

The Chosen People



Volume X, Issue 4 Israel Tour Edition



See ISRAEL through
Jewish Eyes

The Trip that Transforms

Visiting Israel with Chosen People Ministries



**Israel—
No one
belongs
here more
than you!**



Dear friend,
Shalom in our Messiah.

Have you ever dreamed of visiting the land of Israel? The Holy Land, or as some call it, the Promised Land, is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both.

It is an experience that can transform the life of a believer in Jesus. A trip to Israel will draw you closer to the Lord and give you a whole new perspective on your walk with God.

- It will make the Bible come alive in a way you never may have thought possible.
- It will draw you closer to Jesus the Jew, who lived and walked in Israel.
- It will break your heart for the salvation of Jewish people.
- Meeting Israelis who stand for the Lord in a Biblical place will inspire you.

Chosen People Ministries would love to show Israel to you, under the able leadership of my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Ben Alpert.

Israel through Jewish Eyes

There is no shortage of guided tours to Israel, and many of them are informative and well organized. What I like to say is that, no matter how well organized, a tour is only as good as its guide. And Ben is truly the guiding force behind



Chosen People Ministries' "Israel through Jewish Eyes" tours.

Ben grew up in a traditional Jewish home, and his pursuit of Scriptural truth, combined with the influence of a friend, led him to the conclusion that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel. Ben's sense of calling to bring the Gospel to the Jewish people developed quickly. He entered seminary, earning his Master's degree in Theology and a doctorate in Ministry. He has spent the last twenty years of his life dedicated to Jewish evangelism across the United States and has been an active leader and speaker at conferences, and on television and radio.

I cannot say enough about Ben's qualifications as a guide. He has hosted more than 45 excursions to the Land of Israel. There is no one I know who draws the connection between the Jewish Land of Promise and the life of the Messiah more effectively than he does. Ben's extensive connections in Israel, cultivated for so many years, add rare depth to the tour, and they are sure to make the trip all the more memorable.

It is easy for believers to become overwhelmed by awe in the Land of Israel. It seems that everywhere you turn there is some page of Biblical history to leap out at you. Yet contemporary life in Israel is also fascinating. Modern Israel is an integral aspect of the Lord's work among the Jewish people today.

Messiah's Ministry in Israel Today

Chosen People Ministries' "Israel through Jewish Eyes" tour offers a glimpse into what the Lord is doing in Israel today. And believe me, much of importance from a Biblical viewpoint is going on right now!

Chosen People Ministries has had a presence in the Promised Land for many years. The most recent quickening of the Mission's

evangelistic ministry has come about as a result of the massive migration of Jewish people from the former Soviet Union. Roughly a million Russian Jews have settled in Israel in the last decade.

Michael Z. is one of these Russian Jewish immigrants. He and his wife came to faith as a result of the loving friendship of a pastor whom they met during their early days in the Land. Chosen People Ministries has provided the opportunity for Michael to receive a theological education, and he is now the director of our work in Israel.

Tel Aviv has been our most active ministry, with a well-established congregation. We are blessed to have a beautiful building with a good location that we rent from a believing landlord who encourages our work.

Michael Z.'s dream is to establish a Messianic Outreach Center in Jerusalem to equip evangelists to share the Gospel with Israelis all over the country. He has relocated there with his family and has a Bible study group that he hopes will form the core of a new congregation.

We also have a congregation in the West Bank town of Ariel. Henry N., our congregational leader, faithfully ministers to a flock that must battle a constant sense of isolation and anxiety. Despite this, the congregation continues to grow.

If you accompany Ben to Israel, it is my hope that you will be able to hear firsthand from some of our staff there about the wonderful things the Lord is doing.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

The Scripture exhorts us, "*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you'*" (Psalm 122:6).

You can pray wherever you are, but I cannot describe to you what it means to face the stones of the Western Wall of the Temple Mount

and to bow your head in prayer there as so many have done before. It is truly an unforgettable experience.

We pray that God will preserve and protect the Jewish people and others living in the Land. We pray that God's truth will prevail and that justice will rule—not according to the ways of man, but as the Almighty wills. And we pray that, as we wait for the certain hope of Messiah's return, the Lord will equip and enable us to bring the Gospel to the Jewish people whom He has regathered in the Land of Promise.



The Israel of history and the Israel of today are really not as far apart as one might think. Then, as now, Israel struggled to continue to exist. Then, as now, the faithful proclaimed God's Word to those who had strayed. Then, as now, there were those who looked expectantly for the promised Messiah.

May you be among the happy throng who "go up to Jerusalem" to receive the blessing of Israel's God and enter the promise given so long ago to Abraham and his descendants:

"I will bless those who bless you...and in you all the families of the world shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).

There is much more within these pages that I hope will capture your interest. Perhaps this will be the year that you undertake what so many have found to be the true "trip of a lifetime" and see Israel through Jewish eyes!

Yours in Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

“Israel through Jewish Eyes” Tour Itinerary



Tours in the Spring & Fall

This sample itinerary of the “Israel through Jewish Eyes” tour encompasses most, although not all, of the fascinating and important points of interest we shall explore. For a full view of the trip schedule and pricing, visit us on the web at chosenpeople.com/tour.



Day 1

Arrive Ben Gurion Airport. Following hotel check-in and dinner, an orientation meeting will be held to answer questions about your Holy Land tour.



Day 2

The first day of sightseeing begins with a ride up the coast to Caesarea, built by King Herod the Great, and the Roman Aqueduct, the Herodian Port and the Roman Theater where Paul was tried by Festus (Acts 25:6-12). Next is Mount Carmel, with the magnificent panorama of Carmel, the Mountains of Samaria, Gilboa, Gilead and the entire Jezreel Valley below. Then we drive through the Jezreel Valley into the mountains of the Galilee, with sights along the way.



Day 3

The next day begins with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, before arriving at Kibbutz Ginossar and



an opportunity to view the ancient “Jesus Boat.” Then we ride to Capernaum, to visit the remains of an ancient synagogue whose foundations date back to the time of Jesus. Touring resumes at Tabgha, site of the multiplication of loaves and fishes (John 6), the Mount of Beatitudes and the ancient Temple at Korazim and Bethsaida, the home of the



YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- ✧ Round trip airfare from point of departure
- ✧ 8 nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ✧ Breakfast and dinner daily
- ✧ 7 days of sightseeing
- ✧ All taxes and services in Israel
- ✧ Boat ride on Sea of Galilee
- ✧ Evening Bible studies
- ✧ Special Messianic Sabbath service

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chosenpeople.com/tour

Apostles Philip, Simon and Andrew. The day concludes on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.



Day 4

We start at Tel Dan, site of an altar from the tribe of Dan and Abraham's Gate dating back to the Canaanite period. Today, the tel and the surrounding area are part of the Tel Dan Nature Reserve. Other sites today include Caesarea Philippi and the Banias, Gamla, the "Masada for the North," Katzrin, an important city in Jesus' Galilean ministry, and the Golan Heights.

Day 5

The first stop is the Yardenit, the baptismal site at the headwaters of the River Jordan. The day continues with a trip to Armageddon (Revelation 16:16) and the vast archaeological remains of Megiddo. A visit to Beit Alfa is then planned to see the remains of a magnificent



sixth century synagogue mosaic floor. Then it's on to Beth She'an, site of recent excavations uncovering a centuries-old amphitheater and countless archaeological treasures, and also the site where the bodies of King Saul and his sons were displayed after battle with the Philistines.



Day 6

This day is among the most exciting days on tour as we drive through the Judean Desert to the Dead Sea. *En route* a visit is planned in Qumran, site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. We will drive via En Gedi, where David had his famed meeting with King Saul (1 Samuel 24:1-22).



Israel through Jewish Eyes— What Some Have Seen

Chosen People Ministries invites you to stand by Israel and bless her with your presence in the Land. And so, too, shall you be blessed. To those loved ones and friends who will undoubtedly ask, "How can you go now?" we would say, "How can we NOT go now?"

Here are some words of testimony from past members of our "Israel through Jewish Eyes" tour.

"As you travel through Israel, every perception you once had about the country is irrevocably changed. As our guide told us repeatedly, 'To understand Israel's geography is to understand her history.' How true! To walk the streets in Galilee and Judah and to talk with the friendly and warm people of Israel puts life around the words of the Bible. In a short time, one's love for God's Chosen People is kindled a hundredfold as you meet, greet and converse with people of all walks of life. Events in the Scriptures come alive as you visit Capernaum, Megiddo and Masada. As a pastor who deeply wants to instill the historic roots of our faith into his people and to help them understand that Christianity is Jewish, a trip to Israel is essential! Preconceptions fall, fallacies are eroded, and in their place, truth reigns. We will long cherish our trip to Israel. Currently, we are discussing the timing of our next trip and have people from the last trip already interested!"

– Dr. Matt Smith, Senior Pastor
Miramar Evangelical Free Church, Florida

"I have to confess that at first, my wife was much more interested in going than I was. But after we went, I discovered that to meet the people and to see the Land is truly life-changing. When you see Israel 'through Jewish eyes,' Scripture comes alive in a new and fresh way. As you visualize the actual locations you have visited, it changes the way you read Biblical passages.

"You meet a variety of fellow travelers, and I marveled at how we all seemed to develop a passion for the Land and the people. This trip launched a journey for Judy and me that has opened up new dimensions for our faith."

– Buzz and Judy Johnson
Olympia, Washington



Chosen People Ministries also offers a missions trip during the month of July for committed believers up to age 35.

eXperience Israel is led by Chosen People Ministries' Justin Kron, our "next generation ministry" representative.

Dr. Ben Alpert is co-leader of this unique mixture of evangelistic outreach and enriching Holy Land travel. Here are some brief words of testimony from one **eXperience Israel** team member:

"eXperience Israel has had a very positive influence on my life. I have a newfound respect for the Jewish people and their land. Looking at things 'through Jewish eyes' made me realize that Israel is truly their homeland first—then the Gentiles'. Evangelism is now a little higher on my list of things to do more often....I look at Scripture in a whole new way. Now when there is a sermon on Gethsemane or Mount Carmel—to just name a couple of places—I can say I was there and experienced this story."

— Jayleen T.

At the Dead Sea, those who wish may have the opportunity to float in its waters. The afternoon brings us to Masada, the winter fortress of King Herod the Great, where we will learn about the Jewish resistance fighters who, along with their wives and children, made their last stand on this site in C.E. 73.

Day 7

Sightseeing today begins atop the Mount of Olives (Matthew 24:1-3) and the panoramic view of the Old City and the Kidron Valley below. Then we take a short walk to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed as His disciples slept (Matthew 26:36-38). There, we will pause to reflect and to pray. Later, we will stop outside the gates of the Knesset, home of the Israeli Parliament. The day concludes with a solemn visit to Yad Vashem, memorial to the Holocaust.

Day 8

Today we visit the Western (Wailing) Wall, prior to exploring the Rabbi's Tunnel under and alongside the Temple Mount and the

Ecco Homo (floor of Scourging) where we will see authentic Roman pavement within the Antonia Fortification.

The day continues in the Old City with a walk through the Arab Bazaar to the rebuilt Jewish Quarter before arriving at the Burnt House and Herodian Quarter. We

will also view the Shepherd's Field outside Jerusalem, where the shepherds learned of the birth of the Messiah (Luke 2:8-20).

Days 9 and 10

Today is a half-day of sightseeing, first to Yad

Hashmona Biblical garden and then to the Garden Tomb, where Dr. Alpert will conduct a special Communion service. An early afternoon return is planned back to the hotel, where the remainder of the day will be at leisure. This evening is a farewell dinner, including a special presentation by Dr. Alpert to all of his guests. Day 10 is the day set to return home with stories and memories that will last a lifetime—or until your next Israel trip!



TEL AVIV EXPANDS WORSHIP SERVICES

Michael Z., Chosen People Ministries' Israel Director, reports, "We are launching what is, for our ministry, an historic expansion in the life of our Tel Aviv congregation: two weekly services. In addition to our usual Russian service, we are inaugurating a new service in Hebrew. We feel the time has come to minister more effectively to indigenous Israelis." Also, missionary Maxim L. helped lead a group of Israeli youth on an outreach on the streets of Tel Aviv. Maxim prayed with four people to receive the Lord!

NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Chosen People Ministries in Argentina recently hosted eight people from overseas for several days of intensive evangelism among the Jewish people of Buenos Aires. These eight combined forces with eight members of the local Messianic congregation and three missionaries to distribute evangelistic flyers. The tracts proved to be great conversation starters that enabled the team to follow up with the gift of a newly released Spanish New Testament specially prepared for ministry among Jewish people.

"SKINHEAD" HAS CHANGE OF HEART

Missionary Boris Goldin recently shared his testimony about what it means to be a Jew and believe in Jesus. Afterwards, a large young man approached him and was choked with tears. When the young man was finally able to speak, he told Boris he had been a "skinhead" Nazi for a long time and had hated Jewish people. But then he met the Lord and his life was changed. He asked for forgiveness for what he and others like him had done to the Jewish people. As they embraced in fellowship, Boris thought, "Only Yeshua can change us and unite us in Him."

DANIEL AND THE "LYONS-DEN"

How do you reach out to Jewish people in the Pacific Northwest? A coffee shop could be one way! Chosen People Ministries' missionary Daniel Nessim met a believer who desires his coffee shop to be used for ministry. The owner is opening the door for Daniel to use this shop, with its warm fireside/prayer room and good location. The coffee shop is called "The Lyons-Den" which suits Daniel just fine.

UPDATE FROM GERMANY

Staff member Boris Galinker participated on a panel for a well-known Russian-language television talk show about the perspectives of the growing Jewish Diaspora in Germany. It was a unique opportunity to share about Jewish people who believe in Jesus. The show was televised to thousands of viewers in Ukraine, the United States, Israel, Russia and Germany. Pray that the Lord will use Boris' testimony to add many to Messiah's kingdom.

JOEL ROSENBERG CO-HOSTS ISRAEL TOUR

New York Times best-selling writer Joel C. Rosenberg, the author of *The Last Jihad* and *The Last Days*, is a dynamic Israel tour co-host.



Mr. Rosenberg is a Jewish believer in Jesus the Messiah and is from an Orthodox Jewish background. His grandparents fled the Russian pogroms around 1905, and his father was raised in an Orthodox Jewish home in Brooklyn.

Mr. Rosenberg has written extensively on Israel and the Middle East and has served as a senior aide to former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Deputy Prime Minister Natan Sharansky. His in-depth knowledge of modern Israel is a richly rewarding complement to the Biblical history that the tour guides cover and the ancient archeological sites that are explored. His field of expertise lends perspective to the special insider briefings on political and military matters by senior Israeli government officials that the "Israel through Jewish Eyes" tour offers its members.

Mr. Rosenberg has been profiled twice by the *New York Times* and has appeared on over 350 radio and TV programs, including ABC's *Nightline*, CNN's *Headline News*, *The 700 Club*, *Hannity & Colmes*, Sean Hannity's radio show and the *Rush Limbaugh* show.

Gifts & Music

Shofar

The piercing notes of the *Shofar* (Ram's Horn) have echoed throughout 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. They also make wonderful gifts. Because each Shofar is unique, yours may vary slightly in size and shape from the one shown here. Made in Israel.

shofar #5020

price: \$39.95^{us}

Jewish Tallit

The *Tallit* (prayer shawl) is a wonderful reminder of God's enveloping love and His claim upon us for obedience and discipleship. Its fringes stand for the Law of the Lord, now fulfilled through the atoning work of Jesus the Messiah. Made in Israel.

tallit with matching bag #5029

price \$82.95^{us}

Say "Our Home Belongs to God" with a Mezzuzah

The *mezzuzah* ("doorpost" in Hebrew) is a small, rectangular case containing a scroll with Hebrew verses from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21. It is affixed to the doorposts of many Jewish homes. Each time we walk by, it reminds us that our house belongs to the true and living God. Now you too can have this silent but powerful witness of God's presence to place on your doorpost to proclaim Messiah's Lordship. Made in Israel.

mezzuzah #5140

price \$26.95^{us}

Up to Zion

Worshipful music led by Paul Wilbur, former lead singer of the musical trio Israel's Hope. *Up to Zion* was recorded live before a joyful congregation. You'll enjoy this historic, internationally acclaimed Messianic album as you prepare to visit Israel. Songs include *He Shall Reign*, *Worthy Is the Lamb*, and *The Song of Moses*.

cassette #4018

price \$12.95^{us}

CD #4020

price \$18.95^{us}

Jerusalem Arise!

by Paul Wilbur - Recorded live in Jerusalem, this musical treat presents one of the most compelling and significant worship pieces of the millennium. *Jerusalem Arise!* is a dramatic and fresh worship experience that will move your heart.

CD #4035

price \$18.95^{us}

The Restoration of Israel

by Joel Chernoff - The convergence of musical sounds and lyrics on this album by the former lead singer of Lamb will take you on a new and refreshing journey of worship and encourage a longing in your heart to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

CD #4038

price \$18.95^{us}

Enter His Gates to Your Jewish Roots

by Susan Marcus - Excellent, easy-to-read explanations of various items traditionally found in Jewish homes and culture. Since these items existed also in Jesus' day and were part of His daily and holiday celebrations, they can only help you deepen your spiritual walk. Beautifully illustrated; 93 pages.

book #3104

price \$22.95^{us}

For orders, use the card enclosed or in the U.S. call 800-333-4936. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



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)