

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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THE PROPHETIC POWER OF THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT



THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

Jesus celebrated the Jewish holidays and fulfilled them.

Shalom, dear friend.

September is the month that Jewish people worldwide observe the three major Jewish holy days commanded by God in Leviticus 23. These holy days are observed in the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar, which usually falls during September and often spills over into October.

The Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah), the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), and Tabernacles (Sukkot) are all within three weeks of one another.

This season is an important time for Your Mission to the Jewish People. Excluding Passover, we usually have more Jewish seekers attend our many services around the globe during this season than at any other time of the year!

The Jewish holy days, given to Israel at Mount Sinai, cannot be canceled. World wars, famines, even pandemics must bow to God's commands and calendar! Your Mission to the Jewish People will observe the festivals as we do every year, but this year we will give our celebrations a small "twist."

In fact, we expect more people to join us this year than in years past since we will be holding services virtually and space is unlimited! **We plan to host all three holiday celebrations online.** We will enjoy our beautiful high holiday traditions and the wonderful Messianic Jewish music of Marty Goetz on Yom Kippur and MIQEDEM from Israel on the Feast of Tabernacles.

Each festival will focus on Jesus, who celebrated the Jewish holidays and fulfilled them as well.

Please Join Us

I am hoping that you will invite your Jewish friends to join our online services. Many Jewish people will have nowhere to go in person to observe the holy days this year. Join us in praying that Jewish non-believers will be drawn to our glorious and beautiful Savior through these holiday events.

The following is the list of services. Please visit chosenpeople.com/highholidays, register, and join us!

New Year's Eve Friday, September 18 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (EDT)

Day of Atonement Eve Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (EDT)

Feast of Tabernacles Eve Friday, October 2 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (EDT)

Hopeful Holidays in the Messiah

The holidays are a great time to celebrate the hope we have in Jesus, the Messiah. When you combine His Jewish background with the glory of His person as the fulfillment of all the Jewish people hoped for over multiple millennia, it is a stunning experience. So, please join us and allow the Lord to re-energize your sense of hope in Him.

The holidays also illustrate some of the great biblical themes we appreciate. The New Year points to new beginnings. One of the traditional themes of **Rosh Hashanah**, (literally, *the head of the year* in Hebrew), is repentance for our sins, leading to the next holiday focused on atonement and forgiveness.



The **Day of Atonement** foreshadows God's provision of atoning blood through the death of Jesus on Golgotha. The festival of Sukkot, the **Feast of Tabernacles**, points to the great day when He returns, establishes His kingdom on earth, and the world is filled with His presence as the waters fill the seas (Habakkuk 2:14).

The theme of life-giving water is tied to the Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrates the final fruit harvest and ingathering of crops. Without water, we would never make it to the final harvest. Traditionally, Jewish people even pray for rain during the festival.

Jesus claims that, when we believe in Him, rivers of living water will flow from our souls!

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. **He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'**" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39)

Your Prayers and Support

Your prayers and support have been such a vital part of helping Chosen People Ministries advance the work of Rabbi Leopold Cohn, our founder. We continue to follow the rabbi's vision—to reach out to Jewish people worldwide with the unchanging gospel of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

We are able to continue this historic ministry because of your love, generosity, and prayers. Meanwhile, pandemic or no pandemic, we are preaching the gospel, and Jewish people are coming to faith. We are intensifying our online outreach campaigns in the United States and Israel. And we are following up on the thousands of contacts with Jewish people we receive through Zoom and phone calls, and God is blessing these efforts.

What is Next for Chosen People Ministries?

The future for our 126-year-old ministry will be similar to what believers have been doing since the day Jesus rose from the dead. We will depend upon the Lord to lead us, and in obedience to the unchanging Word of God, we will continue to advance His kingdom! Where He leads we will follow, knowing that He is always with us, which was His promise to His disciples (Matthew 28:20).

Your Mission to the Jewish People will continue to preach the gospel to the Jew first and also to the Gentile—you can count on this. Whether in the United States, Israel, or anywhere else in the world, we will look for new and creative ways to tell others about our eternal hope: the forgiveness of sins and the abundant life through Jesus the Messiah, which is available to all who believe.

We will minister online through Zoom, video, social media, and personally whenever possible...face-to-face and mask-to-mask! We know this present pandemic will pass, and we will safely begin conducting larger-group Bible studies and in-person worship services. We look forward to future street campaigns, campus ministries, and more! We experimented this past year with a new "gap year" residential campus work at New York University

that was highly successful. We will do it again thanks to the generous support of a foundation.

My dear friends, the Light of the world has not been extinguished. He shines even brighter in the darkness. As the Savior said, "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world" (John 9:4-5).

And we will keep working for Him!

We are building Chosen People Ministries for the future and hope you will join us! Please pray about giving generously to our **Moving Forward in Hope Fund**. Your donation will help advance Chosen People Ministries worldwide as we reach the Jewish people for Jesus.

We especially need your help in supporting our missionaries in Israel and in cities around the globe with large Jewish populations. Your generous gift today will also allow us to continue reaching Holocaust survivors, doing street evangelism and opposing antisemitism, and more.

You can give online by visiting chosenpeople.com/donate or by using the enclosed card and envelope. You can also make a donation by phone by calling 1-800-969-3830. We have operators available to help you 24/7. In Canada, please call 1-888-442-5535 or visit chosenpeople.ca/donateonline.

I also hope that you will prayerfully consider **becoming a regular supporter** by indicating your desire to give a recurring gift. The

option is available to you on the donation page or reply card.

Again, we hope you will join us for one of **our special holiday services!**

Your brother in the Messiah,



Mitch

P.S. Some years ago, my wife and I wrote a book entitled *The Fall Feasts of Israel* for Moody Press. We cover the festivals in depth and show how they point to Jesus. I know you will enjoy it, and it will enrich this time of the year for you and your family. **I will send it you free as a thank-you for any gift over \$150.**



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Appointed Times of the Lord (Leviticus 23)

Leviticus 23 sets the calendar for the Jewish holidays. From the outset, God established the sovereignty of His timetable. He starts the conversation by saying, *“Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord’s appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy convocations—My appointed times are these’”* (Leviticus 23:2). The chapter closes with the statement, *“So Moses declared to the sons of Israel the appointed times of the Lord”* (Leviticus 23:44). There is no room for confusion: the holidays belong to the Lord.

In 1965, the Day of Atonement began on Wednesday evening, October 6. However, the holy day was not the only event to start that evening. Major League Baseball had decided in early September that October 6, 1965, would be game one of the World Series. The commissioner of baseball did not know then that the Los Angeles Dodgers would face the Minnesota Twins that year, and scheduled to pitch for the Dodgers would be a twenty-nine-year-old Jewish man from Brooklyn. His name was Sanford Braun, although he is more commonly known as Sandy Koufax.

Nobody would likely have blamed Koufax if he *had* chosen to pitch that day. Arguably, starting in the first game of the World Series could be a once-in-a-lifetime event, but that was not what he decided to do. Instead “while he did not observe every religious holiday, he did feel a desire to observe Yom Kippur as a day of worship.”¹ Further, the Baseball Hall of Fame website records his response to newspaper reporters for making the choice not to pitch: “From what I’ve been told, there are no dispensations for this particular day.”²

The Bible does not leave much wiggle room concerning the observance of this day: “*If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people. As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will destroy from among his people*” (Leviticus 23:29–30). Yom Kippur is the most solemn day on the Hebrew calendar, but it is not the only day that the Lord commanded His people to keep.

Yom Kippur is also not the only holiday that would keep Sandy Koufax off the mound. No matter what else was happening, “he never pitched on Passover, Rosh Hashanah, or Yom Kippur.”³ His decision not to violate these holidays also served as an example for many in his day. He was not just a hero on the mound; he was an unexpected hero of faith.

These days, plenty is going on in the world to draw our attention away from these remarkable holy moments and appointed times on the Jewish calendar. They come at the same time every year. The Feast of Trumpets, which is also called Rosh Hashanah, is always on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh Hebrew month. The Day of Atonement is always on the tenth day of the same month. And five days later, on the fifteenth, the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot, begins. When orchestrated with the secular calendar, the days differ each year because the Hebrew calendar is a lunar calendar based on the cycle of the moon, and our usual calendar is a solar calendar based upon the movements of the sun. **We cannot avoid these holidays, nor can we cancel them.** They always come right on time.

This year, the timing may be more significant than in years past. For many months, the world has been on “pause.”

While there have been glimpses of movement here or there, the global community has been cautious and tentative. Where attempts to move forward have been bolder and more aggressive, a second pause may very well be imminent. Though it may feel as if time has stopped, more or less, the holidays are a brilliant reminder that time keeps marching on. And not only time, but God’s plan for humanity as revealed in the Scriptures. Nothing can stop Him!

The Jewish high holidays this fall and throughout the year are annual reminders of God’s faithfulness to the world He created and, come rain or shine, peace or war, pandemic or plague, the Lord, as the great hymn reminds us, is marching on. All we can say is Hallelujah!

In fact, the holidays are a road to redemption, and each one points to a critical element of His plan for humankind. The

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Above: April 1, 2013 Former Los Angeles Dodgers Sandy Koufax #32 throws out the first pitch before the Opening Day Major League Baseball game at Dodgers Stadium. Right: 1962 baseball card

New Year and the blowing of the shofar reminds us of the ram caught in a thicket by its horns, allowing Abraham to spare his son by sacrificing the ram instead (Genesis 22). This was the first clear and specific atoning sacrifice in the Bible. (You can read more about this in the Bible study on page six.) The Jewish New Year reminds us of our need to repent of our sins, resulting in a spiritually rewarding way to begin the year. The Day of Atonement points us to the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. His sacrifice made atonement

for all who believe. The Feast of Tabernacles points us toward the day when God’s presence will fill the earth as the waters fill the sea. The entire planet will become His Tabernacle!

The great future He has planned for us is revealed through the festivals, and the regularity of these events reminds us each year that no matter what troubles befall us, His plan will be fulfilled. The coming of Jesus was a down payment on future glory, affirmed by His Spirit who lives in the hearts of all who believe.

This glorious future keeps us moving forward, which has been a theme for Chosen People Ministries for the past few months. We persevere because God has given us sure and trustworthy promises. As He told the children of Israel, “*The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed*” (Deuteronomy 31:8).

1 Ed Gruver, *Koufax* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Pub. Co., 2000), 53.

2 Matt Rothenberg, “Sandy Koufax Responded to a Higher Calling On Yom Kippur in 1965,” National Baseball Hall of Fame, accessed August 7, 2020, <https://baseballhall.org/discover/sandy-koufax-sits-out-game-one>.

3 Gruver, 12.



See the Bible through Jewish Eyes

Rosh Hashanah and Genesis 22

During the High Holiday season, Jewish people worldwide celebrate Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). One of the commonly read passages during that time is Genesis 22, called the *Akedah* in Hebrew, or the “Binding of Isaac.” Jewish liturgy makes a close connection between the Akedah and Rosh Hashanah: it links the ram’s horn (shofar) blown on Rosh Hashanah to the ram that Abraham offered in place of his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:13). Additionally, when the holiday became a two-day festival in Jewish tradition, Genesis 22 became the Torah portion read in the synagogue on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. The sounding of the shofar serves as a reminder of Abraham’s total obedience and that God pardoned Abraham’s descendants based on his great merit.

The passage begins well after Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah, who were one hundred years old and ninety years old, respectively, when he was born. Abraham loved Isaac so much that it seemed he might have loved him even more than he loved God, so God tested Abraham. God said in Genesis 22:5, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” We can only imagine what was going through Abraham’s mind. Yet, the next morning, he obediently took Isaac, as God commanded, along with two servants, and they began the journey to Moriah.

When they got to their destination, Abraham told his servants, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you” (Genesis 22:4). He believed that, even if he went through with Isaac’s sacrifice, God would raise him from the dead (Hebrews 11:17–19) because God had promised his descendants would come through Isaac. Ultimately, the Angel of the Lord—very possibly a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus—stopped Abraham from going through with the sacrifice: “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me” (Genesis 22:12).

Abraham passed the test!

There are so many parallels between Isaac and Jesus in Genesis 22. I have come up with eight, but perhaps you can find others:

1. Both Isaac and Jesus were born miraculously: Isaac to a ninety-year-old woman, and Jesus to a teenage Jewish virgin.
2. Both were called “only son,” and even though Abraham also had Ishmael, God viewed Isaac as the son of promise; hence, “your only son.” John 3:16 reads, “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son....”
3. Jesus was thirty-three years old when He died, and in Genesis 23, at the death of Sarah, Isaac is thirty-seven years old. Post-biblical Jewish tradition often depicts Isaac as a consenting adult. It is possible, then, that Isaac was the same age as Jesus when he was offered up to God by Abraham.
4. The writer of Hebrews claimed that Abraham “received [Isaac] back [from the dead] as a type” (Hebrews 11:19) of the resurrection. Jesus rose on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:4).
5. Just as Jesus carried His cross, so also Isaac carried the wood up to his place of sacrifice, Mount Moriah.
6. Mount Moriah is generally considered to be the site of the Temple Mount, but Golgotha would also have been part of Mount Moriah. Perhaps God led Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on the exact spot where the Romans crucified our Messiah.
7. Jesus was laid upon the cross as they drove the nails through His hands and feet. In the same way, Isaac was laid upon the wood as he was bound for sacrifice.
8. We do not see Isaac again until he is with his bride, Rebekah. We will see Jesus again when He comes for His bride, the Church.

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.



MINISTRY NEWS



ORTHODOX JEWISH MAN SEARCHES FOR JESUS ONLINE

During the Jewish holiday season, our staff members are busy with special services and outreaches that the Lord continually blesses. One of our staff members met Yonatan,* an Orthodox Jewish man. They had an amazing conversation and our missionary came away from it with a heavy burden for him. Yonatan is open and searching for the truth about the Messiah. Even though he lives and works in a strict Orthodox community, he has been searching and studying, primarily through the internet. During the conversation, the two men discussed pop culture, joked a bit about politics, and discussed Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. Our missionary posited that Jesus is the only one who could ever fulfill these prophecies, and, to his amazement, Yonatan was nodding in agreement. Finally, he just asked Yonatan who he thinks Jesus is. Yonatan's entire tone and countenance changed, and with a humble sincerity he said, "I don't know." This was huge—he did not outright reject Jesus, he did not scoff at the mention of His name. Instead, he showed a genuine uncertainty. Our worker told him how Jesus changed his life and he encouraged him to pray and ask God to reveal the truth. Please pray that the Lord will reveal Himself to Yonatan and that he will come to know with confidence who Jesus is.

JEWISH WOMAN COMES TO FAITH AT ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE

"I have always had a love for Yeshua (Jesus)," said Shira,* a Jewish woman who attended a Jewish New Year service with her Christian friends. The congregational leader asked her if she liked the services and if she had any objections. Surprisingly, Shira had none! She said she loved the prayers, the music, the worshipful dancing, and the message. He asked her if she had ever invited Yeshua into her heart as her Messiah and Savior, and she said, "No." Then he asked if she wanted to pray right then to receive Yeshua. She said YES! Shira prayed and asked Yeshua to come into her heart and be her Messiah and Savior! Since then, she has been coming out to services every week. Recently, after the service, she asked if she could pray again just like when she accepted the Lord. When he told her that it counted last time and that God had saved her, she said she believed, but wanted to do a video recording to send to her family, so they could see it happen. What a blessing!

*names changed



A JEWISH SHOPKEEPER HEARS THE GOSPEL

Recently, two of our Brooklyn staff members were doing outreach in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. As they were walking, they turned to see a middle-aged Orthodox Jewish man smiling and motioning to them to come inside his shop, "Hey, would you like to come out of the hot sun to rest and have a drink?" They both agreed and went into the store where Aaron* made them a refreshing drink and engaged them in conversation. Aaron's phone began to ring, and other people wanted his attention. Not wishing to get in the way of his work, the workers thanked him for his hospitality and proceeded out the door. But as they walked away, they thought, "This is the opportunity of a lifetime." Aaron was a bit perplexed as to why the men returned, but the conversation opened up when they apologized for not sharing the gospel earlier. For the next hour, the three of them had a rich discussion about religion, philosophy, and the Messianic claims of Yeshua. They spoke of how the Jewish people missed the time of Messiah's visitation (Luke 19:41-44) resulting in the destruction of the Temple, the loss of the priesthood, their *kippur* (blood atonement), and the expulsion from their homeland for nearly 2,000 years, ultimately leading to terrible persecution. Aaron listened. While he did not agree, he understood the cases being made and their importance. Aaron agreed to meet with our staff again to discuss the Messiah.

Effective and wise stewardship that can help you SHARE Jesus with Jewish people

Here is a great way to advance the cause you care about – sharing the Messiah with Jewish people everywhere:

You can donate appreciated assets, such as stocks or property, to Chosen People Ministries. This way you can likely make an even bigger impact than if you sell the assets and donate the proceeds.

Just look at the advantages of donating appreciated assets:

- You receive a charitable giving deduction for the fair market value of the asset if you qualify for that deduction in 2020.
- The fair market value can be deducted against up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for 2020 and any excess deductions can be carried forward into as many as five additional tax years.
- You can probably avoid capital gains tax that you would pay on the appreciation if you sold the asset.
- And donating the appreciated assets directly — rather than selling them and then donating the proceeds — allows you to make a BIGGER impact. The chart to the right shows you how.

Example: Stock purchased at \$2,000 —

Valued today at \$20,000 — Gain: \$18,000



Donate stock through Chosen People Ministries = **\$20,000 for ministry** (No capital gains tax on charitable donation of stock.)

VS.



Sell stock and donate proceeds = **\$17,300 for ministry**
\$20,000 - \$2,700 in capital gains tax*

You also are eligible to receive a charitable giving tax deduction for the full value of the appreciated stock!

*If stock is held for more than one year and donor is in the 15% capital gains tax bracket



Find out more about how you can make a big impact with the gift of appreciated assets. Contact Cindy Forbes at 212-223-2252 ext. 1208, or cforbes@chosenpeople.com. Thank you!

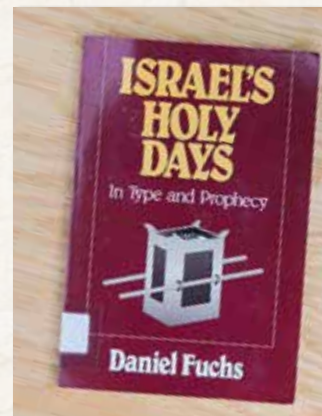


Israel, the Church, and the Middle East challenges the supersessionist drift of the modern church, showing that God retains a plan and purpose for the Jewish people while also addressing a number of the divisive issues raised by authors critical both of Israel and of those who affirm Israel's right to the land. It explores the hermeneutics and wider effects of the conflict, such as the growing antipathy within the church toward the evangelization of the Jewish people. It provides readers with an objective and interdisciplinary treatment.

Israel, the Church, and the Middle East • \$14.95^{US}

A Jewish believer in Jesus examines the festivals of Leviticus 23, their history, their present celebration in the synagogue and home, and their prophetic fulfillment. In Leviticus 23 God presents seven annual sacred feasts of Israel. At first this passage seems to simply list Israel's holy days, but the more one studies the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, the more one realizes that this passage is more than just a list of holy days: it is actually an outline of God's calendar from eternity to eternity. *Israel's Holy Days in Type and Prophecy* is a brief but thorough review.

Israel's Holy Days in Type and Prophecy • \$8.95^{US}



Order using the enclosed card or for phone orders call 1-800-333-4936 in the U.S. For more resources, visit us online at store.chosenpeople.com.

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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A higher purpose.*

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