are mentioned in the New Testament, but this particular centurion amazes me, as he clearly stands out because of his gracious character and deep love for the Jewish people.

A quick reading of the first five verses of Luke chapter 7 shows us that this centurion is unique among his professional military counterparts:

Now when He [Jesus] concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue." (Luke 7:1-5)

You can see why I am so impressed with this unnamed centurion. The very idea that a Roman centurion would love the Jewish people and treat them with kindness—and even believe in the Messiah of Israel—was scandalous! This man was everything a centurion should not be! He loved his slave, he esteemed the elders of the Jewish community in Capernaum, and he regarded Jesus with great respect, believing the Messiah had the power to heal his servant. In addition to this, the centurion built a synagogue for the Jewish people of Capernaum, which was his way of showing his

love for the Jewish people and his love for God.

In my opinion, the centurion of Luke 7 is the ultimate Righteous Gentile. His love for the Jewish people was founded upon his faith in the God of Israel, for when we love the God of Israel, we cannot help but love His chosen people.

The Roll Call of Righteous Gentiles in Jewish Evangelism

As the "Garden of the Righteous among the Nations" so eloquently testifies, there are many ways to sacrifice on behalf of Jewish people. Over the decades, there have been a number of unsung heroes—Gentiles who have given their all for the sake



No exact numbers are available of Jews rescued through the assistance of individual non-Jews, though their numbers run to the many tens of thousands. More than 200,000 Jews survived in Hungary, a great many of them through the heroic efforts of Raoul Wallenberg and Carl Lutz.



of Jewish evangelism. They include men and women who courageously assisted the Jewish people of war-torn Europe during the Holocaust.

One particular example occurred in Vienna, where a window of escape remained open for Jewish people between 1938 and 1940. Missionary

organizations to the Jewish people active at that time, such as the Swedish Israel Mission and the Society of the Friends of Israel Mission of Basel, did everything in their power to get the Jewish people—especially Jewish believers in Jesus—out of Austria.

The missions viewed relief work and even the "smuggling" of Jews out of Vienna not as contradictory to their missionary task, but rather as part of their obligation to serve the Lord and the Jewish people. As they helped Jews out of Austria, these missionaries were able to speak to Jewish people about Jesus. Their testimony was made all the more powerful because of the risks they took.

Carrying the Work Forward

As I hope you can see, Chosen People Ministries and all those who show their love for Jewish people are part of an ancient and godly tradition. The Jewish people do not need Righteous Gentiles in North America to help them by building synagogues, but our people still need the spiritual help that only comes through knowing Jesus the Messiah. When you do what you can to help Jewish people find Jesus, you are doing the same thing—in your way—that the centurion did in the first century.

I pray you will ask God to give you a centurion's heart for the Jewish people.

Thank you for being a Righteous Gentile!

Your brother,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



Opportunities Abound

One of the most destructive stereotypes that discourage non-Jewish believers in Jesus from reaching out to their Jewish neighbors is the thought that all Jewish people are unwilling to hear about Jesus. This is simply not true, as shown through the many encounters our staff members—both Jewish and non-Jewish—have with Jewish people who are curious about Jesus and the Gospel.

One of the most effective methods of outreach is a literature table. Doug and his co-workers set up these tables at various places around New York City, such as in parks and on the city's many college campuses. Doug describes a few of the wonderful encounters that have taken place at his literature tables around the city:

At our Central Park literature table, a young Israeli man, Gabriel,* told one of our staff members that he had been in America for just a short time, but he was planning on remaining here to work in his field of computer technology. After reading with me the first page of the New Testament in Hebrew, which gives the genealogy of Jesus going back to Abraham, he exclaimed, "I can't understand why the rabbis say that this is a forbidden book to us!" He was surprised at what he had just read—a genealogy just like the kind he had seen in the Hebrew Bible.

Dinah,* an Israeli woman, stopped at another table with an Israeli companion to read the text of Isaiah chapters 52:13 through 53 in Hebrew that was displayed on a sign at the front of our table. Beginning to read this passage, she exclaimed to her friend, "How come I've never read this before?" She then asked incredulously, "Is this in our Bible?"

Her friend, seeing the Isaiah title at the top of the passage, replied that it was. Reaching the end of the passage, she declared resolutely: "This is talking about Jesus!" She soon accepted Him as her Messiah! At a Messianic Rosh Hashanah (New Year's) service a month later, she declared, "I feel like a newly born baby!"

*Names changed

this is found in Acts 3:18, which says, "But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets [in the Hebrew Scriptures], that the Messiah should suffer, He has thus fulfilled."

We find another example in the words of Jesus Himself, when He says to His Jewish disciples, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me" (Luke 24:44).

The initial followers of Jesus were Jewish, and the first Gentiles to believe in Him came some time later. This development was a big surprise to the large body of Jewish believers in Jesus. The same message that Peter had preached to his own Jewish people earlier at Shavuot (Pentecost) was now preached to the Gentiles — "To Him [Jesus] all the prophets [of the Jewish Bible] witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). Peter again appeals to the Hebrew prophets as evidence of Jesus' Messiahship.

Thus, "everything in my faith is Jewish, but me." Jesus was Jewish, as were His first followers, and the Bible I read is a Jewish book! Looking back over the years, I can say that this simple declaration about the Jewishness of my faith has always come as a surprise to Jewish people. It has led to many fruitful discussions about the Messiahship of Jesus.

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

by Daniel Goldberg, Th.D., D.D.



THE LAST DAYS AND LEGACY OF DAVID

The last days of Israel's great King David were filled with a multiplicity of troubles. The sad fact is that although the Lord forgave David's sins, their consequences clung to his life and added a dimension of tragedy to his declining years. 1 Chronicles 21:1 informs us that Satan prompted David to number Israel, which displeased the Lord. As a result of David's iniquity, the Lord's wrath consumed 70,000 souls, after which He relented (2 Sam. 24:15-17). Adding to David's misery was the rebellion of his sons Absalom and Adonijah, both of whom attempted to usurp the throne (2 Sam. 15-18; 1 Ki. 1:5-53).

As his days were ending, David wisely listened to the advice of Nathan the Prophet and of Bathsheba, who reminded the king of his oath that Solomon would succeed him. David

took proper action to install Solomon as Israel's next king, thus thwarting Adonijah's rebellion (1 Ki. 1:28-53). Little wonder then that Bathsheba, acting in the will of God, is referred to in the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah (Matt. 1:6).

DAVID'S LAST WORDS

Scripture records that the last words of David were a testimony to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit concerning the Everlasting Covenant. David testified, "*The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue...the Rock of Israel spoke to me...*" (2 Sam. 23:1-3; see 2 Sam. 7:12-16).

This text alone certifies the inspiration and inerrancy of the entire account of David's history as well as of all the Davidic Psalms.

Finally, David "...died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor..." (1 Chron. 29:28). Before he left the earth, David exhorted Solomon to obey the Lord's instructions recorded in the Law of Moses (1 Ki. 2:1-4).

DAVID'S LASTING LEGACY

Acts 13:36 records that "...David... served his own generation by the will of God..." Before his death David purchased the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (1 Chron. 21:18) and built an altar on Mount Moriah, the site where Solomon later built the glorious Temple.

Recognized as a man possessing integrity and a man "after God's own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14), David is quoted numerous times in the New Testament. Not only is the Messiah referred to as the Son of David (Matt. 1:1; 22:41,42), but Jesus also quoted from David's writings on a number of occasions (Matt. 22:41-45; Mk. 2:25,26).

The Apostle Peter made reference to David's predictions about the Messiah (Acts 2:25-35; 4:25,26). The Apostle Paul especially cited David as an example of how God saves people by grace, apart from works (Rom. 4:6-8). James, the leader of the Jerusalem Council, mentioned David as the Council deliberated how the Gentile believers should be included in the new fellowship of faith in Messiah (Acts 15:16).

Finally, the author of the Book of Hebrews treated David as a role model for faith (Heb. 11:32), warning us about unbelief (Heb. 4:7-11). Not only did King David serve his own generation, but future generations as well.

This article concludes our series on the life of David.

The next series will be an exposition titled "Matthew - Gospel of the King."

PRAY FOR "ISRAELI NIGHT" OUTREACH MINISTRY IN NEW YORK CITY

Randall and Luda Ford, who minister in the large community of Jewish people in Queens, New York, are planning a new and creative outreach this month—"Israeli Night." Since perhaps 200,000 Hebrew-speaking Jews from Israel live in the New York metro area with only a handful of believers, this is a field ripe for harvest. The Fords will be offering an evening of Hebrew worship songs, Israeli dancing, dessert and a Bible message. If it goes well, there will be more to come. Pray that this form of outreach will strike the right chord—and please add the Israelis of New York City to your prayers for Jewish people.



ARAB MAN FINDS JEWISH MESSIAH IN JERUSALEM

Henry and Darlene M., who minister in Israel, know first-hand that Messiah's love is the only force that will bring peace between Arab and Jew. The Lord brought Ahmed,* an Arab man who had become desperate because of personal problems, into Henry and Darlene's life in Jerusalem. Ahmed was in tears as he poured out his heart, and Henry and Darlene boldly asked him to give Jesus an opportunity to bring him peace. When Ahmed understood that he was a sinner for whom Jesus died, he prayed by the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem to receive the Lord. The next day he visited the Messianic fellowship to meet true believers who will help him grow in the Lord.

COFFEE SHOP MINISTRY TO ORTHODOX MAN

Daniel and Deborah N., who minister in the highly Orthodox Jewish neighborhood of Golders Green, London, are making inroads slowly but surely as they become known in the neighborhood. When Daniel stopped at Starbucks to peruse his email, Ber* dropped by to say hello. He is a friendly, Orthodox Jewish man who wears the traditional black coat, slacks, shoes, and hat. In the anonymity of Starbucks, Ber confided in Daniel that he had been feeling suicidal. They talked for a good while, and Daniel was able to share just a little with him about God and about His Son Yeshua (Jesus). Daniel says, "Coffee shops in the neighborhood are such a great way to meet people!" Pray that the seed that was planted takes root in Ber's soul.

"IT SEEMED THAT I HEARD MUSIC"

The Berlin Messianic Center is rejoicing in several faith decisions in Messiah in the past month. One of them, a Jewish man, had experienced problems in his business. During this time, his wife, a new Jewish believer, was sharing the Gospel with him and the Berlin congregation was praying and treating him as a welcome friend. Finally, he came to Vladimir Pikman, our Germany director, for guidance. Vladimir urged him to receive Jesus the Messiah in wholehearted prayer. Three days later, the man returned to say he had prayed as Vladimir had suggested. "So, what happened?" Vladimir asked. He smiled happily and said, "Suddenly it seemed that I heard music." Pray for this brand-new Jewish believer as he grows in the Lord.

MESSIAH'S PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

Peter Shirokov, who ministers among the large population of Jewish people in Brooklyn, New York, recently prayed with Anna,* a woman who was brought to his fellowship by a Jewish friend. She opened her heart to God that evening and told about spiritual oppression that she was experiencing through her daughter-in-law's connection with the occult. Anna shared her mounting fears and Peter explained to her about Messiah's promise of peace. That night, Anna prayed for redemption and received the Lord. She has started to read her Bible and to pray, and although her fears have eased, she is ill with what may be a malignant tumor. Please hold Anna up in prayer at this crucial time.

JEWISH FAITH DECISIONS IN CHICAGO

Chosen People Ministries staff member Kirill Swiderski takes great joy in living in the midst of the large Jewish community of Chicago. Now his prayers have been answered for a church to allow him to use their facilities to conduct an evangelistic outreach to Russian Jewish people. After Kirill preached at the first meeting, he asked, "Do any of you want to accept the sacrifice of Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel?" Then two elderly Jewish people, who had just heard the Gospel for the first time in their lives, raised their hands. They all prayed together as these precious souls came to faith in the Messiah.

*Names changed

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To help you begin this process, or if you already have an estate plan, to assist you in reviewing your existing plan, our staff has prepared a **Guide to Planning Your Estate**. Please write for your free copy today.

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To the Jew First includes contributions by Richard Averbeck, Craig Blaising, Walter Kaiser, Richard Pratt, Jr. and ten other evangelical scholars.

To the Jew First (#3131) \$21.95^{us}

We often find it difficult to share the Gospel with those whom we do not know well or feel we do not understand. This 80-page manual will help you reach Jewish people with the message of salvation.

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The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

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Please remember
Chosen People
Ministries in your
will. "I will bless
those who bless
you." (Genesis 12:3)



**The
Chosen
People**



Volume XV, Issue 3 March 2009

PASSOVER

REDEMPTION REVEALED

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PASSOVER

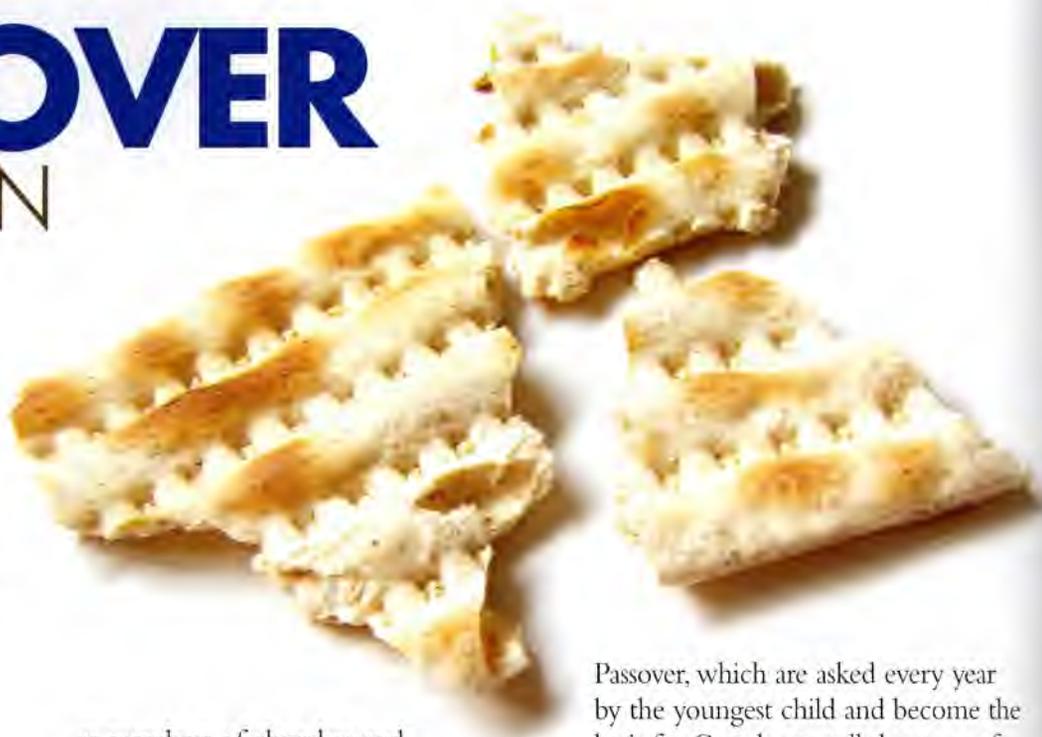
REDEMPTION REVEALED

Shalom, dear friend in the Messiah! The Lord continues to bless Chosen People Ministries as we reach Jewish people with the Gospel. I am encouraged, as a week does not go by without my hearing of a number of Jewish people coming to faith in Yeshua (Jesus)! Thanks so much for caring and praying—we could not do this great and prophetic work (Romans 11:11-15) without you.

We are now approaching a season of the year when I believe the Gospel is “in the air”! During Easter, the Gospel is clear—everyone, Jewish people included, understands that Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. And whether or not someone believes in Jesus and His resurrection, the message during this season is unavoidable!

The other great celebration is the Festival of Passover, where the Gospel is portrayed through symbols. The lamb, the unleavened bread, the bitter herbs and the Exodus itself all looked forward to a greater day of redemption, which we know was fulfilled by Jesus the Messiah. The more we learn about Passover, the more we understand about the work of our Savior at Calvary and how to speak to our Jewish friends about the Lord. Both holidays provide wonderful opportunities for believers to point their family and friends to the Messiah!

Dozens of Chosen People Ministries staff members are crisscrossing the globe right now presenting “Messiah in the Passover.”



as members of churches and Messianic congregations bring Jewish seekers to experience this powerful presentation of Gospel truth. When a Jewish person is able to see Messiah—in the Passover—the result is TRANSFORMING!

A Passover Remembered

I grew up observing Passover, but no *seder* stands out in my mind like the first one I celebrated after becoming a believer in Jesus. I remember the electricity that filled the air as my family and I entered my grandparents’ home in Brooklyn, New York, for this particular Passover *seder*. I eagerly anticipated the company of my relatives, the food, and most of all, participating once again in this ancient and beautiful ceremony.

My grandfather rose to his finest moment of patriarchal grandeur as we gathered around the Passover table. My heart swelled as his gentle voice began chanting the Hebrew prayers. I was proud to be a Jew, one whose ancestors were redeemed from Egyptian bondage.

“How is this night different from all other nights?” is the age-old question that begins the Four Questions of

Passover, which are asked every year by the youngest child and become the basis for Grandpa to tell the story of redemption from Egypt. This night was certainly different for me, as my first Passover since becoming a believer in Jesus. Amid the ancient Hebrew prayers, my mind’s eye pictured Jesus, seated at His last Passover meal with the disciples.

The gentle gleam of the holiday lights reflected the eager faces of my relatives. It was time to dip the *karpas* (parsley) in salt water. The *karpas* represented life; the salt water, tears. By doing this, my family and I recognized that our ancestors shed bitter tears during their bondage in Egypt. Solemnly we dipped and ate together.

Grandpa then held up the *matzah tash*, the embroidered satin pouch that held three pieces of unleavened bread. I watched as he carefully broke the middle piece of *matzah* in half, placing one half back into the *matzah tash* and wrapping the other half in a white linen napkin. At the conclusion of the meal, the children would search for this “missing” piece of unleavened bread; once found, it was given back to Grandpa for a reward.

The words of Jesus stirred my thoughts, “*This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of*

Me" (Luke 22:19). I felt a chill as I realized once again that His body was broken for my sin, buried and then brought back to life from the dead.

With sage-like authority, my grandfather told the Passover story, recounting the deliverance of our ancestors from Egypt through His servant Moses. Now the aroma of the delicious Passover meal filled the air. I can still taste the chicken soup with *matzah* balls, the roasted brisket and gravy, the turkey and the *tzimmes* (a traditional Jewish dish of carrots, sometimes mixed with prunes or raisins). For dessert, we ate special cakes made without leaven.

The Passover Lamb

My mother passed me a drumstick. Within a few minutes, I put down a clean white bone and my eyes strayed to another bone, also empty and stripped, which rested on the *sefer* plate in the center of the table. This is called the *zeroah*. It is a lamb's bone, and it reminds us of the Passover lamb that we can no longer sacrifice because of the destruction of the Temple.

I remembered how God told the Israelites to take an unblemished lamb and slaughter it on the fourteenth day of the month of *Nisan* (Exodus 12:6). The blood of this lamb was to be placed on the two doorposts and lintel of each house (Exodus 12:7). The blood protected the firstborn sons of my people from the judgment God was to bring upon the Egyptians (Exodus 12:23). The parallel seemed almost incredible to me as I reflected,

"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)

Our meal ended with the singing of beautiful Passover songs expressing

the torment of bondage and the joy of liberation. We concluded our singing with the prayer of grace, and then turned our attention to my grandfather as he lifted and blessed the third cup.

Traditionally, the third cup is called the "cup of redemption." As we drank of this cup, I remembered how the glory of freedom required the payment of a weighty and permanent price.

"Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.'" (Luke 22:20)

How shocked the disciples must have been as they heard these words from Jesus' lips! The price of this redemption was greater than the price required at the Exodus, as it cost God the life of His only Son. The scope of this redemption is broader—it includes all people, Jews and Gentiles, who put their trust in Him.

The Mysterious Moment

After the fourth cup and the traditional singing of Psalms, my grandfather turned and smiled at the small children at the table. It was at this mysterious moment that they rose from their chairs and opened the front door of the house for Elijah the Prophet. Slowly, the door creaked open and the vibrant spring air filled the room. Would this be the year that Elijah would come?

Every faithful Jewish family hopes that on Passover, Elijah will come to announce the coming of Messiah, Son of David, who will gather us all home to the Land of Israel. But that night Elijah did not enter through the doorway; no one was there to gather us home to Jerusalem. Though our hopes for the immediate coming of the Messiah were dashed, we concluded with an uplifting song—"Next Year in

Jerusalem." We joined our Jewish people around the world in continuing the long wait!

But this Passover was different for me. As a new believer, I knew that our Messianic hopes had been fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah. I cannot describe for you how meaningful it is to be Jewish and understand that the long-awaited Messiah has come!

It is my heartfelt hope that you and your loved ones will pray for me and our staff evangelists as we proclaim this message with all our hearts! Pray that Jewish people will come to know the true identity of the Passover Lamb who died for the redemption of the world.

If you know a Jewish person who you think would be open to this message presented in such a unique and compelling way, please call us at 212-223-2252 and we will try to connect you with a church or congregation that is hosting a "Messiah in the Passover" presentation given by our staff members.

Have a joyful Passover and Easter season as you remember our beloved Messiah who died and rose for our salvation! And again, please pray for the staff of your Mission to the Jewish People—that God will bless our outreach during this time.

Thank you for your love, faithfulness and sacrificial support that enables us to continue this great work. As Paul wrote: "*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved*" (Romans 10:1).

Your brother in
the Lamb,

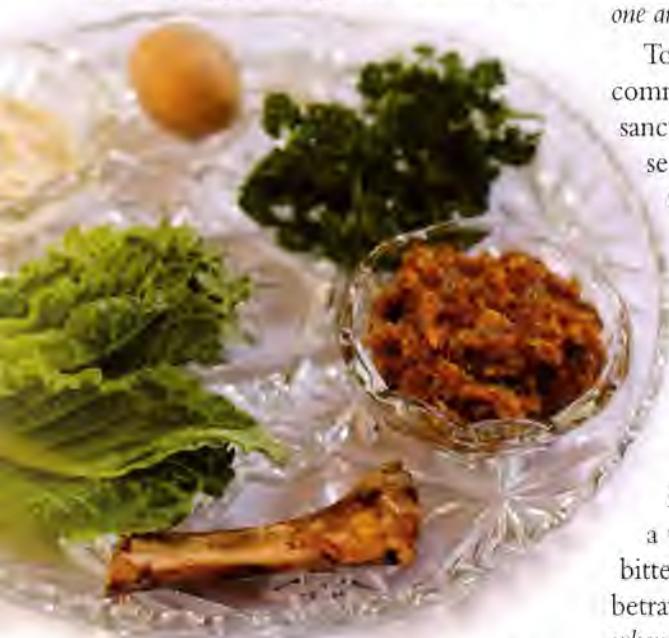
Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

PASSOVER: A PORTRAIT OF MESSIAH'S MINISTRY

During this time of year, as followers of Messiah, we have the opportunity to focus on the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. As Jewish believers, and



as those who are more keenly aware of the Jewish roots of the Christian faith, we also reflect on these events in light of the Feast of Passover. The elements of the Passover beautifully illustrate what Jesus would do as our Passover Lamb.

The Last Supper was a Passover *seder* meal that Jesus celebrated with His disciples on the night before His death. When we consider that particular Passover, we can see how Jesus was preparing His disciples for what was about to happen: He would fulfill His role as the Redeemer—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Passover Then and Now

Was the Passover table at the Last Supper similar to the Passover table today? As we look at the various elements of the modern-day Passover *seder*, the

similarities are striking. Today, there is a ritual washing of hands at the Passover. At the Last Supper, Jesus changed this hand washing ritual to teach us an important lesson. John 13 tells us that Jesus took on the role of the lowest house servant, girded Himself and washed the feet of everyone at the *seder*. What an incredible lesson on sacrificial love! He told His disciples in John 13:34–35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Today, we drink the cup containing the fruit of the vine four times to commemorate the four “I wills” from Exodus 6. The first cup is the cup of sanctification: “I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.” The second cup is the cup of judgment: “I will rescue you from their bondage.” The third cup is the cup of redemption: “I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.” The fourth cup is the cup of praise: “I will take you as My people.”

It was the third cup that Jesus lifted up as He said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:25). His shed blood would pay the immeasurable price to redeem us from our slavery to sin, just as it was the blood of the lamb that redeemed the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt.

At the Passover today, the unleavened bread is dipped two times, once in a bitter mixture and once in a sweet one. While revealing that there was a traitor among the twelve, Jesus used the *maror* (bitter herbs) to illustrate the bitterness of being betrayed by a friend. When asked about the identity of the betrayer, Jesus replied in John 13:26–27, “It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it. And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.” Then, Scripture records, after Judas took the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

The Afikomen Revealed

There is a cloth container on the present-day Passover table called the *matzah tash*, which has three separate compartments, each containing a piece of *matzah* (unleavened bread). Prior to the meal, the *matzah tash* is taken out and the middle piece of *matzah* is removed. It is then broken in half and one piece is wrapped up in a cloth napkin and hidden away. This piece that is wrapped and hidden is called the *afikomen*.

After the meal, the children search for the *afikomen* and the one who finds it receives a gift. It is then unwrapped for everyone to partake. For followers of Jesus, this is a breathtaking picture of what our Messiah would do for us. The *matzah tash*, three compartments in one container, is a picture of our God who is three in one—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The second member of the three-in-one is broken, wrapped in cloth, buried and eventually resurrected for everyone to share. What an amazing picture of what Jesus has done for us!

Was the *afikomen* present at the Last Supper? Did Jesus use it to point to Himself? Bible scholars are divided about when the *afikomen* became part of the Passover *seder* meal. Some believe the *afikomen* was not included until after the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. Others believe the *afikomen* preceded Jesus and was already

part of the Passover tradition. Still others believe the *afikomen* was introduced by Jesus Himself and became part of the Passover *seder* meal after His death, burial and resurrection. In Paul's account of the Last Supper in 1 Corinthians 11, he tells us that it was the bread after supper that Jesus took and said, "This is my body." Similarly, it is after the meal that the *afikomen* is brought out, distributed to everyone and eaten.

The middle *matzah*, representative of the Son, is removed and broken, just as Jesus left heaven, became a man, and died for the sins of the world. After His death Jesus was hidden away (buried), but He rose from the grave, and those who find Him and accept Him as their personal Messiah receive the immeasurable gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23).

The meaning of *afikomen* also supplies evidence for the Messianic understanding of this ritual. The word *afikomen* is derived from the Greek root *aphikomenos*, meaning "He has come." When we understand this, the impact is enormous. The *afikomen* speaks of the Messiah who came, was cut off, buried and brought back.

This fits the biblical portrait of the work of the Messiah, which is described in detail in Isaiah 53. It also corresponds to the ritual of the *afikomen* in the Passover Seder meal. The only one in history who truly fulfills this picture is Jesus. 🍷

Dr. Rich Freeman is Vice President of Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries. His wife, Julia, who shares her



recipe for matzah ball soup, is Church Ministries Supervisor. They lead the ministry in South Florida.

Bubbe* Julia's Chicken Soup with Matzah Balls

*Yiddish for "Grandma"

What would Passover be without a nice pot of matzah ball soup? Share this recipe—which can be enjoyed all year long—with your family and friends!

Chicken Soup

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 whole chicken (3-4 lbs.) with skin removed | 1 medium turnip |
| 1 medium parsnip | 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper |
| 2 large carrots | Kosher or coarse salt |
| 3 ribs of celery with leaves, halved | 4-5 qts. of water |
| 1 large onion | 8 tsp. of chicken bouillon |

Wash the skinless chicken very well with salt (sea or kosher salt is best) and rinse thoroughly.

Put the chicken and all the vegetables in a large pot with water and bring to a boil. Then reduce the heat and let the soup simmer for 2 to 2½ hours, occasionally skimming the foam/fat from the top.

Allow the soup to cool a bit and remove the chicken to a large platter while it is still firm and not falling apart. Remove all the meat from the chicken (it makes great sandwiches or salads!).

Strain the soup into a large bowl or another pot, and discard everything in the strainer. Depending on personal preference you can either discard the veggies or cut them up and add some back to the soup. You can also add some of the chicken back to the soup at this point, if you like.

Matzah Balls

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 eggs | 1 tsp salt |
| 1/3 cup seltzer (or club soda) | 1/4 tsp ground black pepper |
| 1/4 cup vegetable oil | 1 cup matzah meal* |

(This recipe will yield roughly 10-12 matzah balls)

*You can find matzah meal in the international or ethnic section of your food market. If the market does not carry matzah meal, one company that actually sells it online is Manischewitz (www.manischewitz.com).

Mix eggs, soda, oil, salt and pepper until well blended. Add the matzah meal and stir gently, then place bowl with the mixture in refrigerator until firm, about 30 minutes. If it seems too stiff when ready to make the matzah balls, add 1-2 tablespoons of cold water and blend.

After bringing your soup back to a boil, form matzah balls into the size of a walnut (about 1 inch) and drop into the soup carefully. Moisten your palms with cold water as needed when forming the matzah balls. When you finish making all the matzah balls, cover the pot, reduce heat to medium/low and continue cooking for about 20-30 minutes. Now this is the most important part: DO NOT REMOVE THE COVER during the cooking period—not even a peek! This will ensure you end up with heavenly, soft matzah balls instead of golf balls!

Serve to 10-12 people and enjoy; and Happy Passover! 🍷

SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

THE KING AND HIS BIBLE

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus the King cited the Hebrew Old Testament numerous times. This was the Bible of Jesus and His disciples. At that time, the Hebrew Old Testament consisted of twenty-two books in order from Genesis through 2 Chronicles. These correspond with our order of thirty-seven books extending from Genesis through Malachi. Some books like Samuel, Kings and Chronicles were later divided into two sections.

In Matthew 23:35, Jesus stated that wicked rulers throughout history shed the blood of the righteous from Abel to Zechariah. The murder of Abel is recorded in Genesis 4 and that of Zechariah in 2 Chronicles 24. In this one statement, the Lord substantiated the extent of the Old Testament canon ("canon" means "measure" or "rule"), which coincides with our Bible from Genesis through Malachi.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY OR PROPOSITIONAL TRUTH

Propositional truth relates to biblical statements written in Scripture. It states a claim that stands upon its own authority, as opposed to our own ideas or

experiences. The Bible not only witnesses to the truth, but its written statements are the essence of truth.

In answer to the attacks of Satan, Jesus said, "*It is written...*" (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10). The Lord stated in Matthew 4:4, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*" Jesus then placed His own words on an equal par with Scripture when He stated, "*You have heard that it was said to those of old... But I say to you...*" (Mt. 5:21, 22).

Thus, biblical authority is contained in the very letters, words and sentences of Scripture. Messiah Jesus said that "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away*" (Mt. 24:35; see Mt. 5:18).

THE ACCURACY OF BIBLICAL HISTORY

Throughout the Gospel of Matthew, we find that the Messiah demonstrated His total confidence in the historical accuracy of the biblical accounts. Our Lord acknowledged that Adam and Eve were created by God (Mt. 19:3-5). Jesus verified the events connected with Noah's flood, certifying that it

was a worldwide catastrophe (Mt. 24:38, 39).

Our Lord also authenticated the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Mt. 10:15), and testified to the account of Jonah and the great fish (Mt. 12:40). He acknowledged the historical records of Moses (Mt. 8:4), Isaiah (Mt. 12:17), Elijah (Mt. 17:11, 12) and David (Mt. 22:45).

Elsewhere, our Lord and King confirmed the very details in these accounts and stated to Nicodemus, "*If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?*" (Jn. 3:12).

CHALLENGING THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

Jesus the Messiah spoke truly when he said, "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away*" (Mt. 24:35). Our role as witnesses for Messiah requires a patient faith that stands by the ancient truths and seeks opportunities to share them. Whether they know it or not, our precious Jewish people and others need God's Gospel of repentance and reconciliation above all things. 🌈

THE WORD WILL FIND A WAY



Henry N. in Israel

On a visit to the Israeli city of Arad, staff member Henry N. found himself sitting in a café and reading his Bible. There he met three Russian-speaking women who asked if he believed in Jesus. After he told them yes, they said that they had attended Arad's Russian-speaking Messianic congregation several times, but had stopped going. They were afraid of losing their jobs because an anti-

missionary organization had taken their photos and sent them to their places of work. Henry suggested they simply study the Bible in a café or even somewhere outdoors. They agreed, and now they have weekly Bible study and prayer time in one of Arad's parks. Henry writes, "It is really a blessing! Please pray that these people will grow spiritually. Pray that they will not lose their jobs and pray also that my service in Arad will be fruitful."

BREAKTHROUGH IN QUEENS

After many years of working patiently among the Bukharan Jewish community of Queens, New York, Randall and Luda Ford are elated to report that they are finally able to begin a regular Sabbath service in their home. The Bukharan Jewish people are a tight community that has its origins in Central



Randall and Luda Ford in Queens, NY

Asia, with a history that stretches back over 2,000 years. One Bukharan woman expressed relief to be able to attend a service in the privacy of a home, since her family has pressured her to stop attending meetings with other believers. Please pray that the Lord will continue to prosper the Fords' work among the 50,000 Bukharan Jewish people who live in Queens.



Peter and Rachel Shirokov in New York

ANOTHER HEART OPENED TO MESSIAH

Peter Shirokov, who helps lead our work in New York, met with a Jewish immigrant from Russia in his late thirties who was not yet a believer, but needed prayer because of illness and depression. After attending a service at the Messianic congregation in Brooklyn, the man spoke with Peter and his co-worker. Alex* was somewhat familiar with the Scriptures because at a young age he had attended a *Yeshiva* (Jewish religious school). As they talked, Peter and his co-worker sensed that Alex was beginning to see that Jesus was the Messiah. After more discussion, they joined hands and Peter led him in a simple prayer for forgiveness through Jesus. As Alex grows in faith, he needs others to hold him up in prayer because he is still ill.

NEW BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM

Although Bethlehem is best known as the birthplace of Jesus the Jewish Messiah, it is sad to reflect that no Jewish people are able to live there now, since the town lies in the Palestinian territories. However, many Muslims visit the Church of the Nativity out of curiosity. Henry and Darlene M., staff members in Israel, went there with a group to distribute Bibles in Arabic. They had wonderful conversations with many seeking to understand the reason for Jesus' birth. One man asked Henry how he could come to know Jesus. After sharing the Gospel, Henry asked if he wanted to believe in the Lord, and the man made that decision of faith. To God be the glory!

*indicates name has been changed



Simcha 2009

The theme for Chosen People Ministries' annual Messianic retreat will be "The Parables of Yeshua" with guest speaker and workshop leader, Roy Schwarcz. Join us for a special evening concert with Ted Pearce, this year's worship leader, as well as wonderful times of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun!

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