

The Chosen People

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The Messiah's Heart for Evangelism

Jesus & the Jews, the Last Days

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Broken-hearted Messiah • Meeting Messiah in a Jewish Way • What Does It Mean to Be "Born Again"? • Saul: Israel's First King



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The Broken-hearted *Messiah*

Dear friend,

Shalom from Brooklyn. This is a hard letter to write as I am sitting at my desk at home mourning the death of my father. As you may have heard, he died last month at age 75.

Ever since I became a believer almost 36 years ago, I have done all I could to tell my family about *Yeshua* (Jesus' Hebrew name). But I come from a very traditional Jewish family that has all the same objections to Jesus being the Messiah that you perhaps encounter from your Jewish family and friends.

The truth is, as with most Jewish believers in Jesus, I am the only member of my immediate family that believes Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. This means that although I work day and night to see Jewish people come to faith in Jesus, I have not been “successful” in relation to my own family. But before you pick up your pen to write to me and remind me that it is God’s job to persuade men and women of the Gospel—don’t worry. I do understand this. One cannot possibly read John 16:8-11 without realizing that conviction of sin and the convincing of the soul

The night before Jesus was crucified so that Jews and Gentiles might be saved, He prayed to His Father on the Mount of Olives, pictured above.

regarding the Gospel is the work of the Spirit of God and not of man.

However, we must do our part! I still try to find ways to let my family know that *Yeshua* is the Jewish Messiah. Through the years, I presented the Gospel many times to my dad. He was actually quite open, and loved both my Jewish and Gentile believing friends. He even came to our weekly Bible study in our home in Brooklyn for years. In fact, he often brought refreshments!

One day, I was sitting with my dad in a car after running an errand, and I brought up the subject of Jesus again. He smiled at me and said, “Son, you can keep speaking to me about Jesus all you want if it makes

you happy, but even after thirty-plus years, it just does not make any sense to me.” He continued, “I wish I could believe it because I am sure I would have a better life, but I have to be honest with you—I just do not believe in God, let alone Jesus.” Dad then added, “But since I love you and I know it makes you happy, you can talk to me any time you want about the subject.”

What a great dad! He would even sit and listen to me because he knew how important it was for me to tell him about Jesus—even though he was not interested and did not believe what I was saying. You see, all those wonderful stories about devoted Jewish fathers are true!

So, did my dad become a believer in Jesus before he passed away? As far as I know, he did not. Do I still believe that those who die without accepting Jesus will live apart from God for all eternity? Yes...and I think it would be unbiblical and unethical to think any other way.

But the truth is, I really do not know what my dad decided before he died. We cannot know. Only He knows the truth about the state of a person’s soul. And I know that my dad is in holy and just, yet merciful and gentle hands.

Yeshua: Our Heartbroken Example

I am sure you have loved ones that do not yet believe in Jesus and that your heart aches for their salvation as much as mine did for my dad. May I encourage you to stay tender-hearted toward those you love so much, but who have not come to believe in Jesus? We must remain broken-hearted towards our loved ones who do not know the Lord. If not, I am persuaded that we will miss opportunities to share the Gospel.

Our example, of course, is Jesus Himself. He never hardened His



heart towards His Jewish people because of their unbelief. One of the passages of Scripture that makes this abundantly clear is Matthew 23:37-39, one of the saddest and yet most hopeful passages of Scripture. Filled with statements of God’s judgment, the chapter nonetheless concludes with a passage that is, in fact, a ringing affirmation of God’s covenantal grace towards the Jewish people. Jesus says,

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Though the majority of the Jewish people kept rejecting the prophets and then rejected Jesus as Messiah, God still loved them. He was unwilling to renege on His covenant promises. It is true that judgment came upon that generation when the Temple was destroyed. But the Lord Jesus concluded this tough chapter with a promise of renewed grace and mercy for His chosen people.

The day will come when all the promises in the Hebrew Scriptures to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be

fulfilled. One day, His chosen people will choose to believe in the Son of God, and He will return to reign as their King.

Nothing can keep God from fulfilling His promises to the Jewish people—not unbelief, disobedience, unfaithfulness nor rejecting the very Messiah who came to save them. It is so hard for human beings to comprehend this kind of love.

The Savior’s Heart

I want to have my Savior’s heart for my people. And there is no passage that expresses this better than Luke 19:41. As Jesus approached the holy city of Jerusalem, where He would face ultimate rejection from the people He loved and chose, how did He respond? In judgment? In anger? No! He responded in tears!

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it...

I know that He wept for my dad more than I ever could. And He does the same for your loved ones.

So please—take a moment and pray. Ask God to give you His heart for your loved ones. He loves them even more than you do! And He will do all He can to draw them to His Son—with or without you. We need to trust Him.

Let’s proclaim His grace, make the message of salvation clear...and leave our loved ones in His hands. Let’s pray for one another, that we would have the Messiah’s heart and burden for those who do not yet know Him as their Savior.

Thanks for caring for our staff families around the world and for praying that God would save His chosen people.

Your brother,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

What Does It Mean to Be “Born Again?”

“You must be born again.”

These words of Jesus, spoken in John 3:7, are so central to the evangelistic message of the Gospel that one can scarcely imagine a Gospel without them. Yet what do they mean to us? What would they have meant to Nicodemus, the teacher of Israel and a member of the Sanhedrin?

Part of the answer may be found in the words, “...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Here, at least, was a point of contact. As a first century Jew, Nicodemus would long for even a glimpse of the kingdom of God. But Jesus’ revelation of the kingdom and the prevailing Jewish understanding of God’s kingdom promise were far apart—yet they remain instructive to those today who, like Nicodemus, seek the Messiah even under the cover of darkness.

Alfred Edersheim, the renowned 19th century biblical scholar who was himself Jewish, provides valuable insight in his *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*. In it Edersheim writes, “...according to the Jewish view, this second birth was the *consequence* of having taken upon oneself ‘the Kingdom;’ not, as Jesus put it, the *cause* and condition of it.”¹

In other words, Jesus establishes the “new birth” as the basis for entering the kingdom. It is a teaching that Nicodemus would have found revolutionary—in the truest sense of the word. It establishes the priority of spiritual rebirth and Jesus’ implied teaching is that without it, one could not even hope to see, let alone enter, the kingdom. Nicodemus found this hard to grasp for the same reason many seekers today might shy away. It takes the initiative away from us. It makes us powerless and dependent upon God. Jesus makes the same point in Mark 10:15 when He says, “Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

But Nicodemus had one thing right. Something prompted him to come humbly and seek Jesus in spite of his privileged position. Did he come to faith? We cannot know for certain. But if we truly surrender to Messiah, we will certainly know what it means to be “born again.”

¹ Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962), vol 1, p. 384.





Andrew with his wife and daughter

Andrew *Meeting Messiah in a Jewish Way*

I was born in North London in 1964, to

Egyptian Jewish parents who had fled to England during the political upheaval of the Suez Canal crisis in 1957. Our Egyptian Jewish ancestry extends as far back as we know, and my father was very devout. We went to Hendon Reform Synagogue in London where I became Bar Mitzvah.

My goal was to become an actor, and I began professional training at a drama school in London at age 19. There I met my wife, Nancy, who was also an aspiring actress and a Christian. Against her better judgment perhaps, we began dating and were married in 1988. Three years later, seeking greater professional opportunities, we moved to Southern California.

From time to time, I would accompany Nancy to churches, and, although I found it somewhat interesting, I felt no spiritual conviction. But I received a shock, because I began to suffer from kidney disease and became quite ill. Nancy turned out to be a perfect donor, and I received her kidney in 1997. Then, I started asking more pointed spiritual questions, and, in 2003, Nancy and I started attending the Messianic congregation shepherded by Chosen People Ministries' Larry Feldman. I found so much there—friendly people and information about the things that mattered to me as a Jew.

I made an appointment to see Larry and found, to my surprise, that he knew my mother. In fact, unknown to me, he had led her in a prayer to receive Messiah seven years earlier! After we talked, I prayed to receive Jesus as my Messiah as well. It was hard for me to do this, but when I did, I meant it!

Our lives have changed so much since then. I now teach drama at a Christian university. Two and a half years ago, Nancy and I traveled to Azerbaijan to adopt our beloved daughter, who is now seven and a half. Soon, we will be returning to adopt another little girl, who will become our second daughter. I give thanks to God, for all good things come from above!

July 2006

Klaudia

Yes, I believe!

When I was a little girl, about 70 years ago, I learned to love the Jewish traditions of my family—singing, praying, and celebrating the holidays. With Communism in power in Russia, however, Jewish traditions were forbidden. I spent most of my life without them, and, as I got older, I found myself missing these Jewish things more and more.

So you can imagine my surprise when, over a year ago, I received a card at my home in southeast Moscow, inviting me to a free program of Jewish music in my neighborhood. I decided to attend, and really enjoyed it. A new congregation in the area had put together the wonderful program, and they said that anyone was

welcome to attend their services. The next week, I was there.

I had longed to return to my Jewish heritage, and I found the opportunity to do so with this congregation. The people there were very welcoming to me, and Youri,* the congregation leader, invited me to join him for a Passover celebration. It was a beautiful evening, full of Jewish traditions I had grown up with. But there was one element of Youri's Passover story that startled

me. Youri talked about Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, who had sacrificed Himself as the final Passover Lamb. This night, I left with tears in my eyes at the beauty of the Passover story.

The next week, I brought my daughter, Svetlana, and my grandson to the congregation with me. I wanted them to learn about Messiah and experience their Jewish heritage too. They enjoyed the service, taking the message of Jesus to heart, and soon Svetlana was helping to clean up after the congregation's gatherings, and her son would help to set up for the service. When Youri announced the decision to have home groups during the week, I volunteered my apartment.

We didn't know we were supposed to tell someone of our belief in Jesus, though; so one day, Youri simply asked us, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, and your Lord and Savior?" Immediately, Svetlana and I both knew we were right to announce our faith. We replied, "Yes, we do!" Soon after, Svetlana and I were both baptized. What joy in our congregation that day!

*Youri leads a Messianic congregation in southeastern Moscow that is sponsored in part by Chosen People Ministries.



Klaudia with her daughter and grandson in Moscow

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



Saul: Israel's First King

The life of David cannot be properly understood apart from a look at his predecessor—the tragic King Saul, who began his reign with such promise and who ended in isolation and defeat. Yet Saul's kingship, recorded in the Book of 1 Samuel, reveals how important the institution of the monarchy would be in Israel's history.

Israel's Demand for a King

After the time of the Judges, from about the 14th to the 11th centuries BC, Israel wanted to take its place among the nations. But who would rule? The corruption of the prophet Samuel's sons (1 Samuel 8:1-3) and the need for a military commander (1 Samuel 8:5, 20) fueled Israel's demand for a king. While Moses had declared that it was God's ultimate, eternal will

for Israel to have a king, it was not meant to be the kind of king that followed the pattern of other nations. God would give the people what they asked for. However, it would come at a price.

Samuel outlined for Israel the cost of an earthly kingship (1 Samuel 8:10-18). He made it clear that a king would draft men and women to serve, levy taxes on crops and flocks, appropriate the best servants and animals and limit personal freedoms. Israel had not counted the cost; and finally, Samuel declared, Israel would wail and cry out to God for freedom from kingly rule (v. 18).

Saul's Flawed Rule

Samuel proceeded to anoint Saul as "the people's choice." But things were to end poorly. Saul's crisis

came in conjunction with his battle against the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15). The Lord commanded Saul to destroy them all, including their livestock, and he failed to do so. Saul's sins led to the removal of his kingship, and a list of his failings may well serve as a warning to us:

(1) *Disobedience*: Saul disregarded the voice of God (1 Samuel 15:1-9) in battle with the Amalekites.

(2) *Cruelty*: Saul persecuted his own son Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:24-26).

(3) *Jealousy*: Saul was jealous of David, hating him with a passion (1 Samuel 18:28-29).

Saul's Downfall

To these failings we may add witchcraft and apostasy. Saul consulted the Witch of Endor and so sealed the judgment of the Lord against himself (1 Samuel 28). Many rabbis have taught that God Himself permitted a genuine appearance of Samuel to deliver a final message to Saul.

Saul's downfall did not occur overnight. His disobedience led to the departure of God's Spirit from him (1 Samuel 16:14). The Lord also permitted an evil spirit to possess him (1 Samuel 16:14; 19:9). Judgment was certain. Saul's kingdom would soon be lost because of his rebellion and contempt for God's will. Finally, Saul took his own life in a battle with the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:1-13).

The Kingship and Messiah

Each of Israel's kings was, for a time, steward of a position of royalty that pointed ahead to Jesus, who was born to be not only the King of the Jews, but of the whole world.

Messiah came the first time to suffer and die (John 10:11). Soon He will return to sit upon the throne that David was given in Saul's stead forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16). ✠

FAITH DECISIONS FOR THREE JEWISH SEEKERS IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

Chosen People Ministries' Cathy Wilson has seen many Jewish seekers attend the services, outreaches and classes she hosts in Scottsdale. Some arrive with feelings of antagonism, suspicion or confusion. One man, Jim,* thought he needed to give up his Jewishness in order to believe in Jesus. Another man, Paul,* was thoroughly skeptical. Margie* thought being Jewish and believing in Jesus didn't make sense. But Margie saw the truth and, after receiving the Lord, became involved in Cathy's partner church, Scottsdale Bible, attending their Messianic fellowship. Paul concluded that he could no longer fight against the truth and he too became a believer. And Jim burst into tears during a special service when he finally realized that he could flee to no one but Messiah for his salvation—and he could still be Jewish! Praise God for these new Jewish believers!

SALVATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

Ricardo Chemi, director of Chosen People Ministries' work in South America, rejoices with Deborah,* a young woman who has received the Lord. A group of believers who help the Mission reach the Jewish people with the Gospel got in touch with her, talked to her about Jesus and prayed with her. Though she was initially open to the Gospel and agreed with its claims, it was almost a year before Deborah was willing to identify as a believer, because she was afraid to betray her people. As she came to understand the Scriptures and talked with other believers, she realized that faith in Jesus would not cause her to stop being Jewish. As a result of the faithfulness of believers, she completed her journey to faith in the Messiah. Ricardo writes, "Now we are in the process of helping her to walk in this new faith. We hope she will be a light within the Jewish community in the city in which she lives."

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES HOSTS BIBLE SCHOLAR FOR TORONTO OUTREACH

Dr. Craig Evans, New Testament professor at Acadia Divinity College in Nova Scotia, was guest speaker at a special Sunday luncheon and evening dessert reception sponsored by Chosen People Ministries at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Dr. Evans, an expert in first century archaeology, taught two sessions—a discussion of the Jewish burial customs at the time of Jesus, substantiating

evidence for His resurrection, and also a second message dealing with the Dead Sea Scrolls. This was especially timely, for the facts he brought out debunked the far-fetched assertions of *The Da Vinci Code*. A spirited question-and-answer period followed both presentations. Canadian Director Joe Gray was the moderator, and a number of unbelievers attended, with whom the ministry plans to have further contact.

MESSIANIC JUDAICA STORE DRAWS SECOND LOOKS

Chosen People Ministries' outreach to Jewish people in the Miami area is benefiting from a new Messianic store started by staff member Boris Goldin. Featuring Messianic music and a variety of other Jewish items, Boris is pleased by the attention it receives. "Every single day we have visitors—mostly Jewish people—who are attracted by the view through the glass entrance door." Their visible presence in a populous Jewish neighborhood has produced some opposition, but when their landlord, an Israeli, noticed the amount of attention they were getting, Boris had a good opportunity to speak with him and explain that it is "possible to be a Jew and believe in Yeshua." Also, members of Boris' congregation have had numerous opportunities to share the Gospel with Jewish visitors to the building.



DA VINCI DEBATE IN NEW YORK CITY

Modern technology gave the message of the Gospel an international audience in the debate about *The Da Vinci Code* that the Mission sponsored a few weeks ago at the Hilton Hotel in Manhattan. This exciting event featured the viewpoints of Dr. Darrell Bock, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and Messianic author and speaker Dr. Michael Brown as they engaged in spirited and sometimes heated discussion. The outreach was attended by about 600, including about 150 Jewish people. The debate was also presented live on the Internet, and over 12,000 people logged on to watch the online broadcast. Many who were present or who watched online completed surveys, and our staff has been following up with interested seekers.

*Names changed

Promises Fulfilled



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by Charles Dyer

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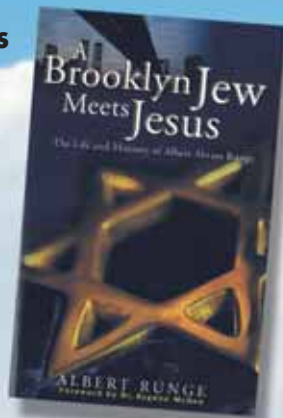
Why is the Middle East such a mess? Continuing casualties in Iraq, Saddam Hussein on trial, a disintegrating "road map" to peace in Israel, the ever-present threat of another 9/11. Can there ever be peace? What's really behind the terror? And what does God think?

A Brooklyn Jew Meets Jesus

by Albert Runge

Book #3106 • \$16.95^{US}

Albert Runge was born into a Jewish family from Russia. As a small boy, when he asked his mother who Jesus was, she replied, "He is the God of the Gentiles, who taught his followers to hate the Jews." This heartwarming book tells the story of Runge's journey to faith and years of active ministry.



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Jesus & the Jews, the Last Days



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Dallas Theological Seminary



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President of Chosen People Ministries

SEPTEMBER 12-15, 2006
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Explore the relationship of Jesus to the Jewish people and the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy at this important conference. Hosted at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, registration is only \$40 and includes both a banquet and a concert by Messianic praise and worship musician Marty Goetz. Beautiful accommodations are available on-campus at the Ray I. Riley Alumni Center.

For complete conference details, visit chosenpeople.com/conference or call 1-888-405-5874 for more information.

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All new for 2007—the Chosen People Ministries Messianic Jewish Art Calendar is filled with beautiful Jewish art and Messianic Scriptures. This is the perfect gift to give your Jewish friend. Order one for your own home, too, and experience the beauty of the Jewish holidays throughout the year. This 16-month calendar goes from September 2006 through December 2007.

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