



**The
Chosen
People**

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Forgiveness in Messiah

on the High Holy Days

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Messiah's Solution to the Dilemma of Forgiveness



*Dear friend of the
Jewish people,*

Shalom from the Chosen People Ministries headquarters in New York City. I wish you could join me here—especially in Brooklyn where I live—to see the way the Jewish community prepares for the High Holy Day season, which begins on the evening of September 23. You would be amazed! There is a growing sense of holy anticipation in the air. Families are finishing their shopping, buying new clothes and getting ready for family visits, sometimes with relatives arriving from around the world. Rabbis have been preparing services and synagogues, making sure all facilities are in the best condition.

The High Holy Day season, which includes *Rosh Hashanah* (the New Year), *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) and *Sukkot* (the Feast of Booths), is undoubtedly the holiest and most important time of the Jewish year. Even the most irreligious Jewish people will probably find themselves in synagogue sometime in the next few weeks.

The High Holy Days and the Bible

Beginning in verse 23 of chapter 23 of Leviticus, the three festivals observed in the seventh month are listed; Rosh Hashanah in verse 23, Yom Kippur in verses 26-32 and Sukkot in the remainder of the chapter, verses 33-43.

Each one of the festivals points us to an event in the past that God wanted to memorialize for the Jewish people. Yet each festival not only points to historical events, but also foreshadows greater events in the future. For example, the Feast of Booths looks ahead to the day when the entire earth will become the Tabernacle of God as His presence fills His restored creation. This and other festivals such as Passover provide the

believer in Jesus with an extraordinary array of types and prophetic portraits of all that the Lord would accomplish through the finished work of our Messiah Jesus.

But there is no greater, treasured hope embedded in the festivals that has more meaning to both Jews and Gentiles than the promise of forgiveness of sin. The festivals serve as a prophetic call for the Jewish people to return to God and find forgiveness.

First the New Year

Rosh Hashanah, The New Year, prepares the Jewish person for the Day of Atonement. Observed on the first day of the seventh month, this festival is also called the Festival of Trumpets. Why the seventh month? Over time, the Jewish people developed many different New Years, as we today have calendar years, fiscal years, school years, etc. If you wish to learn more, I have written about this festival in detail in the book, *The Fall Feasts of Israel*, described on the back page of this newsletter.

On Rosh Hashanah, in Jewish tradition, the blowing of the trumpet, (ram's horn) calls the Jewish people to repentance from sin. Rosh Hashanah initiates what is commonly called "the ten days of repentance" or "the days of awe." It is during this period that Jewish people are supposed to repent of their sins before God and one another and make restitution. At the conclusion of the ten days, we observe Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement—which in Jewish tradition is the day when the Books of Judgment are closed and God decides the fate of each Jewish person, for good or for ill!

The Forgiveness Dilemma

As meaningful as some Jewish traditions are, the means by which Jewish people receive forgiveness of sin is misunderstood by the average Jewish person. At the heart of the Day of Atonement is the shedding of

redemptive blood. The biblical means by which Jewish people were to receive forgiveness for sin was through the sacrifices offered in the Temple. This is obviously difficult for Jewish people today, since the Temple, which the Romans destroyed in 70AD, was the only place where sacrifices could be offered.

Modern Judaism has developed a path to forgiveness without a Temple. With every passing generation that the Temple lies in ruins, the biblical idea of blood atonement has become more and more foreign. The Judaism of today, based upon Scripture but also upon adaptation and interpretation by the Jewish sages, has tried to solve the forgiveness issue without a Temple for almost two thousand years!

As you can see, this inability to offer the proper sacrifice is a difficult challenge and continues to be so for Judaism at the turn of the 21st century. Jewish leaders have traditionally replaced atonement through the shedding of blood with the performance of good deeds and reliance upon the mercy of God. But the haunting question remains: Is this really enough?

The Jesus Solution

One of the many reasons I can rejoice as a Jewish believer in Jesus during this holy season of the year is that for me, He has solved the problem of forgiveness of sin. The Day of Atonement outlined in Leviticus 16 and 23 points to a greater day of forgiveness. The word atonement, *caphar* (כפר) in Hebrew, refers to a covering. The sacrificial blood creates a protective covering for sinners, sparing us from the wrath of our holy God.

The Day of Atonement points us to the Messiah Who according to Scripture (Isaiah 53, Psalm 22) would die as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. Embedded in the Old Testament Scriptures is the promise that one day the Temple would not be necessary for

the forgiveness of sin. As He once did for our father Abraham, God Himself would again provide a sacrifice (see Genesis 22).

The New Testament Scriptures make it clear that the Day of Atonement and the Temple itself pointed to Jesus—the Messiah who died and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sin. The writer to the Hebrews describes this powerful promise in these words,

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshippers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. (Hebrews 10:1-4)

The answer to the Jewish dilemma of forgiveness of sin is Jesus. The Day of Atonement pointed to a person—the Messiah—who would die in our place as the ultimate sacrifice for sin. He has done all that is necessary for us to receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Now the Lord waits only for our response. As John writes, "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).

Please pray for your mission to the Jewish people as we share the message of forgiveness through Yeshua the Messiah with our people. Thanks for your love and faithfulness—we could not continue this ministry without you!

Your brother,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Forgiveness.

What more comforting word could there be, especially when we know how much we are in need of it? Forgiveness is

at the heart of the Gospel message.

The sinful woman who bathed Jesus' feet with the tears

accumulated over the course of a lifetime understood. And her love for Him overflowed to such an extent that He declared,

"Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little" (Luke 7:47).

The gift of forgiveness, the Apostle Paul says, is not like the offense that calls forth its necessity. *"...For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many" (Romans 5:15).*

But where does forgiveness come from? What are its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures and in Judaism? How does it find fulfillment in the life and teaching of the Messiah?

The Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish Tradition

One of the most important things to remember about the teachings of the Jewish faith is the larger framework in which they operate. This larger framework may be called God's covenant with Creation. Everything follows this single, consistent thread of continuity throughout Scripture. The Lord created the universe and humanity for the purpose of a loving and harmonious relationship. Therefore,

anything that hinders the quality of that relationship must be dealt with.

This is the primary purpose of the sacrificial system and the priesthood.

It was instituted to implement God's statutes: *"...So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him" (Leviticus 4:26).*

Therefore, forgiveness is the means through which the balance of peace (shalom) in creation is restored.

But unlike other systems of sacrifice in the ancient Near East, there was nothing inherently powerful about the priesthood or the sacrifices. "Whereas the required ritual is carried out by the priest, it is desired and is granted solely by God."¹

Moreover, the attitude of the penitent sinner was of great importance. Sacrifice must be offered in humility and accompanied by repentance. One of the most striking features of the message of the prophets is Israel's casual assumption that going through the motions of sacrifice would be enough to please a just and righteous God.

Still, the topic of forgiveness is a constant theme in the literature of Judaism throughout the centuries. The Talmud confidently asserts, "He who sins and regrets his act is at once forgiven" (*Hagigah 5a, Berakhot 12b*).² Maimonides, the 12th century Jewish sage who did so much to shape the thought of his time and for centuries to come, wrote, "Even if a man has sinned his whole life and repents on the day of his death, all his sins are forgiven him" (*Yad, Teshuvah*).³

The Day of Atonement in Judaism Today

There is no more solemn observance in the Jewish calendar year than the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*). Coming at the end of the ten-day period known as the "Days of Awe," it is the culmination of an intense time of introspection during which the faithful Jewish person seeks amends not only with God, but also with others whom he or she might have offended in the past year.

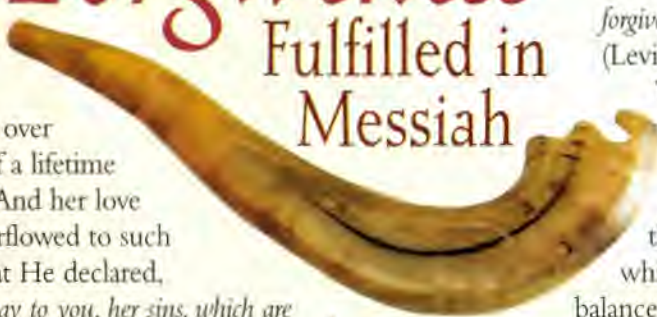
The Day of Atonement begins with fasting at sundown and an evening synagogue service. It continues the following day and culminates in the evening when worshippers stand for an hour-long service to conclude the long day of prayers and fasting. The liturgy of the synagogue for the Day of Atonement is filled with pleas for forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

The focus of *Yom Kippur* is upon worship, the need for forgiveness and deliverance from the just judgment of the Lord against our unrighteousness, and upon the hoped for restoration of relationship. There is much Scripture woven into the synagogue services, particularly from those Psalms which emphasize the exaltation of God and the supplication of sinners. The spirit of the day is summed up in the ancient prayer that begins with the words "*Selach Lamnu*," Forgive Us:

"And for all these, O God of forgiveness, forgive us, pardon us, grant us atonement...For thou art the Forgiver of Israel and the Pardoner of the tribes of Jeshurun in all generations, and beside thee we have no king to pardon and forgive our sins."⁴

But from the time of the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, there has been no prescribed sacrifice to accompany the Jewish plea for forgiveness. And without sacrifice, how are such pleas to be answered?

The Promise OF Forgiveness Fulfilled in Messiah



The High Priest of the Book of Hebrews

If we are conscious of having sinned, it follows that we long for our sins to be forgiven and to be reassured of the good graces of our Creator. And while the Book of Hebrews confirms these comforting truths, it also reveals to an even larger extent the scope of the ministry of Messiah as our eternal High Priest.

Among other things, the Book of Hebrews patiently spells out the superiority of Messiah to all that has come before him. Each year Israel's High Priest entered the Most Holy

Place with the blood of animal sacrifices. However, as Hebrews reminds us, "...now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Hebrews 9:26).

The office of High Priest was a temporary provision, as were the annual sacrifices that needed to be repeated over and over so that our sins could be wiped from our slate. Now, however, we have a High Priest Who not only brings the perfect and sufficient offering, but is Himself that offering—not year after year, but once and for all through the sacrifice of Himself.

Knowing this, all who have placed their trust in Him may rejoice. No longer must we wonder how or even if we are forgiven and restored. The promise was on His lips even as He died for us when he spoke His final words, "It is finished" (John 19:31).

Notes:

1. *Encyclopedia Judaica* (Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, 1972), volume 6, p. 1435.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Mishneh Torah. Hilchot Teshuvah* 2:1
4. Davis, Arthur and Adler, Herbert M., eds. *Synagogue Service for Day of Atonement* (New York: Hebrew Publishing Co., 1959) p.10.

Al Reichman - Forgiveness & God's Love

My earliest memories are tied to the strict Jewish religious observance in our family life that took place under the watchful eye of my father. But as observant as my father was, there was a side to his personality that was, quite frankly, brutal—even to the point of physical violence. My parents divorced when I was about five years old, and although I was too young to really understand, my four older sisters were deeply affected, as was my mother. My last memory of him was that of him lashing out at us. After that, he passed out of my life.

As I became a teenager, my anger toward him turned to hatred and I longed for the day I could meet him and inflict pain upon him to get even. But when I came to faith I recognized how lost he must have been and how even now his position apart from Messiah had such frightening eternal consequences. As I began to mature in my faith, I wanted to see him again in order to develop a relationship so that I could witness to him. I also understood that my own relationship with God was paralyzed unless I could realize God's love for him. The words of 1 John 4:20 impressed me deeply—"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" Realizing I had no love for my father, I began praying that the Lord would love him through me. As I prayed this prayer the Lord began to give me a genuine love for a man I only knew in the most bitter and hateful manner.

Although I never did see my father again, I came to realize that I must learn to forgive him through the power of Messiah's love. And in the process, my heart was changed.



Dr. Reichman and his wife Michele serve with Chosen People Ministries in Texas.

Carole Bahm - Forgiving the Unforgivable

As an impressionable young girl I had dreamed of becoming a missionary, but my early choices in adulthood led to a difficult marriage that produced three sons, a daughter and then a divorce. After the divorce, I truly hated my ex-husband. But then I became a believer and my early dream of being a missionary became a true calling. I knew I had to seek out my ex-husband not only to forgive him, but also to seek his forgiveness. Hard as it was, I did it and forgiveness became a reality in my life. And this prepared me for the terrible thing that was to come.

My work as a missionary brought me to Ireland, England and Belgium, where I was serving in 1991. As I prepared to return to the U.S. on furlough to see my grown children, I had a premonition that something awful was going to happen during my time there. I had family visits in Florida, and the morning after I arrived in Homestead to see my son Alan, there was a knock at the door. It was the police, who told us that my oldest son Joe had been shot to death in his rented apartment. The killers had meant to murder the prior tenant but finding him gone, had killed Joe instead.

I was hysterical with grief. But in the midst of it all I had a sense of Joe standing with Jesus, at rest in Him. So I became determined to be strong for my other children. When they caught the killers and showed them on television, I was amazed to find that although I still felt loss—and always will—I had forgiven them. This forgiveness from Messiah has helped me to minister to many people over the years who have lost loved ones. I tell them to forgive—and to go on living.



Carole Bahm is a Chosen People Ministries staff member serving in Florida.

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

by Daniel Goldberg, Th.D., D.D.



DAVID – MUSIC THERAPIST TO THE KING

1 Samuel 16:19-23

Music has played a major role in the history of many nations, including Israel. Many of the immortal poems of the Old Testament were prompted by some great national crisis. The Song of Deborah was inspired by the defeat of the Canaanites (Judges 5). It should therefore not surprise us to know that the Psalms, many of which were written by David, are ranked among the most inspirational sacred music ever.

As William Shakespeare has aptly written, one man in his time plays many parts—and this is especially true of David. Our shepherd king was also a gifted musician and composer who served as “music therapist” to a troubled King Saul.

Temple Choir Master

As David’s fame grew, so did his musical influence. Not only did

David personally write songs, but he also taught others to compose Psalms set to music for worship. 1 Chronicles 15:16-19 informs us that David organized a Temple choir and orchestra. Among the chief singers we discover the names of Heman, Asaph and Ethan. Asaph composed twelve Psalms, including the wonderful 73rd and 78th Psalms. Heman wrote the 88th Psalm, which is filled with Messianic prophecy. The sons of Korah composed ten Psalms including Psalm 45 which speaks clearly about Messiah’s deity.

The ancient music of this period must have been wonderful to hear, and we get a glimpse of its complexity through the instruments that are mentioned. For example, the grand hallelujah chorus of Psalm 150 lists no less than eight different instruments.

Three classifications of instruments were employed: wind, such as the *shofar* (ram’s horn); strings, including the harp and the lyre; and percussion, such as the timbrel—a sort of tambourine drummed with the fingers—while several kinds of cymbals were used in keeping rhythm.

David, the “sweet singer of Israel,” trained his son Solomon to compose music. Solomon learned his father’s art well. In fact, the Scriptures inform us that “his songs were a thousand and five” (1 Kings 4:32). Sadly, all except one—the Song of Solomon—have vanished.

The Power of Music for Healing and Praise

In the days of King Saul’s depression, the royal court searched the land for a skilful player of the lyre. David was selected to stand before King Saul to refresh Saul’s spirit with his musical selections (1 Samuel 16:23).

When the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, God sent “an evil spirit” of discontent to fill his heart (1 Samuel 16:14). Whatever Saul’s malady, it was temporarily relieved by David’s music (1 Samuel 16:23). Music can be a powerful force for good or for ill. When sanctified, it is one of the most wonderful ways we have for communion with God.

The New Testament informs believers to: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...” (Colossians 3:16). We are encouraged in Psalm 147:7 to “Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praises on the harp to our God.” And we have the example of David in Psalm 101:1 where he says, “I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O Lord, I will sing praises.” Through faith in Jesus the Messiah, let us add our voice to his. ✠

OUR COVER PHOTOGRAPHER

Chosen People Ministries wishes to thank Vicki Wolkins, who took the eye-catching street scene that graced the cover of *The Chosen People* newsletter in July (2006). Vicki, an alumnus of The Moody Bible Institute ('05, Bible major), was part of a team that ministered with our Outreach Israel this past summer. She writes, "I realized that I'd found my life's work: to use photography to further the Kingdom, to communicate truth, to encourage believers...and in Israel I found my focus." Some of Vicki's photos may be seen on the internet at www.flickr.com/photos/vickiwolkinsphotography/.



"COFFEEHOUSE RABBI" COMES TO FAITH

Staff member Larry Feldman, who leads a Messianic congregation in Southern California, knows that the road to faith may take some time. One of Larry's young congregants approached a Jewish man about six years ago in a local coffee shop where the man had earned the nickname "Rabbi," but the "rabbi" yelled at this young man and chased him away. A few years later, another man in the congregation befriended him and asked if he would attend a local Bible study at his home. The man agreed and also began attending services. Finally, after a service, the "Coffeehouse Rabbi" told Larry that it was because of the congregation that he is now a believer in Messiah.



LEBANESE AND JEWS JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER IN AUSTRALIA

During the conflict in the Middle East, Tim, a Lebanese Christian, attended Celebrate Messiah's *Experience Jewish Melbourne Week*. Tim is an Arab believer who loves Israel and the Jewish people, making him a powerful witness in Melbourne. When Tim attended Celebrate Messiah's Messianic congregation, he stood arm in arm with two Jewish believers, Lawrence, a South African-born Jew, and Igal, an Iranian-born Israeli. They prayed together for peace in the Middle East. Celebrate Messiah also hosted an outreach service in Prahran, an area with a very large Russian Jewish population. At the end of the service, five Russian Jewish people prayed to receive Yeshua as Messiah. Praise the Lord for such a significant day in the work among Jewish people in Melbourne.

*Names changed

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES' MONTREAL CONGREGATION VANDALIZED

Chosen People Ministries' Messianic congregation in Montreal was recently vandalized. Our *mezuzah* (a small, oblong box containing passages from the Hebrew Bible) on the outside doorpost was broken off and taken away. The perpetrators also threw garbage in the congregation's mailbox slot. Although the congregation is saddened by these actions, they are praying that the misguided vandals will repent and come to know the Lord. Please join us in that prayer.



Peter and Rachel Shirokov are helping plant the Brooklyn congregation.

A "TREE OF LIFE" GROWS IN BROOKLYN

Chosen People Ministries has planted a new English-speaking Messianic congregation in Brooklyn, New York, which is home to the largest concentration of Jewish people outside Israel. In just a few weeks, it has outgrown the home where the meetings started and has moved to a larger meeting space. Please pray that the Lord will bring the right people so that the congregation will continue to grow and to reach Jewish seekers.

STAFF SAFE IN ISRAEL

Expressions of concern during the recent outbreak of hostilities against Israel have poured in from all over the world. During this time, the Messianic Jewish Center in Jerusalem became a haven for displaced workers from northern Israel. However, it was our short-term programs that were closest to the danger. Justin Kron, who leads Chosen People Ministries' *eXperience Israel*, reported, "Even though the events forced us to rearrange our plans in the northern region, we were still able to demonstrate that terrorism was not going to stand in the way of our mission in Israel. In fact, it only enhanced it. Although on a grand scale we had a few close calls, at no point did we ever feel like our lives were at risk."

The Berlin Messianic Center Dedication Tour

October 23-27, 2006

GERMANY: FROM THE HOLOCAUST TO THE REVIVAL

Join Chosen People Ministries on a monumental tour celebrating the miracle of Jewish revival in Germany. The "Germany: From the Holocaust to the Revival" tour includes stops in Berlin and Auschwitz (Poland) and culminates with the dedication of the Messianic Jewish Center in Berlin. The "Celebrating the Miracle" program includes Messianic worship and addresses by prominent Messianic and Christian leaders. The tour price of just \$375 includes in-country lodging, guided tours, entrance fees, and travel by luxury bus. The deadline to apply is October 6, 2006.

CALL 1-888-2-YESHUA

or visit us online at www.chosenpeople.com for complete details.



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Messianic Helps



Now Available!!

All new for 2007—this year's Messianic Jewish Art Calendar features the work of an internationally acclaimed Russian Jewish artist and her illustrations of Jewish children and Jewish customs. Children are the hope of

the future that the Lord has bequeathed to us as a lasting inheritance. Order a calendar for your own home and experience the beauty of the Jewish holidays throughout the year. This is the perfect gift to give your Jewish friend. This 16-month calendar goes from September 2006 through December 2007.

calendar #5005 • price \$13.95^{us}

Celebrate the High Holy Days

The Fall Feasts of Israel written by Mitch and Zhava Glaser 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 institution, its celebration in the time of Jesus, and its observance by Jewish people today.

book 3042 • price \$16.95^{us}



Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. For a larger selection of resources, visit www.chosenpeople.com. For phone orders in the U.S. call 1-800-333-4936.

WORK FROM HOME WITH CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

Chosen People Ministries now has positions available as Church Callers for those who are able to work 20-24 hours per week from home. You would be responsible for scheduling Chosen People Ministries workers in churches across the country.

A love for the Lord, the Jewish people and the local church are necessities for this position. You must also have a computer and computer experience, the ability to type at least 40 words a minute and like talking on the telephone! Your mission to the Jewish people speaks in more than a thousand churches each year and we hope to increase this number in the future...so please pray about this wonderful opportunity and if you are interested please e-mail Julia Freeman at julia@chosenpeople.com or by phone at 1-888-405-5874 for more information.



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)