

The Chosen People



Volume VIII, Issue 8 August 2002

THE TEMPLE

Yesterday,

Today



Tomorrow

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:

Exciting Update on Summer Outreach in New York City •

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Exciting Update on Summer Outreach New York City

STEP team members have a wide variety of experiences to tell about. Whereas some people are open to the Gospel and receive the Lord, others give quite different responses . . .

Shalom from Manhattan!

I am excited about all the Lord is doing through our staff and summer volunteers in New York City, Chicago and Israel. I can honestly tell you that hundreds and perhaps thousands of Jews and Gentiles are hearing the Gospel because of the efforts of these dedicated believers.

Already, a number of Jews and Gentiles have accepted Jesus as their Messiah—right on the streets of New York City. And why not? The Scriptures promise that He will bless the proclamation of His Word and produce faith in the hearts of those who hear the Gospel. Yet he still uses people—young, mature, Jews and Gentiles—to bring the Good News to our needy world.

I am so grateful for these joy-filled servants of the Messiah who are sharing the Word on the streets of New York City this summer as part of our Chosen People Ministries STEP programs.

The Apostle Paul writes, *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:15-17).

I am grateful for you, as well. *You are part of the team!* Your prayers, financial support and encouraging notes and emails have been a blessing to all of us as we reach out to those who do not yet know the Messiah.

So thanks for being part of the team, and I hope you enjoy reading these reports from the field!

Aisha

Aisha is a committed young believer who attends the congregation planted by Chosen People Ministries missionary Larry Feldman in Irvine, California. She reports:

“On our first day of outreach, my team decided to eat lunch at Battery Park. As we sat on the benches eating, a woman named Kathy* sat down next to us. She had a

*names have been changed



kind expression and looked interested in our 'Is Jesus the Messiah' T-shirts, and she asked about us. After telling her who we were, I asked her what she thought about Jesus. She told me that her father was Jewish and that she had been raised Catholic. However, she desired a closer relationship with God. After some more discussion that included our team leader Boris Goldin, one of our New York-based missionaries, we prayed with Kathy to receive Yeshua. This experience was so exciting and humbling. It was a great way to begin ministry in New York City."

Rebecca

Rebecca, a new, young staff member living in Chicago, shared this about

her STEP experience:

"One evening, we decided to use music as an outreach tool in Greenwich Village. As we came out of the subway, the neon lights of the tattoo shops shed an unholy light. We found a busy corner, and as we began passing out literature, the light of Yeshua began shining.

People who walked by were brought face to face with the reality of Messiah's love, joy and peace as we sang Messiah's praises into the night. Even as I worshiped, I prayed to convey the wonderful grace of Messiah's life to God's chosen people."

Andrew

Andrew, a college summer volunteer from Texas, shares this story of new birth in the Lord:

"We were trying to start conversations in Bryant Park in Manhattan. I approached a young man sitting at the edge of the park. John* told me about crime on the streets and bondage to sin. I explained the freedom that comes

through Yeshua—'For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh' (Romans 8:3). After thirty minutes of honest discussion, he prayed for Yeshua to forgive him of his sins and to change his life."

Beth

Beth, a young STEPPER also from Chicago, reported the following:

"I was passing out tracts on a horribly humid New York day on the corner of 72nd Street and Broadway, when an Orthodox Jewish couple began to talk to me. They said I needed to experience the beauty of Orthodox Judaism before I believed in Yeshua and invited me to their house on Long Island for a Sabbath meal. Just a few minutes later, an angry man walked by and hit me on the collarbone. I was startled, but told him to have a great day anyway."

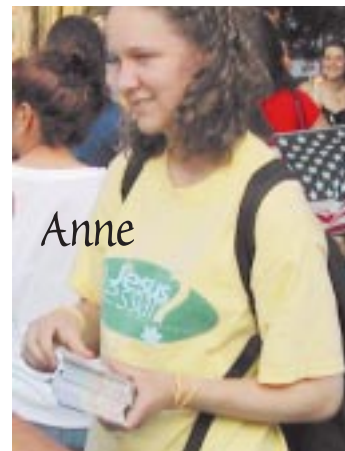
Anne

Anne, who came all the way from England to share the Gospel with Jewish people in New York City, shared this account:

"When I went on outreach today, I was praying and drawing encouragement from God. We had had a message in the morning about giving thanks to God always for all things. So I was thanking Him that He could use even me—a 19-year-old Gentile girl—to impact the lives of people passing by. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation—and to the Jew first!

"I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with a Conservative Jewish lad named Ari, who looked like he was about my age. He agreed with me when I told him that his decision about whether Jesus was the Messiah should not be based on what others had told him, but on his own research. Basically, he left me agreeing that he needed to investigate and come to a

personal conclusion. He took a New Testament, telling me he would read it. I know that God will use this encounter as He continues to work in Ari's life."



Building a Temple in New York City

I am sure that these exciting reports took your breath away—as they did mine! The Lord has been doing so much through these dedicated workers, and the best is yet to come, as our New York-based missionaries follow up on those who responded to the Good News.

We are getting ready to start a Messianic congregation in Manhattan and hopefully some of those we met will become part of this fellowship. I will write more on this new effort among the half million Jewish people of Manhattan at a later date! We are building a temple—not the Temple, of course; but a place for Jews and Gentiles to worship the living God—in Manhattan and in many other places around the world.

On the other hand, the Biblical Temple is at the heart of Scripture and certainly at the center of the recent controversies and struggles in Israel. I hope you enjoy Dr. Michael Rydelnik's article on this crucial and relevant topic. Michael teaches at Moody Bible Institute and his wife, Eva, is our staff leader in Chicago. I hope Michael's article and the remainder of this month's issue of *The Chosen People* will be a blessing to you.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

Your brother,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



The Temple: Past

by Dr. Michael Rydelnik

NEWS FLASH: Red Heifer Born in Israel!

April 8, 2002

It can now be revealed that less than one month ago, a red heifer was born in Israel . . . This heifer could indeed be a candidate to be used in the process of purification described in the book of Numbers, chapter 19. This is an important development towards the rebuilding of the Holy Temple.

This press release of the *Temple Institute*, a Jerusalem-based Jewish group, shows their desire to rebuild the Jewish Holy Temple in our time. In recent years they have restored various vessels to be used for future temple worship, including the golden incense altar and the table of the showbread. Just last year, while walking through the Jewish quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, I saw their beautiful, pure gold, seven-branched Menorah on display.

Will there really be another Temple? The answer is not to be found in conjecture or tabloid headlines but in the pages of Scripture. Let us examine what the Bible says about the Temple, past and future.

Solomon's Temple

Moses foretold that God would plant Israel in their land and give

them a sanctuary there (Exodus 15:17). Years later, the Lord forbade David to build that temple because he was a man of war (1 Chronicles 22:7-8). Therefore, as God directed him (2 Samuel 24:16-25), David purchased Mount Moriah (1 Chronicles 21:18-29) where Abraham had earlier bound Isaac. David made the preparations for his son Solomon to build the Temple there (1 Chronicles 22). Solomon built and dedicated a glorious Temple in Jerusalem in 960 B.C. (1 Kings 6:1-38). The glory of the Temple came from the presence of God's *shekinah* glory, not its architecture or artifacts, despite its beauty and grandeur. As Solomon dedicated the Temple with a multitude of sacrifices "... the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD."

For nearly 400 years, the Jewish nation worshiped and sacrificed in this Temple. But the consistent practice of idolatry compelled God to withdraw His presence. Ezekiel then saw the tragic vision of "the glory of the LORD depart[ing] from the threshold of the Temple . . ." (Ezekiel 10:18), and ultimately, it departed completely from the city of Jerusalem via the Mount of Olives (Ezekiel 11:23). Shortly thereafter, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, and forced Judah into captivity.

Zerubbabel's and Herod's Temple

After seventy years of exile, Cyrus the Great of Persia permitted the Jewish people to return and rebuild their Temple (Ezra 1:1-4). The Talmud says that this Temple lacked five elements that were present in

Solomon's: the ark, the sacred fire, the *shekinah* glory, the Holy Spirit, and the *Urim* and the *Thummim*. At the laying of the foundation, the disappointed priests and Levites wept when they remembered the glory of Solomon's Temple (520 B.C.; Ezra 3:12-13; Haggai 2:3). Nevertheless, God comforted them by promising that this Temple's glory would surpass the previous one's when the Desire of All Nations (the Messiah) would one day enter it (Haggai 2:7-9).

Herod the Great began (c. 20 B.C.) to renovate this Temple with a grandeur to match his ego. It took more than eighty years to complete. Despite its beauty and splendor, in fulfillment of Haggai's prophecy, it was Yeshua the Messiah's physical presence there that gave this Temple its true glory. Because the Jewish people did not recognize the appearance of their Messiah Yeshua (Luke 19:41-44), the Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the second Temple in A.D. 70. Now, only the Western Wall, the most sacred place in Judaism, remains as the reminder of the once glorious Temple. Although the Temple Mount has become part of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, Scripture teaches that there will yet be a Jewish Temple there.



A model of the Ark of the Covenant that rested in the Holy of Holies

and Future

The Tribulation Temple

Three Scripture passages indicate that the Jewish people will rebuild the Temple. Daniel 9:27 states that in the middle of the future seven-year Tribulation, the future False Messiah (or the Anti-Christ) will put an end to sacrifice and commit the abomination of desolation. In Matthew 24:15, Yeshua warns that the abomination of desolation will be a sign of the end of the age. In 2 Thessalonians 2:2-3, Paul refutes those who mistakenly believed that the Tribulation had begun by noting that the Man of Sin had not yet taken his seat in the Temple of God, attempting to display himself as God. All three passages speak of the future abomination of desolation, and for that to happen there must be a rebuilt Temple.

Two questions are often asked about this Temple. First, when will it be built? Since the abomination takes place in the middle of the tribulation, construction must begin at the latest sometime after the beginning of the tribulation. Since Solomon built his Temple in seven years without the help of modern heavy equipment, 3½ years would certainly be sufficient time to complete such a building project.

Second, will Muslims allow the Temple to be rebuilt? It is altogether unforeseeable that radical Islam would tolerate a Jewish Temple on the Haram Al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary). But events may yet take place, such as an earthquake, that might clear the way for a Temple. Furthermore, Israeli archaeologist Asher Kaufman has argued that the

Temple did not stand on the same site as the present Dome of the Rock but north of it, with the Holiest place on the much smaller Dome of the Winds. Whether by an earthquake, an alternate location, or some other unexpected solution, the Temple will certainly be rebuilt.

The Millennial Temple

Zechariah 6:12-14 promises that at the beginning of the Messianic Kingdom, the Messiah “will build the Temple of the Lord” and rule from it as Israel’s priest-king. Ezekiel 40-48 describes the details of the Kingdom Temple, specifically assuring that just as God’s *shekinah* glory had once departed (Ezekiel 10:18) so it will certainly return to this Temple (Ezekiel 43:4). Animal sacrifice will be restored. Just as sacrifices before Messiah’s advent were symbolic, pointing to His coming, so these sacrifices will be symbolic, reminding of Messiah Yeshua’s sacrificial death. Since death will be unusual in the Messianic Kingdom, sacrifices will be necessary to communicate the high price Messiah Yeshua paid to atone for sin. This Temple will achieve what God had intended from the beginning—the people of God worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

In January of 2001, the Mufti of Jerusalem, Sheik Ikrima Sabri, stated, “There is not [even] the smallest indication of the existence of a



The Western Wall, the only remaining structure of Herod’s Temple, is visited by thousands each day

Jewish Temple on this place in the past....The Jews do not even know exactly where their Temple stood. Therefore, we do not accept that they have any rights, underneath the surface or above it.” According to the Scriptures, he is absolutely wrong. Not only were there two Jewish temples in the past but there will yet be two Jewish temples in the future. And most importantly, the final one will be built and governed with God’s authorization by the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua Himself.

Dr. Michael Rydelnik is Professor of Jewish Studies at Moody Bible Institute.

See the through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT—FOR ISRAEL, IDOLATERS AND THE NATIONS Zechariah 5-6

Zechariah five and six record the final installments of the prophet's sweeping visions. They involve the divine judgment which must be rendered before the Messiah, "whose name is the BRANCH" (Zechariah 6:12) establishes His Kingdom upon the earth (Zechariah 6:13).

Judgment Begins with Israel

In Zechariah 5:1-4, the prophet envisions a large "flying scroll" that is of the same dimensions as the Holy Place of the Tabernacle. The scroll flew over the Holy Land and pronounced a curse as it went.

Two commandments of God's Law are highlighted—Commandment Three (lying) and Commandment Eight (stealing). Since the Law was Israel's peculiar possession (Romans 9:4), we may draw the conclusion that the destruction promised by God's

divine judgment was directed first against the nation of Israel. Contrary to the thought of many, God's election of Israel had not exempted her from judgment. If anything, Israel's position as God's Chosen had made her even more accountable to the righteous standard of Almighty God.

Judgment Proceeds Against Centers of Idolatry

Zechariah 5:5-11 describes the prophet's vision of a woman sitting in a basket that held the weight of an *ephah*, the largest dry measure in Israel—about 9 gallons. The woman, who symbolizes wickedness, is pushed into the basket, held there under a lead cover and removed to Babylon. There, she would be placed in a "house" where "the basket will be set there on its base" (Zechariah 5:11). Babylon is now marked out for

judgment as the source and center of all idolatry.

There was both a present and future fulfillment predicted in the fall of Babylon. Both the *ephah* and the woman symbolize the spirit of worldly commerce that is so very contrary to Mosaic Law. In Revelation 17, the future destruction of this woman of idolatry is made certain.

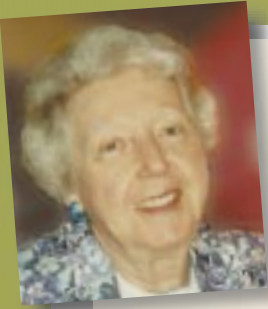
Judgment Culminates Against the Nations

In Zechariah 6:1-7, the prophet viewed four chariots coming out from between mountains of brass. He saw red, black, white and dappled horses. These horses were sent in different directions "to and fro throughout the earth" (Zechariah 6:7).

The vision is closely connected to the first one given in Zechariah 1:7-17. The horses' colors are significant when compared with Revelation 6:1-8. There, the red horse symbolizes war, the black horse is famine and the white horse is death. In the great and terrible "Day of the Lord" (the Tribulation time), God will send wars, famines, plagues and death to judge the nations.

The vision speaks of what will precede the coming of Messiah Jesus, at which time He who is already our High Priest in heaven shall be crowned "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16). He will "reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:33).

Our God is a God of order and priority. Just as there is a proper order and priority for the propagation of the Gospel—"for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16), Zechariah's visions pictured the order of God's judgment beginning with Israel and then extending to the nations. ☆



In Memoriam

Eleanor Bullock went to be with Jesus on Saturday July 13, 2002. Eleanor began her ministry with Chosen People in 1945 and served there faithfully until 1986—41 years. Eleanor said that the day she joined the mission was one of the “happiest days of her life.” It was a fulfillment of her goal to share Jesus with the Jewish people.

Eleanor’s ministry was mainly in teaching women’s Bible classes. She started out in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn at the original headquarters of the American Board of Missions to the Jews (ABMJ). When the mission moved to Manhattan, Eleanor taught the women’s class there. She also taught in the Bronx and later branched out into Long Island in East New York, Huntington Station, Levittown, and Lindenhurst. God honored her ministry, and she had the joy of seeing many Jewish women come to faith in the Messiah Jesus. What a joy it must be for Eleanor to be rejoicing with those who came to Jesus through her ministry who are now in Heaven with her.

Eleanor lived a selfless life putting God’s interest above her own. She is known by all as an excellent Bible teacher, one who walked in the Spirit of the Lord and daily did the will of God. She was a friend to many of us and we shall miss her a lot. She was a remarkable woman and she has left a great legacy to all of us who had the joy of knowing her. (by Ruth Wardell)

Salvation on the Spot

Sometimes relationships have to be carefully cultivated and bear fruit over a period of time. However, when God gives divine appointments and people accept Yeshua as the Messiah right on the spot, it also brings great joy. Not long ago, as they were traveling in Florida, Chosen People Ministries missionary Boris Goldin and his wife, Irina, followed up on a Russian-speaking contact they had received from Boris’ brother. They visited Rudolph* and his wife, Svetlana,* who is suffering with cancer, and witnessed to them. When Boris asked them if they believed that God has power to heal and save, they said, “Yes.” Even as they prayed for Svetlana’s healing, the couple also accepted Yeshua as their Savior.

*names have been changed

Ham Radio Brings Message of Messiah

National Ministries Representative Israel Cohen is a man of many interests—among them ham radio. While he was in New Hampshire recently, he visited the United States National Marconi Museum. While on the guided tour, Israel became friendly with Richard,* the curator of the museum, and began to share the Gospel with him. Although Richard had been brought up in a church, he had never heard the Gospel of salvation by faith in Jesus alone. After Israel shared some Bible verses, he asked Richard if he would like to receive Jesus as his Savior, and Richard said “Yes!” Tears of joy rolled down Richard’s face as Israel led him in prayer to receive the Lord.

Many Seeds Planted Finally Bring Forth Fruit

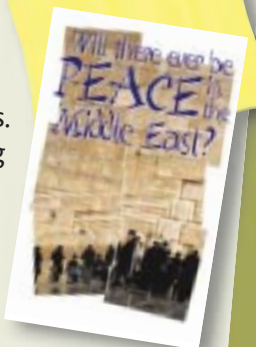
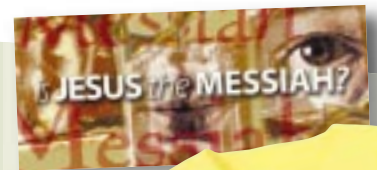
Recently the Chosen People Ministries Messianic congregation in Montreal has been rejoicing in the salvation of an older Jewish man who had been attending for quite some time with his wife, a non-Jewish believer. Although very antagonistic to the message, he kept on coming. Over many years, staff members from Chosen People Ministries and also others in the congregation witnessed to him. Finally, not long ago, the man finally accepted Yeshua. Congregational Leader Percy Johnson remarked: “I rejoice in the faithfulness of God in drawing this precious Jewish man into the Kingdom. It was through the witness of many people. What really moved his heart was to see that there were truly Jewish people who embraced Messiah.”

Another STEP Story—“Can God Forgive These Tattoos?”

STEP stories of salvation keep coming. While on an outreach on Wall Street, a tattooed, twenty-something young man named Tony* asked one of our workers for a tract. After reading it several times, he asked, “Can God forgive me for all these tattoos?” Our worker assured him that God could not only forgive him for the tattoos, but for all his sins.

Tony had been in jail for drug dealing and other crimes. Tony’s next question was, “How can I know that I am going to heaven?” Then our STEP member prayed with Tony to receive Jesus as his Savior.

It is not too early to find out about signing up for next year’s Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP). Call Stewart Jefferson at our headquarters at 212-223-2252 for more information.





The Temple by Alfred Edersheim
This book clearly and thoroughly explains the ministry and services of the Temple as they were at the time of Jesus. It is a valuable tool to enhance your study of the New Testament Scriptures.

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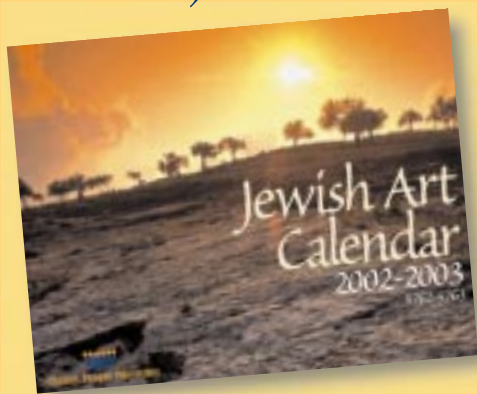
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