

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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A RENEWED FOCUS ON
**PERSONAL EVANGELISM
& DISCIPLESHIP**

BACK TO BASICS | REACHING THE HARD-TO-REACH: THE
HAREDIM | MICAH LAMENTS THE SINS OF JUDAH



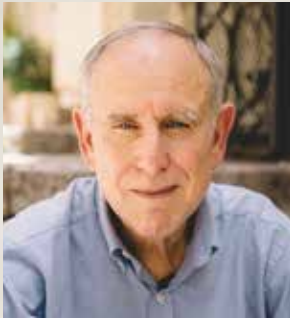
FOUNDATIONS

22



Dear Friends,

Chosen People Ministries, now in our 128th year of ministry, will continue to build on the solid foundation laid by our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, and the hundreds of missionaries and servants of the Lord who preceded today's staff family.



FROM THE PRESIDENT, MITCH GLASER

Jesus emphasized this need for a firm foundation when speaking to His disciples after giving the Sermon on the Mount: *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock”* (Matt 7:24).

Jesus is the foundation and cornerstone of our faith!

The psalmist pointed to the One who, though rejected, would be the cornerstone of the kingdom: *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes”* (Ps 118:22–23).

Chosen People Ministries is built upon the foundation of Jesus the Messiah and the Bible—the word of God. Paul wrote to believers in Ephesus about this foundation:

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the **foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*** (Eph 2:19–22, emphasis added)

We learn a lot from the Apostle Paul about building a solid foundation for the Lord's work. He was an experienced ministry builder and wrote quite a bit about the importance of a solid foundation.

Wherever Chosen People Ministries staff have gone and whatever we have done throughout the years to build the Lord's work among the Jewish people, the foundation is always the same—the Lord Himself and the Bible. We make Jesus known for all He is and what He did, and we teach and preach the Bible to those with genuine spiritual hunger.

The Great Commission also never changes. We are called to proclaim the gospel, lead others to faith in the Messiah, and make disciples of all who believe (Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 1:8). This foundation includes the importance and priority God places on Jewish evangelism (Romans 1:16), if one takes the words of Paul literally!

The Goal of the Foundations '22 Campaign

Our goal for the **Foundations '22** campaign is to build Chosen People Ministries for the future—until the Lord returns! To do this, we need to return to and embrace the very foundation of our ministry and reaffirm the basic elements of our work.

*This clarion call to evangelize, disciple, and train others to do the same grows out of the Great Commission: “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”*** (Matthew 28:19–20, emphasis added).

The task never changes!

The opportunities and circumstances of the day might influence how we carry out the commission and the tools we use. But our message and work is always the same!

For example, Chosen People Ministries has confronted two world wars, various global economic disasters, the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel, and the multiple wars in the aftermath of 1948 (i.e., 1967, 1973, its Lebanon Wars, and two intifadas). These challenges impacted the ways in which we carried out our Jewish gospel mandate and led to creating new tools to reach and serve the Jewish people. God used our staff, particularly in the aftermath of the Holocaust,

to help Jewish people who survived the Holocaust re-settle in Europe and Israel and feed the poor survivors as they returned home to their European communities.

We have helped immigrants from the former Soviet Union, many of whom were Holocaust survivors as children, but today, of course, are elderly and have so many needs. The greatest of these needs is hearing about Jesus, and over the last two decades, we have served these dear people and have shared the message of hope through Jesus with hundreds. By God's grace, many Holocaust survivors have given their hearts to the Lord.

The recent pandemic also required us to shift strategies as so much of our effort was focused online, which was the best way for Chosen People Ministries to enter the homes and lives of Jewish nonbelievers and believers alike. We needed to limit our usual method of meeting with people in person during the pandemic, but we were still able to carry out our ministry goals.

Now, it is time to get back to in-person meetings and to even greater involvement in the lives of those we serve.

This year, we will strengthen our ministry in three areas, which should come as no surprise. First, we will emphasize direct personal evangelism as we are able. We will also disciple those who come to faith and help them grow in their faith and become part of congregations. Additionally, we will train the next generation of Jewish and Gentile believers to serve the Lord with greater depth and expertise.

Your Partnership in the Foundations '22 Campaign

You can partner with Chosen People Ministries through prayer, giving, and personal involvement.

Prayer

Please pray that Chosen People Ministries missionaries remain faithful and effective in proclaiming the gospel of the Jewish Messiah.

Pray that the seeds of the gospel land on good soil and produce much fruit.

Finally, pray that the Lord raises up more Jewish and Gentile believers from the next generation to minister to future Jewish not-yet believers!

Giving

We are praying for God to provide \$250,000 for each area of ministry—evangelism, discipleship, and training—over the next year.

That is an annual goal of \$750,000, or **approximately \$60,000 per month**. Please prayerfully consider a gift to help us get started! We have reviewed the possibilities and believe that what we will do with this amount of funding will be powerful and have a long-lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

We want to get back to basics and do more for the Lord among our Jewish people . . . the fog is lifting, and we are ready!

Some of these funds will go to operate our centers, support missionaries in Israel, Russia, and other places where they cannot raise support, and provide many of the online tools we are using to meet and engage Jewish non-believers. We especially need funds for new and younger missionaries who are joining us as either staff or interns and are already deeply involved in reaching Jewish people for Jesus. They really need our help—today!

Allow me to describe some of the various projects where you can get involved.

Personal Involvement

1. Introduce us to your *not-yet-believing* Jewish friend.

We need your help identifying Jewish people we can talk to about Jesus. Use the enclosed card to provide their information, and we will be happy to send your friend a free copy of my book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*, and ask if they would like personal contact with one of our ministers.

2. Connect us to Jewish believers you know.

We would like to reach out to Jewish believers you know and encourage them with the various growth and service opportunities available to them through Chosen People Ministries. We have materials, retreats, mentors, and so much more to help Jewish believers grow in their faith. You can also help us identify those called to full-time Jewish ministry as missionaries or as support staff, such as writers, graphic designers, and administrators.

3. Join us in training for Jewish ministry.

We have many training opportunities available that you can be part of and also promote these to your congregation, church, or Bible study groups. For example, you might know those who would appreciate our short-term mission trips or consider taking a course through our new online video-based Bible institute, which begins soon. Our Charles Feinberg seminary program is also available in person and online for those who want graduate-level training for credit and are more serious about either joining the staff of Chosen People Ministries or serving in their local community as a volunteer.

As I mentioned, we will describe some of the specifics of the **Foundations '22** campaign in the months ahead. I will begin by sharing *vital information and fuel for your prayer life about some of the hard-to-reach Jewish communities* with whom we are already engaged and hope to serve even more effectively in the future as part of our **Foundations '22** campaign.

Thanks for caring, praying, getting more involved, and supporting our ministry among the Jewish people.

Yours in our Messiah,


Mitch

REACHING THE HARD-TO-REACH



Over the next few months, we will introduce you to the Jewish communities we hope to reach with the gospel message in the year ahead. Our goal is to help you learn about these various groups and to encourage you to pray for them as each one is precious in the sight of God. We are doing as much as we can to reach each and every group—from the religious to secular, young Israelis, and so many others worldwide. This month, we will take a brief look at the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community.

The Haredim

One group we hope to reach as part of **Foundations '22** is those whom Jewish people typically view as the most religious within the community. They are usually called *Haredim*. This common term includes all ultra-Orthodox Jewish people: the various Hasidic sects, old-style Orthodox, and even some Modern Orthodox Jewish people. Haredim is a transliteration of the Hebrew term that means “those who fear” or “the reverent ones.” In other words, Haredim are those who fear God and are very traditional in their expression of faith and observance of the Jewish religion.

There are very few believers in Jesus among them, and we hope to focus on praying for and reaching these extraordinarily devoted members of the Jewish community. They remind us of the words of the Apostle Paul, who wrote: “*For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge*” (Romans 10:2).

Lifestyle

The Haredim dress differently so they can stay separate from the wider world. Women are very modest; they wear long dresses or skirts and cover their hair with scarves, wigs, or hats. The men usually wear black clothing and white shirts.

On the Sabbath, they dress more formally and often wear elaborate fur hats—all these examples reflect the clothing worn by upper-class Eastern Europeans of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The children usually attend yeshivas—Haredi parochial schools. They live together within a wired boundary called an “eruv,” and their synagogue is only a short walk away. The Haredim eat food that meets the highest kosher standards. Children are often well-behaved, marriages are usually arranged, and the roles of men and women are strictly defined. Men work but also spend much of their time studying the Torah. Many Haredi women work so that their husbands can study, but they also tend to the children and matters of the home.

The Haredim revere their rabbis, using the title “rebbe” to describe their leaders. The hope for the Messiah’s coming and the establishment of His kingdom in Israel is a vital part of the religious beliefs of the Haredim. They believe the Messiah will come—once—to reign as king and do not believe in two comings of the Messiah, especially that He will come to die for the sins of the world. Passages like Isaiah 53 are not interpreted as referring to the Messiah but rather to Israel, who is deemed as having suffered for or even because of the sins of the nations.



Haredi Population Numbers and Places of Residence

According to a survey by the Pew Foundation in May 2021, there are stark differences between Orthodox

and secular Jews: “Orthodox Jews are more likely than the non-Orthodox to say that following Jewish law and being part of a Jewish community are essential to what it means to them to be Jewish. Non-Orthodox Jews are more likely than the Orthodox to say that remembering the Holocaust, being intellectually curious and having a good sense of humor are essential.”¹

Additionally, from that same report, 83 percent of Orthodox Jews believe that keeping the Jewish law is essential to Jewish identity. Since keeping the Jewish law is essential to the Haredim, this percentage might be lowered by the inclusion of some with a nominally Orthodox upbringing.

Even though many Haredim reject secular Zionism and the modern State of Israel, many still live in Israel, mainly in Jerusalem neighborhoods like Mea Shearim and east of Tel Aviv in B’nei Brak. Hundreds of thousands of Haredim also live in the New York City area—extending one hundred miles north of the city—and Lakewood, New Jersey. There are many other enclaves of Haredim in cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and around the world in countries like England, France, and Argentina.

¹ “Jewish Identity and Belief,” *Pew Research Center*, May 11, 2021, accessed January 17, 2021, <https://www.pewforum.org/2021/05/11/jewish-identity-and-belief/>.

There are dozens of distinct groups that we might identify as Haredim, including Hasidic groups like the Chabad Lubavitch, the Ger, and Satmar. We would also count old-style Orthodox living in Brooklyn's Borough Park, Williamsburg, and many other New York areas.

It is hard to estimate the total number of those who consider themselves Haredim. The Haredi population is also one of the fastest-growing groups in Israel and among the five-and-a-half million Jewish people living in the United States.

The *Times of Israel* reported Haredi population numbers and growth rate: "The ultra-Orthodox . . . population in Israel numbers around 1.175 million, showing an annual growth rate of 4.2 percent over the past decade, over twice the 1.9% shown by the rest of the Israeli population and over three times that of the rest of the Israeli Jewish population."²

Regarding the future of the Haredi community in Israel, The *Times of Israel* also noted, "At those rates, the community will double in size every 16 years while the rest of the population is expected to double in size every 37 years. The non-Haredi Jewish population is predicted to double every 50 years at current rates."³

Worldview

Many Haredim have an *entirely* different worldview than your average Christian, Messianic Jewish believer, or even secular American Jew. The Haredim have a different prism through which they evaluate and understand how the world works—a different manner of thinking altogether.

Though we may all be communicating in English, it is as if we are often speaking two different languages. Sometimes, this is literally true. The Haredim usually speak Yiddish, a language based on a combination of Hebrew, German, and Slavic languages, but written in Hebrew characters. To speak to the hearts of the Haredim, we are producing literature, videos, and books in Yiddish.

When we share the message of how a person can be saved and have a personal relationship with God, ***we are providing an answer to a question that the Haredim are not usually asking.*** Moreover, we tend to frame our response in completely foreign categories to their thinking, and understanding of who God is, and who we are as human beings. The Haredim do not think in terms of "saved" and "unsaved." They believe that every Jewish person already has a place in "the world to come," the afterlife. The Haredim try to keep the Law because this is what God commanded

² Stuart Winer, "Haredi Population Growing Twice as Fast as Overall Israeli Population—Report," *The Times of Israel*, December 31, 2020, accessed January 18, 2022, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/haredi-population-growing-twice-as-fast-as-total-israeli-population-report/>

³ Ibid.



them to observe as part of their covenant relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Access

Reaching Haredim is also challenging as they live in tight-knit communities, limited to specific geographical locations where there is very little need or desire to interact

with outsiders. Like the Amish, the Haredim choose to live in self-sufficient communities to guard against what they see as harmful secular influences. The collective memory of atrocities on the part of the nations and even by "Christians" has also contributed to the shaping of the Haredi communities and their views about Jesus.

Jewish history is filled with examples of persecution of Jewish people by so-called Christians. This has produced a built-in distrust and skepticism of those outside the community, especially those who are not Haredi.

The community is very well-organized and concerned for the ongoing well-being of its members. There are even directories with phone numbers to call if someone has a particular need. Having a party and need fifty folding chairs? Call the number, and someone will drop them off. Visiting a different city and need a place to stay? Not a problem—make a call, and someone will offer housing. For these reasons and others, it is very difficult to gain access to the Haredim and even to begin a conversation about the Messiah.

While it may be challenging to reach the Haredim for the Lord, we can never underestimate the mysterious ways in which God turns the hearts of seemingly hard-to-reach people to Himself! We have seen the Lord move by His Spirit in these communities in the past, and we praise Him for the work He is doing now and will do in the future!

“Not all Orthodox Jews are Haredi but all Haredim are Orthodox.”

- More than half of U.S. Jews identify with the Reform (37%) or Conservative (17%) movements, while about one-in-ten (9%) identify with Orthodox Judaism. Jewish adults ages 18 to 29 are particularly likely to identify as Orthodox (17%), compared with those who are 30 and older, of whom 7% are Orthodox.⁴
- In the U.S., nine-in-ten Orthodox Jews (93%) say they believe in the God of the Bible.⁵
- Haredim make up about 12.6% of Israel's population.⁶

⁴ "Jewish Identity and Belief"

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Winer, "Haredi Population Growing,"

MICAH: The Sins of Judah

In chapter one, the sins of the people of both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms seem to be in view, but now, in the second chapter, Micah's audience, the people of Judah, appear to be the main subjects of his prophecy. Micah first spoke in an abstract way about rebellion and sin, but now he is much more specific in laying out the crimes of the Israelites—crimes that had both social and theological dimensions.

Chapter two is not going to be pretty. One writer says, "I don't think that you're going to say that this is the most beautiful chapter that you have found in the Word of God."¹ Rather, it reveals the sin of a nation, which ultimately caused its destruction. It is good for us as God's people to pay attention to what Micah has to say. In the first five verses of Micah chapter two, the prophet establishes the basis for the national crisis and the future collapse of the kingdom. He begins:

Woe to those who scheme iniquity, who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, for it is in the power of their hands. They covet fields and then seize them, and houses, and take them away. They rob a man and his house, a man and his inheritance. (Mic 2:1–2)

Micah announces that those who lay awake at night plotting the evil that they put into practice the next day would experience "woe." Woe announces punishment coming because of guilt. The people in view seem to be the rich because they had the ability to carry out their schemes. In times of affluence and peace, the rich and the poor in society usually become richer and poorer respectively, and this was true in Israel and Judah during Micah's time.

This evil plotting of the wealthy Israelites involved robbing others of their fields, houses, and property inheritance through deception. The wealthy not only violated the tenth commandment against coveting what belongs to a neighbor but also the eighth commandment against stealing. But more importantly, they broke what Jesus called the second greatest commandment, which is to love their neighbors as themselves (Leviticus 19:18). They practiced the secular world's version of the Golden Rule: "The one who has the gold makes the rules."²

"Therefore thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I am planning against this family a calamity from which you cannot remove your necks; and you will not walk haughtily,

for it will be an evil time'" (Mic 2:3). Because they had done these evil things, the Lord was plotting to bring "calamity" on the family of the Israelites, from which they would not be able to escape. They would be locked into it like a yoke holds the neck of an ox. The coming judgment would be a hard time for those in need of great humbling.

When God's judgment fell, other people would ridicule the Israelites: *"On that day they will take up against you a taunt"* (Mic 2:4). God's people would also lament with bitter weeping and mourn their complete destruction. They would bewail God's removal of His blessings from them—including their lands, which God would give to other peoples considered apostate:

He exchanges the portion of my people; how He removes it from me! To the apostate He apports our fields. Therefore you will have no one stretching a measuring line for you by lot in the assembly of the Lord. (Mic 2:4–5)

The Israelites had set the boundaries between some land parcels by casting lots. Joshua 14:1–2 is an example of this. No one would remain in the land who could do this in the assembly of the Lord, namely, Israel and Judah. The reason was that God would send His people into captivity and give their land to their captors. This is one of many examples of God's justice. The Israelites would reap what they had sown. They had taken land from their countrymen greedily and illegally, so God would take their land from them and let others occupy it.



Settlement ruins in Israel



Rich Freeman, DMin, serves as the vice president for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia.

¹ J. Vernon McGee, 33 *Micah 02* (4:58, 2014), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OdBdqr_M5Q.

² Johnny Hart and Brant Parker, "The Wizard of Id," *The Dallas Morning News* (Dallas, TX, May 3, 1965), sec. 2–9, accessed December 24, 2021, https://archives.dallasnews.com/uncategorized/IO_a0c3b1fo-45bb-46bo-9bo3-50b424ab562b/.

MINISTRY NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

ISRAELI ENCOUNTERS THE LORD ON A BUS

A divine appointment! On the bus in Southern California, one of our missionaries overheard a passenger explaining to the bus driver why he did not have a physical ticket . . . the passenger spoke with an Israeli accent. It turned out that Onan* was traveling as many Israelis do after they finish their military service.

Our staff member shared with him that he and his wife were getting married at the same time Israel was fighting for its existence in the 1967 war. He added that they decided to go to Israel immediately after getting married to volunteer on a kibbutz that a friend told him about.

Onan was so impressed by the story that he called his parents in Israel to introduce them to our missionary and to tell them that a non-Jewish couple helped Israel by volunteering to work on a kibbutz teaching English to the kibbutz members and children.

Our staff member then presented to Onan the wonderful Messianic Scriptures, Psalm 22:16-18 (a description of the crucifixion) and Isaiah 53. He also shared with Onan the website, "I Found Shalom."

ISAIAH 53 REVEALS THE LORD TO GERMAN ETHICS CLASS

A student said, "My dad hates Jews, but I'm glad he did not pass it on to me."

Recently, one of our missionaries in Germany was invited by a tenth grade teacher to speak on antisemitism and to share his experience and faith with the class. What an opportunity to impact students for the Messiah and against antisemitism!

Since this was an ethics class, which in Germany is offered to students who opt out of the Christian religion class, our staff expected there to be quite a few Muslims, atheists, and a few Jewish students. He was not disappointed.

Our missionary began with the words, "I'm a Jew who believes in Jesus" and went on to discuss Isaiah 53. "Does this Jewish prophecy ring a bell?" he asked the class.

"I think it describes Jesus, who was born in poverty, took the sins of the world upon himself, died, was buried in the grave of a rich man, and rose from the dead," a Muslim student responded—a brilliant kid who goes to pray at his mosque every Friday.

"Does it strike you all that it was written 700 years before the birth of Jesus?" The kids never considered Jesus from this perspective.

Our staff member also opened up about his own experiences of antisemitism, which were very informative to the students as he encouraged them to stand against an "us-them" mentality or that of "the other." In the end, the teacher asked if he would come again!

*name changed

EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES DURING DUBAI TOUR

One of our missionaries received a call from a tour company asking for help with Hebrew-speaking Israeli groups, who were flooding into the great Arab city of Dubai. He and his wife led forty-one Israelis in Dubai. Many were very moved when he sang a Psalm in Hebrew over the group: "Some trust in chariots and some trust in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God" (Ps 20:7).

The short return flight was a true reality check, as the lights of Saudi Arabia twinkled below!



DIVINE MOMENTS ABOUND

One of our missionaries in Indiana works out three times a week at his local community center, where he often brings a gospel tract or a copy of the *Jesus Film* DVD to hand out.

As he was leaving the local gym, he encountered a Chinese woman who did not speak English well and gave her a copy of the *Jesus Film*. Since one of the available languages for the film was Mandarin, she was quite excited.

A moment later, a man approached the reception desk asking if they had found an Indiana University sweatshirt. In their conversation about the university, our worker discovered this man and his wife were Jewish and from New York City. Our staff shared with him our website *IFoundShalom.com*, where he would find many stories of Jewish people who encountered Jesus.

Minutes later, our staff met an African American man sitting in the lobby. After some brief casual conversation, our worker invited the man to visit their new church plant that meets in a local high school auditorium.

Three encounters with three very different people, cultures, and backgrounds all took place within about ten minutes! There are hurting people everywhere we turn, and the Lord always has divine encounters waiting if we allow ourselves to be led by Him!

INCREASE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY AS YOU HELP SHARE THE MESSIAH WITH JEWISH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE!

Five Benefits of Establishing a CGA at Chosen People Ministries

In these times of uncertainty, when so many Jewish people are looking for hope, you can maximize your giving to reach more of God's chosen people with the message of Jesus!

If you are 65 years of age or older, you can establish a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) today with a minimum gift of \$10,000. This will increase your giving impact, PLUS provide 5 current benefits of an annuity for you, or you and your spouse:

1. You are guaranteed a steady source of income for your lifetime, regardless of fluctuations in the market.
2. Your one-time investment of \$10,000 or more will pay dividends quickly.
3. You will receive an immediate tax deduction for your gift.
4. You often will receive more income for your money because of higher interest rates.
5. You will have the satisfaction of knowing you have helped Your Mission to the Jewish People share the message of Messiah for years to come!

Take a quick look at the chart below, published by the American Council of Gift Annuities (ACGA). It shows you the excellent rates of return available, based on your age.

Age	Rates of Return
65	4.2%
70	4.7%
75	5.4%
80	6.5%
85	7.6%
90+	8.6%

Current Rates for Individuals as of February 1, 2022

To learn more, contact Cindy Forbes, partnership director, at (212) 223-2252 or cforbes@chosenpeople.com.



Isaiah 53 Explained
• PRICE: \$12.95^{us}

Do you have questions about the meaning of life and spirituality? Maybe it is time to go right to the source and rethink your relationship with the Creator? *Isaiah 53 Explained* will help start your personal pilgrimage and introduce you to a chapter in the Scriptures that has the potential to revolutionize your life! *Isaiah 53 Explained* makes the story of the Bible understandable, practically and simply explaining how you can have a soul-satisfying relationship with God and revealing the surprising key that makes this relationship possible.



The Gospel in the Passover
• PRICE: \$14.95^{us}

The Gospel in the Passover is a condensed version of *Messiah in the Passover* written for those who want to explore the traditions of the Passover and deepen their understanding of the links between Passover, the Last Supper, and Communion.

Order using the enclosed card or call 1-888-2-YESHUA in the US. For more resources, visit us online at store.chosenpeople.com.

MESSIANIC RESOURCES



How to Introduce Your Jewish Friends to the Messiah
• PRICE: \$9.95^{us}

We often find it difficult to share the gospel with those whom we do not know well or feel we do not understand. This manual, *How to Introduce your Jewish Friends to the Messiah*, will help you reach Jewish people with the message of salvation!

Two Book Special: *Isaiah 53 Explained* + *How to Introduce Your Jewish Friends to the Messiah*
• PRICE: \$13.95^{us}

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

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