

Israel's 50th Anniversary Issue

**PRAY**  
*for the*  
**Peace of  
Jerusalem**

**The  
Chosen  
People**



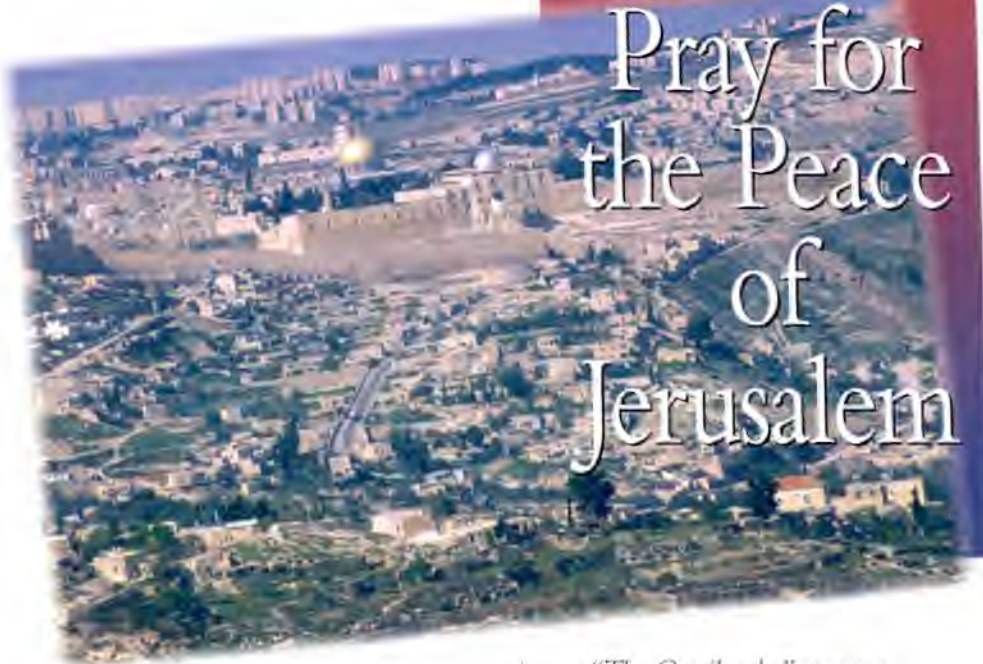
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Happy Birthday Israel



## Israel's 50th Anniversary Issue:

# Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem



Shalom dear friend in the Messiah,

May the Prince of Peace fill you with His Shalom! As you have perhaps already noticed, this is a special expanded issue of the Chosen People Ministries newsletter commemorating the 50th anniversary of the modern State of Israel. We marvel at the faithfulness of God and the achievements of the brave and courageous few who carved a nation out of the arid terrain of the Promised Land.

There will be jubilant celebrations within Israel and throughout the world marking this momentous occasion. Yet, amidst the joy of celebrations and festivities, there exists a gnawing and almost painful realization that the tiny nation Israel is still so very fragile. Surrounded by hostile neighbors and beset by internal strife, modern Israel is not yet the nation of peace and strength she will someday become, as foretold by the ancient Hebrew prophets.

*"The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name. You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God" (Isaiah 62:2-3).*

Still, even today, the modern State of Israel remains a witness of God's covenant faithfulness and His power . . . if you know what you are looking at! Consider this:

- Israel was not a Jewish state for almost 2,000 years, and yet the "dry bones live" (see Ezekiel 37) and Israel has become primarily a Jewish nation once again.
- A little more than fifty years ago, the Jewish people were almost destroyed in the Holocaust; yet instead of becoming extinct, a nation has risen from the ashes of near annihilation.
- Though surrounded by enemies

of overwhelming proportions, Israel has been victorious in four modern wars with its enemies. The survival of the nation is a testimony to the faithfulness of God.

- The economy of the Land was almost non-existent fifty years ago—yet today, the desert has bloomed and the nation has prospered.
- Just when many thought that immigration had ceased, the "Land of the North" (Russia; Jeremiah 3:18) gave up vast numbers of Abraham's children and the little nation of Israel has surged in population growth: almost a million new immigrants in the last ten years.

Those who view the achievements of the Jewish people from a human perspective miss the hidden hand of God revealed in the establishment of the modern State of Israel. The God who promised a nation to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:18-21, 17:1-8, 26:1-5, 35: 9-12) is the same God who assures that nation's future—and ours as well. The nation of Israel is a visible surety that God is faithful to His promises—all of His promises—whether to the nation of Israel or to His church.

The fate of the nation of Israel must matter to every born-again Christian—Jew or Gentile. We may not agree on every point of future prophecy and its fulfillment, but most believers today do recognize that Israel is still the "apple of His eye" (Zechariah 2:8). The



Jewish people are God's chosen and His purposes for Israel are ongoing (Romans 11:11-15, 25-26).

## Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

All believers everywhere are asked to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. The Psalmist wrote, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you'" (Psalm 122:6). I am sure there are many reasons why we are told to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Consider the following—meditate on these passages of Scripture—that the Lord might build a burning passion within your soul to pray for the peace and salvation of the Jewish people:

**1** Praying for the peace of Jerusalem is dear to the heart of our Savior, who prayed for His people to return to the God of their fathers through Him (Matthew 23:37-39).

**2** Praying for Jerusalem was the burden of the Apostle Paul, who invited us to follow him as he followed the Lord (Romans 10:1).

**3** Praying for the peace of Jerusalem will bring great blessing in the future for both Gentiles and Jews (Romans 11:15).

**4** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as Gentile Christians especially owe a debt of love to the Jewish people. It was the Jewish people who brought the Scriptures to the world and a Jewish remnant who brought the Messiah to the Gentiles (Romans 9:4-5, Acts 11:19-21). As Jesus Himself said, "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22).

**5** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem because it will be a blessing to you and your family. The promise of God to Abraham remains true today: "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you. . . ." (Genesis 12:3).

**6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem because of the spiritual kinship between Jewish people and all born-again believers. After all, the history of the Jewish people depicted in the Bible is also the spiritual history of every believer. The life lessons of ancient Israel are of supreme importance to Christians in every age (1 Corinthians 10:1-13). This connection draws our hearts close to the Jewish people and motivates us to offer intercessory prayer on their behalf.

**7** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem because by praying for peace, you are asking God to send His Son, the Prince of Peace, who will reign as King and bring blessing to all through His eternal presence. When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we are praying for the return of our Messiah, as the Apostle John records at the conclusion of the Book of the Revelation: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20)

And please, when you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, remember to pray for Chosen People Ministries, your ministry among the Jewish people, as we proclaim the message of the Prince of Peace to the chosen people. I hope you will enjoy this special issue of the Chosen People Ministries newsletter. Happy birthday, Israel!

In Him,

  
Mitch Glaser  
President



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Photos of Israel were taken on location by the late Dr. Daniel Fuchs, former Chosen People Ministries President. Other photos ©1997 PhotoDisc Inc.

It was like a dream . . . to be used by God in bringing Jewish people to Jesus . . . and to do it in Israel, the Land of Messiah's birth! In the beginning of the 1990s, God moved Chosen People Ministries to plant a congregation in Israel. It was a time of great changes in the Jewish State. Thousands of new immigrants arrived in Israel in fulfillment of promises given in the Bible, and they were open to the Good News. It was a joy to see them, not just coming to the Promised Land, but coming to the Lord! A number of the immigrants received Jesus as their personal Savior, and we realized that those new believers needed discipleship.

# Israel Today Chosen People Ministries in the Land



by  
Michael  
Zinn



This and several other photos in this issue were taken by the late Dr. Daniel Fuchs, beloved former President of Chosen People Ministries (the American Board of Missions to the Jews). In honor of Dr. Fuchs, we are publishing "Flowers of the Holy Land," a special collector's edition of his breathtaking photographs, in this year's Jewish Art Calendar. Watch for an announcement in the coming issues.

## From Small Beginnings . . .

In the beginning, we were a small group—a few people united by faith and love, hungry for the Word and zealous to share the Good News. A small place in the city of Tel Aviv became home for those few of us who believed that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel. Slowly but surely, our Bible study became a congregation—immature and weak, but a congregation. The meeting place became too small and

the group moved to a new location in Jaffa. All the while, God continued to bring new people.

By this stage, it was very important to give the Jewish believers an understanding of the need for fellowship within the congregation and with other groups of believers in Israel. The people needed to know that they were an integral part of the body of Messiah in Israel.

## To a Bold Work . . .

Our ministry became bolder, partially because of the growing maturity of the believers, and partially because of contact with other congregations and ministries. Very soon, we recognized that God wanted us to have Bible studies in different parts of the Land. We started home groups in the cities of Bar Yam (a suburb of Tel Aviv) and Ariel (on the West Bank!).

We also developed a new kind of evangelism ministry: Old Jaffa weekly walking tours. You have to see how people enjoy these tours! They ask so many questions about our faith, and about God, Jesus, and the Bible. A lot of them visit our Beth Sar Shalom congregation. Some of them have accepted Yeshua and have become part of the congregation.

## Extending Throughout the Land

We believe that God wants us to start a new work in Jerusalem. We have prayed a lot, asking for the proper time and leading of the Holy Spirit, and God responded to us in a wonderful way. He brought us people and provided a place for our regular

Although I grew up in a traditional Jewish family in Tadjikistan (in the former Soviet Union), I became interested in Jesus at age 25. When I asked my family and friends if they knew anything about Him they were shocked and asked me to stop thinking this way immediately. After I moved away from home, I began reading the New Testament. I compared it with the Old Testament which we had read in our home, and I understood that Jesus was not just a fictional hero of literature, but the Son of God. I started to dream about going to Israel—His Land.

In 1995, I immigrated to Israel and asked God to lead me to other Jewish people who believed as I did. A Chosen People Ministries missionary invited me to attend his congregation. One day, Neriya, a volunteer with Chosen People Ministries (and now a missionary in training at Moody Bible Institute), came to our home. He told me that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah and invited me to attend his congregation. There, I understood that Jesus is my personal Savior and Lord, and put my life into His hands. In 1997, I was baptized and now I have peace with God. Praise Him!

- S.



meetings. Yes, our group is still small—we are just at the very beginning. But we believe in God's strength, not in ours. We trust Him, asking for wisdom and love, and committing this work into His hands.

The tour ministry has been so successful that we are preparing to start similar tours in Jerusalem. We hope that, with our starting of Old City of Jerusalem Bible tours, God will bring a lot of new people to us. The first fruits are always the most precious. God is so great! Already, He is bringing people to our new fellowship in Jerusalem.

The Lord has brought people with talents and musical skills to our young congregation. As a result, a few times a year, we prepare a professional, evangelistic concert where musical pieces are presented with the full message of salvation through Yeshua. Many hundreds of people have come to such events and all of them had an opportunity to hear about the Messiah—some of them responded to the call to salvation.

### Today in Chosen People Ministries

Today in Chosen People Ministries, we have three missionaries in Israel, and it is clear that we need more. There are so many opportunities! We are



I was living in Israel with my family when my aunt came to visit. She had read in a magazine that Beth Sar Shalom (a Chosen People Ministries congregation) offered tours in Jaffa, so she asked if I would take her there. My aunt took the tour, accepted the Bible they gave her, but immediately left. Being intrigued by this group, the next Friday I took the tour myself! As part of the tour, we were invited to a Bible study led by Leonid, one of Chosen People Ministries' workers in Israel. Through this tour, I finally understood that Jesus is my Messiah and my personal Savior, the Son of the living God. I accepted Him with all my heart and a few months later was baptized.

I have continued to experience God's love in my life. He gave me a husband who came to faith in the same congregation, and now I expect to give birth to our first baby, relying on His love and grace.

- S

praying that God will provide us with everything we need for a fruitful and successful work. Our God is a God of vision and He wants His people to be a people of vision. We believe that one day, Israel will respond to the Gospel. Isn't it a joy to know that you are part of this glorious plan?

### Today's Chosen People Ministries work in Israel consists of:

- A fully functioning congregation of 60 people in Jaffa
- A twice-a-week meeting and Bible studies
- Home groups in Bat Yam and Ariel
- Classes for discipleship
- A weekly evangelism tour in Old Jaffa
- Regular evangelistic concerts
- A weekly, growing fellowship and outreach in Jerusalem
- Participation in national evangelism campaigns

Minaret near Temple Mount.

## Immigrants to Israel by Place of Origin

**USSR** (former)

684,300



**Africa**

326,000



**Asia**

251,600



**Romania**

131,700



**Poland**

97,600



**Europe**

(other than Russia)  
73,500



Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land."

Genesis 12:7



Chosen People Ministries



N America  
& Oceania

63,300



Latin  
America

48,900



Germany  
& Austria

34,700



Bulgaria &  
Greece

25,200



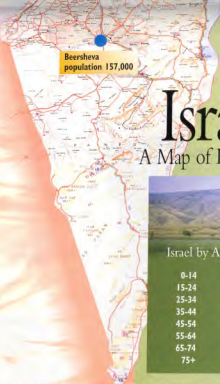
Hungary

18,300



Czech  
Republic


15,200



# Israel

A Map of Her People





# The Arab States in Prophecy



by  
Dr. Michael Rydelnik

The Bible foretells that peace between the Arab nations and Israel will come. It will arrive when the Peacemaker, Messiah Jesus, returns to set up His throne and reign over the kingdoms of the earth. Peace for the Arab world and the Jewish nation will be established in three ways: (1) through the desolation of some Arab nations, (2) through the annexation of some Arab lands by Israel, and (3) through the spiritual transformation of some Arab countries.<sup>1</sup>

To see what the future holds for the Arab states, it is important to recognize that the Bible speaks of the future of specific Biblical nations. By identifying which modern Arab countries exist in the same geographic places as those Biblical nations, it may be possible to discern what the future holds for these Arab states.

## 1. Peace through Desolation

### Southern Jordan

The southern area of the modern Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was

inhabited by the Biblical nation of Edom. Several Biblical prophets foretold the complete desolation of the Edomites, revealing the future of this part of Jordan.

In Ezekiel 35:1-15, God declared that the Edomites would be completely destroyed because they *"had an ancient hatred, and have shed the blood of the children of Israel by the power of the sword..."* (Ezek, 35:5). The Lord assured the complete desolation of Edom (35:9) since they rejoiced over Israel because it was *"desolate"* (35:15). The same promise is found in Obadiah, where God compared the house of Jacob to a fire and Edom to

stubble. Edom would be set on fire *"so that no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau"* (Obad. 18). In Jeremiah, God proclaimed that Edom would become *"a desolation, a reproach, a waste and a curse. And all its cities shall be perpetual wastes"* (Jer. 49:13). The future is bleak for the Southern area of Jordan. In the Messianic Kingdom, it will be completely desolate.

### Southern Iraq

Both Isaiah and Jeremiah foretold that Babylon, the great capital of the Babylonian empire, would be desolate for all time. Isaiah said that Babylon *"will never be inhabited nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there"* (Isa. 13:20). Jeremiah confirmed Isaiah's words, comparing Babylon's destruction to that of Sodom and Gomorrah (Jer. 50:39-40). This destruction occurred in stages, so that by 20 B.C., the Greek geographer Strabo called Babylon a *"vast desolation."*

## 2. Peace through Annexation

Ezekiel 47:13-20 describes the boundaries of Israel during the Messianic Kingdom. These look quite similar to Israel's borders during the reigns of David and Solomon. So, although the Bible does not explicitly state the future of these two nations, clearly Lebanon and parts of Syria will experience peace with Israel by being annexed into the Jewish State during the Messianic Kingdom.

## 3. Peace through Transformation

The most encouraging news to be found in the Biblical prophecies regarding the Arab nations is that several of these will experience spiritual transformation. There will be some Arab states that will come to a



genuine faith in Messiah Jesus and share in the worldwide blessings of the Messianic Kingdom. This will be the way that they finally achieve peace with Israel.

### Central and Northern Jordan

The Biblical nations of Moab and Ammon were situated in what is now the central and northern parts of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The destiny of Jordan includes not only desolation in the south (as was discussed above), but also hope of a remnant who will come to faith in the Messiah Jesus. In Jeremiah 48 and 49, the Lord first declares the future destruction of Moab and Ammon but then includes hope of restoration. These passages in Jeremiah look forward to the end of days, when a remnant of these two Biblical nations will put their faith in the Messiah and experience spiritual transformation. So, it seems that the Northern and Central parts of the modern kingdom of Jordan will find peace with Messiah and peace with Israel.

### Egypt

From the time of the birth of the State of Israel in 1948 until Anwar el-Sadat addressed the Knesset (the Israeli parliament) thirty years later, Egypt had been an implacable enemy of Israel. Today, there is a peace treaty that has been sustained for twenty years, even though many consider it to be a "cold peace." However, the prophet Isaiah foresees Israel and Egypt experiencing a friendly peace when they both will know the Lord.

Isaiah prophesies that Egypt "will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them" (Isa. 19:20). At that time, Egypt will have an altar to the LORD and will worship Him (Isa. 19:19, 21). According to Zechariah, the

Egyptians will also celebrate Sukkot together with Israel in the Messianic Kingdom (Zech. 14:16-19). Egypt will be at peace with both her ancient enemy Assyria and Israel, with this threesome providing blessing to the whole earth (Isa. 19:24-25).

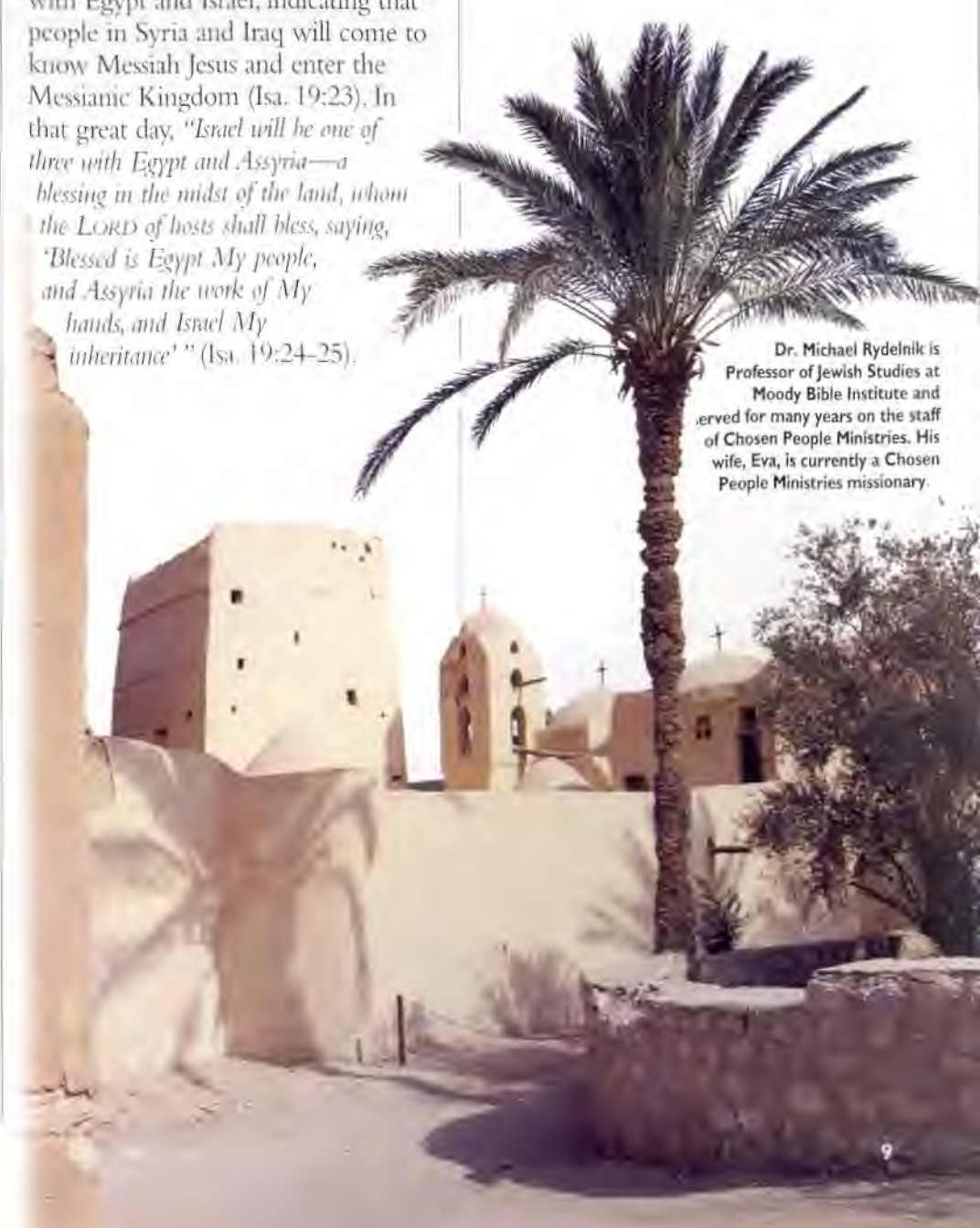
### Syria and Northern Iraq

What was once the land of Assyria today includes Northern Iraq and Syria. In the great prophecy of Egypt's future redemption, the prophet Isaiah also indicates that Assyria will know the Lord, and through this spiritual transformation they will be peace partners with both Israel and Egypt. Assyria will worship with Egypt and Israel, indicating that people in Syria and Iraq will come to know Messiah Jesus and enter the Messianic Kingdom (Isa. 19:23). In that great day, "Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, 'Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance'" (Isa. 19:24-25).

### Peace Today?

Regardless of efforts toward political peace (which should be pursued) the ultimate possibility for true peace only exists through spiritual transformation. That is true today and it will be true in the Messianic Kingdom. Only when Israel and the Arab nations experience a spiritual transformation will peace arrive. And ultimately, that will only fully happen when the Peacemaker comes.

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *Footsteps of the Messiah*, p. 345.



Dr. Michael Rydelnik is Professor of Jewish Studies at Moody Bible Institute and served for many years on the staff of Chosen People Ministries. His wife, Eva, is currently a Chosen People Ministries missionary.



# The Future of Jerusalem

*"If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy."*

(Psalm 137:5-6)

The wind has always blown over Jerusalem—the winds of war, the winds of change, the winds of threshing, the wind of the Spirit. For more than 3,000 years this blessed and besieged city has been shaped by the winds of time—but stands stronger and more purposeful today than ever.

Jerusalem—a city of sacrifice. In the irony of history—captured, rebuilt, torn down, laid waste—the city has almost become a sacrifice itself. In 1967, the city was occupied by Jewish forces for the first time since 70 A.D. The sight of Jewish soldiers kissing the Western Wall is etched forever in history. But, though now occupied by the Jewish people, Jerusalem has yet to fulfill its original name, Salem, from whence comes *shalom*, or the peace of God.

Today, Jerusalem is a city of birthpangs. It labors to receive the only One who can bring peace, the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Messiah. As we read the Scriptures, we recognize that the future of Jerusalem will be at the heart of the future of the world. In the end of days, we are told that God will restore His people to the land. At Messiah's second coming, the Jewish people in Jerusalem will repent in mourning and accept Jesus

Temple, where the Shekinah (glory cloud) of the Lord will reside (Ezek. 48:35).

During this period, Jerusalem will be the capital of the earth for a thousand years (Isa. 60:1-22; Ezek. 40-48; Rev. 20:11-15), and the Feast of Tabernacles will be observed annually (Zech. 14:16-19). Then from heaven will come "the Holy City, the New Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2) which is described in Hebrews (12:22-24).

When we read of Jerusalem's humble beginnings, her painful past and present, and her glorious future,

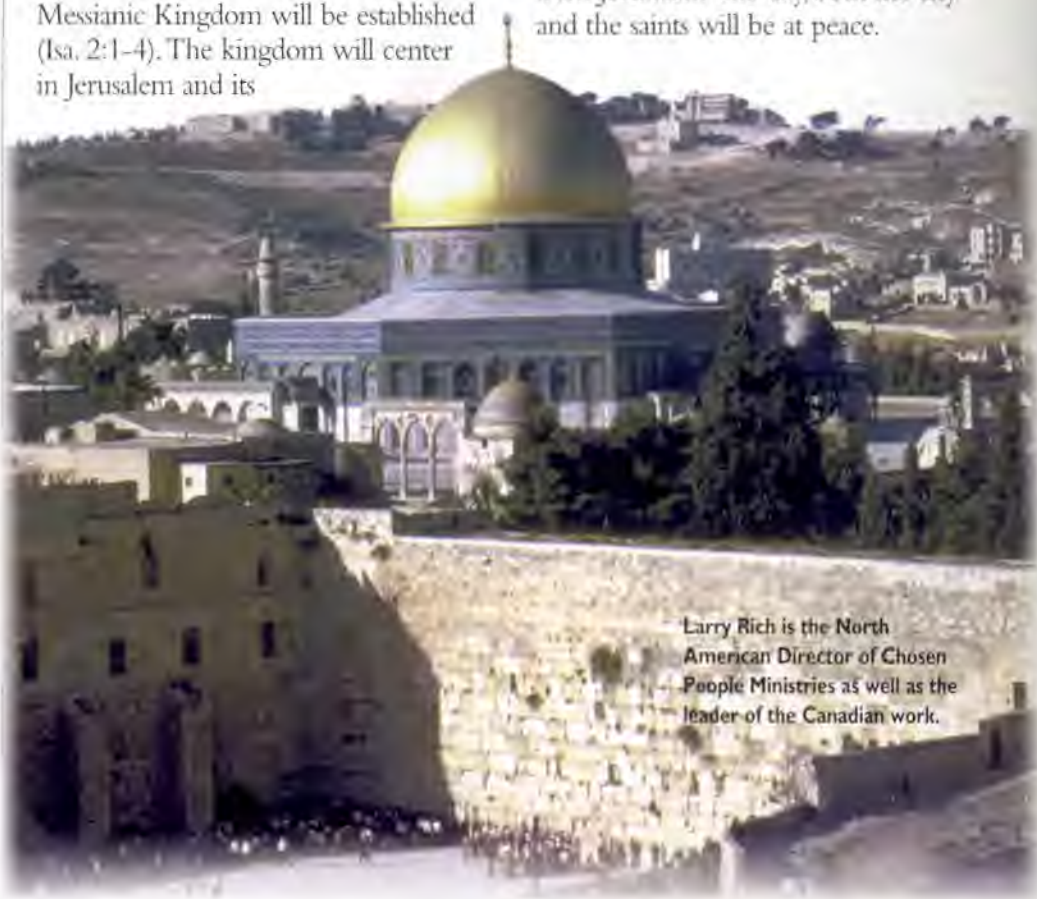
we are reminded of our own spiritual lives. We are plain people in this earth, no more distinguishable than one rocky mountain top is from another. We suffer. We are threshed. We bleed—at least emotionally, and for some, literally—in our quest for the kingdom. And yet, like

Jerusalem, a glorious future awaits us! As He will with Jerusalem, God will bring about every promise He has made to us as well. When Jesus reigns from Jerusalem one day, both the city and the saints will be at peace.



by Larry Rich

(Zech. 12:10). The forces of Satan will rise in opposition, and Jesus the Messiah will return. His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:3-4), Jerusalem will be restored to security by the victorious Lord (Zech. 12:3; 14:3,9-11), and the Messianic Kingdom will be established (Isa. 2:1-4). The kingdom will center in Jerusalem and its



Larry Rich is the North American Director of Chosen People Ministries as well as the leader of the Canadian work.

# NEWS BRIEFS

At Chosen People Ministries, each fruit of our labor is hand-picked and lovingly nurtured. The Lord has blessed us this month with precious fruit, and we want to share our joy with you.

## **Baltimore, Maryland**

Frances Alpen goes witnessing weekly with some high school students in Baltimore. In one afternoon, they saw three students place their faith in Christ! One of the people was Susan,\* a student at Johns Hopkins University, in her early twenties.

## **Brooklyn, New York**

Irina, a recent immigrant from Moscow, attends a Christian ESL program (English as a Second Language), where students learn English and Bible. As Irina, a scientist, studied the human brain, she came to the conclusion that there had to be a God who created it—but she didn't know how to find Him. Through our Bible classes, Irina accepted Jesus. Now, she often asks Klaudia Zhelezny, our Russian evangelist, "Klaudia, how can I witness to Jewish people about our Messiah?"

## **Jerusalem, Israel**

Sarah, a woman from Chosen People Ministries' Jerusalem fellowship, made a decision to receive the Lord. She is very intelligent and very sick with cancer. Humanly speaking, her chances are not good; but now she is in the hands of God. The believers were touched when she asked them to pray that God would give her strength in her last moments.

## **Ukraine**

The Lord has been blessing Chosen People Ministries' Ukraine outreach with a new, zealous generation of spiritual young people. Just recently, God touched the heart of Elena, a young woman who came to an evangelistic service. After the service, she prayed with the leader of the congregation to accept Jesus as her Redeemer and Lord.

## **Special Prayer Request**

Pray as we are in the final planning stages for STEP, our Summer Training and Evangelism Program, which will put 30 evangelists on the streets of New York City. We still have a few open slots. Call 1-888-2-YESHUA or send in the enclosed response card for info.

## **Praise Report**

We praise God for the excellent response to our Volunteer Involvement Program. It's not too late to get information on how you, too, can be involved! Call Ben Alpert at 1-800-236-2114 or send in the enclosed response card.

## **Washington, DC**

Scott Brown, Chosen People Ministries missionary in the Washington, DC area, was not discouraged when a Jewish man said, "I'll give you one hour to tell me what you believe." Three hours later, Rob was still listening. "I have only one thing to say," Rob offered at the end of the conversation. "I believe now that Jesus is the Son of God."

## **Irvine, California**

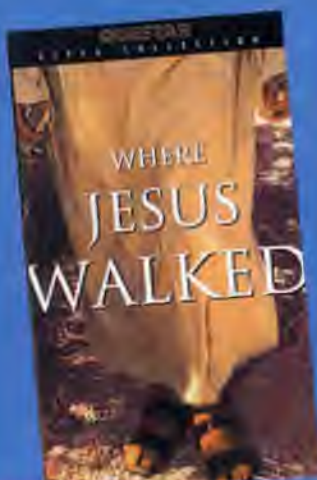
Two Jewish believers from our brand new congregation in Irvine, California, went to visit a woman and her husband. The woman is a believer but her Jewish husband is not. They visited and had the unexpected pleasure of leading the husband to the Lord. On another occasion, some folks from the same congregation visited an elderly unsaved Jewish woman and brought her to our services. On a follow-up visit, this woman prayed to receive Yeshua as her Lord and Savior.

## **Berlin, Germany**

Vladimir Pikman, Chosen People Ministries missionary in Germany, has been praying for and witnessing to a man who was absolutely against the faith, and constantly mocking God. What a surprise it was when this man came to our Bible study and participated, finally understanding the importance of accepting Jesus. He now attends faithfully, reads the Bible, witnesses and writes poems about loving the Lord. Four other Jewish people accepted Jesus through our Germany ministry this past month.

\*names have been changed throughout





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**Shalom Jerusalem**

Cassette: \$9.95 CD: \$15.95 Video: \$19.95

Recorded live in the City of David, this exceptional music weaves the purity of worship into the fabric of Messianic praise. Magnificent worship that is rich and deep as the history of Jerusalem. Songs include *Roni Roni*, *Hinei Ma Tov*, and *Jerusalem of Gold*.

All proceeds will be allocated to our Jewish Evangelical Outreach Fund to support our evangelistic and discipleship efforts among Jewish people around the world.



# Follow the Ancient Wise Men to the Messiah's Birthplace

## And show a bit of wisdom yourself!

If you think the only wise men to travel to the Holy Land were the famous ones in the Gospel of Matthew... well, think again. Listen to the words of two recent participants in a Chosen People Ministries' Holy Land Tour, and you'll see why they felt pretty wise about their decision to go:

*"Every detail of the trip was beautifully planned. I was especially grateful for the extensive sightseeing itinerary and the exceptional Israeli staff."*

—Carl Abrahamsen, Hartford, CT

*"What an experience! This was a true blessing for me personally. Please let me know the date for next year's tour so I can tell other pastors and make my plans for the trip."*

—Pastor Wayne Davis, Montgomery, AL

Your wisdom will be revealed as well if you call **1-800-459-9401** and request information about the next Chosen People Ministries "See

Israel through Jewish Eyes" Tour. Your

host, Dr. Ben Alpert, will send you all the information you need to make one of the wisest decisions of your life: to walk where Messiah walked, seeing Israel through Jewish eyes.



### The Chosen People Newsletter

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

For more information or to receive *The Chosen People* newsletter, write to:

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