

The Chosen People

Volume XV, Issue 6 June 2009



THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

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THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City! You may be familiar with the following quote from an essay by Mark Twain. His insights have always amazed me!

The Egyptian, the Babylonian and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality? (Mark Twain,

“Concerning the Jews,” *Harper’s Magazine*, March 1899).

Even an agnostic and skeptic like Mark Twain knew that *the continued existence of the Jewish people is evidence of the faithfulness of God.*

The Jewish people have survived the attempts of both ancient and modern nations to destroy us. I still cannot get over the thrill of walking along the streets of Jerusalem and hearing Hebrew spoken as a living language! My people have not been destroyed because *God is not finished with the Jewish people yet!* He still desires to use His chosen people for His holy purposes.

As the Apostle Paul writes,

“I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew...” (Romans 11:1-2)

Why has God chosen not to cast away His people? In my mind, it is simple—God called the Jewish people to be a light to the nations, and He will not allow any nation to counter His ultimate purposes.

We also know that Israel will not completely fulfill her role in God’s plan until the day the Jewish people turn to Jesus and embrace Him as Messiah and Savior. This wonderful day is assured by the promises of God:

“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’” (Romans 11:25-27)

Preaching the Gospel to the Jew First

The ultimate salvation of Israel can only come through accepting Jesus—so the Gospel must be preached to Jewish people! The Apostle Paul also writes, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

Since the salvation of the Jewish people is so important to God, then Jewish evangelism should also be important to you and me. Bringing the Good News to the Jewish people is a critical element of His plan—not only for Israel but for the world. As He promised Abraham,

“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)

Let’s make Jewish evangelism a vital part of our prayer life, our giving, and our personal evangelism—God will bless us for doing so!

God will continue to be faithful to His chosen people—because His plan for Israel remains intact! And we are part of that plan, because it is our role to bring the message of Jesus to the Jewish people so that the ultimate repentance of Israel can take place.

I believe that today we need to do more, not less, to preach the Gospel to the Jewish people. After spending time recently in Israel and France and meeting with our leaders from around the world, I sense that we have only scratched the surface of the opportunities the Lord has given us at this very moment! In fact, we might be



preparing for one of the greatest harvests ever.

Turbulent times turn people to the Lord, and Jewish people—like so many others—are searching for what this world cannot offer. Where can a person—Jew or Gentile—find the peace, stability and hope we so desperately desire? The promise of the Savior is so encouraging:

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

The openness among Jewish people is increasing, and we do not want to slow down! Dear friend, we have decided to do more to share the Gospel while the “evangelistic iron is hot!”

We want to advance with new people, new facilities and new projects!



A Chosen People Ministries Advancement Campaign

Advance—Not Retreat!

This is why—as we enter the 116th year of Chosen People Ministries’ service for the Lord—we are beginning our “**To the Jew First**” Advancement Campaign! It is named after Romans 1:16, which tells us that the Gospel is to go to the Jewish people first!

This Advancement Campaign has three parts. First of all, we want to advance with **new people**—both missionaries on the field and also those who support our missionaries through administrative work. We currently have more than 100 missionaries across the globe and we are continually growing. Men and

women want to join our staff, and we want to be able to say YES in spite of a worldwide recession, as the Gospel still needs to be preached—especially to God’s chosen people.

Secondly, we want to advance with **new facilities**. We are constantly running out of space for our ministry activities—because our ministries are growing! We must find more space for our Charles Feinberg Center in New York City, where we are training more than a dozen current and future missionaries to the Jews. Since our efforts are advancing in key Jewish population centers throughout the world, we are becoming desperate for more room for our congregations, Bible studies, administration, and more.

Finally, we want to advance with **new projects!** We have just kicked off our Isaiah 53 evangelistic outreach, and we are also planning our second conference on Russian Jewish church planting to be held in Israel in the fall. There is so much more—and I will share some of this with you in the months ahead!

Will you stand with us in our “**To the Jew First**” Advancement Campaign? Will you take hold of the promises of God for His chosen people and join us in prayer and sacrificial giving so that the Gospel will go out in power?

Thank you so much for being part of this great ministry.

Blessings,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

P.S. For your gift of \$116 or more, I will send you a *shofar* (ram’s horn)—a reminder of God’s provision of a sacrifice for the Jewish people! I just got back from Israel and brought some home with me. Let’s advance together! (Psalm 133:1)

MODERN ISRAEL: A MOSAIC OF WORLD JEWRY

The promise that the Lord would “...assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isaiah 11:12) is being dramatically fulfilled in our time. God’s chosen



people are returning home to the Promised Land, bearing the scars and triumphs of their various journeys. These immigrants’ language, culture and even religious practice reflect the fascinatingly diverse character of Jewish expression throughout the world.

Aliyah Across the Centuries

There have been Jewish people living in Israel since biblical times. And the Promised Land has held an irresistible attraction to the Jewish people throughout a long exile. Over the centuries, the motivations of Jewish people to make *aliyah* (immigrate to Israel) have varied according to the circumstances.

However, with the birth of Zionism in the late 19th century, the numbers greatly increased.

Just before the establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948, its population stood at about 800,000. In the three years following statehood, Israel doubled its population, largely from Jewish refugees fleeing Arab lands as Israel incurred the wrath of its neighbors by virtue of its mere existence.

In the 1950s, about 170,000 immigrants came to Israel from North Africa and Romania. The next decade saw another 180,000 new arrivals from North Africa. In the 1990s, with the long-awaited release of Jewish people of the former Soviet Union, some 900,000 from that region entered Israeli society. Also notable in the 1980s and 1990s was the dramatic arrival of 60,000 immigrants from Ethiopia, a large number of them through airlift.

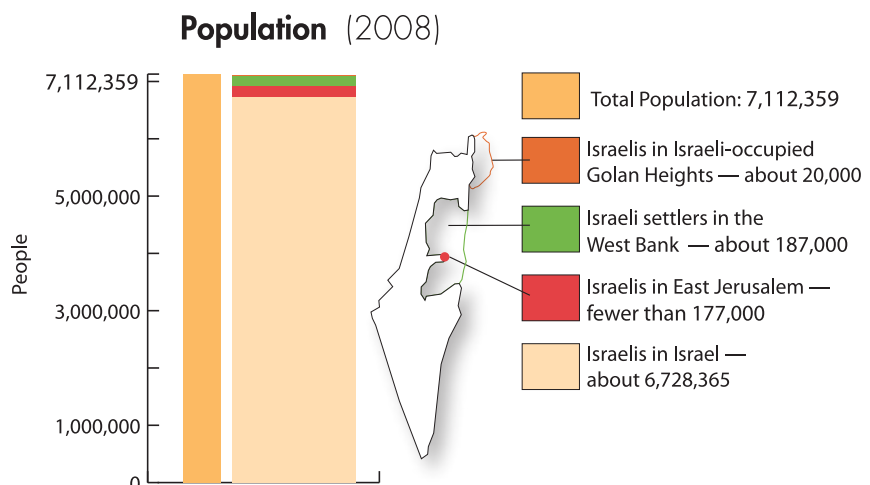
In total, from the time of the establishment of Israeli statehood, roughly 2.7 million Jews from about 130 countries have come to Israel to make a new life and create their own unique imprints on Israeli life.

Ethnic and Religious Groups in Israel

Israeli society is more of a mosaic than a melting pot. Although the threat of foreign enemies and responsibilities such as military service are powerful uniting forces for Israeli citizens, Israel’s various ethnic and religious groups retain strong identities as various sub-cultures within Israeli society.

Israeli ethnic groups can be divided into several different categories—the *Ashkenazim*, the *Sephardim* and the *Mizrahim*. Ashkenazim are Jews whose ancestry is from Germany and Eastern Europe. The Sephardim, who were dispersed throughout the Ottoman Empire after their expulsion from Spain in 1492, compose another significant community. The Mizrahim, many of whom follow Sephardic customs, are Jews who came to Israel from lands such as Iran, Iraq, or Yemen. There are also Jews from Italy, India and Ethiopia, who comprise about two percent of the population.

The Russian Jews have virtually formed a new society within Israel, as almost 1.2 million have made *aliyah* in the past two decades. Also not to be neglected are the almost one million



Arab Israeli citizens. Among Jews, Israel's religious affiliations also cover a wide spectrum. The Israel Central Bureau of Statistics shows that 44% of Israeli Jews are secular, 25% are traditional but not religious, 14% are traditional and religious, 10% are Orthodox and 7% are *Haredi* (ultra-Orthodox).

The Faithful Look Ahead

There is another growing group of Israelis who are joined by faith and not necessarily by language or place of origin. These are the Messianic Jews, who come from all over the world and live in various parts of Israel. This movement has grown over the last few years to perhaps more than 10,000, with over 100 congregations. This growing movement needs our prayers and support.

Clearly, the growing Messianic Jewish movement in Israel is a sign of what is coming (Romans 11:11-15, 25-27). As believers, how should we respond?

First of all, we need to trust the Lord fully! As our Messiah declared, "In the world you will have tribulation..." (John 16:33). Nowhere does this seem to be truer than in Israel. Yet Messiah's

concluding words in that same verse give heart to all who have placed their faith in Him: "...but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

As the world waits and watches to see what will happen in Israel, followers of Messiah have the assurance that whatever difficulties lie ahead, in the end there will be peace through the everlasting kingdom of the Prince of Peace. Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6)! 🕊

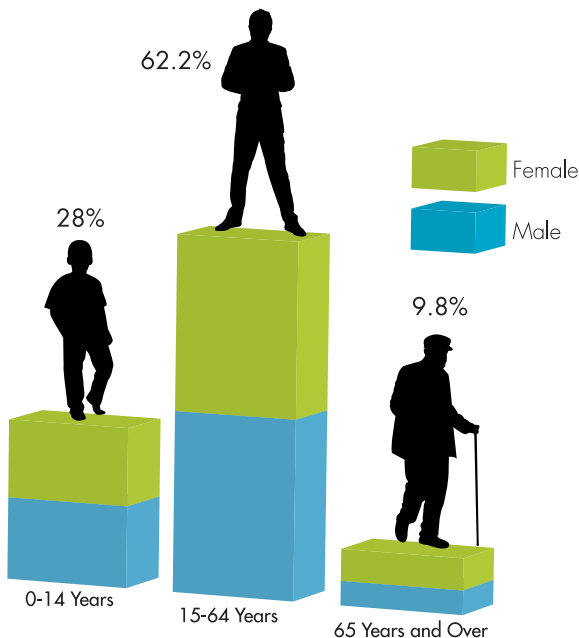
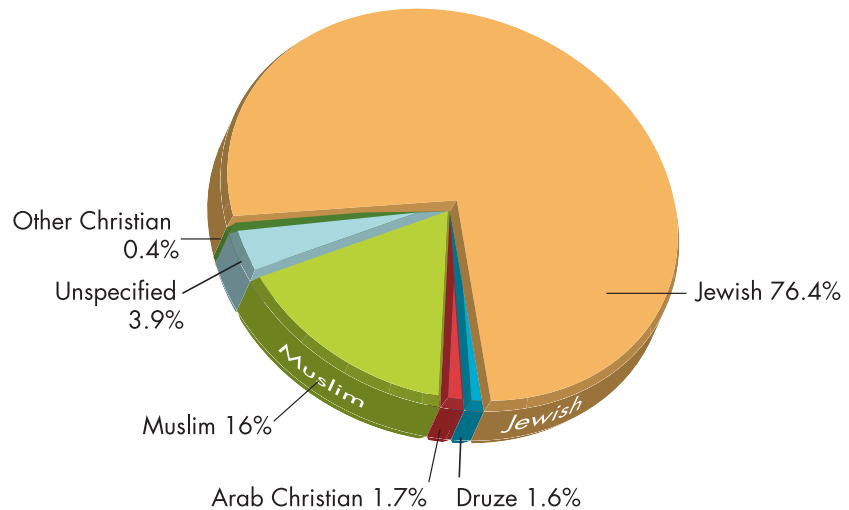
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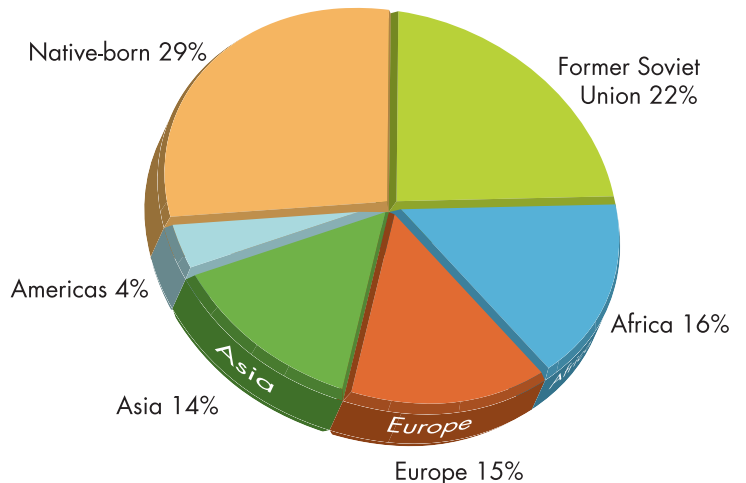
A comprehensive table of the world's Jewish population has been compiled by Sergio Della Pergola, and can be found at the website of the Department for Jewish Zionist Education (<http://www.jafi.org.il/education/100/concepts/demography/demadd.html>).

Israeli Population by Religion (2004)



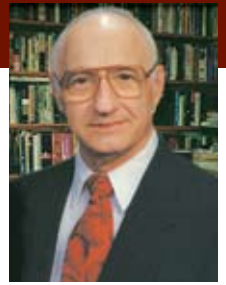
Israeli Population by Age (2008 est.)

Israeli Population by Origin



SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

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



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

THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM – MATTHEW 13

Chapter 13 of the Gospel of Matthew highlights a turning point in the offer of the King to set up His Kingdom in Israel. Having been rejected by the nation, the Messiah began to proclaim a new and different message.

This chapter reveals what will happen concerning the Kingdom in the time period between the rejection of the King at His first coming and His future acceptance by the nation of Israel at His second coming (Zech. 14:1-4). Perhaps logic would say that if Israel rejected her King, then God should reject the nation. But our faithful God will keep His promises to Israel (Zech. 12:9,10). The Lord says, *“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: ‘Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.’”* (Ps. 89:3,4).

THE “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” ON EARTH IN THE KING’S ABSENCE

This present age is a time period between the first and second comings of the King. In His parable message, our Lord describes the characteristics the Kingdom would take on

earth. Jesus the Messiah would make propitiation for sin by His sacrificial death at Calvary (Acts 2:23; 1 Jn. 4:10) and ascend to heaven to sit at God’s right hand. The Kingdom of the prophets is now in abeyance until His promised second coming to *“...rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down...”* (Acts 15:16).

In the present time period (now over 2,000 years), God is at work calling out both Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus and joining them into one body, the Church. This was never known or experienced in Old Testament times before the first coming of Christ (Eph. 3:1-6). In this present age the Kingdom has gone “underground” and is not immediately visible, but is present in its “mystery form” as described in Matthew 13.

THE PRESENT “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” IN ITS MYSTERY FORM

According to the parable of the wheat and tares, evil will not be totally removed in this age. It is not until the end of this age that the tares are separated from the wheat (Mt. 13:36-42).

The parable describes an age that professes allegiance to the King on the one hand and pays respect to the evils of the world on the other. This unhealthy mixture of good and evil is the “mystery form” of the Kingdom that has found a foothold in what is presently far from a perfect world.

THE KINGDOM’S DELAY – A DOCTRINE GREATLY MISUNDERSTOOD

The last question the disciples asked the risen Lord and King before His ascension to heaven was, *“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”* (Acts 1:6). The King never denied a future kingdom to Israel, but in His reply clarified that the present age would be one of Gospel witness to the entire world (Acts 1:8).

The parable of the wheat and tares in Matthew 13 describes conditions on the earth in the absence of the King during the time period between His first and second comings. Therefore, let us faithfully bear witness to the truth of the Gospel while there is yet time to do so. 🌈

“FIRST THURSDAYS” DRAWS WOMEN TO FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY

Robynne, a new staff member, has begun hosting a women’s fellowship group in New York City on the first Thursday night of each month. The discussion topics relate to upcoming Jewish holidays or women in the Bible. Robynne says, “It has been a privilege to share Scripture and some of my personal spiritual journey with these women. It has also been a gift to hear some of their life stories. One woman told us her experience as a teenager, hiding in the woods during World War II and then making her way to Israel. The strength of that generation is beyond my comprehension.” Pray that this “First Thursdays” outreach will touch many hearts and lives.

BELIEVING RABBI FINDS FELLOWSHIP IN FAR EAST RUSSIA

Vladimir Pikman, who directs our work in Germany, traveled to Far Eastern Russia at the invitation of Chosen People Ministries’ Australian partner, Celebrate Messiah. Vladimir writes, “The opportunities to minister on this trip were endless. People were praying to receive the Messiah everywhere we were ministering. In one city, the rabbi of an Orthodox synagogue came to us and whispered, ‘I want to talk to you about the New Testament.’ When we met with him, he explained that he believes in Yeshua (Jesus) and was baptized 25 years ago! He was just waiting for fellow Jewish believers to come and visit him. I believe we were a great encouragement to him.”

A 101-YEAR-OLD BABY!

Michael Cohen’s ministry to seniors continues to bear fruit for Messiah. Recently he stopped into a room of a nursing home to offer prayer. As Michael spoke with Janet,* she told him that she was 101 years old! She told him some of her health difficulties, and Michael prayed for her peace and comfort. Then he shared the Gospel with her, to which she responded, “But I’m Jewish!” However, after hearing that Jesus was the promised Messiah of the Jewish people, Janet prayed with Michael to receive the Lord.



Staff members Ben and Bonnie Alpert lead a congregation that meets at the Chosen People Ministries Florida Messianic Center.



“I WANT TO FIND OUT MORE”

Ben and Bonnie Alpert are Chosen People Ministries staff members who lead a thriving Messianic congregation in South Florida. During a recent celebration of “Messiah in the Passover,” several excellent connections with Jewish seekers were made. One Jewish man, who helped co-host the event, said to Bonnie, “I see that what you have is real. I want to find out more!” Pray for fruitful follow-up with these many contacts.

ISRAELI HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS HEAR ABOUT “MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER”

Our Israel Director Michael Z. reports that 100 Holocaust survivors from the cities of Nazareth, Ilit and Sderot attended a Passover teaching that stressed Messiah’s fulfillment of the symbols of the Passover. To Michael’s great joy, the group was very receptive, listened very carefully and asked a lot of great questions. At the conclusion, every one of them received a Bible. Please pray that these dear men and women will put their faith in Jesus the Messiah.

GOSPEL LIGHT COMES TO LAS VEGAS

One seldom thinks of Las Vegas as a center of Christian witness, but Henry and Darlene Matarrita brought the Gospel light there to a man named Mark.* A post office worker who grew up in a religious Jewish home, Mark considered himself to be a devout man—but he also realized that good works were not enough. After talking with Henry and Darlene, Mark understood the Gospel and surrendered his life to Jesus. As Henry and Darlene rejoice, “The darker the place, the brighter the Light shines.”

* indicates name has been changed

Have you ever dreamed of visiting the land of Israel? The Holy Land is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both.

It is an experience that can transform the life of a believer in Jesus. A trip to Israel will draw you closer to the Lord and give you a whole new perspective on your walk with God.

See Israel Through Jewish Eyes March 8-18, 2010

For more information, call (561) 737-1431 or visit www.chosenpeople.com.



We'll help you give more effectively

Many individuals wish to give more to the Lord's work than they are able to give from "cash flow." They often find that with the opportunity to give "net worth" gifts, they can accomplish their giving goals and objectives.

Our staff is skilled in assisting individuals like you, as you seek answers and explore alternatives in developing your giving lifestyle.

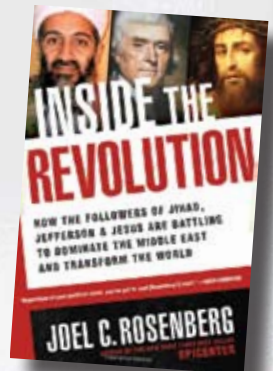
There is no cost or obligation, and we would like to help.

For confidential assistance, contact us at 888-293-7482, or email plannedgiving@chosenpeople.com, or in Canada call 888-442-5535.

NEW MESSIANIC JEWISH RESOURCES

Inside the Revolution, Joel Rosenberg

Thirty years after the dramatic 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, author Joel Rosenberg explains how it occurred, how the U.S. missed it, and how Iran could very well bring the world to the brink of nuclear war. Rosenberg argues there are now three revolutions in motion—each of which could change the Middle East and the world forever. The book features interviews with senior military and intelligence officials, as well as exclusive reports from inside Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Book [3132] • Price: \$23.95^{US}

Messianic Jewish Art Calendar: Sept. 2009 to Dec. 2010

Order now to start the Jewish New Year with the Chosen People Ministries Jewish Art Calendar. As the months unfold, your sense of wonder will be renewed as you reflect upon the beauty of the Land and the promises of God that are given through it—promises that are indeed fulfilled in the Messiah He has sent. These calendars make great gifts, especially for Jewish friends who need to hear about the Messiah. Available in July 2009.



Calendar [5005] • Price: \$13.95^{US}



The Watchman CD

Here is an anointed collection of worship songs that will lift your spirit and strengthen your faith, featuring world-renowned Messianic worship leader Paul Wilbur. *The Watchman* is a perfect CD for praise and has something for everyone!

CD [4053] • Price: \$18.95^{US}

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



The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will. "I will bless those who bless you." (Genesis 12:3)



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