

The Chosen People



Volume VII, Issue 12 December 2001

When a Child is born,
a name is given; and
the gift will be upon
his shoulder. And his name
will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
God, Everlasting
Prince of Peace, whose
increase and peace
and peace will have
no end. Upright
and of David
order and establish it with
judgment and justice from
that time forward, even
forever. The zeal of the LORD
of hosts will perform this.



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ISSUE:

The Power of God and the Incarnation • Testimony of A Changed Life
• Special Poster: Messianic Prophecy • Bible Study on Zephaniah



The Power of God and the Incarnation

Dear friend,

Shalom and happy holidays! This time of year, New York City sparkles like a jewel. It is truly a Festival of Lights—from our headquarters on East 51st Street to Park Avenue and all around this city. It is such a contrast to the devastation of only three months ago.

Although hope is in the air, New York City will never be the same—beautiful lights and all. We have come face to face with evil. Our usually self-assured city is filled with people who understand what it means to be frightened to the very core of their beings.

However, New Yorkers—including the more than three million Jewish people in the Metropolitan area—are more open to the Gospel than ever before. Why? Because men and women usually turn to God when they come to the end of themselves. Just as “there are no atheists in

foxholes,” there are very few true atheists left in New York City! People are looking for spiritual answers and are far more willing to talk about God than before 9/11.

The Light of the World and the Prince of Peace

May I ask you to pray for us? Would you pause even now, as you read, and ask the Lord to bless our outreach across the globe? We have been busy with evangelistic Hanukkah parties everywhere from Los Angeles and Florida to Jerusalem and Berlin! We have teams in New York City—this week—involved in intensive street outreach. We are also beginning to advertise our interfaith marriage evangelistic video in newspapers during December.

Now is the time to bring the Gospel of hope to our nation.

I learned a lesson through our attempts to help New Yorkers after

the World Trade Center attacks. We helped provide everything from sandwiches to dry socks immediately after the disaster. That lasted for about two days, until the city began providing these services.

But neither the city nor any other social agency was able to provide the spiritual nourishment that people were seeking. And so, we continued our regular ministry in the aftermath of the tragedy—counseling, comforting and witnessing to New Yorkers.

Do people still need food, clothing and shelter? Absolutely. Should believers help to provide these basic needs where they can? Of course! But without the Lord, there is no hope and no joy. Without Jesus, Jews and Gentiles stumble through life in darkness. Unless He reigns in the heart, there can be no enduring peace of mind or soul.

People still need the Lord more than anything this world can provide.

I have never been so convinced of the call of God upon my own life and upon our mission to the Jewish people. We must and we *will* keep doing what we have done for more than a century—bringing the everlasting, all-powerful Gospel of our Lord Jesus the Messiah to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

The Power of the Gospel: Mary and Sarah

This morning, I was reading the Gospel of Luke and was struck by Mary's response to the angel Gabriel when told that she would bear a child. This account is a wonderful reminder of the power of the Gospel!

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1:34)

Mary understood that she was to conceive a child in a most unusual manner. She simply could not understand how this was going to

Sarah knew that she was too old to conceive a child, but did not understand that the God Who fashioned her womb could open it whenever He desired.

The angel's response to Sarah's laugh was to remind her—and Abraham—of the power of God to create and sustain life.

"Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son" (Genesis 18:14).

Although God used a different process for Mary, the answer given is much the same.

"And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God'" (Luke 1:35).

Clearly the Incarnation is a

Stuart responded, "Do you believe that God created the heavens and the earth?"

The man answered, "Of course."

Then Stuart asked, "So which is easier, creating the entire world or enabling a virgin to have a child?"

The man could not give an answer.

Dear brother or sister, the God who made the heavens and the earth is all-powerful. He can open the womb and He can close it. He can empower a virgin and an elderly woman to conceive and have a child. He can still the sea, heal the sick and even raise the dead.

The natural order of the universe cannot bind Him—because He created it. And He is able to alter the natural order to accomplish His will.

He is also the God who creates spiritual life in the souls of those who embrace His Son—the fruit of Mary's womb—as Savior and Lord.

*Clearly the Incarnation is a mystery. It is beyond comparison.
But the birth of Isaac was also a miracle. Both births are
reminders of the power of God. We have no earthly ability to
comprehend the depth and nature of this power.*

happen. Perhaps she knew of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14:

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Mary's response to Gabriel is similar to that of Sarah, who laughed when she overheard the angel telling Abraham that she would have a child in her old age. She had given up hope!

Neither Mary nor Sarah seemed to understand that the God who created the natural laws of the universe could break or change them for His glory!

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The Power of God and the Incarnation

I remember when one of our volunteers, Stuart, was speaking to a group of Orthodox Jewish protesters at one of our Bible studies. One of these precious detractors stared at him and said, "You cannot tell me that God became flesh!"

There is nothing He cannot do—and the Incarnation is a powerful and persuasive reminder of His power.

I hope you have a joy-filled holiday season. Please remember your Mission to the Jewish people in prayer as we reach out to the Jewish people and to Gentiles with the Good News.

Yours in His only Son,

Mitch
Mitch



*Mitch Glaser
President*

Stacy Koffman

Finding the Light of Messiah's Love

Stacy Koffman somehow knew there was a God—somewhere. But it took the experiences of life and some restless years of wandering to find at last the light she had sought in so many different places. Now, this young Jewish woman from Florida has found a new life in Messiah that she is eager to share with others. Her story is an eloquent testimony that shows how Jesus, the Light of the World, is still transforming Jewish lives with the liberating message of the Gospel.

Early Years - Early Struggles

Stacy was born in Boston and raised in a Conservative Jewish family. The Koffmans moved to New York City, where Stacy spent some of her growing up years. She received some Jewish education in Hebrew School, and her family made an effort to observe some of the holidays. From an early time, Stacy was taught that Jesus had been “a good man who healed people,” but there was never any credence given to His claim to be the Messiah.

From New York City, the family relocated to Florida, where Stacy graduated from high school. However, home life grew strained for Stacy and she left the nest at the age of eighteen. Family difficulties were compounded by her father's serious illness, leukemia, which claimed his life in 1994.

Stacy took a few college courses, but her life lacked real direction. In an attempt to find a clear path, she tried therapy and self-help books. She also tried prayer. And as in so many times, in so many places, and in so many lives, God began to answer her prayers. He also began to bring believers into Stacy's life.

The Shining Light of Messiah

Stacy shares, “The Christians had a light in their eyes that was such a contrast to others whom I knew. I wanted what they had.”

Stacy visited a Messianic synagogue, where she met Jewish believers. Then, through a friend, she met Chosen People Ministries' Rich and Julia Freeman at First Baptist Church in West Palm Beach. From there, things seemed to fall into place: “It was becoming more and more evident that Jesus was more than a good man.” Stacy said. “Then it finally happened. Early last July, I accepted Him. When I did that, I felt such a sense of unconditional love. I also saw that somehow, in all the things I had gone through, He had been there, working in my life for a long, long time.”

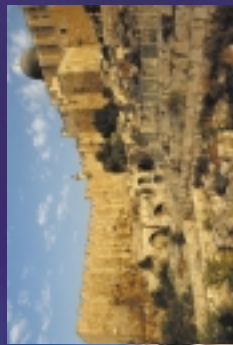
A New Life and a Promising Future

What's next for Stacy? She doesn't quite know. While completing a business degree in West Palm Beach, Stacy is praying to know God's will for her life. She is very excited about the connection between the Messiah and her Jewish identity. She says, “As a Jew, the story of Jesus makes so much sense to me. To know that my sins are forgiven—it's a whole different way of life. I know that my purpose now is to serve Him. My life is filled with His light—and that has made all the difference in the world.”

Rich and Julia Freeman serve with Chosen People Ministries in Southern Florida



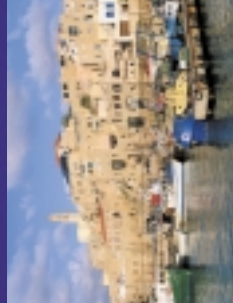
The Chosen People



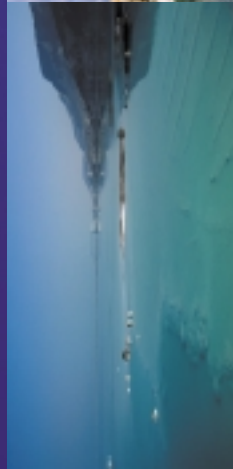
Hebrew Scripture
 Genesis 3:15 – *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”*



Isaiah 7:14 – *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel...”*



Micah 5:2 (5:1 in Hebrew) – *“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.”*



Isaiah 9:6-7 (9:5-6 in Hebrew) – *“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. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*



Psalms 2:7-8 – *“I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.’”*

New Testament Fulfillment

Hebrews 2:14 – *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...”*

Matthew 1:23 – *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’”*

Matthew 2:1 – *“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem...”*

Luke 1:32 – *“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.”*

Matthew 3:16-17 – *“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water. ... And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”*

Explanation of Text

God’s plan from the beginning was to send the Messiah, Who would defeat the enemy by covering our sins through His atoning death and resurrection. *“Having disarmed principalities and powers, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it”* (Colossians 2:15).

The virgin birth enables God to be made flesh among us through Jesus the Messiah without inheriting the sinful nature of Adam. As the “second Adam” (Romans 5), Jesus the Messiah remained sinless and triumphed over the sin of the world.

Jesus’ birth in the humble town of Bethlehem is an eloquent demonstration of God’s willingness to work in unexpected ways, for *“... God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty”* (1 Corinthians 1:27).

The Son of David, the Messiah, would indeed be “God in the flesh.” By entering our world as a human being, God accomplishes on our behalf what He alone is able to do—redeem us from sin and reconcile us with Him forever.

As God’s Son, Jesus the Messiah has dominion over God’s Kingdom. It is His good pleasure to share that inheritance us, for *“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will”* (Ephesians 1:11).

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An Overview of Messiah's Birth

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



ZEPHANIAH THE WILL OF GOD FOR JUDGMENT AND REDEMPTION

In one of the most familiar of Jewish traditions, four cups of wine appear at the celebration of Passover. These represent the four “I wills” of Exodus 6:6,7.

Among the four are the “cup of judgment” and the “cup of redemption.” As we will find, the prophet Zephaniah employs this same usage of “I wills” to convey God’s message of judgment and redemption during his prophetic ministry. We may think of each of these “I wills” as a cup that God has poured out for His people—for judgment or for redemption.

Who Was Zephaniah?

Zephaniah establishes his background in the first verse of his book, where he identifies himself as the great-great grandson of King Hezekiah (715-686 BC). He came from a royal line and a godly family.

He prophesied during the reign of King Josiah (Zephaniah 1:1), the

last good king of Judah, who assumed the throne in 639 BC. His reference to the fall of Nineveh (2:13) indicates that his book was no doubt written between 639 and 629 BC. The prophet may have been influential in King Josiah’s important but short-lived revival (2 Chronicles 34).

The Ten Cups of God’s Wrath

Even as God’s four “I wills” convey His good promises to Israel in Exodus 6:6-7, the ten “I wills” that God spells out in Zephaniah 1:1-17 are a picture of God’s judgment upon the sinful society of Judah. These speak of a judgment that consumes man and beast, and comes against the idolatry and wickedness of the land.

These “cups” of God’s judgment will be poured out upon both Judah and the entire earth—“*The great day of the LORD is near... That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress... a day of clouds and thick darkness... Their blood shall be poured out like dust...*” (Zephaniah 1:14-17).

In the New Testament, this event is seen by some as beginning with the Tribulation period and embracing the whole of the Kingdom Era. It is described by Peter as “*the day of judgment*” (2 Peter 2:9) and Revelation calls it “*the great day of His wrath*” (Revelation 6:17).

The Ten Cups of God’s Redemption

We may be thankful that God’s final word to humanity is not a word of wrath, but of redemption. As frightening as the “I wills” of God’s judgment are, His words of redemption are every bit as comforting, if not more so. The “I wills” of Zephaniah 3:9-20 speak of restoration, reconciliation and return. One other notable promise is found in Zephaniah 3:17—“*The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save...*” In short, the prophet’s vision encompasses the gathering, guarding and glorifying of Israel (3:16-20).

At the heart of Zephaniah’s compelling prophecy is the exhortation, “*Seek the LORD*” (Zephaniah 2:3). These words serve us well today, for they direct our gaze to our Messiah and remind us that “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble*” (Psalm 46:1, 2). ☆



Jason and Stephanie Sobel

The Power of Messianic Prophecy

Staff member Jason Sobel recently had the opportunity to lead Naomi,* an Israeli friend, to faith in Messiah. Jason and his wife, Stephanie, had been witnessing to Naomi for some time and she had a number of questions that revolved around the issue of atonement. During this particular visit, they reviewed many Messianic prophecies together, and spoke of how one can be Jewish and believe in Jesus. The power of God's Word became apparent to Naomi and after two hours of conversation, she prayed to receive Yeshua as her Messiah.



Stewart Weinisch & family

Faith and Forgiveness

Guilt can sometimes form a barrier to forgiveness. But, nothing can surpass the power of the Gospel. Florida staff member Stewart Weinisch recently shared the Good News with Leah,* who had lived for thirty years with a sin for which she was unable to forgive herself. As Stewart shared about God's love and forgiveness, Leah began to open up. For the first time, she was able to unburden herself of her guilt and shame. When she asked, "Is it possible that God could forgive me?" Stewart shared that the Messiah had certainly died for her sins also. At that moment, Leah joyfully came to faith and received God's forgiveness.

Dallas Seminary and Criswell College Highlight Jewish Missions

Jewish evangelism was the emphasis of "Missions Week" at Dallas Theological Seminary and Criswell College in Texas, who co-hosted Chosen People Ministries' *To the Jew First Conference* last month. Topics included "Bringing the Gospel to the Jewish People," "Messianic Prophecy" and "Answering Jewish Objections." The final evening, Mitch Glaser gave an evangelistic message following a concert by Marty Goetz. A number of unbelieving Jewish people were in attendance.

Celebrate Messiah in Australia

Lawrence Hirsch, Director of *Celebrate Messiah*, Chosen People Ministries' work in Australia, reports how God has continued to bless their outreach to Russian Jewish people there. He writes, "Recently we had four Russian Jewish people pray to receive the Lord. One person responded to the Lord at our Russian-speaking outreach, one on the streets of St. Kilda and one couple, Ivan* and Sveta,* prayed with Rita, our sister in the Lord, during a visit to their home." In the last three years or so, *Celebrate Messiah* has seen about 160 Jewish people come to faith in Yeshua. Praise God for the fruit that He is bringing through this work!



Lawrence and Louise Hirsch

*names have been changed

Persecution Intensifies for Chosen People Ministries in Israel

Yad L'Achim, a particularly aggressive anti-missionary group, has placed posters with pictures of our workers Neriya A. and Leonid B. all over some Bukharian Jewish neighborhoods in Israel where Chosen People Ministries is conducting outreach. This group has also staked out one of our congregations in an attempt to persuade our members to forsake their faith in Messiah and has broken windows at our congregation in Holon, a suburb of Tel Aviv. After much prayer, police were brought into the situation and an action regarding civil protection is now under way.

SIMCHA 2002

Celebrate
Messiah's Joy!

May 23-26, 2002

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 May 23-26 at scenic Schroon Lake in upstate New York in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains. Our featured speaker will be Stuart Rothberg, a Messianic pastor and professional counselor. You won't want to miss this gathering of Jewish believers! Call 212-223-2252 for more information.



**“Joined
Together”**

Interfaith Marriage Video

Now Available

Joined Together, Chosen People Ministries' new evangelistic video, features the compelling testimonies of Jewish and non-Jewish spouses who have found life together in the Messiah. Believers can invite their intermarried friends to an evening of delightful dessert and discussion—and of course to view the video. What a great opportunity to share this valuable evangelistic resource with a special intermarried couple in your life!

Joined Together video 8025 • \$24.95^{US}

NEW! At Chosen People Ministries — The Messianic Classics

The Ancient Scriptures for the Modern Jew
David Baron. Beginning with Baron's moving testimony, this book examines the prophecies contained in the Scriptures that show that Jesus truly is the Jewish Messiah.
#3096 \$7.95^{US}

Rays of Messiah's Glory
David Baron. A fascinating look at how the Old Testament proves Jesus to be the light of the Gentiles and the Glory of Israel.
#3097 \$14.95^{US}

The Servant of Jehovah.
David Baron. An exposition of Isaiah 53, this book contains chapters on such subjects as the ancient Jewish interpretation of Isaiah 53, Israel's repentance, and the Lord's final word concerning His servant.
#3090 \$14.95^{US}

Types, Psalms, and Prophecies.
David Baron. A series of Old Testament studies aimed at helping the reader form a coherent, unified understanding of the Scriptures.
#3092 \$14.95^{US}

Christ and Israel
Adolph Saphir. This book contains lectures and addresses on the nation and people of Israel.
#3098 \$12.95^{US}

Jewish Witness for Christ
A. Bernstein. Bernstein documents the existence of a remnant of Israel that followed Jesus the Messiah from the Apostolic age to the present.
#3091 \$19.95^{US}

The Visions and Prophecies of Zechariah
David Baron. This classic work is an exposition on the book of Zechariah, highlighting Messianic prophecies as well as future prophetic events, particularly in relationship to Israel.
#3094 \$25.95^{US}

The Messiah in the Old Testament
Risto Santala. Ancient Jewish interpretations of Messianic prophecies are compared with traditional Christian interpretation.
#3099 \$15.95^{US}

The Messiah in the New Testament
Risto Santala. Santala uses ancient Jewish sources as a means to study the roots of Christianity. Covers the reliability of the New Testament and much more.
#3100 \$15.95^{US}

Paul, the Man and the Teacher in the Light of Jewish Sources
Risto Santala. The person and work of the Apostle Paul is studied using ancient Jewish sources, presenting a close-up picture of Paul's psychology, and the foundations of his thinking.
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The Great Mystery or How Can the Three be One
Rabbi Tzvi Nassi. Using the Scriptures and ancient Jewish literature, Rabbi Nassi sets out to prove that the Tri-unity of the Godhead is a very Jewish concept.
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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)