



Pray
for the
Peace of
Jerusalem...
in Jerusalem

**Tour Israel with Chosen People
Ministries**

**The
Chosen
People** 

Volume V, Issue 7 July 1999

Lessons in the *Power of Prayer*

Dear friend,

—Shalom! How important is prayer to Jewish evangelism? It is at the very heart and core of our outreach. I cannot emphasize enough the need to pray for the salvation of Jewish people.

I am writing to encourage you to pray for your Jewish friends and family who do not yet know the Lord—and never to give up praying for them!

Praying for Family

May I tell you a story of answered prayer? It all began one day with a phone call from my mother-in-law.

She was an Argentine Jewish immigrant; self-made, non-religious, but very Jewish! She was respectful of our faith in Jesus, but not at all interested. She did not think it was appropriate for Jewish people to believe in Jesus, but she loved us and treated us with loving kindness. She was a Jewish mother, after all!

She was also a wonderful mother-in-law. She always treated me like a son—all the more reason why this telephone call came as such a shock. She had just been to the doctor, and had been diagnosed with cancer of the liver. The doctor told her that she would not live more than six months. My first thought was, "But Lord, how can you let this happen? She is not a believer!"

What made this almost unbearable to us was that we had shared the news with her that our first child was on the way. We all wept over the telephone, and we began to pray even more intensely for her healing. Most of all, we prayed for her salvation.

God Helps us to Pray

I must admit, at first I did not pray with very much expectation. After all, we had witnessed to Mom for years, and she had not responded. I needed help! Zhava needed help! We felt so spiritually weak. It was all so overwhelming to us. We often need others to help us pray because we need to pray the most when we are at our weakest.

God gathered many friends around us—a team of intercessors to help us pray, empowering us by His Holy Spirit. This is one of





the great promises of Scripture (Romans 8:26). God will teach us, and help us to pray. In fact, often the best place to is to say, "Lord, help me to pray! I am too weak. I do not know how. Help me to begin!" Then ask a few friends to pray for you. He does not want us to carry the burden of prayer by ourselves.

We began praying for Zhava's mom, as the Lord gave us strength and brought others to help us.

Pray with Perseverance

We learned that the answers might not come as quickly as we wanted. We had prayed for Zhava's mom for years, but now the medical crisis made the matter of her salvation all the more urgent. Yet nothing seemed to happen. God was teaching us to persevere in prayer; to be "importunate," as Jesus teaches in the parable (Luke 18:1-8).

Over the months, we accepted the fact that God was in control, and that we were totally dependent upon Him. He answers prayer in His time, in His way and by His power. Nothing we do will cause Him to hurry.

We continued to pray...and to wait. Time marched on, and Mom grew more gravely ill. Yet, one day there came a glimmer of hope.

It was during a visit to her home. To my surprise, there was a messianic book on her coffee table. I asked her if she had read it, and she gave a quick and decisive, "No!" I knew that I had better leave this to God. Who was obviously answering our prayer. It seems she had seen a Gospel ad and sent away for the book!

Pray with Faith

A few weeks later, my mother-in-law called, barely able to speak. When I asked her what was wrong, she cut me off and asked, "How do you know when you have seen a vision?"

I was startled, but didn't want to show it! I said, "I am not sure, because I have never had one. Tell me what happened."

She had been sitting by her bedside, looking out her garden window. Suddenly, the window transformed into a giant television screen. She saw herself walking down the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, where she had not visited for twenty-five years! Then she saw a gaunt figure of a Man walking and carrying a crossbeam that appeared too heavy for Him. For a moment she helped Him carry it, but then realized that she could not bear its weight. The Man took the crossbeam back and continued walking. My mother-in-law knew that the Man was Jesus, and said to me, "I knew He was carrying that cross for me."

I responded not only as the missionary I have been for so many years, but also as the son-in-law who loved her. I asked if she was ready to receive Jesus as her Messiah. She said that she needed to think about it some more!

Two New Births

We kept praying. We passed the six-month mark, and she was still with us...waiting for that first grandchild to be born. Mom also had not yet come to faith.

Finally, our first daughter was born. I remember the moment I walked into Mom's bedroom. I handed our little daughter over to her and said, "As God has given us this new life, so He wants to give new life to you. Would you accept Jesus as your Messiah?"

She looked at me, with tears streaming from her eyes, and said, "I believe."

Zhava and I left our little daughter with Grandma, and went into the next room. Too stunned to weep, we stood overwhelmed by the Lord's grace and sovereign power.

Just a few days later, Mom died. We are comforted, knowing that she is with the Lord.

Pray for Us

In August, we will be sending you a prayer digest—a day-by-day prayer manual—so that you can begin praying for the events we have planned this fall in New York City for our "To the Jew First in the New Millennium" Conference.

Also, pray for our summer evangelism outreaches in New York City and in Israel. As you read this, our teams are sharing the Gospel each day in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. We have already begun our follow-up on those unbelievers who are responding to our STEP outreach in Manhattan. Pray that our efforts will bear true spiritual fruit in the salvation of many.

Most of all, pray for our staff. We are your mission to the Jewish people and we count on your prayers and support to continue our work. We love you, and thank you for making us part of your family.

Have a great summer!
Praying for you,

Mitch



HOW TO PRAY LIKE DANIEL

If ever there were a man who put his faith on the line when it counted, it was the prophet Daniel. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that Daniel was a man of prayer. His example encourages us, and the record of his prayer in the ninth chapter of the book that bears his name contains principles of prayer which, to this day, strike to the heart of what it means to intercede for the lost sheep of Israel.



"Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes."

(Daniel 9:3)

The first principle in learning to pray like Daniel is simply this: start praying. How often we neglect this basic step! When filled with anxiety, worry and fear, we frequently forget we have a mighty God we can turn to. But, even under the threat of death, Daniel remembered the promise of God and drew sustaining strength from it.



The second thing is to approach God with humility. We may hold a variety of views on fasting, and sackcloth and ashes are a little difficult to come by.

However, the important thing to remember is that these things were the outward signs that Daniel was serious and repentant. So must we be. Above all, we must recognize our own weakness and dependence upon the God Who has made us and called us into His presence.



"And I prayed to the LORD, my God, and made confession. . ."

(Daniel 9:4)

Next, we find that the confession of Daniel is twofold—first, it was a confession of God's greatness and goodness. Secondly, it was a declaration of Israel's failure to obey God. Isn't this Daniel, the man of God, speaking? Indeed, it is. But, Daniel recognizes that he does not stand only as an individual, but as part of the people who have sinned. In sharing their responsibility, Daniel gives voice to the national need as well as to his own personal need. Through his humble confession and heartfelt repentance, Daniel begins to intercede for his people in seeking the forgiveness and blessing of God.



"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

(Daniel 9:19)

Finally, Daniel teaches us to pray with a boldness born of trust in God's faithfulness. Daniel knew of God's love, and this knowledge enabled him to pray with confidence that God would indeed answer, and act.

That confidence can be ours also, as we seek the Lord, praise Him, confess our sins, and make intercession for the lost sheep of Israel, and all people everywhere.

Our God is the same God who answered Daniel's prayers. His faithfulness is un failing, for He is our unchanging Lord.

See

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-B.M.



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-B.P.



Chosen People Ministries

For a full color brochure and detailed itinerary write to:

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See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



MESSIAH (GREAT HIGH PRIEST)—GREATER THAN AARON (Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10)

Throughout history, the need for a priest to represent humanity before God is ever present. In Old Testament times, Israel had an elaborate priesthood. The High Priest was the counterpart of the monarch in terms of influence and dignity.

For this reason, it is no accident that the central theme of Hebrews is that of priesthood. However, the priests of Israel were but dim shadows of the One Great Priest of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10 spells out three distinct ways in which Messiah's priesthood excels that of Aaron, the High Priest of the tabernacle:

1. A PRIEST OF A HIGHER CALIBER (4:14-16)

Hebrews specifies the qualifications of the Messiah who serves as the priest of a "higher caliber."

a) Messiah ministers from a higher perspective. While Aaron ministered in the tabernacle, Jesus "passed through the heavens" (4:14) when He

ascended to the Father. Therefore, we have a High Priest that ministers from a higher vantage point.

- b) Because of His sinlessness, Messiah ministers with a holier nature (4:15). Unlike Aaron, it was unnecessary for Jesus to offer up sacrifices for His own sin.
- c) Messiah ministers to a full congregation (Heb. 5:9; 2:12). Aaron and his sons ministered only to the "house of Israel." In contrast, Jesus is High Priest to the complete body of Christ—"all who obey Him" (Heb. 5:9).

2. A PRIEST BY A GREATER MANDATE (5:1-6)

Old Testament priests were not self-appointed, but rather were chosen of

God. Only after God called Aaron as High Priest was he ordained and installed in office (Ex. 28). Even a king could not usurp the office of priest without severe consequences (2 Chron. 26:16-21). Two Old Testament quotations demonstrate that Messiah's priesthood was a greater mandate (Ps. 2:7; Ps. 110:4). God appointed His Son by directly addressing and ordaining Him to an EVERLASTING priesthood. Furthermore, the priesthood of Messiah was that of a HIGHER ORDER than that of Aaron (Heb. 5:6).

3. A PRIEST WITH A SUPERIOR SYMPATHY (4:15; 5:2)

- a) He identifies with us (Heb. 4:15). Only our High Priest, having entered into human life, can appreciate our problems and needs. He hungered, thirsted, became weary and was tempted in all areas without yielding to sin. Only Jesus identifies fully with us.
- b) He understands us (Heb. 5:2). Our High Priest understands human nature, not just academically, but experientially. Such a priest "can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray" (Heb. 5:2). Jesus, our High Priest, exhibits superior sympathy because "As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him" (Ps. 103:13).
- c) He intercedes for us (Heb. 7:25). While dying on the tree, Jesus prayed for unbelievers, "Father, forgive them . . ." (Lk. 23:34). Now, in heaven, our great High Priest "lives to make intercession" (Heb. 7:25) for every true believer.

Because Messiah's high priesthood far excels that of Aaron, we are invited to "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). ✨

NEWS BRIEFS

Finding Peace in the Messiah

Don Meecha writes from Los Angeles about Carol,* a young woman with whom he recently shared the Gospel. Like so many young people, Carol was troubled, confused and in search of peace in her life. After she attended a Passover Seder, she received Jesus as her Lord and Savior, and is now beginning to discover the real peace that only God can give. Please pray that Carol will continue to grow, as she is discipled by Don's wife, Jean.

Friendship Bears Fruit for the Kingdom

Chosen People Ministries' Ken Alpren recently presented "Messiah in the Passover" at a church's seniors' luncheon. When he concluded with an invitation for those present to place their trust in Jesus as their Passover Lamb Who sacrificed His life for our sins, a Jewish woman was among the seven that did so. Why did she come to the presentation in the first place? It seems that she had attended at the invitation of her nurse and friend, who is a Christian. She said, "I have no one else. She's my friend." This is a wonderful example of Romans 11:11, "I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles." Remember to pray for your Jewish friend when the clock says 11:11.

Tel-Aviv Concert Draws People to Messiah

Henry N., Chosen People Ministries worker in Israel, and some members of our congregation in Tel Aviv, recently gave an evangelistic concert. More than two hundred people listened to Christian and Jewish classical music for organ, piano and violin. They also heard testimonies, messianic poetry, and messianic songs. Not only were those in attendance uplifted by the music, but the seed of the Gospel was sown in their hearts. May there be a harvest for the Kingdom through this evangelistic effort in Israel.

Mazel Tov to Irving Salzman and Susan Galiley

Mazel Tov - congratulations - to Chosen People Ministries missionary Irving Salzman, who married his sweetheart, Susan Galiley, on June 20. Irving was raised in an Orthodox Jewish home and became a believer through the loving witness of a Gentile friend. Susan is a fourth-generation Jewish believer in Jesus, whose testimony was featured in our evangelistic booklet, "Is It Reasonable to be Jewish and Believe in Jesus?" Irving and Susan will be moving to Irving's home town of Montreal, Canada, where his family still resides, to work with Chosen People Ministries there. Pray for Irving and Susan as they begin to minister among the Jewish people of Montreal.



* not her real name

PRAYER ALERT!!

STEP: June 16-July 10

eXperience Israel Tour: July 11-24

Want to encourage one of our summer evangelists? Write a note on the enclosed card and we will see that they get it!

To the Jew First in the New Millennium A Conference on Jewish Evangelism

There's still time to register for the "To the Jew First in the New Millennium" Conference in New York City, September 23-25. Call for information:

1-888-2-YESHUA

Special events during the conference:

Businesspersons' Breakfast

Friday, September 24 • 7:30-8:45AM

Jay Sekulow

Chief Counsel, American Center for Law & Justice

Friday Evening Banquet

Friday, September 24 • 6:00-9:00PM

Rev. David Epstein
Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church

Pastors' Breakfast

Saturday, September 25 • 7:30-8:45AM

Walter Kaiser • Richard Pratt • Darrell Bock

Women's Luncheon

Saturday, September 25 • 12:30-1:45PM

Edith Schaeffer

The Feast of Tabernacles

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"Please remember Chosen People
Ministries in your will.
I will bless those who bless you!"
(Genesis 12:1)

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