

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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**GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD!**

AN ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING | MICAH BIBLE STUDY: ISRAEL'S
FUTURE CAPTIVITY AND REDEMPTION | GLOBAL NEWS



FROM THE PRESIDENT, MITCH GLASER

Dear friend,

Thanksgiving might be my favorite holiday that does not come from the Bible. It actually has “Jewish” origins, as many of the Pilgrims viewed themselves as the “children of Israel fleeing ‘Egypt’ (England), crossing the ‘Red Sea’ (the Atlantic Ocean), and emerging from this ‘Exodus’ to their own ‘promised land’ (New England).”¹

The Pilgrims believed their role in God’s plan was similar to the purpose God gave to Abraham and his descendants: to be a blessing to the nations. These British religious refugees to the New World eventually led to the Puritan movement, which profoundly influenced the growth of the gospel in what would become the United States of America.

One of the great Puritan preachers, Cotton Mather, published a well-known sermon about thanksgiving in 1689. I especially appreciate his comment:

To praise God, is to Acknowledge in Him something *Excellent*, as ‘tis said in Psal. 148.13. *Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His Name alone is Excellent*; thus, when we Acknowledge an *Excellency* in all those Manifestations which God maketh of Himself; then ‘tis that we *praise* Him. Now the *Praises* owing to the God of Heaven from us, are obliged not only by what He *Is*, but also by what He *Does*: indeed by what He *Does* it is that we come to Learn what He *is*. We ought to Acknowledge an *Excellency* in the *Nature* of God; which is to Ascribe *Glory* to Him.²

Ever since I came to faith in Jesus at age nineteen, I have believed that it was better to focus on who God is rather than what He does for us. One great temptation in giving thanks is to focus on what He has done rather than who He is. God’s character and glorious nature never change, but His works can change daily as the Lord is intimately involved in all aspects of our daily lives.

We understand God’s character through the Bible. One of my favorite passages in the Hebrew Scriptures that describes the character of God is in Exodus chapters 33 and 34. If you recall, God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, then hid him in the *cleft of a rock*, passing by him while declaring the glorious attributes of His nature. This action was in response to Moses’ request, “*I pray You, show me Your glory!*” (Exod 33:18).

¹ Marvin R. Wilson, *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990), 127.

² Cotton Mather, “A Sermon Preached to the Honourable Convention of the Governour, Council, and Representatives of the Massachusetts-Colony in New-England on May 23, 1689,” <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A50176.0001.001/1:5?rgn=div1;view=fulltext>.



God answered,

“You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” Then the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.” (Exod 33:20–23)

It is well worth reflecting on the following passage where His attributes are listed:

Then the Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” (Exod 34:6–7)

This monumental event on Mount Sinai—the manifestation of God’s attributes—became an important prayer within Judaism known as the Thirteen Attributes of God.

I genuinely believe the best way to thank God is to show our gratitude for His unchanging character. This lesson is what God taught Moses on top of Mount Sinai. Likewise, the Puritan leader Cotton Mather discovered this same truth.

Therefore, we, too, should begin our prayers of thanksgiving by first acknowledging His glorious character and the magnificence of His attributes. Then, we should continue praising and thanking Him for all He has done.

His good works proceed from His good character, and I believe this order in our prayers of thanksgiving is also critical.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

This Thanksgiving holiday, Your Mission to the Jewish People has so much to be thankful for as a ministry among the Jewish people. Our hearts are overflowing with the simple joy of knowing a good and benevolent God who created, loved, and redeemed us through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

I am sure you will enjoy the testimonies we have compiled for this newsletter, and please rejoice with us for what the Lord has done! Let me list a few points of praise for your encouragement.



AN INCREASE IN CONGREGATIONS AND JEWISH BELIEVERS IN ISRAEL

When I first traveled to Israel as a believer in 1976, fewer than 500 Messianic Jews may have lived in the land. Some Jewish believers had survived the Holocaust, and a few had moved from North Africa to Israel. Most were not native Israelis and had come to Israel as believers from other parts of the globe. Some came to be part of the great Israel experiment, and others came to serve the Lord in the land. Now, more than seventy years later, there are probably between 20,000 and 30,000 Messianic Jews in the Holy Land, most of whom came to faith in Israel.

I believe we are now in a second-generation and even third-generation outpouring of the Spirit, transforming the national Israeli Messianic body.

This movement of the Spirit has also transformed our ministry as we continue to reach younger generations of Israelis along with the hundreds of elderly Holocaust survivors who we have been serving these past twenty-plus years. We now have our first generation of Jewish believers born in Israel, speaking Hebrew as their native language, attending Israeli schools, and serving in the Israeli army.

These Israeli believers are young, bold, and willing to give their all for Jesus the Messiah!

That is why we have rented a facility in the greater Tel Aviv neighborhood of Ramat Gan where we organize Sabbath outreach dinners, concerts, café nights, Bible studies, reading groups for moms and children, and so much more each month. We can do this because the Lord is working within a new generation of Israelis.

We are in the thick of this outpouring of the Spirit—discipling and nurturing new believers and this new generation of young Israeli leaders!

The future of the Messianic Jewish movement in Israel is bright, and I hope you will want to participate in this work of the Spirit through Your Mission to the Jewish People.

We do need more worship space!

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES WITH TRAVELING ISRAELIS

We are reaching Israelis by meeting adventurous post-army young adults in places like the Upper West Side of New York City, the South Island of New Zealand, India, Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China. We are also about to open up ministry stations in Brazil and Japan

to reach these wandering Israelis. Our short-term and permanent teams are sharing the gospel with them as they enjoy hikes, BBQs, hummus nights, or a lovely meal of traditional Chinese food!

The Israeli traveler community is a cultural phenomenon and a growing trend that enables us to speak to young Israelis in areas where there is less pressure to conform. In these contexts, they allow themselves to search outside of their usual choices for ways to have happy and meaningful lives and are open to new ways to have a relationship with the God of Israel.

In addition, we are creating a hosting network within the United States, and if you would like to host young Israeli people just out of the army in your home, please let us know! We are now beginning to look for American hosts for the new year.

AN INCREASE IN PRO-JESUS SENTIMENT AMONG YOUNGER GENERATIONS OF JEWISH PEOPLE

We are surprised by the large number of young Jewish people from all over the world responding to our social media, Facebook ads, our new campus outreaches, and the congregations we plant. A recent Barna survey has revealed that Jewish millennials are more open than their parents to the gospel and even to the possibility that Jesus is both Messiah and God in the flesh. We find this astounding! In addition, young people are the majority of the more than 10,000 Jewish non-believers we have met online through our digital outreach campaigns over the last few years, including our *Isaiah 53 Explained* eBook offer and our “I Found Shalom” video testimonies.

I am also very excited about resuming our residential outreach ministry (House of Living Waters) at New York University (NYU), which has the largest concentration of Jewish students in the United States. We have two young men living in an apartment across the street from the NYU campus and a young woman living in Brooklyn. They are all actively engaged in sharing the gospel with Jewish students.

Again, these opportunities and the openheartedness of the younger generations give me incredible hope for the future of God’s work in bringing the Jewish remnant to Himself in these last days (Romans 11:25–29).

Happy Thanksgiving—and remember to save room for pumpkin pie!

Your brother,

Mitch



AN ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING

We at Chosen People Ministries, both missionaries and administrative staff, are thankful for your faithful prayers and support, which help us bring the good news of Jesus “to the Jew first!” (Romans 1:16). This Thanksgiving season, we want to relate the stories and work—which *you make possible*—of our missionaries who reach Jewish people with the gospel in nineteen countries and more than a dozen American cities.



SHALOM NEW YORK

Every year, your prayers and support allow Chosen People Ministries to accomplish a summer mission outreach called Shalom New York. This year, we had a team of thirty Chosen People Ministries staff members and volunteers from around the country hitting the streets and subways of New York City to proclaim the gospel, pray with people, and distribute Bibles in English, Hebrew, Russian, and Yiddish to widely diverse Jewish communities.

One of our missionaries on this trip had an impactful ninety-minute conversation with Jacob,* a man in his thirties. Growing up, Jacob wanted to believe in God, but was confused by the many different opinions about the Bible, God, and the topic of Messiah. As part of his search, he converted to Orthodox Judaism in his twenties and moved to Israel to study in an Orthodox Jewish rabbinical school. Upon returning to the United States a handful of years ago, he experienced another crisis of faith and began to doubt the very existence of God.

During this conversation, our missionary found the depth, intimacy, and authenticity of Jacob’s questions amazing. Our staff member felt the very presence of God directing his responses. He lifted Jesus up as the real Truth in a way Jacob had been yearning for! Jacob eagerly gave our staff his contact information and asked if they could talk more. Our missionary gave him a pocket-sized New Testament (with extra teachings about messianic prophecies) as well as materials written in Hebrew, including the Beatitudes from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

The next day, others from our outreach team were riding on a New York City subway car at a different time of day on the other side of the city. Seeing their Chosen People Ministries T-shirts, a man approached them. He asked if they were from the same group as the missionary from the previous day and proceeded to tell them about their conversation. Jacob and our staff member are still in touch. *As surely as God orchestrated every detail of this story on the field, He used your prayers and generous giving to make it all happen from start to finish!*

We are so thankful for you! **But do not just take our word for it**—here is what two of our other staff members in Israel have to say:

We are doing what God has called us to do: share the gospel, make disciples, and share the love of the Messiah with the people around us. Of course, our ministry would be impossible without your prayers and support. I want to bless you, dear friend. I would like to bless whoever prays for us and supports our ministry with the special blessing that God promised to Abraham. God promised to

bless whoever blesses his descendants. May the blessings of Abraham be upon you, dear friend, in the name of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah!

Dear friend, thank you so much for your prayers and support for Chosen People Ministries. We are so blessed to have you as our faithful partner. We praise our God for He is good and sustains us so that we have no shortage of anything. We have a beautiful community of believers around us, and we minister together with our team to spread the good news of the Risen Messiah.

KATZ'S DELI AND CONVERSATION

Another staff member recently had an unexpected opportunity to engage with Israelis while visiting Katz's—a famous Jewish deli on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. While in line, our staff member overheard a conversation among a group of four people right behind him. It was busy and loud, but he recognized that they were speaking in Hebrew. So he turned around, smiled, and asked, “Are you guys Israelis?” They said yes and asked if he spoke Hebrew. He replied (in Hebrew), “I’m not Jewish, but I love Israel!”

They appreciated the sentiment, and immediately one of the young men asked, “Are you an evangelical Christian?” This response surprised our staff member, but when he answered yes, it was like the Lord opened wide the door for a great conversation about Jesus! One young man, Reuben,* said it was evangelicals who funded his flight when he first made aliyah (became a citizen of Israel), and he was very grateful. Then he started asking questions about the rapture and the second coming. He had clearly investigated some traditional Christian beliefs, so our staff asked him if he had ever read the New Testament. He shyly said he had not and when offered one, he politely declined. They discussed the Messiah but eventually received their sandwiches and went separate ways to sit down in the restaurant with their respective groups.

Fifteen minutes later, Reuben came over to where our staff was sitting and picked up the conversation again. They discussed Psalm 23, the state of our culture today, and the need to cling to God amid the dark valleys of life. While Reuben did not want to share his contact info to stay in touch, this staff member believes the Lord is working in his heart and continues to pray for him.

SENDING THANKS FROM ISRAEL

Thanks to your faithful partnership with us, *Chosen People Ministries* also has a robust ministry to children both in the United States and in Israel. Training the next generation of Messianic Jewish leaders is a core part of our work—and has been for decades. Hear what this staff member in Israel is saying about the children’s camps:

Our children’s ministry brings a lot of joy. The children missed the camps very much during the pandemic, and the number of those wishing to participate is beyond our capabilities. I am grateful to the Lord that everything turned out well after the pandemic. We especially are thankful to our helpers and leaders. I was afraid the team would not return. But my fears were in vain! Most of them continued to help with joy, and the Almighty sent new people who wanted to serve. In general, working with kids is very interesting. Often the fruit appears only after many years. Recently, I was invited to a church to preach. There, a man approached me and said he was in one of our first camps seventeen years ago, and it helped him accept Jesus into his heart many years later!



THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THE ROPE!

We know that sometimes a simple “thank you” can appear rote or routine. So here is an apt illustration our staff member in Florida wrote to express **our immense gratitude toward you:**

In a fictitious story, a man sees a boy falling down a well. He realizes he can go down the well with a rope, but needs strong people to lower him down, and then raise him back up after he secures the boy. If someone said that man rescued the boy from the well, that would not be accurate. It *would* be accurate to report the man **and** those who took hold of the rope together rescued the boy. Thank you for holding the rope through your prayers and support so I can reach Jewish people here in South Florida and other places with the gospel. What an encouragement it is for us to know you stand by our side in ministry.

This story illustrates exactly how we think about partners like you who support our ministry through giving, praying, and telling others about our work. Fulfilling our mission—to pray for, evangelize, disciple, and serve Jewish people everywhere and to help fellow believers do the same—is a team effort. Just as it took several people, not one, to pull the boy out of the well, it takes many to make ministry projects like Shalom New York and children’s camps successful. Our missionaries are often those who go down the well and interact face to face with those who need to hear the gospel. But without people to hold the rope, their work would be impossible.

Our administrative staff, donors, prayer warriors, supporting churches, and volunteers all play essential roles in what God is doing through Chosen People Ministries. As you cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving—especially this month—please know that **we are thankful for you!**

Micah 4:8-13

Israel's Future Captivity and Redemption

As we continue our study of Micah chapter 4, we will examine the promise of Israel's future restoration. Micah wrote, "As for you, tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you it will come—even the former dominion will come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem" (Mic 4:8). The tower of the flock symbolizes Mount Zion, the place where God will restore Israel from exile. Israel's former dominion, which points to the reigns of David and Solomon, called here "the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem," will return at that time.

God's clear promise of Israel's restoration is in view here, and only by openly spiritualizing the meaning of "the daughter of Jerusalem" to mean the church can one depart from the true literal meaning. Referring to the restoration of the former glory of the kingdom also predicts the re-establishment of the Davidic kingdom under Jesus—Yeshua.

In Micah 4:9, the prophet, speaking for the Lord, says to those Israelites who would go into captivity: "Now, why do you cry out loudly? Is there no king among you, or has your counselor perished, that agony has gripped you like a woman in childbirth?" Micah is prophesying about the future Israel, who would be in exile and without a king. This prophecy includes both the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles. The loss of Israel's king represents the loss of God's blessing and grace upon the people.

The picture Micah presents is that the Israelites would be leaving Jerusalem in a painful way, similar to a woman in labor. They will have to "dwell in the field" (v. 10) temporarily until they arrive in Babylon, but the Lord will eventually rescue and redeem them from Babylon. He will deliver them from captivity and return them to their homeland. This particular prophecy is one of the earliest references to the Babylonian captivity in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Prediction of captivity in Babylon was not obvious in Micah's day, around 735 BCE, because during that time, Assyria was the great threat to the Israelites. The Babylonian captivity would come more than a century later. In Micah's day, Babylon was part of the Assyrian Empire. Babylon represented spiritual darkness, a place riddled with horrific idolatry, and from this dark place God would ultimately redeem Israel.

As seemingly in every generation, Micah 4:11 reads, "And now many nations have been assembled

against you who say, 'Let her be polluted, and let our eyes gloat over Zion.'" The expectation is God would punish Israel for her disobedience, and therefore her enemies would gloat over her plight. However, verse twelve tells us that her foes do not understand God's purposes for Israel or for themselves. The nations who are against Israel fail to see He would gather them in a way similar to a farmer gathering sheaves of grain on a threshing floor in preparation for judgment.

I agree with those who believe that, in verses 11 and 12, Micah has a different siege in mind from that of verse 9. Micah is likely thinking of the last great attack of the nations of the world against Israel. Those events appear in Zechariah chapters 12 and 14, Ezekiel 38 and 39, and other prophetic portions of the Hebrew Scriptures.

In the last verse of chapter 4, Micah tells us that, in the future, Israel would be the Lord's instrument to thresh the nations. This prophecy is a picture of God's judgment upon those nations who will come against Israel. God will strengthen Israel to overcome her enemies and pulverize them. Finally, Israel will devote the nations' "unjust gain" (v. 13) to the Lord, who ultimately subjects the nations to Himself. Clearly, Israel has not yet done this, so the fulfillment of this prophecy remains in the future, when Jesus the Messiah will return to reign on the throne of David in Jerusalem (Isaiah 11:1–9).



A sheaf of golden wheat sitting in a field.

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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.

MINISTRY NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

NEW GUESTHOUSE OPENS FOR TRAVELING ISRAELIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL!

Recently, one of our staff families opened the doors of our new guesthouse in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to welcome traveling Israelis! It has been a long journey of waiting and much preparation. This month, a group of Israeli believers will be staying at the guesthouse so they can reach out to other Israelis who are also visiting Rio. Their outreach strategy is to meet fellow Israelis, tell them about our guesthouse, and discuss their faith in Jesus with them. This evangelistic plan may sound a little simplistic, but our missionary invited Israelis to two other new guesthouse ministries in South America, and this is the method he used there. In Buenos Aires, our staff member went to the airport and waited to find Israelis arriving in the country. When he spotted three Israelis exiting customs, he introduced himself, told them about the guesthouse, and invited them to come stay. The Israelis eagerly jumped in the car with our missionary and stayed at the guesthouse for a week! For weeks after, more Israelis continued to contact them to reserve beds because the Israeli traveling community is so connected. Thank you for praying as our staff takes steps to begin inviting Israelis to stay at the guesthouse in Rio! So much of this ministry will be to gather people around common interests, create a friendly environment, and allow space for the Holy Spirit to stir the hearts of young Israelis to faith in the Messiah. Please pray that God will send many Israelis to our guesthouse so they can hear the gospel. Pray their hearts will be open to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah.

AN ORTHODOX JEWISH COUPLE COMES TO FAITH IN JESUS!

An Orthodox Jewish family visited a Messianic Jewish congregation some of our missionaries attend. After a clear message by one of our missionary-pastors and another presentation of the gospel by another staff member, the father and mother both accepted the Lord! Rejoice with us! Coming from Orthodox Jewish families, they will likely face persecution for their faith in Jesus. Please pray for this family!

HASIDIC JEWISH MAN MEETS WITH MISSIONARY

Another one of our staff has also been interacting with many Orthodox Jewish men. One day on the street, our missionary met Jacob* and asked him a question about the book of Deuteronomy. To our staff person's

amazement, Jacob suggested they go and talk in his apartment! He never received that kind of response before! A few minutes later, our missionary was in Jacob's studio with the Bible wide open. They had a full two-hour discussion on Deuteronomy and other texts. Although Jacob is a fully committed Hasidic Jewish man, he was open to looking at the Bible with our staff member. They exchanged numbers and arranged to meet again. The next time they met, they began a discussion about the origins and value of the Oral Law and then about how the five books of Moses were written and compiled! The two men now meet regularly and text questions and answers to each other! What an incredible breakthrough! Please pray that Jacob grows increasingly open to the Messiahship of Jesus through this new relationship and through the wrestling with shared texts.

RUSSIAN FAMILY SERVES HUNDREDS OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN ONE MONTH



One of our missionary families from Russia devoted one month of their summer vacation to helping people in need from Ukraine. They served several times at the border between Ukraine and Russia, bringing food, medicine, and clothes. They met one Ukrainian Pentecostal family who had to flee their home in Ukraine. Our staff found them a place to sleep at the local Pentecostal church. They brought a paralyzed elderly woman to the border; she suffered from large bedsores on her body. Our missionary family bought a special anti-bed sore mattress for her. During this month, our missionary family was able to provide assistance to many Ukrainian families. They also brought several tons of food and drinking water. Our missionary family expressed the hardships they witness frequently, "In general, this year was very difficult. But we put our trust in the Lord and His might and continue to pray for peace between the nations."

*Name changed

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED THE STORY OF PASSOVER THROUGH "MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER"?

If you have, then you know why it is our most well-loved and requested presentation.

If you have not, then why not do something especially meaningful this coming spring? Simply invite a Chosen People Ministries missionary to come share this powerful message to bless you and your church family! When you do, you will understand why one pastor recently said,

"Messiah in the Passover" was a wonderful presentation that helped our congregation connect our Jewish roots to our faith in Jesus today. Our Chosen People Ministries representative preached Jesus Christ through the Passover feast. This was a wonderful experience."

IN THIS PRESENTATION, YOU WILL DISCOVER:



THE MESSAGE OF THE PASSOVER NARRATIVE



THE MEANING OF THE PASSOVER ELEMENTS



THE MESSIAH OF THE PASSOVER PROMISES

Visit www.chosenpeople.com/invite-a-speaker-for-passover/ or call 561-737-1431 to reserve your date!



SHARE THE MESSAGE OF MESSIAH with these options for maximized impact— & minimized taxes!

Through your compassion and prayers, you are helping to share the message of Messiah with Jewish people all over the world. You are also blessing Holocaust survivors in Israel, helping to train and educate new missionaries, advocating for Israel, fighting antisemitism, and much more.

Because of your great heart for making God's love real to Jewish people, as the year draws to a close, we want to let you know about the best ways to maximize your charitable giving without drawing on your cash reserves.

Here are some options that may result in a tax advantage for you while generously providing for ministry to Jewish people everywhere.

1. A rollover gift from your IRA

- If you are 70½ or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your Traditional IRA to qualified charities, like Chosen People Ministries, of any amount of up to \$100,000 annually.
- A QCD avoids income tax on your distribution as long as you transfer it directly from your Traditional IRA to Chosen People Ministries.
- This option is generally more tax advantageous than taking the IRA distribution personally (taxable) and making a contribution to Chosen People Ministries.

2. Donation of appreciated assets

When you donate an appreciated asset, such as real estate or stocks, you may receive a variety of benefits:

- You receive a charitable giving tax deduction for the fair market value of the asset (up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income) if you have owned the asset for more than 12 months.
- You may avoid capital gains tax that you would pay on the appreciation if you sold the asset.

3. Donor Advised Fund (DAF) grants

Now is a great time to distribute grants from your DAF to Chosen People Ministries. Since these funds are already set aside for ministry and your select charities, you can give freely without touching your available capital. Most importantly, you will experience the joy of giving and knowing you are making a tremendous impact on Jewish evangelism.

Each option offers benefits for you and will certainly bless the Jewish people who receive the good news—but for bigger impact, you will want to give by the December 31 deadline.

For answers to your questions regarding strategic giving options, contact Cindy Forbes at 212-223-2252, ext. 1208 or cforbes@chosenpeople.com today!

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



A higher standard. A higher purpose.

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