

# THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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## TO THE JEW FIRST?

THE IMPORTANCE OF JEWISH EVANGELISM | MINISTRY IN ISRAEL | HEBREWS BIBLE STUDY | MINISTRY NEWS

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



## WHY JEWISH EVANGELISM?

The salvation of the Jewish people will come about because of the power of God.

Dear friend,

Shalom and an early Happy Thanksgiving to you! I pray you will have a great time of rejoicing with your family and friends as you reflect on all the great things God has done.

I am sure you would agree that salvation is our greatest joy. Sometimes I ask myself, “Where would I be today without Jesus?” All I can say is that as a 19-year-old Jewish young man, I was headed for an early grave and an eternity without the Lord. But, thankfully, God gave His Son as a perfect sacrifice for our sin. Now my life and yours are filled with goodness, love, peace, and more joy than we could ever deserve.

Jesus is everything to me and that is why I am so thankful during this season of the year.

This is also why I am so burdened for my own people—the Jewish people! I have given my life to the salvation of Israel, and I thank God that I have the privilege of serving with a 123-year-old ministry dedicated to reaching the Jewish people with the Gospel.

I am also so thankful for you—I deeply appreciate your reading our publications, your prayers for us, and your generous financial support, which enables our work among the Jewish people.

To sum it up, this Thanksgiving season, our entire staff around the globe is thankful for the Lord and thankful for you!

## WHY JEWISH EVANGELISM?

I am often asked why we believe Jewish evangelism is so important. I love to respond to this excellent question... especially during the Thanksgiving season!

Our motivation for Jewish evangelism begins with thanksgiving to God, who chose the Jewish people.

As Jesus Himself said, “*You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews*” (John 4:22).

**Without the Jewish people, we would not have the Bible or the Messiah Himself!** This is quite fundamental, but there are many clear passages in Scripture that support the case for the importance of Jewish evangelism.

## TO THE JEW FIRST: ROMANS 1:16

Paul, who was also a Jewish believer in Jesus, writes, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek*” (Romans 1:16).

Although Paul was considered the apostle to the Gentiles, he still carried a great burden for his own people—and he practiced what he wrote. In fact, wherever Paul traveled during his ministry among the Gentiles, he first preached the Gospel to the Jewish people who lived in that area (Acts 13:13–52; 14:1–5; 18:7–11; 19:8–10).

We should ask ourselves why the Apostle Paul made Jewish evangelism such a priority in his own life. The Apostle Paul’s argument may be summarized as follows:

*“If Jewish people are successfully evangelized, then Jesus the Messiah will return.”* There was a sense of end-times urgency in his preaching which is why Paul encouraged the Roman believers, and us, to prioritize the evangelization of the Jewish people.



## MATTHEW 23:37–39

Matthew 23 is a pivotal passage in understanding the logic of the argument:

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will*



*not see Me until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 23:37-39)*

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus took every opportunity to turn the hearts of His Jewish people to Himself, but His efforts were thwarted by the Jewish leaders who rejected His person and message. Finally, the Savior was heartbroken by experiencing the rejection of His own people (Isaiah 53:3, John 1:11). Matthew 23 should be viewed as a lament, reflecting the love of the Messiah for His people. He portrays Himself as a *hen wanting to gather her chicks under her wings*, which is a very moving image of the Savior's love for His chosen people.

Yet, He was unwilling to reject the Jewish people because they rejected Him. On the contrary, He added a promise: The Jewish people will not see Jesus again until they believe He is the promised Messiah and cry out, "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*" (Psalm 118:26).

Some suggest that this declaration is reminiscent of the statement made by rabbis at weddings when the groom approaches his wedding canopy to receive his bride. Therefore, by saying, "*Baruch haba bashem Adonai*," Israel, the bride, is portrayed as recognizing Jesus as her true bridegroom, linking the repentance of the Jewish people with the second coming of Jesus.

Another Old Testament passage which teaches this idea is Zechariah 12:10. In this passage, we learn that one day the Jewish people will look to the One who was pierced and then mourn for Him like one mourns for an only son.

## ROMANS 11:11-29

Another important passage is found in Romans 11, where the Apostle Paul argues that God has not cast off His people, Israel, despite their national rejection of Jesus as their Messiah. Paul argues that God is not finished with Israel because one day "all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:25-27).

He writes in Romans 11:15, "*For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*" The Lord will not reject His people because He is always faithful to His promises (Romans 11:29). In fact, the very existence of the Jewish people today is a powerful argument for the truth of the Bible and evidence for the existence and power of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The great day of salvation for the Jewish people will bring about the return of the Lord and God's blessing upon the world because, in that day, Jesus will sit on the promised throne of David, as predicted in Isaiah 9:6-7 and 11:9-10.

**The Bible teaches that the Jewish people will turn to Jesus in the last days and only then will the Lord return.** This is why reaching Jewish people with the Gospel

must become a priority for all Christians. The salvation of the future remnant of Israel, as described by Paul, is one of the final events preceding Jesus' second coming and the culmination of the Abrahamic blessings which were promised to the world in Genesis 12:1-3.

There is a remnant of Messianic Jews in the world today, and I am so glad to be included among them; however, a great movement of Jewish people who will believe in Jesus is coming, and this is the hope that really motivates us!

## WHAT IS OUR ROLE TODAY?

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are God's instruments in preparing the hearts of those who will come to faith today, and even instruments to those who will be a part of the future remnant. He writes, "*I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous*" (Romans 11:11).

The salvation of the Jewish people will come about because of the power of God, but He wants to use us—especially non-Jews—to share the Good News with the Jewish people. Through your prayers, giving, and witnessing to your Jewish friends and family, the plan of God will go

forth in power!

I pray the Lord will burden all of us to reach Jewish people for Jesus. Remember, it all begins with our thankfulness to God for all He has done through the Jewish people and through the greatest Jew who ever walked the earth—Jesus the Messiah!

Our best estimate is that fewer than one percent of the worldwide Jewish community believe that Jesus is the Messiah. This gives us plenty of opportunity to preach the Gospel to the remnant today and prepare for the great outpouring of His Spirit upon the Jewish people tomorrow.

I hope you will enjoy the rest of the newsletter, especially learning more about our ministries in the Holy Land. Please pray for our staff in Israel and around the world.

**Please consider a generous Thanksgiving gift today to help us continue our ministries.** We cannot do all of what God has called us to do without your partnership.

Have a blessed and joy-filled Thanksgiving!

Your brother in the Messiah,



Mitch

P.S. We had a great conference in Texas last month! The messages and videos are available on our website: [thegospelandthemiddleeast.com](http://thegospelandthemiddleeast.com). I know you will enjoy these great Bible studies and sermons!



# Ministry in Israel

## ONLINE EVANGELISM



The *Isaiah 53 Explained* book has been an incredible tool for evangelism in Israel. By placing ads on social media and offering the book for free, many people from all over the country have ordered it in the privacy of their own homes. In September, we made a video ad in Hebrew with two young people challenging the viewers to order the book. We posted these videos on our Facebook page, and on the first day more than 100 orders were received!

We are offering this book without charge so we can have the opportunity to interact with people, get them thinking about the Messiah, encourage them to read the Bible, and hopefully change their lives by accepting Jesus as their Messiah. We have been greatly encouraged to see so many people request this book about the Messiah. God's Word is powerful and active (Hebrews 4:12).

## MESSIANIC CENTERS

### JERUSALEM CENTER:

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP:** Our Bible study has grown and developed into a small congregation! Since last year, we have had a good number of new and mature believers of all ages attend our meetings, and we have received some new seekers as well. Recently, a few people from the group asked to be baptized. We are praying that the Lord will give us wisdom to guide seekers about coming to faith and to help believers grow in their walk with the Lord!



**NEW IMMIGRANTS FROM UKRAINE:** Recently, there have been many new immigrants arriving from Ukraine because of the current political and economic climate there. We are showing the love of God by meeting some of their physical needs. We have also been sponsoring some of their children to attend our children's camps. We have also partnered with local congregations to organize biblical sightseeing tours for new immigrants, which has provided opportunities to share the Gospel and has helped establish a foundation for the congregation to continue its work with the newcomers.

**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS MEETINGS:** Every two weeks, 30-50 Holocaust survivors meet at the Jerusalem Messianic Center for a social gathering with food and music. The people are developing friendships and enjoying their time together. We weave in biblical themes, Scripture reading, and prayer. Throughout the year, a few have expressed interest in knowing Jesus and have started to attend the Center's Bible study, which meets on a different day.

**SOLDIERS AND YOUTH:** Every few months, we invite soldiers to come enjoy a weekend of rest and refreshment from their military bases. Not all the soldiers are believers yet; however, they are surrounded by the Scriptures, worship, and the testimonies of others. We also regularly invite the young adults who help us with our camping ministry to come for a weekend of discipleship, planning, and prayer for the future camp programs.

**SHORT-TERM MINISTRY TEAMS:** Every year, we have the opportunity to host a few visiting short-term ministry teams of all ages from all over the world. They stay at our facility, share meals together, and have a wonderful time of Bible study, debriefing, and devotionals as they go out and serve in Jerusalem and beyond. Their efforts are vital for our ongoing ministry as they add energy, creative vision, and their personal testimonies to our work. Their service and encouragement are a blessing to many!

## RAMAT GAN (TEL AVIV) CENTER:

In the months following the dedication ceremony of our new facility in Ramat Gan, we held a few seminars and special events. We partnered with Ely Israel (part of CBN) to put on three events for single moms, a financial training seminar, and a parenting workshop.

In addition to these special events, we started a children's English story hour in July which has been meeting every Thursday afternoon with about 10-15 kids in attendance. On Sunday mornings, we also hold a bi-weekly women's devotional meeting.

In September, we started hosting an evening at the coffee shop. For our first evening, we invited a performer to provide entertainment for the attendees. Despite the presence of protesters who tried to discourage people from entering, about 15 people came to the event! Please pray against any further protesters. Please also pray with us for the addition of staff members for the Center, because we would really like to start a Bible study outreach, a community Bible study, and an English class.

## THE MESSIANIC CENTER OF WESTERN GALILEE:

Ministry in western Galilee has been continuous since the days of Yeshua and the first disciples. Ministry in the coastal city of Nahariya started in the early 1970s, and the group has been distinguished by its diversity—Jews, Arabs, immigrants, ex-patriots, believers, and seekers who have been meeting together for many years.

The Messianic Center of Western Galilee is designed to bring together the different congregations and ministries in the area to work together to meet the spiritual and material needs of the communities. The greatest need is for the Gospel to be proclaimed!

## CONGREGATIONS

**SIMCHAT YESHUA CONGREGATION IN TEL AVIV:** Besides the weekly Sabbath meeting, there are weekly ministries, home groups, lessons, and special activities for the holidays and life cycle celebrations. Next summer, we are planning to have a family camp.

**GEULAT YISRAEL CONGREGATION IN ASHDOD:** Each Saturday, our congregation has 20 adults, plus children, in attendance. We are currently having three meetings a week, and we are also preparing for two baptisms in the very near future.

**OR HAGALIL CONGREGATION:** Efraim and Jeannie Goldstein lead this congregation, which is the hub of the work in the Galilee.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

**CHILDREN'S CAMPS:** Each camp hosts approximately 100 children and 30 leaders from many congregations all over Israel. All our camps are in Hebrew, with translation into Russian for those who need it. The camping program also provides an opportunity to continue to work with youth who are going to join the army, or who already serve, or who have just finished their service. These youth are actually former campers who felt called to return and continue to serve and share Jesus with the kids. We meet during the year

to have fellowship, study the Bible together, and plan the camp program. In the past year, around 30% of the kids came from seeking families... and the parents know we are believers!

**LIVING WATERS LEADERSHIP RETREATS:** In Israel, there is a new generation of young believers who need guidance and encouragement as they develop their leadership potential. A program called "Living Waters" was developed to meet the needs of these young leaders. Twice a year, a carefully selected group of approximately 15 different leaders gather together, along with their spouses and children, for an intensive weekend of study and discipleship.

The group is limited in size to allow for a more intimate setting where peer relationships can be formed. A mentoring environment is forged with experienced leaders, and the relationships developed during the weekend continue to be nurtured throughout the year.

## MINISTRIES OF LOVE AND GENEROSITY

**MINISTRY TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS:** In half a dozen cities around Israel, we have monthly meetings for Holocaust survivors so they can socialize, have a meal, and listen to music or to a speaker. At every meeting, we speak of the Lord through our words and songs, and we encourage people to receive Jesus' free gift of salvation. During the Jewish High Holidays, we held special events and hundreds of people came! We are developing an ongoing friendship with many of them as they get to know us. As we earn their trust, they have started asking questions about the Lord, and seeking prayer and counsel, but best of all, many have asked Jesus into their lives!



There have been quite a few professions of faith this past year and people have started to attend local congregations.

We have also been serving many Holocaust survivors by providing them with packages of basic household items (flour, oil, canned goods, pasta, soap, etc.), which help them tremendously as they live on a meager pension. It is a blessing to be able to help these dear people by giving them love, friendship, and the message of salvation.



## Hebrews 9:1-5 | The Earthly vs. the Heavenly Sanctuary: Part One



Dr. Rich Freeman, D. Min. serves as the Vice President for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia. Dr. Freeman works with churches, throughout the country and abroad, helping to equip God's people to share the Gospel with their Jewish neighbors, friends, and co-workers and grow in their understanding of the Scriptures.

In our last study in Hebrews chapter 8, we focused on the superiority of Messiah's priestly ministry and ultimately the superiority of the New Covenant. Chapter 9 begins with a statement referring to that discussion: "Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary" (Hebrews 9:1). In essence, the argument here is that the earthly sanctuary had real value as a teaching tool for the Israelites even though it is a mere copy of the heavenly one. The writer of Hebrews uses the tabernacle in the wilderness instead of the Temple as his example because the tabernacle is associated with the giving of the law at Mount Sinai. Beginning in chapter 9, verse 2, the writer describes the tabernacle in detail. He divides the tabernacle into two areas—an inner tabernacle and an outer tabernacle.

The outer tabernacle contained the lampstand, or seven-branched menorah, and the table with the sacred bread. The menorah's purpose was to provide perpetual light in the dark, windowless tabernacle. The priests tended to it morning and evening to make sure the light was never extinguished. In essence, the menorah was a representation of the presence of God among the people of Israel. The table with the sacred bread, or showbread, consisted of a table made of acacia wood overlaid with gold leaf. On the table were twelve loaves of bread representing each of the tribes of Israel. Each week, the loaves would be eaten by the ministering priests and replaced with new loaves on the Sabbath. The outer tabernacle was called the "holy place" and these two articles of light and bread pointed to the one who would come as the "Light of the World" and the "Bread of Life."

The inner tabernacle was behind the second veil and it is called the "holy of holies." The second veil

was there to separate the people from the presence of God, but it was torn from top to bottom when Yeshua (Jesus) was crucified. The writer of Hebrews describes the inner tabernacle as "having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant..." (Hebrews 1:4). The golden altar of incense was not in the inner tabernacle but in front of the veil leading into the holy of holies. A common question asks why the golden altar of incense is listed as though it were inside the holy of holies rather than outside. The most likely answer is that the golden altar of incense related functionally to the ministry within the holy of holies even though it was not physically inside it. In the morning and evening, the priests would burn incense to God which allowed it to burn continuously. This altar represented the worship and prayers of God's people and pointed to His presence in the holy of holies.

The ark of the covenant was the one piece of furnishing inside the holy of holies. The ark, like the table containing the sacred bread, was made of acacia wood. It was an opened-top chest covered inside and out with gold. The writer of Hebrews says it contains "...a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant" (Hebrews 1:4). The lid of the ark, which is the mercy seat, was made of solid gold. The mercy seat was overshadowed by the "cherubim of glory." Two cherubs on each side, with wings spread out toward one another, were either attached to the mercy seat or perhaps constructed as one piece with it. While these present some incredible furnishings in the tabernacle, the writer of Hebrews simply describes what was there rather

than going into detail. His intent is to continue building a case for the superiority of Messiah's priestly ministry over the Levitical priesthood.

Read Hebrews 9:1-5 NASB

**<sup>1</sup> Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. <sup>2</sup> A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup> Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup> which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. <sup>5</sup> Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.**

## YOUNG ISRAELI STUDIES THE NEW COVENANT

Stephen, our staff member in Argentina, recently reconnected with an Israeli who stayed at his guesthouse two years ago while traveling through South America. While at the guesthouse, Nadav\* found a copy of the New Testament and asked if he could keep it. The young Israeli had many questions about Jesus, and Stephen had many great conversations with him about the Jewish Messiah. Recently, one of the guesthouse staff members reconnected with Nadav online. They learned that he has continued to study the New Testament because Nadav's younger brother was learning about it at university. Praise God for this spreading of the Gospel!

## FORMER ISRAELI OFFICER REACHES FOR ISAIAH 53

In spite of it being winter in New Zealand, a 21-year-old former officer from Israel, Maya,\* decided to travel to the islands and stay at the Zula Lodge. The Zula Lodge is a Chosen People Ministries facility offering free accommodation to Israelis.

Maya, although secular, had a sincere love for the **Tanakh** (the Jewish Scriptures), so Roly and Karen, staff members at Zula, spent hours ministering to her from the Scriptures. She had never read the New Testament and was fascinated to learn more about the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Like most Jewish people, Maya had never read Isaiah chapter 53. Could Jesus truly be Israel's Messiah? Maya has begun reading the Hebrew New Testament and is excited to continue studying the Bible with a Jewish believer in Israel. Our Chosen People Ministries associate, Robin, will be contacting Maya in Jerusalem for further Bible study.

## GERMAN CHRISTIANS APOLOGIZE TO SURVIVORS FOR THE HOLOCAUST

Our Israeli worker, Maxim, organized a trip to Germany for a group of Holocaust survivors. They were welcomed in Munich by two of our local staff members, Igor and Vita. On one of the evenings, they held a large gathering for all our ministry groups—

the Messianic congregation, Jewish friends from Munich, German Christians, and also other Christian ministries from the area. The evening was made possible thanks to the owners of a famous Munich restaurant who hosted the survivors and the guests for free. At the event, one of the participants confessed, "As an adult, I found out that my grandparents were active Nazis. Especially after becoming a Christian, the shame for what they did to God's people became unbearable. I am so sorry." Isaac,\* a survivor present that evening, laid his hand on the woman's head and released her from her shame, saying, "Thank you! Your words add many years to our lives."



\*names have been changed

## I N M E M O R I A M

Henry Neugaus, a Chosen People Ministries staff member in Israel, passed away last month. Henry was born in Moscow in 1962. His father and grandfather were world-famous pianists. Henry was also a gifted pianist who regularly performed in Russia and in Israel. After becoming a believer in Yeshua, Henry often gave concerts at the Jerusalem Messianic Center. Henry met his wife, Irina, also Jewish, in Moscow and together they made Aliyah in 1991. Henry and Irina became believers through Ha Maayan congregation in Kfar Saba in 1991, where they met Michael Z., our Israel Director, in 1992. Prior to becoming a believer, Henry had been a heavy drug user and an alcoholic, but after coming to faith, he was radically changed and cured of his addictions! They attended a small, Russian-speaking fellowship in Jaffa, Tel Aviv, and soon joined the staff of Beit Sar Shalom (Chosen People Ministries Israel) in 1995. Pray for Henry's children, Magda and Adi, who also lost their mother to cancer four years ago. They have been living with Michael and Natalie Z. in Jerusalem.

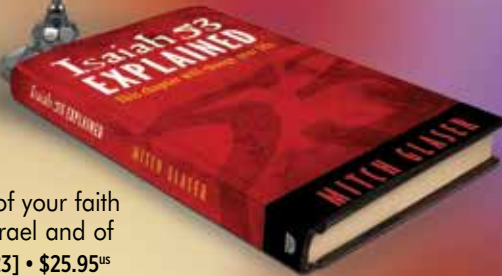




**HOLIDAY**

**SHOPPING**

The flickering lights of the nine-branched **Hanukkah menorah** remind us that God is mighty to save and that Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah, is truly the Light of the World. Hanukkah is a time of celebration, and now you can own this beautifully-crafted Hanukkah menorah from Israel, to place in your home as a statement of your faith and hope in the Messiah of Israel and of all the nations. (8 1/2" tall) [5023] • \$25.95<sup>US</sup>



Do you have Jewish friends who have questions about the meaning of life and spirituality? Maybe it is time for them to go right to the source and rethink their relationship with the Creator. **Isaiah 53 Explained** will help kick-start your friends' personal pilgrimages and introduce them to a chapter in the Scriptures that has the potential to revolutionize their lives! [3135] • \$12.95<sup>US</sup>

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

## Share the Jewish Messiah

*In a powerful and effective way and give yourself a tax break!*

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a permanent tax benefit to bless Jewish people around the world by helping Chosen People Ministries to:

- Proclaim the Good News of Messiah
- Disciple new Jewish believers
- Provide for refugees and other Jewish people in need
- And plant new Messianic Jewish congregations

How do you do it? Through permanent IRA rollover legislation that allows you to give a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 without adding a penny to your taxable income! It also applies to your required minimum distributions.

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**THE CHOSEN PEOPLE**



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