

The  
Chosen  
People

Volume VII, Issue 9 September 2001

# The High Holidays

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# The ☆ High ☆ Holy ☆ Days

## New Year - New Life

Dear friends,

Shalom from New York City! The crisp cool air of the new season tells me that summer is indeed over and that autumn is upon us. You can just sense it! The kids are back to school, wardrobes have changed and the anticipation of new things is in the air.

The change of seasons brings with it an added dimension: the High Holidays—beginning with *Rosh Hashanah*, the New Year, and concluding with *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement.

This is the time when Messianic Jews and Gentile believers who understand and appreciate their Jewish heritage in Jesus think about the dramatic and wonderful ways that He has fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures.

During this season of the year, Jewish people do good deeds, fast and pray in order to achieve forgiveness from sin.

But it simply does not work. God has never linked forgiveness to moral performance. God knew that man could not do enough good deeds to merit salvation and so He provided a path into His presence through the blood of the Day of Atonement sacrifice.

This is best described in 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."*

This passage was fulfilled by the once-for-all sacrifice of our Messiah Jesus.

The path to forgiveness is the way of the Cross. He is our once-for-all Atonement.

Immediately before He died, Jesus cried out, "It is finished," a phrase commonly used during the New Testament times as a way of declaring that one's debts were paid (John 19:30). He paid for our sin by His sacrifice—once and for all!

This was brought home to me when I was handing out Gospel tracts on a campus in New Jersey just after the Day of Atonement. The leader of an Orthodox Jewish group on campus noticed me and began handing out anti-missionary literature. Every time I gave a Gospel tract to someone whom he thought was Jewish, he would stop them and tell them not to read it.

Fortunately, this only made the students more curious and they continued to read my literature. Soon, Baruch and I began a conversation about the Holidays.

I asked, "Do you know if God accepted your repentance and if you are going to have a good year?"

He looked at me and said, "How could anybody know?"

I then asked him, rather bluntly, a question that I do not often ask so directly to Orthodox Jews: "If you were to die today, where would you go?"

He looked at me and said, "No one can know if their sins are going to be forgiven."

"Besides," he added, "even if I knew that God had forgiven me for this year, I would have to start the process all over again next year."

"Mitch," he said very sincerely, "the important thing is that we do good deeds and practice repentance every day because we can never know where we stand with God until we meet Him face to face after we die."

I looked at Baruch and said, "Thank you, Baruch. You've just reminded me why believing in Yeshua is so wonderful and why I am filled with joy this holiday season."

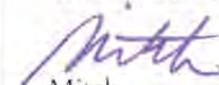
He stared at me with an inquisitive look and I explained, "Baruch, when Yeshua (Jesus) died, he said, 'It is finished.' He died once for all of us, and it's through His sacrifice that we can know for certain that our sins are forgiven."

Baruch replied, "Mitch, you make it seem so simple."

Please pray for Baruch and many other Jews and Gentiles who will be touched by Chosen People Ministries' High Holiday services and outreaches this year. My prayer is that Jewish people around the world will start this New Year with new life in the Messiah Jesus.

Thanks for your friendship, prayers and generous support.

Yours in Him,

  
Mitch



Mitch Glaser  
President

# Happy New Year



People everywhere celebrate the New Year. The Chinese set off firecrackers. We in North America throw confetti and wear funny hats. The Jewish New Year, though, is more sober. *Rosh Hashanah*, the New Year, is observed in ways that are deeply connected with ancient Jewish faith and practice. Believers in Messiah understand that the themes of repentance, renewal and hope stressed at Rosh Hashanah point to Jesus as their fulfillment.

## A Time of Repentance

One of the most striking practices of Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the *shofar* (ram's horn). The notes that are sounded through this ancient musical instrument serve as a reminder of our shortcomings and our need for forgiveness. The blowing of the shofar signals the beginning of the "Ten Days of Awe," which culminate with the observance of *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement. During this time of reflection, the Jewish people seek reconciliation with God and with those whom they have wronged in the previous year.

## A Time of Renewal

A New Year's celebration anywhere is a time for renewal. We make lists of resolutions to lose weight, exercise and otherwise improve our lives. While the Jewish people do not necessarily make lists, they approach the beginning of the New Year as a time of new beginnings. One important ritual, known as *Tashlich* (casting away), involves filling the pockets with bread crumbs, taking them to a stream and throwing them into the

water. This symbolizes the decision to "cast away" sin and start life afresh.

## A Time of Hope

Another Rosh Hashanah custom is to eat apples and honey. This serves as a tasty way to express hope that the New Year will bring prosperity and peace. Rosh Hashanah is believed to be the time when God's "Book of Life" is opened and the names of those who are repentant enough, who pray enough and who do enough good works will be inscribed there. Thus, the traditional New Year's greeting, "Leshanah tovah tikatevu" (May you be inscribed for a good year) is given in hope that God's favor will rest upon those who receive it.



## The True Source of Peace

Repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation are worthy goals. Unfortunately, no amount of human effort can achieve the peace we long for and need. Only the sacrifice of our Messiah and His triumph over death can deliver us from the just judgment of God. As the Scriptures remind us, "He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Hebrews 9:26).



*It's a tradition on Rosh Hashanah to eat sweet foods as we wish each other a New Year filled with sweetness and happiness. Here is a recipe for a traditional Jewish dish, kugel, which is made especially sweet for Rosh Hashanah.*

## Rosh Hashanah Kugel

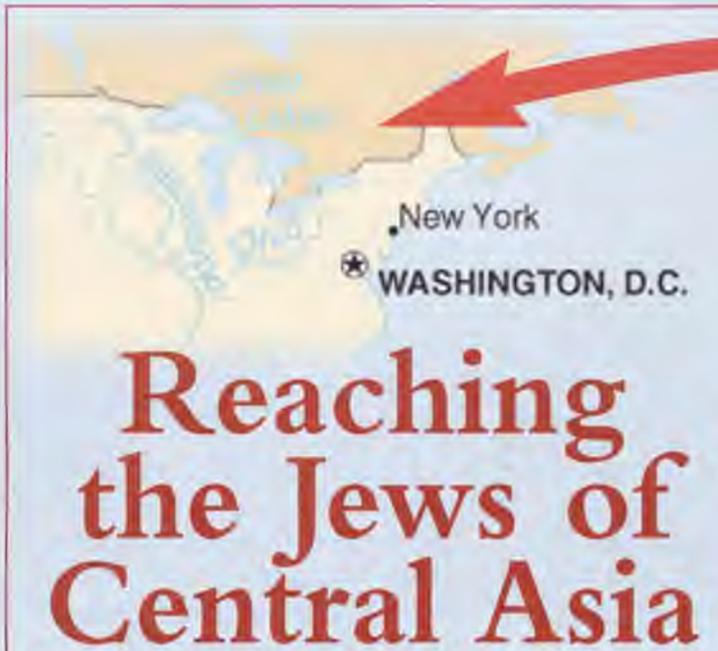
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 apples, peeled and chopped
- 1 large can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup almonds, finely chopped
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 lb. egg noodles (medium wide)
- 1 stick butter or margarine, cubed
- 1 egg, beaten slightly
- honey, to drizzle

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a large bowl, combine the sugar, chopped apples, drained pineapple, raisins, finely chopped almonds, cinnamon and vanilla.

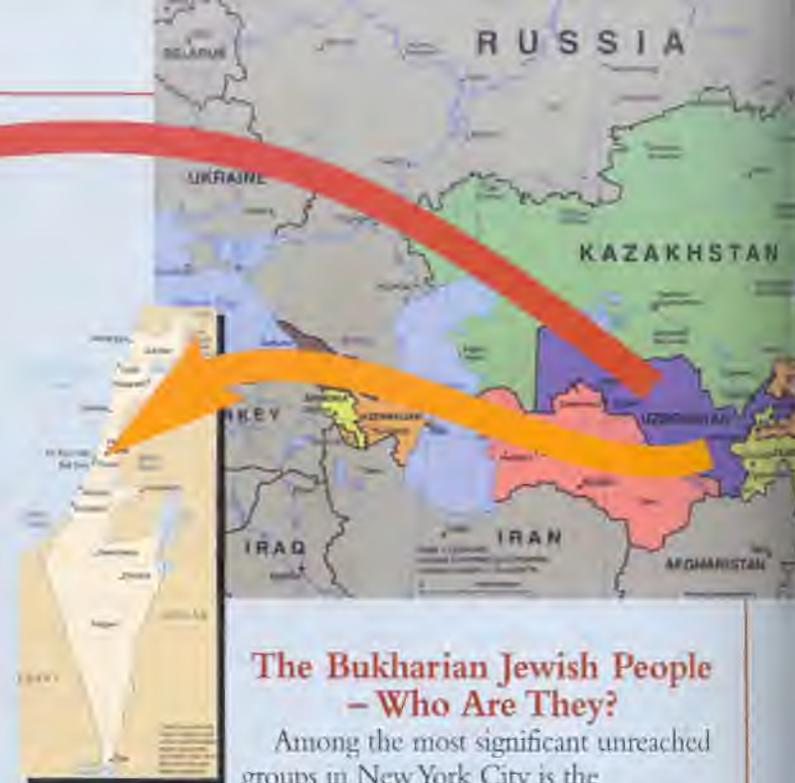
Cook and drain the noodles and add the butter or margarine while they are still hot. Mix with the egg and the sugar and apple mixture.

Pour into a greased 9"x13" pan, dot with butter and bake for one hour at 350°. Now comes the hard part: you can't eat it just yet! You have to give it a day in the refrigerator to relax, or it will completely fall apart. After you've waited patiently, drizzle a little honey on top. You can serve the kugel hot or cold (it reheats very nicely in the microwave or oven).

Enjoy!



# Reaching the Jews of Central Asia



## The New Jewish Immigrants

North America has always attracted Jewish immigrants. But while the Jewish people who came in the early years of the 20th century often worked from pushcarts, those in the 21st century are far more likely to sport laptops. Yet the same freshness of spirit is

evident in the growing populations of Bukharian Jewish people and Israelis who are arriving on our shores.

Something else that has not changed is Chosen People Ministries' commitment to share the Gospel with our newest groups of Jewish immigrants.

## The Bukharian Jewish People – Who Are They?

Among the most significant unreached groups in New York City is the Bukharian Jewish community. Bukharia, a city in Uzbekistan, has had a close-knit Jewish community since the tenth century. They tend to hold onto their identity regardless of where they settle.

Bukharian Jews began to come to New York City about ten years ago and settled mainly in the borough of Queens. Today, there are between fifty and sixty thousand Bukharian Jews in Queens, with about five



## Neriya A. – Preaching to the House of Israel

Indoctrinated by the Communist-run school system, Neriya believed that God did not exist.

However, Neriya's life changed when he and his parents immigrated to Israel in 1990. There, he met a Russian man who befriended him and told him about Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. Soon, Neriya began to hunger for the higher things of God.

Although raised in a traditional Bukharian Jewish family in the former Soviet Union, Neriya A.'s beliefs were more a product of Communism than Judaism.

## Faith and Vision

Neriya began reading the Bible and attending a Messianic congregation in Israel that was planted by Chosen People Ministries. Through this outreach, he came to understand that Jesus is truly the Messiah of Israel. After a few months, Neriya came to faith in the Lord. Shortly after that, he began attending a Bible college in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Neriya was then invited by Chosen People Ministries to continue his training in the United States. From 1998 until the summer of 2001, Neriya attended Philadelphia Biblical University.

Neriya's vision has always been to bring the Gospel to the people of Israel. He is now in the process of completing his studies. He also recently participated in the Chosen People Ministries "eXperience Israel" mission tour. Neriya is excited about his future ministry as a Chosen People Ministries worker in Israel. He has a broken heart and burden for his fellow Bukharian Jews and for Israelis.



thousand more in Brooklyn. As a general rule, they are bright, motivated and successful, with a strong emphasis on religious observance.

Chosen People Ministries missionary Boris Goldin is beginning to establish an evangelistic outreach into the Bukharian Jewish community. He describes the progress so far: "Some of them are looking beyond their traditions. We have been distributing Bibles, books and tracts, and people are beginning to know who we are. It is a start. With Luda G. and Neriyah A.—who are Bukharian—on staff, we shall be doing more."

### Israelis in New York City

Immigration patterns ebb and flow. Difficulties in Israel and other factors have created a significant population of Israelis living in New York City. Unlike the Bukharians, they do not tend to cluster together, perhaps because of Israel's already strong tie to the United States and their greater mastery of English.

Chosen People Ministries staff member Luda G. and volunteer Doug P. are both fluent Hebrew speakers who are working with the growing Israeli population. Luda says, "Even as a Bukharian, I really consider Israel to be my home. When I learned there are over 100,000 Israelis in New York, I felt drawn to minister to them. Also, the Israelis are open to the Gospel and this strengthens my motivation."

Doug concurs: "On any given day, you can hear Hebrew being spoken on the streets of Manhattan. One day not long ago, I gave away three books in Hebrew to three different Israelis before I even reached the office. The field is wide open for witnessing to Israelis. I'm praying for a Bible study in Hebrew, taught by a believing Israeli in the New York City area. The sooner it begins, the better!"

### A New Chapter in History

The 21st century abounds with new opportunities to bring the Gospel to all Jewish people. And it doesn't hurt to know that not only are we called to go to where they are, but God is actually bringing the different Jewish communities of the world to us!

**B**elief in Messiah and a desire to minister to the Jewish people go hand in hand. Just ask Luda G., a Messianic Jew and staff member with Chosen People Ministries now working among the growing population of Jewish immigrants who are finding a home in New York City.

Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Luda was raised with the awareness that being Jewish made her somehow different from other people. After training as a midwife and nurse, she left Russia in 1979 when a relaxation of immigration policy in the Soviet bloc allowed thousands of Jewish people to depart.

### A New Home and a New Life

Luda's departure from Uzbekistan opened new worlds to her in more ways than one. After settling in New Zealand, Luda studied English with a woman who used the Bible as a teaching tool. Soon, she was not only reading the words, but her heart was responding to their meaning. In 1982, she became a believer. Luda's awakening to faith in Messiah was accompanied by a deepened appreciation for her own Jewish identity. She also began to sense a calling from God to go to Israel. Seven years later, that vision came to pass.

After several years working in Israel, Luda decided to pursue Jewish studies at Moody Bible Institute in the United States. At Moody, she sensed God's call to work



with Chosen People Ministries and joined the staff. Now a Moody graduate, Luda resides in New York City, where she is ministering with Chosen People Ministries in the most populous Jewish community in the world.

### Luda G. – Called to Minister

God is using Luda's unique background and language skills as she reaches the thousands of Bukharian Jewish immigrants living in the borough of Queens. She is also sharing the Gospel among the more than 100,000 Israelis now living in New York City. She has an extraordinary opportunity to witness to Israelis without some of the difficulties Michael Z. and our workers in Israel face each day. Luda hopes to return to Israel in the near future to be part of our Israel team.

# See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



## NAHUM, NINEVEH AND THE NATURE OF GOD

If Paul Harvey were alive in Bible times, he might well have called the Book of the prophet Nahum, “The Rest of the Story.” About one hundred and fifty years after Jonah urged the city of Nineveh to repent, Nahum proclaimed its downfall.

Nineveh was destroyed by the Babylonians in 612 BC. Nahum’s prophecy was probably composed between the downfall of Thebes in 663 BC (Nahum 3:8-10) and Nineveh’s fall in 612 BC. The three chapters of the Book of Nahum neatly unfold Nineveh’s doom: it is declared in chapter one, described in chapter two and deserved in chapter three.

The Book of Nahum stresses the divine nature and character of God in three ways.

### *The Wrath of God*

Nahum describes God’s jealous vengeance—“*God is jealous and the LORD avenges; the LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies*” (Nahum 1:2).

The absolute righteousness of God demands Nineveh’s destruction. God will not tolerate any rival to the love and trust He requires from humankind. While the vengeance of man comes from human imperfection, God’s vengeance is meted out according to His perfect justice. Though wrath is unarguably an attribute of the Lord’s nature, He controls His divine anger. In the context of the Book of Nahum, it is directed against an ungodly nation.

### *God’s Merciful Patience*

Wrath is by no means the only response God has to our disobedience. “*The LORD is slow to anger...*” (Nahum 1:3). God delays His wrath against sin and sinners to

grant time for repentance (see 2 Peter 3:9). Still, not all sinners take advantage of this reprieve.

Over one whole generation had passed since Nineveh had returned to her former waywardness. Still the Lord delayed His wrath. But because Nineveh still failed to heed the will of God, the merciful delay of the stroke of His judgment now made His vengeance all the more certain and imminent.

### *God’s Unlimited Power*

“*The LORD is . . . great in power . . . The LORD has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm . . . He rebukes the sea and makes it dry . . . the mountains quake before Him, the hills melt...*” (Nahum 1:3-5).

What natural force can compare to the supernatural power of God? The thundering tornado, the angry storm, the terrifying earthquake—all testify to the unlimited power of God Almighty. Nature has a score of ways to remind us of our human limitations and God’s limitless strength.

### *God’s Judgment and Mercy in Messiah Jesus*

Even as God’s just judgment falls upon the nations, it will also fall upon individuals. God has set aside a Day of Judgment in which Messiah Jesus will be the righteous Judge (John 5:22). But the Judge is Himself the Savior. That is the Good News to all who will repent and obey: “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus . . .*” (Romans 8:1). That word of hope has sustained believers for centuries. May it sustain us also as we await His return. ✨

***Taking the "Leap of Faith"***

Mark,\* a man to whom Chosen People Ministries staff worker Don Meecha had been witnessing for over two years, had many questions when a Jewish woman accepted the Lord at their messianic congregation. Two weeks later, Mark said he too was ready to "take that leap of faith!" After Don prayed with him, Mark announced to the entire group that he believed that Jesus is the Messiah.

Everyone surrounded him and welcomed him into the family of God.



Don Meecha

***Salvation During STEP***

Salvation stories are still coming from Chosen People Ministries' STEP program this summer. One day, Darryl W., a member of the STEP team, went out to Times Square. He began a conversation with a security guard and immediately started sharing the Gospel with him. The man was very receptive and amid the hustle and noise of the city street, they were able to focus on what it takes to be in right standing with God. Darryl asked him if he'd like to receive the Lord. They found a quiet spot and prayed for his salvation.

***Israeli Man in Brooklyn Comes to Faith***

Members of TeenSTEP went to the Jewish section of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, where one of the teams stopped to talk with an Israeli named Reuben.\* They shared about Yeshua and God's gift of eternal life. Reuben eagerly received Hebrew and Yiddish books about the Messiah. Not long after, Chosen People Ministries staff members Jay and Lauren Bockisch met with Reuben again. When Lauren asked Reuben if he was ready to accept Yeshua as his Messiah, he said, "Yes!" After they prayed, Reuben was smiling from ear to ear and his face was shining with happiness.

***"Count It All Joy!"***

Chosen People Ministries Israel staff members Michael Z. and Leonid B. recently organized a trip to the Jordan River for the purpose of baptizing three new believers. About seventy people took part in this wonderful time of fellowship and worship, but it was not accomplished without difficulty.

At the start of the trip, about thirty Orthodox Jewish protesters tried to disrupt the group by offering the bus driver money not to take them and issuing threats.

Only after the police were called was the bus able to depart in peace. Leonid later quoted James 1:2-3—*"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."*



The Jordan River in Israel

***"Children's Joy" in Messiah***

About 100 campers and staff attended Chosen People Ministries' Camp Simchat Yeladim (Children's Joy) in Pennsylvania this summer. It was an exciting week of evangelism and camping fun. One morning, there were five decisions to follow the Lord.

One of those who came to faith at camp was Peter,\* the 14-year-old son of Jewish believers. Peter, who was not a believer, had only reluctantly decided to attend and resented feeling pressured. However, his cabin counselor, Eddie, took the right approach. He gently encouraged Peter to ask questions and to pray. Within the week, Peter made the decision to put his faith in Jesus!



\*names have been changed

# Learn More About the Jewish High Holy Days

## Shofar from the Land of Israel

The piercing notes of the *Shofar* (Ram's Horn) have echoed through centuries of Jewish High Holy Day observances. The shofar calls us to prayer and reminds us of the blessed hope of Messiah's arrival. Now you can treasure one of your own. Because each Shofar is unique, yours may vary slightly in size and shape from the one shown here. They also make wonderful gifts.

shofar 5020

price: \$36.95<sup>us</sup>

## 2001-2002 Jewish Art Calendar

Order now to start the Jewish New Year off in September with the Chosen People Ministries Jewish Art Calendar. Each month features a stunning photo of the Holy Land, highlighted by Scripture. Order two or three—they make great gifts, especially for Jewish friends who need to hear about the Messiah.

calendar 5005

price: \$12.95<sup>us</sup>

## Betrayed! by Stan Telchin

How do you feel when you are successful, 50 and Jewish, and your 21-year-old daughter tells you she believes in Jesus? Responding to his daughter's touching plea, the author sets out on a search back through the pages of time. Along the way, he is faced with personal challenges that demand a life-changing decision.

book 3044

price: \$7.95<sup>us</sup>

## The Fall Feasts of Israel by Mitch and Zhava Glaser

*The Fall Feasts of Israel* will help you understand three of Israel's most significant festivals: *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur* and *Sukkot*. A complete examination of each feast looks at its biblical origin, its celebration in the time of Christ, and its observance by Jewish people today.

book 3042

price: \$11.95<sup>us</sup>

See Israel through Jewish Eyes

For a full-color brochure of the itinerary, call  
**1-800-459-9402**

Journey to Israel and retrace the footsteps of Jesus the Messiah. Dr. Ben Alpert, Chosen People Ministries' Israel guide and teacher, will open your eyes to the wonders of the Promised Land. Dr. Alpert's in-depth teaching brings Biblical events alive in the very location where they took place. Trips are every March and November.



## The Chosen People Newsletter

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

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