

The Chosen People



Volume XI, Issue 3 April 2005



Passover: *The Power of Redemption Unleashed*

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Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom from New York City! All across the globe, Jewish people are beginning to prepare for *Passover*. As you know, this holiday is a magnificent prophetic portrait of the ultimate redemption that came through the shed blood of God's Lamb, Jesus our Messiah.

We usually observe the Seder on the first two nights of this eight-day festival. Biblically, these eight days include the *Festival of Unleavened Bread* as well as Passover itself, which according to Scripture is a one-day Festival.

It was during Jesus' final Passover Seder that He declared Himself to be the fulfillment of these great Feasts. He made it plain to His disciples that the blood He would shed—

symbolized by the third cup, called the "Cup of Redemption"—and the breaking of His body—declared prophetically in the breaking of the middle piece of Matza—would purchase salvation for all.

I hope you will enjoy the articles we have included that will help you better understand these important Festivals. For more information, be sure to visit our web site at chosenpeople.com/passover. You'll find lots to enjoy and explore, as well as materials that will enrich your faith and worship.

Please remember to pray for us as Chosen People Ministries missionaries, congregations and branches around the world will hold Messianic Passover Seders. These events reflect not only the ancient blessings of the Seder, but also point to the fulfillment of redemption in

the person of our Messiah Jesus. If you are interested in finding a Seder near your home, please call us at 1-888-2-YESHUA and we will try to help you find one in your area.

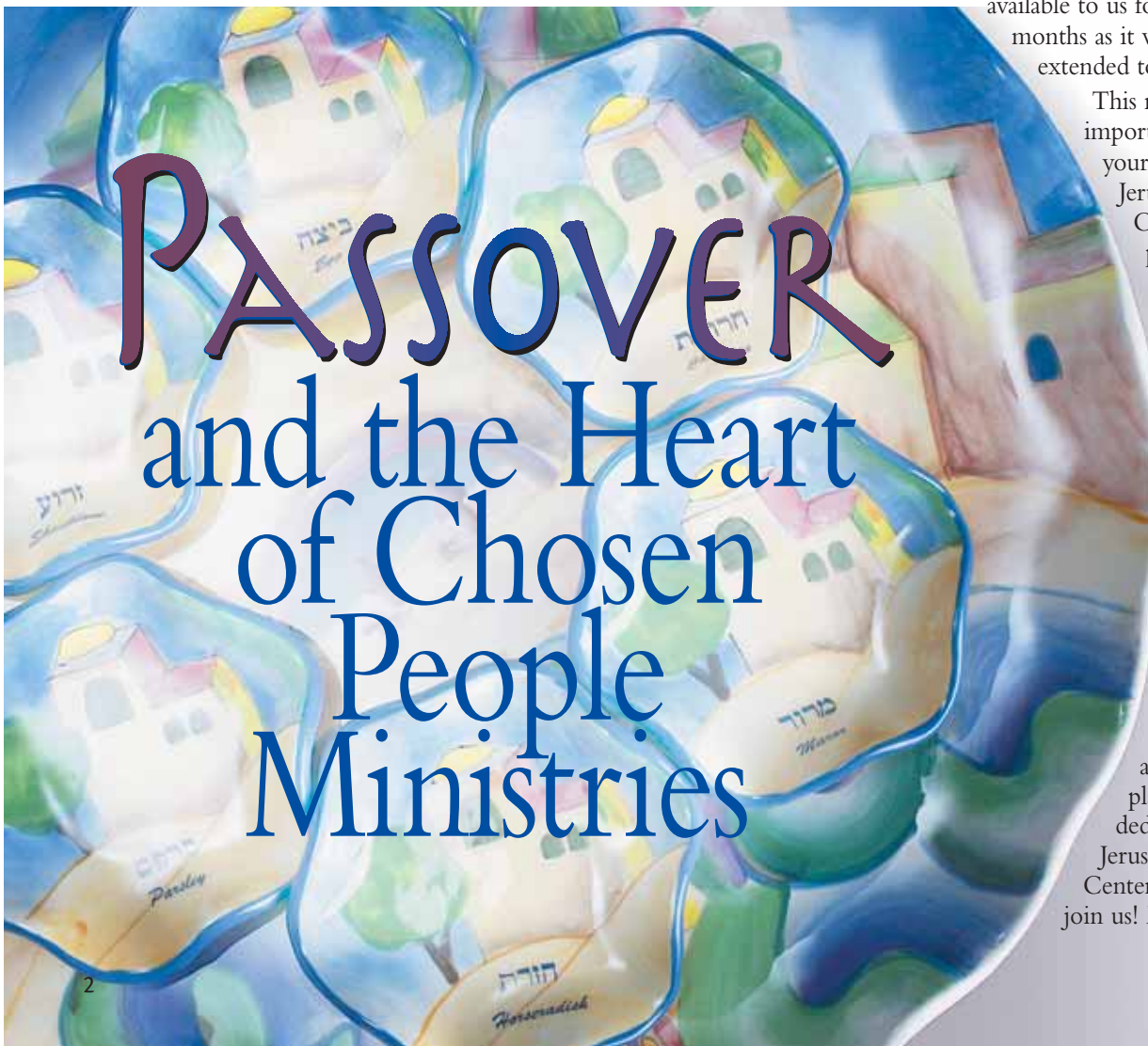
Update on the Jerusalem Messianic Center

I cannot tell you how grateful the staff family of Chosen People Ministries is for the outpouring of generous gifts for our new Center in that holiest of all cities, Jerusalem. We are making great progress toward paying for the building without incurring debt. We are praising the Lord as well for the generous offer of a matching grant, which allows every \$100 we receive to be worth \$150!

Once again, this grant will be available to us for only a few more months as it was graciously extended to the end of June.

This means it is very important that you send your gift for the Jerusalem Messianic Center as soon as possible so that the gift can count for even more.

I also wanted to let you know that we are already planning a special Dedication Tour to Israel in November. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will include our regular Israel tour as well as a number of additional events planned around the dedication of the Jerusalem Messianic Center. I do hope you can join us! My wife and I will



help lead the tour and be there for the dedication. Don't miss it!

Please see the back page of this newsletter and consider joining us for this great time of celebration!

Passover Themes and the Power of the Gospel

Back to Passover, the holiday that reveals the heart of God's plan of redemption and points to what Chosen People Ministries is all about. Passover provides the key to understanding "what makes us tick." This great festival displays the power of God unleashed to deliver men and women from the bondage of slavery. It also points to the full measure of God's redeeming power to liberate people from their bondage to sin through Jesus the Messiah. Day after day, we continue to witness the hand of God as we minister to Jewish people the world over.

I want you to praise God with me as I share a few stories of how Jewish people today are experiencing redemption in Jesus the Messiah. Rejoice with us in the wonderful way God is touching Jewish people today!

The Power of Redemption Unleashed...through a Devoted Daughter

Laura Fels, who works in our New York City branch and is "on loan" from Campus Crusade for Christ's Executive Ministries outreach, was ministering as part of a speaking tour. At a Bible study,

Laura met a young woman whose mother is Jewish.

Laura's teaching on the

Jewish roots of Christian faith



Karpas

inspired this young woman to witness to her mom and invite her to a Chosen People Ministries outreach concert by Marty Goetz, a well-known Messianic musician. After the concert, during which Marty had sung a "Christian" adaptation of the popular song, "Some Enchanted Evening," the woman confided in Laura, "I met this 'stranger' tonight—Jesus."

...through the Witness of a Local Congregation

Beitzah



Our congregational services also play a crucial role in providing an environment where Jewish seekers can hear and respond to the message of Messiah.

A few months ago, we hosted Messianic Jewish speaker and author, Dr. Michael Brown (author of *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus*), at our congregation in New York City.

That morning, Art,* a Jewish seeker, and his wife, Alice,* who is not Jewish, heard Michael deliver a message at our congregation's morning service. Both of these bright, young people are actors and are quite involved with the New York "arts scene." Spiritually curious, they had started attending the congregation earlier this year. Dr. Brown's message was about facing who and what we are and the claims of the Messiah. After the service, Dr. Brown prayed with both of them to receive the Lord!

Steve and Carol Fenchel, who lead the congregation, have followed up and are meeting with them regularly.

...through the Testimony of a Jewish Festival

Special Jewish holiday services are so very important in reaching our Jewish people for the Messiah. Just

ask Cathy Wilson, who ministers in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area that is home to almost 100,000 Jewish people.

Lena,* a Jewish woman, came to faith last Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), but her husband was still seeking and not yet a believer in Jesus.

A few months later, Cathy organized another event based upon a Jewish holiday (*Hanukkah*), and at that meeting, Barry* followed his wife in faith. This is quite something for a Jewish man from an Orthodox background who is over seventy years of age!

What a wonderful reminder of how God uses the Jewish holidays to reach people for the Messiah. So please pray for our Passover Seder outreaches in cities around the world.

Power by the Blood of the Lamb

The stories I've shared here are just a few examples of the redeeming power of Jesus the Messiah. The Lord is faithful. The blood of the Lamb is still powerful to save all who come to Him in faith. The proclamation of His transforming power is the reason Chosen People Ministries exists.

Thank you for your prayers and support, especially as we trust the Lord to provide for the Jerusalem Messianic Center.

Your brother in the Messiah,

Mitch

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

*names changed



Matza

Passover in Israel – Past and Present



Every life has its landmarks: the first meeting with your future spouse, that initial open door that leads to other possibilities, or a decision to move on to uncharted territory. We reflect upon these landmarks as we consider the meaning of the story that the Lord is telling through our lives.

Nations also look back upon landmarks, and Israel especially does so. One of its most important landmarks is the Passover. Starting with the Exodus from Egypt, the annual Passover celebration has been a witness to every key event in Jewish history, including the most important of all, the coming of the Messiah.

Passover, both past and present, is a time of earthly and heavenly

excitement, especially in the Land of Israel.

Passover in the Time of Jesus

Can you imagine the town or city you live in swelling to six times its normal size? That's what happened to Jerusalem at the time when Jesus the Messiah carried out His earthly ministry. According to the noted scholar Joachim Jeremias, Jerusalem had a population of about 20,000 to 30,000 people. But at Passover, one of the three festivals that must be celebrated in Jerusalem mentioned in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16, the Holy City's population swelled by perhaps another 150,000.¹ Imagine every room filled, with campsites popping up on every available hillside, inhabited by Jewish people who had traveled from throughout the world.

First and foremost in their thoughts would have been the Temple itself. Alfred Edersheim, the noted Messianic Jewish scholar, captures something of the flavor of the Jewish attitude toward the Temple at the time of Jesus in his book *The Temple – Its Ministry and Services*.

In all his wanderings the Jew had not seen a city like his own Jerusalem...Nor has there been, either in ancient or modern times, a sacred building equal to the Temple, whether for situation or magnificence; nor yet have there been festive throngs like those...who, with their hymns of praise, crowded towards the city on the eve of a Passover.¹¹

Preparations for Passover in Jerusalem were a painstaking task. According to Edersheim, bridges and roads had to be put in shape for the thousands of pilgrims that would stream into the city, and special care would be taken to keep Jerusalem

and its environs ceremonially clean for the feast.ⁱⁱⁱ Then, after other preliminary activities and offerings, the Passover Lamb would be sacrificed between the evenings of the 14th and the 15th day of the month of Nisan.

Edersheim describes the solemn scene on the Temple Mount:

It was done [in this way]—the first of the three festive divisions, with their Paschal lambs, was admitted within the Court of the Priests. Each division must consist of not less than thirty persons (3 x 10, the symbolical number of the Divine and of completeness). Immediately the massive gates were closed behind them. The priests drew a threefold blast from their silver trumpets when the Passover was slain. Altogether the scene was most impressive.^{iv}

One can only imagine the thoughts of Jesus the Messiah at His final Passover as He beheld the slaying of the lambs at the Temple, knowing that His own hour had at last come.

Passover in Jerusalem Today

Passover in Israel today (and indeed in Jewish communities around the world) is also an elaborate affair. As in days of old, Jerusalem undergoes a rigorous "spring cleaning" in preparation for the festival.

In a charming article by Judy Lash Balint titled, "Seventeen Ways You Know Passover Is Coming in Jerusalem," the author writes, "No alarm clock needed here—we have the clanging of the garbage trucks as they roll through the neighborhood every morning during the two weeks before Pesach to accommodate all the refuse from the furious cleaning going on in every household. The day before the seder they make their rounds at least twice during the day."^v

Passover is also a time for vacation for Israelis, and many who can afford it enjoy celebrating Passover in resorts where someone else can cook and clean up. Luxury hotels also offer packages to Israel's prime getaway

locations such as Safed, Tiberias and Tel Aviv and advertise internationally.

Of course, since the destruction of the Temple, lambs are no longer sacrificed at the Temple Mount. However, various Jewish sects use the Passover celebration to reemphasize the connection of modern-day Israel to the Israel of the Scriptures. Some of them even slaughter and roast a young goat on *Givat Hananya*, a nearby hill. The “Samaritan Passover” (see accompanying article) is another example of the deep hold that the act of sacrifice still has on some sectors of the Jewish soul.

Messiah’s Sacrifice – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

The Passover celebrates the Exodus of the children of Israel from their bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt. Over the centuries, the closing prayer, “Next Year in Jerusalem” has been the yearning hope of return to the Land of Promise and all the promises—past, present and future—that are part of that restoration. The ministry of Jesus the Messiah contains the fulfillment of all those hopes. His sacrifice once and for all paves the way for us to enter every aspect of God’s peace as we learn to place our faith in Him.

John the Baptist proclaimed, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). The meaning of these words could never be complete without the Passover. For just as the children of Israel were shielded from God’s judgment in Egypt by the blood of the innocent Passover lamb, so are we covered and forgiven through the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

i Joachim Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969), p. 84.

ii Edersheim, Alfred, *The Temple – Its Ministry and Services* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers), pp. 5-6.

iii Ibid., p.169.

iv Ibid., p.175.

v <http://www.jerusalemidiaries.com/article/85>

MODERN SAMARITANS AND THE ANCIENT PASSOVER SACRIFICE

One day, while passing through the disreputable district of Samaria, Jesus encountered a woman at a well. You know the story. The woman, uncomfortable at the direction of the conversation, switched to a religious point: “*Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship*” (John 4:20).

If you think this controversy was put to rest in the time of Jesus, you might be greatly surprised at the answer.

Samaria – the Northern Kingdom of Israel

The death of King Solomon in the tenth century BC brought about the divided kingdom. Samaria was the capital of the territory occupied by the ten tribes of the north. The hostility that existed between Samaria and Judah was such that the northern kings were unwilling for their subjects to worship at the Jerusalem Temple. Instead, they set up a system of sacrifice in their own territory.

In Jesus’ day, the Samaritans continued to practice their own version of Israelite faith, even to the point of sacrificing, not in Jerusalem, but at Mt. Gerizim, which is about 40 miles north of the Holy City. This was the source of contention to which the woman at the well referred. And whereas the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem spelled the end of all sacrifice for the rest of the Jewish world, this was not true for the Samaritans. And this remains the case, even up to the present time.

The Samaritan Passover Today

Most of the Jewish world celebrates the Passover sitting at a table. On the Seder plate, we find the shank bone of a lamb, placed there as

a reminder of the sacrifice that can no longer be made because of the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple.

This is not so with the Samaritans. Although their numbers have dwindled to perhaps a few dozen families, today’s Samaritans celebrate Passover outdoors, under the light of the full moon, carrying out the injunction of the first Passover as faithfully as possible: “*And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover*” (Exodus 12:11).

Before this, however, the Passover lamb must be slain. At around sunset, the men who head their households bring their lambs to the area for sacrifice. Then, at a given signal, the lambs’ throats are cut and the blood is drained from their carcasses. After that, the lambs are skinned and roasted for the meal, which commences around midnight.

The Samaritan Sacrifice and the Lamb of God

There are few of us now who kill and dress our meat. For this reason alone, the bloody procedure of the Samaritan Passover would be a sobering experience for most of us. But added to this is the even greater significance of the event itself. The Samaritan sacrifice transports us back to a time when the slaughter of the lamb and its accompanying sights and smells would remind the worshipper of how costly sin actually is.

How much more are we inspired to think of the sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, as He shed His precious blood for us?

Sources consulted:

http://www.en-gedi.org/articles/other/articles_sam_passover.html

http://www.the-samaritans.com/html_articles/1913_newspaper.htm

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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

THE FIRST BABYLON – MONOPOLY ON RELIGION

We learn from Revelation chapters 17 and 18 that “two Babylons” are coming to dominate the earth: one a religious monopoly (Revelation 17); the other an economic enterprise (Revelation 18). In this and the next issue we shall consider the first Babylon of Revelation 17.

bottomless pit (Revelation 17:8) and is energized by Satan and assisted by the false prophet.

Throughout history, political systems have utilized religious bodies to further their political causes. The great harlot and “mother of... abominations” will unify philosophical and religious errors under one worldwide false religious system (Revelation 17:1,2,15). One world religion will dominate, in cooperation with the State, as pictured by the prostitute “riding the beast” (17:7).

TODAY’S FALSE TEACHING AND TOMORROW’S WORLD RELIGION

No doubt one of the most universal systems of doctrinal deviation today is the New Age movement. Might it pave the way for the unification of all false religions in the first half of the Tribulation time? With belief in reincarnation, moral relativism and its emphasis on change, New Agers attempt to discover their divinity. They deny the divinity of the Messiah, consider New Age revelation superior to Scripture and believe that salvation is self-merited.

It is important to note that the growth of New Age philosophy solidifies both Western and Eastern thought in a shared ideology that takes on a variety of forms and names. In the next issue, we will expose the one, great “world religion” which today is preparing the way for the unification of all religions.

As believers in Messiah Jesus, we rely on His truth. Whatever enslavements our Adversary plans for us, they will come to naught—so long as we cling to the truth which Messiah declared “shall make you free” (John 8:32). ☆

drew the connection between this ancient fertility myth and the celebration of the true Resurrection.

FALSE RELIGION BECOMES DOMINANT

In the first half of the future seven-year Tribulation, this false religious system will take on worldwide proportions (Revelation 17:1,2,5,15). It will receive the full endorsement of the State, since the “harlot” is sustained by the “beast” and is pictured as a seven-headed, ten-horned beast that carries the harlot on its back (Revelation 17:7).

The ten-horned beast represents ten kings or nations that enable the anti-Christ to rise to power by the unification and cooperation of “State and Church” (see Daniel 2:41-45; 7:7). The beast ascends from the

THE CULT OF SEMIRAMIS, TAMMUZ AND ISHTAR

Revelation 17:5 describes this first Babylon as, “The mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth.” Its origin stretches back to the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), which was built by Noah’s wayward grandson, Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-10). Tradition claims that Nimrod’s wife, Semiramis, had a son, Tammuz, who was slain by a wild boar and resurrected 40 days later.

This story became the basis of a cult with a wide and devoted following. Every year, there was a 40-day fast for the death and resurrection of Tammuz. Then, a joyful feast called Ishtar—after the lover of Tammuz—took place, which featured colored eggs that were eaten as a symbol of the resurrection. It is not difficult to see how ancient people

I N M E M O R I A M
**DANIEL SOLOMON – FAITHFUL AND WISE
 SERVANT OF MESSIAH**

Daniel Solomon, a Jewish believer and a faithful staff member who was at the forefront of Messianic ministry in France, passed away on February 18 after a two-year battle with brain cancer. He was 67 years old and lived in Carrieres sous Poissy, close to Paris. Born in Africa, Daniel's family relocated to France before World War II. After the war, at the age of 17, Daniel decided to immigrate to Israel and lived there on a kibbutz as an ardent Zionist. Returning to France to work for IBM, Daniel met a man who challenged him to read the Bible. Convinced of its truth, he received the Lord in 1973. His wife, Sara, took that step of faith the following year. Daniel was buried in Israel and is survived by his wife and four grown children.

“NOW I BELIEVE THAT HE IS!”

While in Florida, staff member Alan Shore gave his dramatic presentation of the life of the Apostle Paul, *A Chosen Vessel*, at a Messianic congregation in Delray Beach. After the service, he was approached by a Jewish woman with a background in theater and the arts who had been attending for some weeks. She told him she was inspired by the Gospel message the drama conveyed. “Up to today,” she said, “I thought that Jesus might be the Messiah. Now I believe that He is!” The congregation rejoices in her decision to follow Him.

**MESSIANIC FAMILY SPARKS
 CONTROVERSY IN LONDON**

The arrival of staff member Daniel Nessim and his family in London has already created some shock waves in the Jewish community. England's most widely read Jewish paper, *The Jewish Chronicle*, correctly reports that Chosen People Ministries promotes “the belief that Jesus is the Messiah of the Jews...” Another paper, *The Jewish News*, describes the Nessims as “a family of messianic Jews” and “long-time Jewish believers in Jesus.” The Nessims rejoice in this description, for it is an acknowledgement that it is possible to be both Jewish and a believer in Jesus.

**JEWISH AMERICAN WOMAN
 FINDS MESSIAH IN FRANCE**

Evangelistic work in France continues to grow from the foundation that Daniel Solomon helped to lay, especially through the gifts of staff member Rebecca Lohnes. The Mission's ministry partner, *Le Berger d'Israël* (The Shepherd of Israel), holds a monthly Messianic Bible study in Strasbourg. When Rebecca taught on “Messiah in the Prophets,” A., a woman raised in an interfaith home with a Jewish father, was thrilled to know of the Jewish basis of the Gospel. Shortly thereafter, following a lengthy visit and discussion at Rebecca's home, A. received the Lord. She and Rebecca continue to meet for discipleship and prayer for her husband and 13-year-old son.

THEY EVEN SWITCHED OFF THE TV!

Igor Swiderski, our student missionary at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, never tires of visiting people in the Russian Jewish community. Sometimes it's uphill work—especially with one family who never turned down the television and kept the volume on so high that Igor almost had to shout to be heard when he visited them. One day, he tried a different tactic. He talked so quietly that they actually turned down the volume. As he shared the Gospel with them, they became so attentive that they even switched off the TV! Then the wife suddenly said that she would like to pray to receive the Lord. Pray for Mrs. B.'s growth in her faith, and for the salvation of her husband.

Zhava's Passover Tzimmes

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 lb carrots | 5 sweet potatoes | 1/2 cup pitted prunes |
| 1/2 cup honey | 1 cup orange juice | 1 tsp cinnamon |

Tzimmes is a wonderfully sweet, delicious vegetable dish served at Passover. It's such a mushy mixture of tastes that it has come to be an expression in the Jewish vocabulary, as in “Oy, don't make such a *tzimmes*, sweetheart!” (meaning don't mix things up and make them such a big deal!).

To make Passover *tzimmes*, first preheat the oven to 350°F. Then peel and chop the carrots and sweet potatoes into 1-inch pieces. Cook them together in a large pot of water for about 15 minutes over medium heat, until they are a little tender but still firm. Then mix in the prunes and put the whole *tzimmes* in a casserole dish. In a separate bowl, mix together the honey, orange juice and cinnamon, and pour over the vegetable mix. Cover and bake for about 30-45 minutes. Take off the cover, stir, and bake for another 10 minutes or so until all the vegetables are nice and soft. *Tzimmes* tastes better if you refrigerate it overnight, but be sure to reheat it in a very slow oven. Serves 6-8. Enjoy!

DEDICATION TOUR TO ISRAEL

November 8-18, 2005

There is no better time to see the land of the patriarchs and the Messiah!

Join Chosen People Ministries and Dr. Ben Alpert, veteran Israel guide and gifted Bible teacher, for this very special "See Israel through Jewish Eyes" Tour. This special tour will be co-hosted by Mitch Glaser, Chosen People Ministries president, and his wife, Zhava. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will include our regular Israel tour as well as additional events planned around the dedication of the Jerusalem Messianic Center. Make this the year that you walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles.

For more information about the tour call 1-800-459-9402 or visit www.chosenpeople.com/tour.



The **Matza Tash** (unity) is a pouch with three compartments for matza—a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature. This white Matza tash is beautifully embroidered and made in Israel.

Matza Tash (#5026) \$22.95^{US}

This silver **Seder Plate** is made in Israel and beautifully displays the seder elements.

Seder Plate (#5024) \$28.95^{US}

Each of the four times the **Kiddush cup** is filled during the Passover meal, the story of God's redeeming work among His people is unfolded. This silver cup is about three inches tall. Made in Israel.

Kiddush Cup (#5025) \$22.95^{US}

Complete Passover Set (includes plate, cup and Matza tash— #5027) \$65.95^{US}

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The *Chosen People* newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries. For more information, or to receive *The Chosen People* newsletter, write to: Chosen People Ministries, International Headquarters, 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. In Canada, write to: Box 897 Station B, North York, ON, M2K 2R1. In Great Britain, write to: PO Box 350, Market Drayton, TF9 3ZP, United Kingdom. In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah, PO Box 5006, Glenferrie, South VIC 3122 (www.celebratemessiah.com.au). Editor: Zhava Glaser; Staff Writer: Alan Shore; Design: Lois Gable.



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