

# The Chosen People



Volume XIV, Issue 7 September 2008



three holy days



## The Fall Feasts

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# The Fall Feasts

## *Holy Days Fulfilled in Messiah*

Boynton  
Beach, Florida.

In addition, our

Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies added a half-dozen future missionaries to the Jewish people to its ranks!

Our staff is already in the swing of our fall ministries, and we are expecting the Lord to do great things in the next few months.

In fact, during the next thirty days we will observe three of our major festivals, in which even many of the most secular Jewish people will participate and attend synagogue.

These holidays invite us to celebrate God's faithfulness and to somberly reflect upon our failings as individuals and as a people. The Fall Festivals also offer something more, as each holiday clearly points to Yeshua the Messiah.

We need your prayers as we conduct dozens of services and evangelistic outreaches, pointing our

people to the One who died and rose for their sin.

### **New Beginnings**

Rosh Hashanah, also known as the Feast of Trumpets, is described in Leviticus 23:23-25, and for centuries it has marked the beginning of the civil year of the Jewish calendar. It is most memorably begun by the sounding of the *shofar* (ram's horn) in the synagogue service. The *shofar* blast is, among other things, a call to repentance, for Jewish tradition teaches that the Lord judges humanity on Rosh Hashanah.

Rosh Hashanah is celebrated with the eating of apples and honey, symbolic of the hope of a sweet year to come. Tradition holds that on Rosh Hashanah, God writes the destiny of each person for the coming year in the Book of Life. Each Jewish person is invited to meditate upon his or her own sins, seek forgiveness and make reparations in the ten "Days of Awe" that precede the Day of Atonement.

Rosh Hashanah also has a Messianic message in the blowing of the ram's horn. Jewish tradition tells us that this reminds us of the Binding of Isaac, when Abraham demonstrated his absolute faith in God by his

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom from New York City!  
*Thanks for taking a moment to open this newsletter.* The kids are back in school, congregational life and activities are kicking off, and I know you are busy!

Your Mission to the Jewish people had a great summer of ministry. Our short-term mission teams had wonderful opportunities to share the good news of Messiah with hundreds of Jewish people in New York City and Israel. We held our once-a-decade international staff conference and had more than 200 members of the Chosen People Ministries family join us in Israel for a time of training, retreat and fellowship. It was a life-changing experience for so many!

This summer, we also opened our Brooklyn Messianic Center in rented facilities and moved into our newly-purchased Messianic Center in

willingness to sacrifice his son—a vivid illustration of Messiah's sacrifice in almost the same spot centuries later. It is also a long-held Jewish tradition that the sound of the *shofar* will herald the coming of the Messiah and the resurrection of the dead.

### **Atonement – In Messiah Our High Priest**

There is no more somber day in the Jewish year than the Day of Atonement. Coming at the end of the ten “Days of Awe,” the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32) is also part of the cycle of the Holy Days of Israel. It is described more fully in Leviticus 16 as the day that the High Priest offered a blood sacrifice each year so that the children of Israel could continue as God's chosen people, despite their sins and transgressions:

*So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel (Leviticus 16:16-17).*

Again, we find a Messianic connection and fulfillment in Jesus. Have you ever heard John 17 referred to as the “High Priestly Prayer”? It is for precisely this reason. The Messiah, acting in His capacity as our High Priest, prays for Himself, His immediate family of disciples, and for the people of God—past, present and future. Instead of making an offering that must be repeated year after year, as the writer of the book of Hebrews stresses

(Hebrews 7:26-27), Messiah offers His own body to be pierced for our transgressions, once and for all.

### **Sukkot – A Gathering of Messiah's Harvest**

Five days after the Day of Atonement comes Sukkot—the Feast of Ingathering or the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-43). “Tabernacles” refers to the temporary dwellings that the Jewish people were commanded to inhabit during this holiday. Sukkot is also called the “Season of our Rejoicing”—and for good reason! Sukkot, like many Jewish feasts, has different levels of meaning. The first is agricultural, as the tabernacles remind us of how the farm laborers in ancient days lived as they worked to bring in the harvest. The second level of meaning is historical, as the holiday commemorates the forty-year period during which the children of Israel were wandering in the desert, living in temporary shelters.

Yet another meaning, however, is fulfilled in Messiah, for there is a wonderful connection between Jesus the Messiah and the Feast of Tabernacles. It is the Kingdom promise associated with Sukkot. The prophet Zechariah proclaims, “*And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles*” (Zechariah 14:16).

Understanding the Messianic connection of Jesus to the Feast of Tabernacles even helps us grasp something of the mystery of His Incarnation—“*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth*” (John 1:14).

The word “dwelt” here in the Greek means “tabernacled.” When

He became flesh, Jesus inhabited the temporary shelter of an earthly body, knowing He soon would be required to leave it. Why did He do it? So that we might find a home in Him—not a temporary shelter in the wilderness, but an eternal home in a Kingdom that abides forever.

### **The Fall Feasts: Blueprint for Restoration**

Sacrifice, atonement and joyful ingathering—this is the path along which the Fall Feasts of Israel move. As a Messianic Jew, I am grateful to God that He has allowed me to discover that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Festivals—He is my atonement and joy, and in Him I have a new beginning and a new life.

As Paul writes, “*We are a new creation in Him*” (2 Corinthians 5:17). This verse means so much to me during this season of the year!

I hope you take this next month to learn more about the Fall Festivals of Israel. We have made some resources available on our website that I am sure you will enjoy. Visit [www.chosenpeople.com/fallfestivals](http://www.chosenpeople.com/fallfestivals), and I know you will be enriched in your faith.

Thank you for your prayers, financial support and love for the Jewish people and for Chosen People Ministries. The Jewish greeting during this season is profound—we say to one another: “*May your name be inscribed in the Book of Life.*” How I pray my people find out that this is possible today! It is comforting to know that through faith in Jesus the Messiah, we have been inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life—forever!

On behalf of our staff around the world—Happy New Year!

Your brother,

*Mitch*  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President



Illustration by Oliver Melnick

# Rosh Hashanah

## A Trumpet Call for God's People

	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> (Feast of Trumpets)	<b>Yom Kippur</b> (Day of Atonement)	<b>Sukkot</b> (Feast of Tabernacles; Feast of Ingathering; Season of our Rejoicing)
<b>Date:</b>	September 30, 2008	October 9, 2008	October 14-20, 2008
<b>Jewish Observances:</b>	<p>Blowing of the <i>shofar</i> (ram's horn)</p> <p>Traditional greeting—<i>I'shanah tovah tikatevu</i> (may you be inscribed for a good year)</p> <p>Special holiday meal featuring a loaf of <i>hallah</i> (Sabbath egg bread) baked into the shape of a crown, emphasizing the Lord's kingship</p> <p>Eating of apples and honey to symbolize the hope of a "sweet" year to come</p> <p><i>Tashlich</i> ceremony—casting bread crumbs into flowing water to symbolize the "casting off" of sins</p> <p>Special synagogue services that stress our need for forgiveness, repentance, the sovereignty of God and His covenant promises to Israel</p>	<p>Fasting from both food and water</p> <p>No work done</p> <p>A solemn day of introspection and humility emphasizing repentance, prayer and works of mercy</p> <p><i>Kapparot</i>—now seldom-seen ritual sacrifice of a chicken, in memory of the High Priest's sacrifice which is no longer possible because of the destruction of the Temple</p> <p>The wearing of white garments, symbolizing humility and confidence in God's power to forgive sins</p> <p>Lengthy synagogue services that dwell upon God's holiness and our failings in His sight</p>	<p>Families live in booths—temporary shelters constructed of boughs and leafy branches—to remind us of God's protection during the wilderness wandering after the Exodus.</p> <p><i>Arbat HaMinim</i> (the Four Species): the <i>Etrog</i> (citron, a citrus fruit native to Israel), <i>Lulav</i> (palm branch), <i>Hadas</i> (myrtle branch) and <i>Arava</i> (willow branch) are used in worship and to bless the booth. With the citron in the left hand, and the others held together in the right, a blessing is recited inside the <i>sukkah</i> (booth) and the items are waved east, south, west, north, up and down as a symbol that God's presence is everywhere. This practice is based on Leviticus 23:40.</p> <p><i>Ushpizin</i> (Aramaic for "guests")—Hospitality is a <i>Sukkot</i> tradition, with people visiting each other in the <i>sukkah</i> and eating together.</p>
<b>Hebrew Scripture:</b>	Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1-6	Leviticus 16, 23:26-32, Numbers 29:7-11	Leviticus 23:33-36, 39-43, Numbers 29:12-34, Deuteronomy 16:13-15, Ezra 3:1-4, Nehemiah 8:14-15
<b>New Testament:</b>	Not explicitly mentioned—but the connection of the sound of the <i>shofar</i> to God's mighty work of judgment and restoration may be found in Matthew 24:29-31, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and Revelation 11:15-18	Hebrews 9:7, 10:1-3, 19-22	John 7 and 8 take place on <i>Sukkot</i> .
<b>Messianic Application:</b>	Yeshua (Jesus) embodies our hope of forgiveness and God's promise to be faithful to us now and in the future. He is the King through whom the authority of the Father is given and exercised (Matthew 11:27, John 16:15).	Jesus is our High Priest. He is the One through whom our redemption is bought through the shedding of His blood as an atoning sacrifice (Romans 3:24-26). As High Priest, Jesus is not only qualified to bring the unblemished sin offering, but is Himself the perfect offering for atonement, once and for all.	<i>Sukkot's</i> emphasis on ingathering is unmistakably bound to the fulfillment of Messiah's Kingdom promises (Zechariah 14:16-19). Moreover, the theme of God's sheltering tabernacle is most fully expressed in Revelation 21:3: "...Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and He will dwell with them..."

Bread crumbs floating on water, rams' horns used as trumpets, and prayers of repentance represent responses to God's holiness on *Rosh Hashanah*.

**Origin of the Observance.** The observance of *Rosh Hashanah* originated in the Book of Leviticus. In His infinite wisdom and love, God provided His chosen people with a calendar of "appointed times" or "holy convocations" (Lev. 23:1-2) of which *Rosh Hashanah* is one. Amazingly, these God-ordained Holy Days still provide identity to the Jewish people today despite the passage of several millennia.



by Olivier Melnick

**Biblical Perspective.** *Rosh*

*Hashanah* begins a great season both biblically for the Jewish people and prophetically for all mankind. It is also mentioned elsewhere in the Hebrew Scripture (Num. 29:1-6, Ps. 81:3-4, Ezra 3:1-6, Neh. 8:1-12).

In Leviticus 23:23-25, the Jewish people were instructed to blow the *shofar* (ram's horn) on the first day of the month of *Tishrei*, as a holy convocation. They were to do no laborious work, but present an offering by fire to the Lord.

According to Scripture, the Feast of Trumpets is the first of three Fall Feasts. The theme of *Rosh Hashanah* is repentance in preparation for the other two feasts: *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) and *Sukkot* (the Feast of Tabernacles).

**Rabbinic Traditions.** The traditional name *Rosh Hashanah* means "head of the year." This holy day begins the Jewish civil calendar year and is observed in *Tishrei*, the seventh month of the biblical Jewish calendar.

The main command for observance is to blow the *shofar*, but no reason is given in the Bible. As a result, rabbis have come up with many explanations as to how and when the *shofar* should be blown. The rabbis believed that there were to be one hundred blasts of the *shofar*, culminating in the final *Tekiah Gedolah*, meaning "the great blast," to be held for as long as the blower had breath. Today, some believe this last trumpet blast symbolizes the hope of Israel's national redemption.

On the first day of *Rosh Hashanah*, Jewish people around the world empty bread crumbs from their pockets into a body of water. Known as *Tashlich*, meaning "the casting forth," the tradition is based on Micah 7:18-20, a prophecy that God would cast Israel's sins into the sea. This also marks the start of

the "Ten Days of Awe," a time of prayer and penitence in preparation for *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement.

**God's Grand Plan Revealed.** Many Messianic believers agree that each of the Levitical holy convocations has been or will be fulfilled by a specific event in the timeline of God's redemption. As the Spring Festivals were all fulfilled by the First Coming of the Messiah, we believe the Fall Festivals will be fulfilled by His Second Coming.

Biblical Holy Day	Fulfillment
Messiah's First Coming	
Passover (Pesach)	Messiah's sacrificial death
First Fruits	Messiah's victorious resurrection
Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)	Birth of the Body of Messiah
Messiah's Second Coming	
Rosh Hashanah (New Year)	Trumpet Blast heralding End Times
Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement)	The Great Tribulation
Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)	The thousand-year Messianic Kingdom

The Fall Feasts remind the world that God has not forgotten His Jewish people and they have not forgotten Him. As Jewish people around the world prepare to blow *shofars* and pray, Messiah longs for His people to know and put their trust in Him.

(*Yom Kippur* and *Sukkot* also fall in the month of *Tishrei*. You can find articles on these feasts at [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com).)

Olivier Melnick and his wife Ellen serve with Chosen People in Orange County, California.



# See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



## A KING IN A CARPENTER'S SHOP

### “IS THIS NOT THE CARPENTER'S SON?”

(Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3)

At His birth, wise men from the East knew that Jesus was born “King of the Jews...” (Mt. 2:1,2). However, we know very little about His boyhood, with the exception of Luke’s account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of twelve (Lk. 2:41-52).

In Matthew 13:55, we learn the occupation of Joseph and have every reason to conclude that Jesus spent many boyhood days working in Joseph’s carpenter shop.

### MANUAL LABOR AMONG THE JEWS

The Greeks and Romans held manual labor in low esteem. In wealthy homes, mostly slaves did this. But to the

Jewish people, pursuing a trade was honorable—many rabbis worked at a trade as well. The great Rabbi Hillel was a woodcutter; his rival, Shammai, was a carpenter and the Apostle Paul was a tentmaker. Among the celebrated rabbis of later centuries, we find shoemakers, tailors, carpenters, sandal-makers, smiths, and more.

It was a rabbinic principle that “whoever does not teach his son a trade is as if he brought him up to be a thief.”

### NAZARETH—A TOWN OF CARPENTERS

Early in the first century, most villages had at least one carpenter, and Nazareth was known as a town of carpenters. A carpenter was recognized by his possession of a tool kit containing the tools of the trade.

Carpenters used an ax for chopping wood (Jer. 10:3) and an adze for smoothing it. They used hammers with wooden handles to drive nails of iron (Jer. 10:4). They also worked with mallets, chisels and an anvil (Ex. 21:6). The carpenter’s drill was like an Indian fire bow of wood into which a drill point was fixed. He had a plumb line or plummet to determine a straight line (Amos 7:7, 8).

In Jesus’ day, a carpenter was not primarily a house builder like today. Instead, he was a maker of plows, yokes and other agricultural machinery. He constructed ladders, doorways and latticework for homes, as well as wooden utensils. Skilled carpentry had reached its highest level of perfection in heavily timbered Phoenicia (I Ki. 5:2-13).

### AN EASY YOKE (Mt. 11:28-30)

Jesus’ references to woodworking testify to His personal knowledge of carpentry and building (Mt. 7:13,24; 16:18; 21:33; Lk. 20:17).

Jesus may have specialized in making yokes. He declared, “Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Mt. 11:28-30).

A yoke literally refers to a strong wooden frame used to tie two farm animals together for pulling heavy loads (Num. 19:2). Here is an invitation from the King of Kings to all His followers concerning labor and rest. Taking His yoke means becoming His disciples. In submitting to Him we are thus yoked to Him. Without Messiah Jesus, we can accomplish nothing (Jn. 15:5b). His yoke is much lighter than serving the world apart from Him. ✨



## Israeli Soldiers Eager to Hear Message of Messiah

Last year, Chosen People Ministries' Victor and Julia B., who have a daughter serving in the Israel Defense Forces, had the opportunity to witness to fifty Israeli soldiers who had inquired about Messianic Jewish faith. Now, the same thing has happened again! A young woman who serves with their daughter called Julia and asked her to speak to another group of fifty soldiers. While walking to meet the group, Julia met a dear friend—a pastor—whom she had not seen for some time, and he accompanied her to her appointment. The soldiers were impressed by Julia's witness and that of a non-Jewish believer who put aside everything to serve Israel and Jewish people. Pray that the seeds that were sown in many hearts will bring forth good fruit—and that many more Israeli young people will search after the Truth.

## Gospel Music Reaches Jewish Retirees

Michael C. has a weekly study of the Hebrew Scriptures at a retirement center in Southern California. Having prayed for ways to share the Gospel with those attending the study, Michael's prayers were answered when Rebecca L., another Chosen People Ministries staff member who is a gifted musician, sang "How Great Thou Art" to a Jewish melody. One of the listeners started a discussion about the word "Savior," and Rebecca was able to tell the group of ten Jewish people about Jesus the Messiah. Afterward, Rebecca and Michael passed around a sheet of paper for those who wanted one-on-one visits. Several expressed interest, and one woman asked Michael if he would visit her husband.

## Testimony in Los Angeles Brings Faith Decision

While preaching a message on reaching out to the Jewish community at a service in the Los Angeles congregation he leads, long-time staff member Larry Feldman told how he came to faith in Yeshua (Jesus). After the service, he found out that a Jewish woman who had been attending for a number of years was at last asking serious questions about God. A while later, as the Lord worked in her heart, she prayed to receive Him.

## Kids and Grown-ups "Connect" With Messiah at Camp Kesher

Bob and Emily Seemar are still basking in the glow of faith decisions made at Camp Kesher ("Connection") in rural Pennsylvania, where they served as camp leaders a few weeks ago. In an environment of God's love, the children had the security and encouragement they needed to try new activities such as hiking and horseback riding, and also to take the next step in their spiritual walk. One evening, after the leaders showed a short Gospel video to the teens, two young men were moved to repentance and received the Lord. The next day, the camp nurse also prayed and received Messiah.



## Two Decisions for Messiah in Israel

We praise the Lord for two separate decisions for Messiah in Israel—both fruit of the labor of Chosen People Ministries' faithful staff members in the Land. The first came about when Mike V. and a team of about a dozen believers spent some time evangelizing on the beaches. Many people, both Jews and Arabs, seemed open to listening to God's truth, and one young woman prayed to receive the Lord. In another setting, Brian S. reported that a Jewish man in his 70s from Baghdad, Iraq, received the Lord during Brian's weekly time of serving at a soup kitchen in Tel Aviv.

## Messianic Jewish Art Calendar

Order now to start the Jewish

New Year with the Chosen People Ministries' Jewish Art Calendar (September 2008 to December 2009). As the months unfold, your sense of wonder will be renewed as you reflect upon the beauty of the Land and the promises of God that are given through it—promises that are indeed fulfilled in the Messiah He has sent. These calendars make great gifts, especially for Jewish friends who need to hear about the Messiah.

[5005] • Calendar • \$13.95<sup>US</sup>



## The Fall Feasts of Israel •

This book by Mitch and Zhava Glaser will help you understand three of Israel's most significant festivals: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. A complete examination of each feast looks at its biblical institution, its celebration in the time of Messiah, and its observance today.

[3042] • The Fall Feasts of Israel • \$16.95<sup>US</sup>

**Shofar** • The piercing notes of the *Shofar* (ram's horn) have echoed throughout centuries of Jewish High Holy Day observances, calling us to prayer. Now you can treasure a *Shofar* of your own. They also make wonderful gifts. Because each *Shofar* is unique, yours may vary slightly in size and shape from the one shown here. Imported from Israel.

[5020] • Shofar • \$40.95<sup>US</sup>



For phone orders in the U.S. call 800-333-4936. Or visit us online at [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com) for more resources.



## Annuities: Building a Legacy

We all want to be found faithful as stewards of God's property. If you are retired or near retirement, desire a fixed income for life, and can use an additional tax savings in the form of an income tax charitable deduction, you should look closely at the benefits available to you through an annuity.

An annuity is a very useful tool in accomplishing the goal of good stewardship, even beyond your lifetime. It is an attractive option for those looking to avoid tax penalties associated with most low-income investments.

You can set up an annuity by transferring cash or securities to Chosen People Ministries, in exchange for income for life. This income may be arranged to continue to a surviving spouse or other individual for life.

Please call Rachel Shirokov at (212) 223-2252, ext. 221 today to receive your free copy of our brochure, *A Tax Deduction, Increased Income and Joy*, which describes this concept in detail.

## See Israel through Jewish Eyes

Have you ever dreamed of visiting the land of Israel? The Holy Land is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both. It is an experience that can transform the life of a believer in Jesus. A trip to Israel will draw you closer to the Lord and give you a whole new perspective on your walk with God.

# Save the Date

APRIL 27 - MAY 8, 2009

## CALL 800-459-9402

for more information and a full-color brochure of this tour leaving from New York and hosted by Dr. Rich Freeman and Dr. Ben Alpert. See a full itinerary at [www.chosenpeople.com/tour](http://www.chosenpeople.com/tour).



## 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)



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