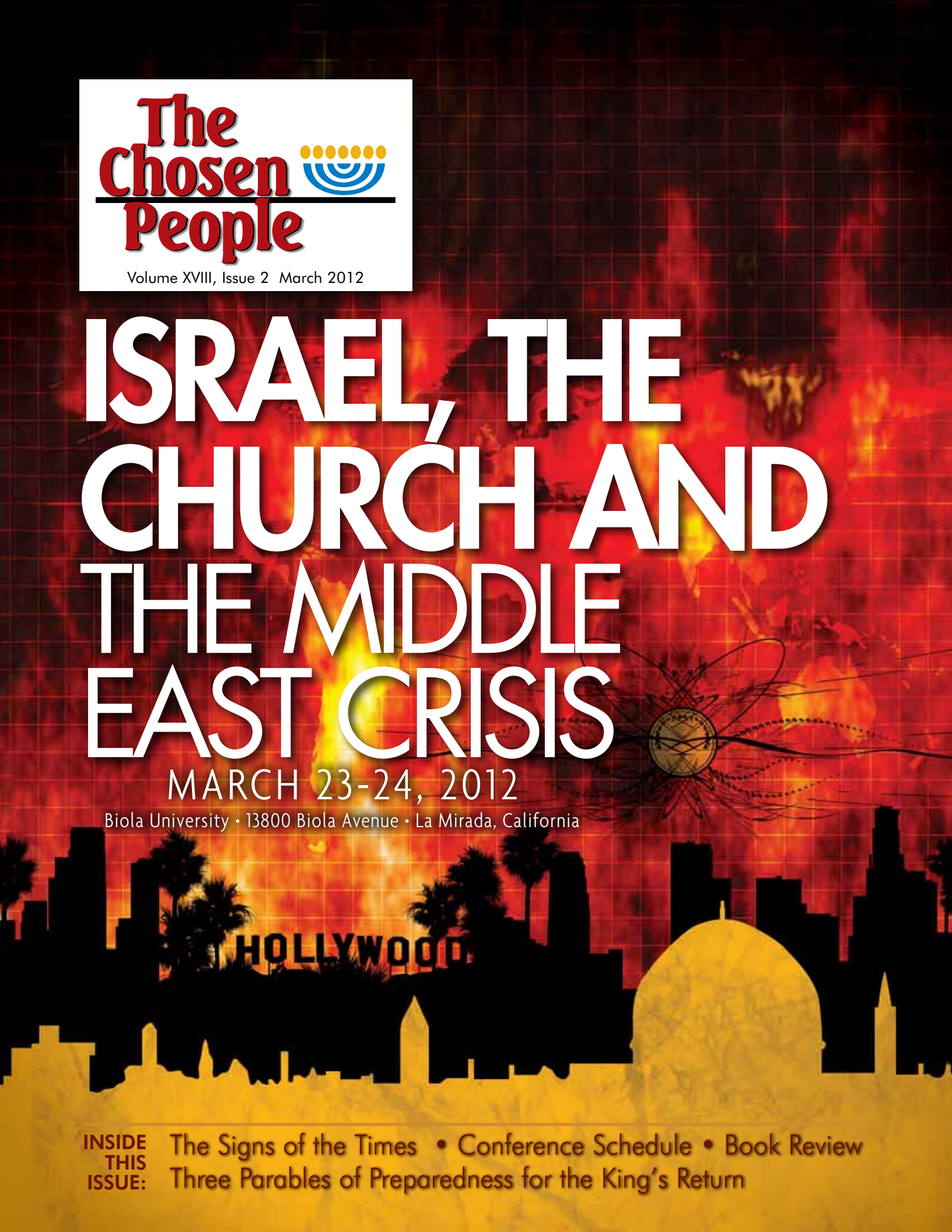


The Chosen People



Volume XVIII, Issue 2 March 2012

ISRAEL, THE CHURCH AND THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS



MARCH 23-24, 2012

Biola University • 13800 Biola Avenue • La Mirada, California

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ISSUE:

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Three Parables of Preparedness for the King's Return

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOEL C. ROSENBERG

THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Dear friend,

Shalom in the wonderful name of Jesus the Messiah! I cannot tell you how thrilled and excited I am about the **Israel, the Church and the Middle East Crisis** conference, which is co-sponsored by your Mission to the Jewish people, Biola University, the Talbot School of Theology (my *alma mater*) and Joel C. Rosenberg, my dear friend and colleague.

This time-critical and historic conference will attempt to shed fresh light on the age-old questions posed by Jesus' disciples:

"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3)

Whatever your view of end-time prophecy might be, I am sure you recognize two important factors: that the Lord will come soon and that Israel will be at the center of these Last Days. And if you believe—as I do—that the Second Coming of the Messiah is linked to the repentance and turning of the Jewish "remnant" to Jesus, then you understand why this conference is so important!

Whether you attend the conference personally or watch the videos that we will post on our website, I pray that this event will give you new biblically-based insights into the future of our world.

I am delighted to have Dr. Walter Kaiser, perhaps the greatest Old Testament theologian of our day, and Joel C. Rosenberg, a student of the Middle East and bestselling author, joining me in this conference. Most importantly, both Dr. Kaiser and Joel Rosenberg—along with our other guest

speakers, who include Michael Zinn, Director of Chosen People Ministries Israel, and Hormoz Shariat, a former Iranian Muslim who came to faith in Jesus—are all servants of the Lord.

I asked Joel C. Rosenberg some questions about himself and his background that I believe will help you understand the heart of this very influential Jewish believer in Jesus!

Interview With Joel C. Rosenberg

How did you become a believer in Jesus?

First, let me give you a bit of background: My grandparents and great-grandparents were Orthodox Jews who had to flee Russia in the early 20th century because the Czar was killing thousands upon thousands of Jews. They made their way across the continent of Europe, boarded a ship to the New World, landed at Ellis Island, and like any good Jewish family, they set up shop in Brooklyn.

My father left home when he was eighteen to become an architect and eventually found a job in Syracuse, New York, where he met and fell in love with my non-Jewish mother. They were married in August 1965. Two years later, in April of 1967, I was born into a largely agnostic home. My parents were seekers, however, and after hearing and considering the Gospel, my mother made a commitment to the Lord. My father was slower in coming, but he finally became a believer as well.





Well, that was all well and good for my parents—but then they started dragging my sister and me to church every Sunday morning. Still, I listened. I was curious about this person named Jesus. Could He give me the purpose and direction in life I so desperately wanted and needed? It was not until January of 1984, the winter of my junior year of high school, that I became a deeply convinced and fully devoted follower of Jesus the Messiah. When I did, my life began to change in ways I never dreamt possible, and I began to see my place in God’s plan and purpose for His chosen people.

What got you interested in Middle East politics?

After working for more than a decade in Washington as a senior advisor to a number of U.S. and Israeli leaders including Steve Forbes, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Israel’s former Deputy Prime Minister Natan Sharansky, I had decided to write a political thriller about a War on Terror I was convinced was coming and how such a war might be triggered. When my first political thriller, *The Last Jihad*, was published in November of 2002, I suddenly found myself interviewed on more than 160 radio and TV programs.

What do you believe to be the most significant spiritual and political issues in the Middle East today?

Well, like many others, I am deeply concerned about Israel’s national security—and also America’s well being, which I believe are linked together. I am alarmed by the threats Iran has issued to Israel as well as by Iran’s developing nuclear capability, which no one seems to be able to adequately address. I’ve been thinking a lot about Daniel chapter 5, “the handwriting on the wall”—the lessons we can draw from the prophecies in Daniel and how to apply them to the handwriting on the wall we currently see with the mounting tensions between Israel and Iran, and the growing risk of the United States’ economy and society imploding.

Why is this conference important to you?

It’s important because we need to view the current conflict in the Middle East through the lens of Scripture. Any perspective on the current situation in the Middle East that lacks a biblical context is missing the most important piece of the puzzle. This conference will emphasize how to interpret what is happening today in the context of unfolding prophecy, and reemphasize how important it is to learn how to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

A Few Final Thoughts

The purpose of this conference is not simply to learn more about end-time prophecy—although it is certainly very important! This conference is even more significant because our lives are changed when we believe—*really believe*—that the Lord is coming very soon! I am sure this conference will help make the Second Coming of Jesus a greater and more present reality for us!

One of the ways our lives are transformed when we have a deeper sense that the Lord is coming quickly involves the way we approach Jewish evangelism. We are motivated to find new and bold ways to share the Gospel with Jewish people—and everyone else—because we know the time is so short.

My prayer is that knowing the importance of the Middle East, and especially Israel, in prophecy will encourage us to pray and to do more than ever before to reach Jewish people for Jesus.

Thank you for your prayers, support and heartfelt involvement in bringing the Gospel to a needy world... *To the Jew first and also to the Gentile (Romans 1:16)!*

Your brother in the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

There are many economic and geopolitical challenges facing the U.S., the world, and the Middle East today. The conference speakers will help you understand the current Middle East conflict from a biblical perspective and grow in your understanding of the critical role Israel and her neighbors play in the unfolding of prophetic events.

This event will help you know how to pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

7:00 – 9:30 PM

The Gathering Storm: Inside the Showdown Between the U.S., Israel and A Nuclear Iran

Joel C. Rosenberg

Personal Testimony - Michael Zinn

Music by Steve Wiggins and Marty Goetz

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

9:00 – 9:45 AM

The Future of the Middle East According to Isaiah

Dr. Walter Kaiser

10:00 – 10:45 AM

Miracle in the Middle East: Why More Jews and Muslims Are Coming to Faith in Jesus than Ever Before

Joel C. Rosenberg

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Future of Israel and the Second Coming of Jesus

Dr. Mitch Glaser

Personal Testimony - Hormoz Shariat

12:00 – 1:45 PM

Lunch Break (Metzger Lawn)

WORKSHOP #1: 1:45 – 2:45 PM

- Reaching Jewish People for Jesus

Larry Feldman, Rich Freeman

MAYERS AUDITORIUM

- Reaching Muslims for Jesus

Hormoz Shariat, Tom & JoAnn Doyle

CALVARY CHAPEL

- A Dialogue: Israel, Her Neighbors and Prophecy

Joel C. Rosenberg, Dr. Mark Saucy,

Dr. Walter Kaiser

CHASE GYMNASIUM

- Serving God in the Holy Land: Opportunities for You

Chosen People Ministries staff

SUTHERLAND AUDITORIUM

WORKSHOP #2: 3:00 – 4:00 PM

- Modern Antisemitism and Other Obstacles to Jewish Evangelism

Olivier Melnick, Dr. Mitch Glaser, and Chosen People Ministries staff

MAYERS AUDITORIUM

- The Future of Israel and the Church: A Discussion Between Scholars

Dr. Robert Saucy, Dr. Walter Kaiser

CHASE GYMNASIUM

- The Impact of the Middle East Crisis on Ministry Among Jews and Arabs

Tom Doyle, Judith Rood, Hormoz Shariat, Michael Zinn

SUTHERLAND AUDITORIUM

- The Jewish People and Jesus (in Spanish)

David Sedaca, Guillermo Katz

TALBOT EAST P11

4:15 – 5:00 PM

Question & Answer Period

Glaser, Kaiser, Rosenberg, Shariat, Zinn

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Dinner Break (on your own)

SATURDAY EVENING CELEBRATION

(FREE ADMISSION)

7:00 – 9:30 PM

- Concert by Marty Goetz
- Israel Ministry Report and Video

Michael Zinn

- A Glimpse into the Future: Israel, The United States and the Muslim World

Joel C. Rosenberg



NOTE: ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD IN THE CHASE GYMNASIUM UNLESS OTHERWISE LISTED

Conference Speakers

JOEL C. ROSENBERG

New York Times best-selling author of *Epicenter: Why the Current Rumbles in the Middle East Will Change Your Future*, *Inside the Revolution*, *The Tehran Initiative* and *Implosion*.

DR. WALTER KAISER

President Emeritus and Colman M. Mockler Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Author of numerous books on the Old Testament, including *The Messiah in the Old Testament*.

DR. MITCH GLASER

President of Chosen People Ministries and co-editor of the award-winning book, *To The Jew First: The Case for Jewish Evangelism in Scripture and History*.

HORMOZ SHARIAT

Hormoz Shariat is the President of Iran Alive Ministries, which is dedicated to transforming Iran with the power of the Gospel. His daily satellite TV broadcast into Iran is watched by more than seven million viewers.

MICHAEL ZINN

A Russian Jewish believer who has been living in Israel for more than two decades, Michael Zinn leads Chosen People Ministries in Israel and oversees Messianic Centers in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

STEVE WIGGINS

A five-time Grammy Award nominee, Wiggins leads worship at Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, the Harvest Crusades with Greg Laurie and Shuvah Yisrael Messianic Congregation in Irvine.

MARTY GOETZ

Worship leader, singer, songwriter, and Messianic Jewish artist, Marty Goetz has been recording music and performing for over 30 years. He is often called a modern-day psalmist.

BOOK REVIEW

by Scott Nassau



Reading Joel C. Rosenberg's latest book, *The Tehran Initiative*, feels eerily similar to reading a behind-the-scenes account of the headlines of today's newspapers. The novel brings to life current news stories involving espionage and international diplomacy in a world on the brink of war. Rosenberg captures the reader's attention from the very first line as the main character, David Shirazi, hurtles through the streets of Tehran, attempting to smuggle the leading Iranian nuclear physicist, Najjar Malik, out of the country. As the second book in the series, *The Tehran Initiative* begins immediately where the first novel, *The Twelfth Imam*, ends. The fast-paced, highly suspenseful tale keeps you on the edge of your seat from cover to cover.

A successful nuclear test in Hamadan pushes the Middle East and the United States closer to the point of mutual annihilation. As Iran moves to develop a nuclear weapon, an obscure religious figure emerges in the Middle East, uniting much of the Arab world. Muhammad Ibn Hasan Ibn Ali, the Twelfth Imam, seeks to reestablish the Caliphate, which would hold civil and religious rule over the entire Muslim world. This leads many in the region to view the Twelfth Imam as a messianic figure, a savior for Islam. Although the Imam claims he wants to bring peace to the Middle East and to the world, he calls for the destruction of Israel. An attempted assassination attempt on the President of the United States, the President of Egypt and the Prime Minister of Israel at a fundraiser for a new peace center betrays Iran's true intentions.

The United States must rely upon young CIA operative of Persian descent, David Shirazi. Shirazi, who enters Iran with a false identity as a programmer for a sophisticated German computer company, tries to collect the necessary intelligence to thwart Iran's plans of expanding its empire across the entire region. Facing an inner struggle between loyalty to his family and duty to his country, Shirazi feels compelled to stay with his mother, who is in critical condition at a hospital in New York, but his immediate presence is requested at CIA headquarters. Although Shirazi grew up as an atheist, his work and his relationship with a childhood friend cause him to look for spiritual answers.

Rosenberg creatively blends contemporary political themes with spiritual issues, creating a captivating fictional narrative. Anyone interested in Israel or Middle East politics will appreciate this story, as it paints a very vivid portrait of the tenuous situation in the Middle East and Israel's continual need to respond to the persistent threat of extinction. *The Tehran Initiative* presents a thought-provoking look into potential events in this ongoing conflict. While the reader should not use the novel to draw any political or theological conclusions, the story can function as a catalyst for undertaking a deeper study of the complexities and significance of the current situation in Israel and the Middle East.

SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

THREE PARABLES OF PREPAREDNESS FOR THE KING'S RETURN

Matthew 25

Much of Messiah's teaching consisted of parables, each of which taught one major principle. In Matthew chapter 25, all three parables underscore the theme of preparedness for Messiah's return to gather together His elect. Each of the three stories warns against a lack of proper preparation while the Master tarries.

A WEDDING PARABLE OF WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS – Mt. 25:1-13

In the wedding traditions of biblical days, the bridegroom first travelled to his bride's home to bring her to their new dwelling. Various friends would join them along their journey until the entire company was complete. Then all would partake of the wedding feast at the bridegroom's home.

Since these traditions are typically Jewish, this parable is directed toward Israel, emphasizing the importance of preparedness to wait for and acknowledge the promised Messiah. Unfortunately, a number of persons in the wedding party did not take sufficient oil for the lighting of the lamps. Consequently, they became lost in darkness along the way. These foolish virgins arrived late for the

marriage feast and were not permitted entrance. In fact, the bridegroom (the Lord Himself) stated to them, "I do not know you" (Mt. 25:12).

Obviously, the "foolish virgins" represent that portion of Israel that refused to recognize the Messiah Jesus at His first coming (Jn. 1:11), and also those who will refuse to recognize Him when He returns the second time (Rom. 11:20, 25). Thus, the major lesson of this parable is directed to Israel—to believe in and be prepared for the return of the promised Messiah.

A PARABLE OF WISE AND FOOLISH LABORERS – Mt. 25:14-30

Before the Master departed, He distributed His "talents" and the oversight of His goods to His disciples. Our Lord also left a legacy of instruction and example behind, including the promise of His return (Jn. 14:3). Then, the Holy Spirit gave "gifts" to equip believers.

The parable of the talents applies to the Church Age from Pentecost to the Lord's return for His own (1 Thess. 4:14-18). At His return, there will be an

examination with rewards granted to all who will have invested the proper use of their "talents" for the glory of the Lord (1 Cor. 3:9-15).

A PARABLE OF SHEEP AND GOATS – Mt. 25:31-46

This story concerns the King's promised return to earth just after the horrible tribulation time. In Daniel 7, all the nations are portrayed as ferocious beasts. Just preceding our Lord's return to earth, Satan will gather all nations against the Jews in Jerusalem (Rev. 16:14). At that time, King Messiah will return with His own to battle and conquer these nations (Jude 14-15). In this context, Jesus will separate "the sheep from the goats" (Mt. 25:41, 46).

CONCLUSION

All three parables concern a judgment and separation of believers and unbelievers. Do you know the Lord in a personal relationship? Does He recognize you as a sheep of His? What is your attitude toward the Jewish people, His "brethren according to the flesh?" Are you prepared for Messiah's soon return?

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION ON THE SUBWAY

Students at the Charles Feinberg Center have many opportunities to put their Jewish evangelism studies into practice—even during their commute! While riding the train home, one of our students from the Feinberg Center started a conversation with Noam,* a Hasidic Jew, by opening the Hebrew Bible to Isaiah 53 and asking Noam to read it. Noam admitted that he'd never read this passage before, and expressed curiosity about other Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. He gave our student his e-mail address, and they have since exchanged e-mails about Messiah and the Hebrew Scriptures. Please pray that God will open his heart and continue to bless the correspondence!

“VIRTUAL” WORSHIP SERVICES MAKE REAL IMPACT

Vladimir Pikman, the director of Chosen People Ministries' work in Germany, has been encouraged and motivated by outreach to Jewish people in Germany and beyond through the online broadcast of our worship services in Berlin. German, Russian, and even English-speaking people from different countries and continents hear the services, and Vladimir receives reports about the life-changing impact that they make. One woman recently wrote, “These worship services helped me through the toughest moments of my life. I am very thankful to God and to you.”

TOUCHED BY FORGIVENESS IN ISAIAH 53

Greg Savitt, a staff member in South Florida (home to one of the largest Jewish populations in the USA), had an evangelistic visit with Reuben* and Deborah,* a Jewish couple. Reuben and Deborah were very open to discussing spiritual matters, but they had objections to the deity of Jesus and the historicity of the Bible. During the last part of the meeting, Greg read Isaiah 53 with them. Deborah said the passage sounded like it was talking about Jesus, but did not believe that He was the Messiah. Greg wasn't sure if a seed had been planted, but later, Reuben and Deborah's caregiver told Greg that Deborah had reconciled with her son after not talking to him for over 23 years because of something Greg had said about forgiveness in Isaiah 53. Pray for the Lord to nurture the seeds of faith in Reuben and Deborah's hearts!



DOORS OPEN FOR MINISTRY TO ISRAELI CHILDREN

Chosen People Ministries worker Maxim K. is thankful for a new ministry opportunity in a children's orphanage in Jerusalem. The orphanage is home to fifty children ages 6-16 whose parents have been denied parental rights by a court of law. During the Hanukkah holidays, Maxim organized a trip for these children to the place where David defeated Goliath. The group also visited our Messianic Center in Tel Aviv, ate pizza together, played, sang, and fellowshiped. Maxim writes, “All the children returned home with big smiles on their faces!”

LAYING BRICKS FOR THE KINGDOM

Chosen People Ministries staff member Bob Seemar is in charge of the renovations on our new Brooklyn Messianic Center. Daniel,* one of the subcontractors with whom Bob is working, approached Bob with questions about combining Christianity and Judaism. Daniel had grown up in a Conservative Jewish home, and his wife was from a Catholic background. He and Bob had a stimulating discussion about the history of the Jewish people and the Church, the prophecies of the Messiah in the Jewish Scriptures, having a personal relationship with God, and much more. Next time they meet, Bob plans to give Daniel the book *Isaiah 53 Explained* as well as the DVD *Joined Together?*, which shows how a Jewish/non-Jewish married couple can be joined together in Jesus. Praise God for Daniel's openness, and pray that these materials would help lead him to faith.

*names have been changed

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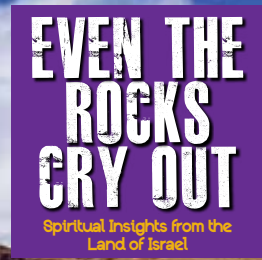


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I Felt a Sense of Responsibility...

By Doug McEvoy



When my wife and I heard about Jewish missions in 2001, it was new to us. We were hearing Paul's proclamation of the Gospel "to the Jew first" in Romans 1:16 for the first time. It gave us non-Jewish followers of the Lord a sense of responsibility to the Jewish people I had never thought about. This grew, and over the years it formed in me the calling to encourage others to support Jewish missions financially, which is something we certainly do ourselves. Looking ahead, we want to leave bequests to loved ones, but we also want to make a generous provision for Chosen People Ministries. We encourage others to do the same.

Please write today. Call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535) or email us at giving@chosenpeople.com.

MESSIANIC RESOURCES



As the nation of Israel struggles to regain control of the land...as Arabs fight and riot against her...how can we know that Israel's future will indeed be glorious? By exploring the ancient prophecies, this book reveals the faithfulness of God to His everlasting covenants.
By Harold Sevens.

Israel's Glorious Future [3038] \$10.95^{US}

For phone orders call 800-333-4936 in the U.S. Or for even more resources visit us online at www.chosenpeople.com/store.



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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)

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