

**The
Chosen
People**



Mazel Tov
It's a boy!

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given and the government will be upon
His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*



The Miracle of Messiah's Birth

Dear Friend,

Should I regularly enjoy the season of the year because it allows me to reflect on the birth of our Messiah, Jesus?

Of course, this might be a little easier for me than for some, as one of my daughters was born on Christmas Day! Can you imagine—a Jewish Christmas baby?

I am glad that in the last few decades it has become more common for fathers to be involved in the event. But still, when it comes to fathers and our expectant, newborn, hospitalized and sickening Messiah's songs with my wife as the connection between Jesus' presence and fatherhood.

The birth event is high joyous, filled with a mother's pain, the biological reality of women

and doctors, and overwhelmed by the anxiety of an absent biological father.

If a mother could talk, I think her first words would be, "Thank you." Rather, I imagine she would yell, "Somebody turn off the lights, run the bath and get me something to eat... HIGGIE! HIGGIE!" And I still cannot understand why most fathers are not happy unless the baby has a head seal indicating that his lungs are operational. What a waste!

But when the baby is brought in her mother's breast for the first time, there is a holy radiance that pervades the scene—the energy for the moment which cannot continue to occur in the presence of a newborn. Yes, even the language of birth cannot reach the miracle which takes place each time a child is born.

Unto Us a Child is Given

Joseph and Mary felt what any other parents would as they anticipated the birth of their first child. Yet there was more to it than that. At first, the miraculous nature of Mary's pregnancy almost destroyed her future marriage. Then, the hatred of Herod almost cost them their lives. But Joseph, understanding the nature of the child to be born, provided protection for Mary and her son. And God Himself protected them all.

Perhaps Joseph also understood that the waiting period for this child stretched back far more than nine months. The Jewish people had been waiting thousands of years for the arrival of this child:

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

The prophets of Israel predicted that a Messiah would be born of a Jewish virgin (Isaiah 7:14) and that He would redeem His people from bondage.

The Jewish people were not strangers to the suffering of birth pangs. Their labor pains were the slavery, persecution and dispersion that had prepared God's Chosen People for the birth of One who would be the joy of all the nations—and of His people Israel.

I also wonder what Mary and Joseph expected. Mary clearly understood the words of the angel Gabriel, and Joseph knew that the child would be the long-awaited Messiah. Yet, I wonder what they anticipated the birth of the expected Messiah to be like.

Perhaps they thought choirs of angels would accompany the Son of God's entrance into the world,

and that the Shekinah glory would fill the manger as it did the ancient Temple. Maybe Mary simply imagined a painless birth? After all, she was giving birth to the Messiah!

But what really happened? Did Mary go through labor—just like my wife and every other mother who ever gave birth? She certainly did.

Did Joseph do what he could to alleviate her pain, and yet feel as useless as any other human father who ever lived? I am sure the answer is yes.

Was the baby born with a cord that needed to be severed? Did He need to be cleaned and kept warm after His ordeal? Of course.

An Ordinary Birth—An Extraordinary Child

You see, I believe the birth of Jesus was just that...a normal birth.

And part of the greatness of this birth was its very ordinariness.

I don't think I would have seen anything very different than what I witnessed at the birth of my own children.

Except that the face of the infant, glowing in the light of the star, was the face of God Himself.

The miracle of Christmas is this: God sent His only Son in the most ordinary of ways, born of a Jewish woman, to die for the sins of Jew and Gentile.

After all, the miracle of the Savior's birth was not so much in the way it happened, but in the nature and character of the person who was born. That child was, is, and ever shall be the hope of Israel and the desire of nations—the Son of God and Savior of the world. He is the reason for the season—the Way—the Truth and the Life.

In every way, from birth to the grave, the Savior would be able to identify with you and me (Hebrews 2:17-18).

New Birth through the Messiah

A few weeks ago, I heard the testimony of a retired pastor whose mother became a believer in Jesus through the witness of our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn.

His story reminded me of what happened the day after the "To the Jew First in the New Millennium" conference. I received e-mail from a friend, who wrote to tell me how much he enjoyed the conference. He added that he was especially moved to meet a Jewish woman who sat in front of him and his wife at the concert on the last evening of the event. This woman, whom I later learned was suffering with cancer, was brought there by her two daughters. That evening, she received Jesus as her Messiah.

This made the whole event worth it. And she is just one of hundreds of Jews and Gentiles who have come to know the Lord through Chosen People Ministries this year.

She brings to mind the thousands upon thousands of Jews and Gentiles who received the gift of eternal life through our workers throughout the century. It has been a fruitful year—and a fruitful century—for your mission to the Jews.

I hope you will enjoy this last newsletter of the millennium. Come January 1st, 2000, Chosen People Ministries will continue to do what we have done for more than a hundred years—we will go on proclaiming the message of the Gospel to the Jewish people.

We could not have continued this ministry without you and our other faithful friends and supporters. Thank you, and may His joy fill your home this holiday season!

Your brother in
the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Glad Tidings

from All Sides

By Dr. Daniel Goldberg



Good News from the Garden

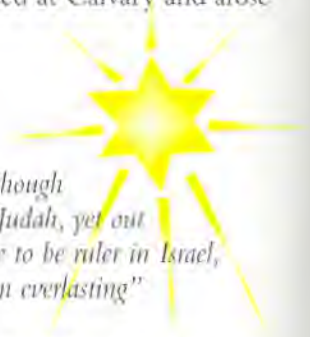


The Garden of Eden was the setting for earth's greatest tragedy, because Adam's rebellion brought sin to the earth (Romans 5:12). As a result, humankind learned a new vocabulary, including words such as death, curse, sorrow, sweat and sword (Genesis 2:17; 3:17-24). To say it was not our finest hour is putting it lightly!

Nevertheless, the GOOD NEWS came from this same garden: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." This Genesis 3:15 promise is the "mother prophecy" of all Messianic prophecies.

God extends three promises in this "first Gospel" from the garden. There is the promise of a great, age-long conflict. It began between Satan and the woman, and would grow into a perpetual warfare between Satan's seed (evildoers) and Messiah's seed (redeemed ones). But the Good News also promises a Conqueror—the "Seed of the woman." He is the Messiah Himself. Promised from the beginning, He will one day appear as the ultimate victor over the satanic serpent. Best of all, we are promised a conquest in which the Messiah strikes the mortal blow, bruising the serpent's head. Christ fulfilled this precious promise when He died at Calvary and arose the victor over death.

Good News from Bethlehem



"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

While following the star of the East, the wise men sought counsel from King Herod. Where would be the

Anyone who thinks that the Bible says God has abandoned His creation ought to look again. From the very first, God has taken steps to bring healing and reconciliation to His precious handiwork. The holiday season is an especially fitting time to take a "tour" of God's redeeming work, as it is revealed in the Scripture.

place for the birth of the Messianic King? Without hesitation, the chief priests and teachers of the law pointed to Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1ff; Micah 5:2).

Although small in size, this town would assume an importance far greater than the largest of cities. When God chose to enter our sinful world as a baby, it was the town of Bethlehem where Messiah was cradled in the hay. Finally, the Good News culminates in the shepherd-like authority of Bethlehem's Messiah: "And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD..." (Micah 5:4). This Shepherd will provide perfect security for His sheep (Micah 5:4, 5).

Micah's good news begins at Bethlehem and culminates in the peaceful rule of Christ in the Messianic era.



the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20), and will bring peace to the earth at His return (Isaiah 9:7).

Good News from God's Throne

In Daniel 7:9-10, we are ushered into the very throne room of God, where we view the Bible's only description of God the Father. There, the Ancient of Days sits upon His fiery throne. White garments portray His absolute righteousness, and hair "like pure wool" underscores His deathless nature.

Then the scene changes and Daniel testifies, "I was watching in the night visions, and, behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him..." (Daniel 7:13, 14).

Who is this "One like the Son of Man?" He is certainly a specific individual, for all the nations will serve Him (Daniel 7:14, 27). Daniel viewed the "One like the Son of Man" coming with the clouds of heaven to the Ancient of Days.

As we turn to Messiah's ascension in the presence of His apostles we read, "...He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9). Now, we find that the Messiah is the "Son of Man"—vested with the authority of God's kingdom, and everlasting dominion is bestowed upon Him (Daniel 7:14; Psalm 110:1; Revelation 1:17-18).



Good News from the Prince of Prophets

According to Jewish tradition, Isaiah was of royal blood and noble descent. While Micah foretold the village birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied His virgin birth. Seven hundred years before Messiah was born, Isaiah declared to King Ahaz and the house of David, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

The virgin birth of Messiah is good news for many reasons. First of all, Messiah came as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). As the Passover lamb was without blemish (Exodus 12:5), the virgin-born Messiah did not inherit the corruption that Adam had passed down to his posterity (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Moreover, Isaiah reveals the two natures of the Messiah, united in one person. "A child is born" reflects Messiah's perfect humanity, and "a Son is given" represents His absolute divinity (Isaiah 9:6, 7). Isaiah's prophecy gives Him titles that no man could ever own. He is "Wonderful." He is the supreme "Counselor." He is the "Everlasting Father."

Yet it is perhaps as "Prince of Peace" that He touches our lives with greatest meaning. He "made peace through

Glad Tidings Abound

And so, our little "tour" of God's promise and provision for our sinful world concludes. It has brought us from humanity's tragedy to God's triumph; from the humble nativity of our Lord in Bethlehem to His unveiled authority in the Messianic Kingdom.

Glad tidings abound to everyone who will come to worship the virgin-born Jewish Messiah of Bethlehem. And as sure as He fulfilled the prophecies related to the First Coming, so He will fulfill those pointing to His coming again.

Take heart—and keep looking up! ✨

Hanukkah— the Lights that Overcome the Darkness

The dancing flames atop the brightly colored candles are a sight that has brought joy to the hearts of countless Jewish people for hundreds of years. It's Hanukkah—the Festival of Lights. For eight days, starting on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev (December 3-11 this year), a light is added until there are eight candles standing proudly side by side. They stand for the great victory the Jewish people achieved in 164 BC



over the armies of our oppressors. But more than that, they stand for the miracle of God's faithfulness to His Chosen People, and the power of the Light of the world to overcome the forces of darkness.

Persecution—and the Spark of Hope

For centuries, Israel had been a conquered nation—occupied by a succession of world powers. After the death of Alexander the Great, Israel eventually came to be ruled by the descendant of one of Alexander's generals, Antiochus IV. Like many other ungodly despots, Antiochus showed an implacable hatred for the Jewish people. He imposed the death sentence for circumcision and Sabbath observance, and forbade the reading of the Law. He even desecrated the temple, and carried out pagan sacrifices there. Israel had come to one of the lowest points in its history.



In the town of Modiin there lived a priestly family headed by an old man named Mattathias. Mattathias struck a blow for freedom that was the beginning of a guerrilla war led by his son Judas, surnamed Maccabeus—the Hammer! The might of the Maccabees' righteous wrath fell like a hammer again and again until the far better equipped, better trained armies of Antiochus IV were beaten. The recapture of Jerusalem and the cleansing and rededication of the Temple was the high point.

Hanukkah Celebration— A Miracle of Light

The Maccabees knew to whom the victory belonged. It was the God of Israel who had strengthened their hands with the might to beat their enemies. Their first act was to rededicate the Temple that had been so wickedly desecrated by the despised Antiochus. But, legend tells us, soldiers found only enough sacramental oil to light the "Eternal

Light" for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for the eight days necessary to get more.

A beautiful tradition? Certainly. Is it true? We do not know. Yet it serves as a reminder to Jews and Gentiles that God is faithful and desires to light our lives with His presence.

Like most other Jewish festivals, Hanukkah is family oriented. A precious sense of togetherness is reinforced as families light the menorah. Each night, the *shammas*, the "servant" candle in the middle, lights the others and the blessings are said.



Sometimes menorahs are passed down through the generations, and some have stories almost as colorful as

those of the people who have carried them all over the world.

Jesus the Messiah—the Light of the World

The candles of the menorah also remind us that the Light of God dispels the darkness of every evil force. It was this same Eternal Light that Jesus the Messiah spoke of when He said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). If we will receive Him, that same light will come into our lives, and kindle in us the brightly burning presence of God's love, power and peace.



NEWS BRIEFS

1999 This Year's Highlights

Here is a brief summary of some of the highlights of Chosen People Ministries throughout the world. We wish we had more space, because there is so much more to tell!

South America—A Field Ripe For Harvest

Chosen People Ministries' work in South America recently held its fifteenth international prophetic conference, "Vision of Israel in the New Millennium" in Santiago, Chile. Two hundred and fifty people from all over South America came to share their burden for Israel. The emphasis of the program was on pooling strategies and information for reaching the almost one million Spanish-speaking Jewish people. The Sunday service attracted over 500, including many visitors, with several decisions for the Lord. Please pray that the fruit from this conference will be a greater emphasis on Jewish evangelism, and that more workers will be raised up to reap a large harvest among the sizeable population of Jewish people in South America.

Israel—Growing God's Vineyard

Chosen People Ministries continues to cultivate God's vineyard in the land of Israel in creative and effective ways. Despite opposition, our work in Tel Aviv is thriving, and

is planning to expand to Ariel, a town on the West Bank. Our tours of the holy and historical sites in Jerusalem and Joppa for Russian Jewish immigrants continue to attract visitors—some of whom later visit our Bible studies and worship services.

Also, the eXperience Israel trip Chosen People Ministries sponsored from July 14-26, 1999, gave 29 young people the opportunity of a lifetime to share the Gospel and experience the wonders of the land of Israel. It went so well that we're planning to do it again this coming year. The dates are July 15-29, 2000.

Canada—Media Campaign Sparks Controversy

1999 was not without its controversial moments. In Toronto, the "Is It Reasonable to be Jewish and Believe in



Jesus?" ad campaign, which appeared in several newspapers throughout the United States and Canada, drew so much attention that Larry Rich, our Canadian director, was invited to speak on four different radio shows and a televised debate. For the television show, Larry and a co-worker were paired against two leaders from Jews for Judaism. During the one-hour show, Larry and Gideon were able to present our position and the truth of the Gospel. The program, "Michael Coren Live," was viewed by about 100,000 people.

New York City—A Hub of Activity

1999 has been a year for expanding the presence of Chosen People Ministries in the New York area. We distributed 100,000 pieces of literature during the Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP), and made contact with dozens of Jewish people wanting to know more about Jesus. Also, the "To the Jew First in the New Millennium" was highly successful, and we continue to hear of lives that were touched. One Jewish woman received the Lord at the evangelistic "Feast of Tabernacles" concert that was held on the last night, and many other visitors have expressed interest in our message. The day after the conference, we had a dedication service for our new International Executive Headquarters on East 51st Street—just around the corner from the United Nations.

Outreach in Germany Continues to Grow

There has been a "bountiful harvest" of souls in Chosen People Ministries' outreach in Germany. Earlier in the year, 18 people were baptized at one service. Many new workers have been recruited, resulting in more evangelism throughout Germany. Plans are under way for a new center in the city of Dusseldorf. The Chosen People Ministries workers in Germany will play an integral part in planning and leading EuroSTEP 2000, an exciting new extension of our Summer Training and Evangelism Program.



SIMCHA 2000

Celebrate Messiah's Joy



SIMCHA means joy—and what greater joy could you ask for than fresh air, great fellowship, and great teaching at our annual Chosen People Ministries Messianic Retreat? It's all happening this May 25-28 at scenic Schroon Lake, New York,

in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains. Our featured speaker will be Scott Brown, leader of Son of David Messianic Congregation in Rockville, Maryland. You won't want to miss this gathering of Jewish believers. Circle those dates, and sign up now!

**May
25-28,
2000**



Looking to the New Millennium

To the Jew First Audio Tape Set



audio tapes of the sessions. Don't start your new millennium without them.

If you were unable to attend the conference in New York City, you can still be edified, encouraged and challenged by the wide range of teachers and topics presented at this historic event in Jewish evangelism. Chosen People Ministries is now able to offer audio

Book 3069 **\$64.95 US**

Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond

Are these the last days? Could Jesus return at any time to establish His reign on earth? Three predominant views held by evangelicals seek to answer these questions: premillennial, postmillennial and amillennial. Dr. Darrell Bock, a Jewish believer in Jesus and professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, lets you compare and contrast three important viewpoints to understand better how Christianity's great hope, the return of Jesus, is understood by the church.



Book 3069 **\$16.95 US**

Making the Most of Your Year-End Giving



It's the season to give—to the people and ministries God has placed on your heart. We hope you will remember your mission to the Jewish people at this time: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek"* (Romans 1:16).

If you'd like to make a special end-of-year gift to Chosen People Ministries, an excellent way to do it would be through stock transfers.

What are the advantages? For one thing, a stock transfer is tax deductible. That is, you can deduct the full current market value of the stock you are giving from your taxes.

Also, a stock transfer is tax free. It's a way of insuring that all of your gift will go to support Chosen People Ministries. You pay no capital gains tax on this gift.

Finally, this is the last opportunity for your charitable giving to be applied to your 1999 taxes.

So, now would be the ideal time to make such a gift.

We at Chosen People Ministries sincerely wish you a blessed holiday season.



The Chosen People Newsletter

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

The Chosen People Newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries. Editor: Zhava Glaser. Staff Writer: Alan Shore. Design: Lois Cable.

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

Visit us on the web at www.chosenpeople.com