

The background of the entire cover is a black and white photograph of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The image shows the massive stone walls and the central structure, which is the Dome of the Rock, though it's partially obscured by the title. The architecture is ancient and grand, with many windows and intricate carvings. The sky is clear, and the overall tone is historical and significant.

The Chosen People

Volume III, Issue 10, October 1997

The Jewish High Holy Days

INSIDE:

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Two Generations for Messiah



The Most Precious Thing in the World

by Mitch Glaser

Shalom! We are now approaching the most holy season of the Jewish year as Jewish people throughout the world will soon be observing both the New Year (*Rosh Hashanah*) and Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*). It is a golden opportunity to show your love and concern for your Jewish friends and neighbors. It is also a wonderful time to seek opportunities to share the Gospel with Jewish people.

I wanted to tell you a brief Jewish story that will give you insight into what Judaism teaches about forgiveness of sin. I am sure that many of you are curious about how Jewish people find forgiveness without a Temple. I tell you this story to help you understand my people, not because I agree with what it teaches.



There was an angel who disobeyed the Lord and was

asked to atone for his wrongdoing. God told the angel that he must travel throughout the earth and bring back the "most precious thing in the world." The angel began his travels, roaming from nation to nation searching for this most precious thing. Finally, he came across a battle scene and watched as a young soldier died for his country. The angel caught the young man's last drop of blood and brought it to the Lord. God replied, "A soldier who gives his life for his country is precious, but this is not the most precious thing."



Next the angel found a nurse dying from a disease caught

from those she was caring for. The angel caught her last breath and brought it back to heaven. Again, the Lord said, "This is precious indeed, but there is something more precious still."



The angel resumed his search and spotted an evil

man armed with a sword, galloping through the wilderness. He was riding to take revenge on the keeper of a forest who would not allow him to poach game. As he approached the forest keeper's home, he peered into the window as the keeper's wife was putting their young child to bed. He

heard her prayers and was so touched that he repented of his intended evil. As a tear rolled down his cheek, the angel caught it in his hand and brought it to the Lord. "Indeed," God said, "this is the most precious thing in the world, for it is the tear of the repentant sinner and repentance opens the gates of heaven."

The angel received his atonement and, by implication, every Jewish person who repents during this season of the year will receive God's mercy and forgiveness.

Judaism clearly teaches that the way to find atonement for sin without a Temple is through repentance. According to Jewish tradition, the Book of Life is opened on New Year's Day (the first day of the seventh month) and closed on the Day of Atonement (the tenth day of the same month). During these ten days, Jewish people can repent, settle any disagreements or conflicts with others, and make things right with God. According to a passage from the Talmud, an ancient Jewish commentary, "At this time, when the Temple no longer exists, and we have no atonement altar, there is nothing left but repentance. Repentance atones for all transgressions" (Haggigah 27a).

And yet the words of Scripture echo throughout the centuries in direct contradiction to the teaching of the Rabbis. It is not repentance that brings atonement—it is sacrifice, the shedding of blood. According to Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to

make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

Repentance prepares the heart but can never cleanse us from sin. Even the sacrifices of the Old Covenant could not cleanse the repentant heart from sin—"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). The ancient offerings merely pointed to the once-for-all sacrifice of the Messiah, which alone has the power to atone for both Jews and Gentiles.

The sacrifice of Jesus at the altar of Calvary provides forgiveness of sin for all who believe and accept Him as their Savior. As the author of the Book of Hebrews wrote, "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14).

If I could, I would rewrite the ending of this story . . .



The angel returned to earth, for God said that while repentance was precious, it was not the most precious thing in the world. The angel continued to search, across land and through time, until he came upon a hill outside of Jerusalem. He noticed a man, badly bruised, bleeding from his scalp and back, a group of soldiers beating and taunting him without mercy. The angel watched in shock as the soldiers threw the man onto two beams and ruthlessly nailed his hands and feet with rusty iron spikes. The man did not scream. Through the pain, He had kindness in His eyes

and words of peace on His lips. The angel watched as the man was raised upon the crossbeam and hung in agony while the soldiers gambled for His blood-stained cloak.

A short time later, a cry pierced the air: "It is finished!" The angel gathered a drop of blood that flowed from the wound of the dead man's side. He carried it to heaven and presented it to God. "This," the Lord said, "is the most precious of all; for by this shed blood all of mankind may be forgiven of their sins."

Pray with us for the salvation of the Jewish people during this most holy season of the year. Pray especially for our Chosen People Ministries staff as we preach the glorious, life-giving message of salvation by grace through faith, through the death and resurrection of Jesus our Messiah.

The usual Jewish greeting for this time of the year is "L'shanah Tovah Tikatevu," which means, "May your name be inscribed in the Book of Life." My prayer is that many of my people might find their names inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life at this time of the year, by receiving Jesus as their Messiah!



To the Jew First

Helping the Non-Jew Reach Out to Their Jewish Neighbor



have a role in these holidays? Is your friend really concerned about finding atonement? What does your friend believe about sin? What is it and how are we forgiven? You will likely have an opportunity to share how you found atonement through Jesus the Messiah.

Zhava Glaser Shares Witnessing Tips for the Jewish High Holy Day Season

Do you have a Jewish friend who needs to know Jesus the Messiah? Have you wanted to talk with him or her but have been unsure how to do so? We are approaching the best time of the year to bring up spiritual matters with your Jewish friend: the Jewish High Holy days, the period of time from *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year (October 2), to *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement (October 11).

Jewish people think about God more during the High Holy days than perhaps at any other time of the year. Even Jewish people who are not outwardly religious find their thoughts turning toward spiritual concerns. Whether for religious, cultural, or other reasons, there is a heightened awareness of God in the Jewish community during the High Holy days.

Here are some ways you can reach out to a Jewish friend during this spiritually receptive time:

1. **SEND A CARD**, showing respect for your friend's traditions. Most card shops will have a selection of Jewish New Year cards that express "Happy New Year" sentiments in an appreciative and sensitive manner. Send a New Year's card just prior to October 2, and perhaps include a note that says you are praying for a blessed and prosperous new year.
2. **GIVE A NEW YEAR'S GREETING** — in Hebrew! Practice the phrase, "*Lshanah to-vah tikatevu*" (just follow the accents). Loosely translated, this means "May you be inscribed for a good year." If you are not Jewish, this is a guaranteed attention-getter — and a great conversation starter! (Feel free to leave out the "*tikatevu*" — it can be a real mouthful!)
3. **GIVE A GIFT**. On Rosh Hashanah, you can give your Jewish friend a gift of a honey cake or a decorative basket filled with apples and honey, the traditional New Year's refreshments. Your knowledge of this Jewish tradition will be meaningful to your friend, and provide an opportunity to share why you have love and respect for the Jewish people.
4. **ASK QUESTIONS** — especially about the High Holy days. Try to find out what these holidays mean to your Jewish friend. Does God
5. **MAKE AMENDS**, if needed. If you owe anything to a Jewish person, especially an apology, this is the time of the year to make things right. For Jewish people, the High Holy days season is the time to repent, and make amends. Let them know that their religious season has motivated your reaching out.
6. **ACTS OF KINDNESS**. This is a time of the year when Jewish people are sensitive to acts of kindness. Any kindness extended at this time in the name of Jesus may go a long way toward cementing your present—and future—relationship.
7. **INVITE THEM** to a Chosen People Ministries High Holy Day Service. Most of our branches and congregations will have services designed especially to reach your Jewish friend. Call 888-2-YESHUA and we will tell you if there is a service in your area.

As you reach out to your Jewish friends during this spiritually receptive time, pray that their hearts may be open to the Gospel. You may discover that a "great and effective door has opened" to share Jesus the Messiah (1 Corinthians 16:9).

Changed Lives

Long Spiritual Pilgrimage In Ukraine Leads to Yeshua

Dina grew up in an atheistic Jewish family in the Ukraine, knowing nothing of religion and having no interest in learning about God. Two years ago, however, Chosen People Ministries evangelists in the Ukraine gave Dina a brochure entitled "The Life." She read it, but had no interest at first. One and a half years later, some members of a cult knocked at her door and developed a relationship that lasted for months. Receiving a Bible from them, she began to read the Old Testament and discovered what had happened to her ancestors. She learned that God still loves Israel and broke off the relationship with the cult, which taught that Israel had no future place in God's plans. On her own, she began to believe in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and began to pray that God would send her someone to teach her the Bible. Last fall, two years after their first contact with Dina, our Chosen People Ministries missionaries once again called at her door and left an evangelistic newspaper. She read the paper, sought out our missionaries, and prayed with them to receive Jesus as her Messiah. Dina has just recently been baptized . . . a long, spiritual journey now complete.

Messiah Jesus Brings Peace

A young Palestinian girl from Gaza visited the Montreal congregation of Chosen People Ministries. She was a believer in Jesus and knew the Jewish people were the people of God. Her Arab family was greatly opposed to her association with Jews, but she continued to come, wanting to demonstrate by her presence that in the Lord Jesus—Yeshua the Messiah—Jewish people and Arabs can truly find peace and love! Percy Johnson, leader of the Montreal congregation, praises God for this demonstration of His love which both heals and unites.



Children Receive Messiah at Summer Camp in Germany

Vladimir Pikman, Chosen People Ministries missionary in Germany, directed a camp for 15 children from Kiev. The camp was held in two locations, Berlin and Bremen, for two weeks, with the children dividing their time between the two camps. A number of the children opened their hearts to the Messiah for the first time. The Lord provided funds for the camp several weeks before it was scheduled to open, and visas for the children from Kiev just hours before the trains were to leave for Berlin! Vladimir praises the Lord for the children who received Messiah Jesus, and for how the Lord continues to bring Russian Jewish people, young and old, to Himself.

Why Wait?

When Klaudia Zhelezny, Chosen People Ministries Russian worker in Brooklyn, New York, was making follow-up calls to Russian Jewish people who had requested the "Jesus our Messiah" video tape, she encountered one woman who prayed to receive Jesus—with the video! This woman saw one of the "Jesus our Messiah" ads placed on the bus shelters in New York City and ordered the video tape of five Russian Jews giving their testimonies of faith in Jesus. She watched the video, understood it, believed it, and prayed to receive the Lord when the video gave an invitation. Praise the Lord for the fruit being borne from the "Jesus our Messiah" evangelistic campaign!

Kingdom R.O.I.

An Accountant Learns About God's "Return on Investment"

Once upon a time (1981), there was a Jewish accountant. By his own admission, he was calm, cool, collected — and spiritually content. Even though his wife was Catholic, they shared a mutual respect for one another's beliefs. The accountant saw no need for his family to change.



Seven-year old Brian Freeman with his father, Richard, mother, Julia, and sister Heather.

Once upon another time (1997), there was a Messianic Jewish college senior who spent his summer doing graphic arts design for a worldwide Jewish evangelism ministry. He comes from a spiritually strong, Messianic Jewish home.

Sound unremarkable? You might think so if you didn't know "the rest of the story."

Rich Freeman, the young corporate accountant who had it all together in 1981, began experiencing some intrusions into his world. First, his boss, whom he greatly admired, told him that the basis of his life was his relationship with Jesus Christ. Since Jews don't believe in Jesus, that intrusion wasn't threatening. Well, maybe a little.

Next, Rich's wife began attending a Bible study. She came home one night in tears saying they would be separated for eternity unless Rich accepted Christ. "What do you mean? Do you know anyone who is a better person than I am?" he retorted. The logical accountant dismissed this second intrusion with cool efficiency. Well, maybe not quite so cool. He was beginning to wonder what all this Jesus stuff was about.

Finally, when his five-year-old son, Brian, was found to have a huge cyst wrapped around the bone of his arm, the accountant's cool disappeared faster than a tax refund check. As his wife's friends prayed for their son's healing, Rich wasn't able to match their peaceful perspective. And when the cyst began to disappear, so did his objections to God's presence and His love. The problem was this:

for the first time in his life, he wanted to do something—develop faith—without knowing how.

A visit with his wife to a Messianic congregation—The Light of Israel—in Yonkers, New York, put him in touch with Sam Nadler, the pastor

(and recent Chosen People Ministries president). And Sam put Rich in touch with Jesus. Still fearful about taking a step of faith, a couple of weeks later Rich was thumbing through a copy of *The Chosen People* magazine and saw an article entitled "Take the BIG STEP." Rich knew the message was for him, and accepted Jesus the following week at The Light of Israel.

And by the way, the young son, Brian Freeman, with the cyst on his arm? He's fine—doing wonderfully well. But you know that already.

That's right. Brian Freeman, the college senior who



Brian Freeman

spent his summer as a graphic artist in Chosen People Ministries' Brooklyn office, is the son of the present pastor of The Light of Israel Messianic congregation—who also happens to be the former accountant, Rich Freeman. Among other things, Brian designed the current Chosen People T-shirt, a tract that was handed out in New York on the Fourth of July, and our new evangelistic newspaper!

In 1997, a father and son are both serving Messiah Jesus. In 1981, Rich Freeman's most powerful spreadsheet would never have foretold a return-on-investment like that.



If you have a special story to share with us, we'd love to speak with you.

Contact us at CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES • 1300 Cross Beam Drive • Charlotte, NC 28217.

Ministry Updates from Around the World

Divine Timing in Toronto

Larry Rich, Chosen People Ministries Canadian Director, conducted several street evangelism outings in Toronto this summer, passing out tracts in public places such as subway stations. The first time they went out, about a dozen people participated. An act of divine timing occurred when Larry Rich was handing out literature and a Jewish passerby asked (in Hebrew!), "Do you speak Hebrew?" At that moment, an Israeli believer, Gideon, walked up, engaged the man in conversation in his native tongue and proceeded to present the Gospel to him in a language he could clearly understand. The man received Gideon's witness, and the material, without objection. Please pray for the seed that was planted to bear eternal fruit.

Missionaries Protected in Terrorist Attack

God's gracious hand of protection was upon a team of Chosen People Ministries evangelists recently in the city of Jaffa, Israel. A team of volunteers was witnessing in this ancient port town when they found themselves in the middle of a terrorist attack. A Muslim man, who had stopped his car in the midst of a crowd of Israelis and tourists, suddenly jumped from his car and began randomly stabbing people in the crowd with a knife. Thankfully, he was subdued and apprehended by authorities before there was any loss of life. The members of the evangelistic team were shaken, but they used the opportunity to give comfort in the name of Jesus to many in the crowd. When they returned to Tel Aviv, the team leader noticed that there were blood stains on her dress! Indeed,

she had been within striking distance of the terrorist's knife, but had been protected from harm. We rejoice in God's care for the evangelistic team, and continue to pray for the peace in Israel that only the Prince of Peace can bring.

Five Decisions for Jesus in Southern California

Don Meecha, Chosen People Ministries missionary in Lomita, California, led a group of volunteers in several summer evangelistic outreaches. They targeted a group of 750 homes for distribution of the *Jesus Video* (a video presentation of the life of Jesus taken from the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament). They distributed both English and Hebrew versions, as a number of the residents in the area are religious Jews.

The volunteers also made twice weekly outreaches to a local beach where five individuals accepted the Lord: two Jewish men (ages 20 and 67), a Gentile woman (age 64), and two Gentile men (ages 21 and 24). Praise God for the fruit from these evangelistic efforts!

Critics and Encouragers On the Same Witnessing Trip

When Michael Wechsler, Chosen People Ministries missionary in Chicago, took a team of volunteers to witness, the first person he encountered was an Orthodox Jewish man from the nearby synagogue. Not only was the man visibly upset over

Russian Jews Hear About Jesus



On August 1, the Russian Jewish community in the United States and around the world began reading about "Jesus Our Messiah." The *New Russian Word* (*Novoye Ruskiye Slava*) is the largest Russian language newspaper

in New York and also has a world-wide circulation. The full-page ad, in large, bold letters, proclaimed "Jesus Our Messiah," and offered a free videotape containing the testimonies of five Russian Jewish people who believe in Jesus as their Messiah. A similar campaign recently initiated in New York City, with ads placed on bus shelters, has generated very positive response—and salvations (see "Changed Lives" in this issue)! More reports of the results of these outreach campaigns will be forthcoming.

Michael's presence in the community, but he went back into the synagogue to get another Orthodox man. They proceeded to follow Michael and his team down the street, literally standing next to them to "listen" to their conversations with others. The team handed tracts to two young women who, they quickly discovered, were already believers in Jesus! As Michael's team took a moment to fellowship with them, the Orthodox men became even more upset, thinking that the two girls were being proselytized by Michael's team. When they came and stood next to Michael to hear what he might be saying, they discovered the girls were Messianic Jews. One left in frustration; the other stayed to debate Michael. The two young ladies? They stayed and enjoyed a lesson in defending the faith from a Chosen People Ministries missionary!

Special Days Deserve Special Attention

Discover the Spiritual Riches of Israel's High Holy Days

This month, from Chosen People Ministries, three resources that will allow you to learn more about some special days on the Jewish calendar. The Jewish High Holy days last from the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah, October 2) to the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur, October 11). Discover the spiritual riches for the believer in Messiah—and the significance of these days for your Jewish friends—through two books by Messianic leaders and a video by Chosen People Ministries.

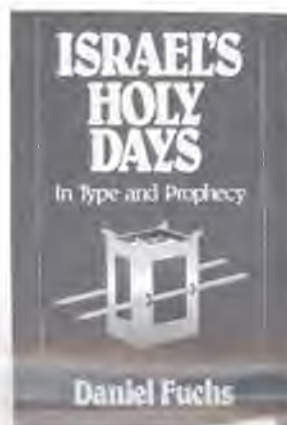
Chosen People Ministries will send you the resources you need to discover the spiritual treasures to be found in the Jewish High Holy Days.

Israel's Holy Days in Type and Prophecy

Dr. Daniel Fuchs

A former President of the American Board of Missions to the Jews (now Chosen People Ministries) details the seven annual sacred feasts of Israel in Leviticus 23. Dr. Fuchs shows how this chapter of Scripture is more than just a list of feasts; it is an outline of God's calendar from eternity to eternity. Discover the significance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and their relevance for the individual as well as for the world!

Price: \$4.95



God's Appointed Times

Barney Kasdan

The leader of one of the world's largest Messianic congregations shows Jews and Christians why God's holy days have blessings for both. From the Sabbath to Purim to Hanukkah—and every holy day in between—

Barney Kasdan reveals the ancient and contemporary significance of every special day in the Jewish calendar. Includes recipes, songs, and crafts appropriate to the Jewish holy days and seasons.

Price: \$9.95

Messiah in the Day of Atonement

(VHS tape)

from Chosen People Ministries

Centuries ago the prophet Isaiah foretold a Suffering Servant, the Messiah, Who would become an atonement for sin. In a special half-hour video, Chosen People Ministries shows how Jewish people celebrate the Day of Atonement today, and how Messianic Jewish believers observe this day as well. This video is a perfect way to share with a Jewish friend how Jesus Christ fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, and became an atonement for our sins.

Price: \$14.95



Please note that the Special Attention! Only provides promotional and limited quantities of Chosen People Ministries and purchased the value of the promotional and you all generally will be allocated to our Jewish Evangelism Outreach Fund to assist in our prayer and thoughtful efforts among Jewish people around the world.



The Chosen People Newsletter

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