



The
Chosen
People



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CELEBRATING
THE FALL
FEASTS OF
ISRAEL

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:

A Portrait of Messiah • The Sweetness of God's Promises •
Honey Cake Recipe • The King's Measurement of Faith



A PORTRAIT OF MESSIAH

Dear friend in the Messiah,
Shalom from New York City! I am happy to tell you that the last few months have been incredibly fruitful in sharing the Gospel with Jewish people! We held four short-term outreaches—two in Israel and two in New York City—in addition to children’s camps in the U.S., Israel and Ukraine. Our staff members have been speaking to more Jewish people about Jesus this summer than I ever thought possible, and we were blessed to have dozens of volunteers join us as well. Thank you for your prayers and support during the summer months. God truly blessed our work, and we are grateful!

We now turn our hearts and minds to the most important season of the Jewish calendar—the three High Holidays: New Year’s (*Rosh Hashanah*), the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) and the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*). You will learn more about these festivals in this newsletter, as well as on our website at www.chosenpeople.com/highholidays.

To learn more about the Jewish year, you might also want to purchase a copy of our beautiful new Messianic Jewish Art Calendar for 2009–2010. Please see the back page of the newsletter for ordering information. I know you will enjoy displaying it in your home, and the calendars also make excellent witnessing gifts for your Jewish friends.

The Passion of Isaac— Early Portrait of Messiah’s Ministry

One of the most important biblical characters mentioned during the Jewish High Holidays is Isaac, the son of Abraham. Although he is usually mentioned along with Abraham and Jacob as one of the three patriarchs that form the lineage for our Jewish heritage, Isaac is perhaps the least known of the “fathers.” Yet Isaac is one of the most significant figures in Israel’s history, especially because of a moment of greatness that distinguishes him from all others in the Hebrew Bible.

The event recorded in Genesis 22, in which Abraham is commanded to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah, is more than just one story among many. Rather, the story of Abraham’s faithful obedience to God’s terrible command is told and retold. We strain to place ourselves in Abraham’s shoes and wonder how we might have reacted. Would we have risen to his level of obedience?

But what about Isaac—what part does his obedience play? There is a mystery in his acceptance of his father’s will that



points ahead to Messiah's ministry and offers us instruction as His followers.

Abraham and Isaac— Faithful Father and Child of Promise

The story of Isaac's birth in Abraham and Sarah's old age is well known. In response to Abraham's plea on behalf of Ishmael, who was born of Hagar the maidservant, God promises that he too shall be abundantly blessed. However, it is clear from the beginning that the covenant will be established with Isaac's descendants:

Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him . . . My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year"
(Genesis 17:19, 21).

Abraham's faith was vindicated by the birth of the son that God had promised. However, as is often the case, the reward for a strengthened faith is greater testing and strengthening. No one would find this truer than Abraham—no one except perhaps Isaac, the beloved son whose own obedience would be tested as well.

Isaac in Jewish Religious Thought

The *Akedah*, or "Binding of Isaac" in Genesis 22, is mentioned in no other place in Scripture. Many scholars, both Jewish and Christian, detect a strong message against the idea of human sacrifice—including child sacrifice—that was not uncommon in the cultures of that day. God's angel does, after all, stop Abraham's hand before the knife descends.

However, as the persecution of Jews increased in the Christian era, Isaac became a symbol of Jewish martyrdom, a role model of obedient submission, ready to offer the ultimate sacrifice in obedience to God. Such martyrdom, termed *Kiddush Ha-Shem* (Sanctification of the Name), was the

choice of many faithful Jews who chose death rather than forcible conversion in the shameful chapters in Church history when torture was used to coerce Jews into renouncing their faith.

Isaac's example has also found its place of honor in the liturgy of the Jewish New Year, which features the reading of Genesis 22 and links the blowing of the *shofar* (ram's horn) to the sacrifice of the ram that the Lord provided in place of Isaac. During the service, a prayer is offered that even as Abraham suppressed his natural compassion in order to perform God's will, so may the Lord's mercy overcome His just wrath on account of our sinfulness.

Isaac and Messiah— Obedient Sons of the Father

There are several striking similarities in the roles of Isaac and of Jesus the Messiah that cause many to see Isaac as prefiguring the prophesied Son of God. Both were obedient sons to their loving fathers. Just as Isaac obeyed his father Abraham on Mt. Moriah, which tradition identifies as the Temple Mount itself, so Jesus the Messiah trustingly obeyed His heavenly Father and went willingly to the place of sacrifice.

The Gospels show us that as He prepared to offer Himself, Jesus—who could have called upon a host of angels to deliver Him—chose instead to be led through His unspeakably painful ordeal without protest. Genesis 22 tells us that Isaac also passively bore his ordeal and addressed his father Abraham with only one question: "*Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*" (Genesis 22:7).

There is a striking difference, however, between the account of Genesis 22 and the sacrificial death of Messiah. In Genesis 22, the Angel of the Lord stayed Abraham's hand; no son was to be sacrificed that day. Instead, Abraham offered a ram caught in the thicket by its horns (Genesis 22:13). That sacrifice, and those which came

after it, were the temporary provision God gave until the day came when the Lord required from Himself what He, in His mercy, did not require from Abraham—the life of His Son.

The parallel between Isaac and Messiah holds. Each was willing to become an offering in obedience to God's will. In Isaac's case, his life was spared. In the case of Messiah, His sacrificial blood was shed; the offering was received and Messiah was gloriously vindicated in the Resurrection.

Only rarely are we given such an agonizing choice as Abraham's. Yet we are asked in small and large ways for the same obedience that God required of Abraham, who chose to do God's will—and we are called upon to offer the same obedience as Isaac, who submitted to that will in perfect trust.

This is one of the great lessons of the Jewish High Holiday season—a reminder to obey God in the small things so that we are ready to make the right and godly choice when we are tested in the big things.

Thank you for being part of our Chosen People Ministries family. Please pray for us, as we hold dozens of Messianic High Holiday services across the globe during these next few weeks. Many Jewish people come to know Jesus during these services, and this is our greatest desire—to see Israel saved.

Thanks for praying for and caring about the Jewish people.

Your brother,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

P.S. It looks like we have secured a space for a Messianic Center in the greater Los Angeles area—the home of more than half a million Jewish people. This is exciting—we are able to do more for the Lord because of your partnership! Keep praying!

ROSH HASHANAH: THE SWEETNESS OF GOD'S PROMISES

During this time of year, the phrase *L'shana Tova Tikatevu* echoes through synagogues and Jewish homes. It means, "May your name be inscribed for a good year," and is how Jewish people worldwide greet one another during *Rosh Hashanah*, the civil Jewish New Year. As Leviticus 23 tells us, Passover is the first festival of the biblically-based New Year! However, tradition over the years has favored this first festival of the seventh month as the New Year. This important Jewish holiday usually falls sometime in September or October. Since the Jewish calendar is based upon the lunar cycles, the holiday falls on a different date each year according to our Western solar calendar.

Rosh Hashanah (literally "the head of the year") is ushered in with the poignant sounding of the *shofar* or ram's horn (thus the alternative name, "Feast of Trumpets"), the recitation of special prayers and, as with all Jewish festivals, the eating of special foods to represent a sweet year to come.

The Lord's appointed times, detailed in Leviticus 23, serve as perpetual celebrations ordained by God so that the Israelites would cease from their everyday routine and focus on the Lord and on His love for them. The Feast of Trumpets is only briefly mentioned in Leviticus 23 (vv. 23-25), as well as in four other books of the Bible (Numbers 29:1-6, Psalms 81:3-4, Ezra 3:1-6, Nehemiah 8:1-12), but it heralds a precious time when Jewish people reconnect with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Feast of Trumpets is the first of three Fall Feasts; the next two are *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement)

and *Sukkot* (the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles). The theme of Rosh Hashanah is repentance and renewal, beginning a season of preparation for the next and perhaps most important festival—the Day of Atonement.

Rosh Hashanah Observances and Meaning

Rosh Hashanah as currently observed by Jewish people is designed to prepare hearts at the start of the High Holiday season. It is followed by the "Ten Days of Awe," or *Yamim Noraim*, when Jewish people around the world repent before God and man in order to have hearts that are prepared for Yom Kippur.

There is a rabbinic tradition in which Jewish people empty breadcrumbs from pockets into running water on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. This is known as *Tashlich*, or "the casting forth." It is based on Micah 7:18-20, stating God would cast Israel's sin into the sea. The breadcrumbs represent sins, and there is joy as they are carried away by the running water.

It is also traditional to eat apples and honey, as well as round *challah* (egg bread) with raisins. Beyond wishing our loved ones a sweet New Year, we rejoice in the sweetness of forgiveness anticipated, as Rosh Hashanah points to and prepares us for the Day of Atonement.

Rosh Hashanah— Reminder of God's Promise

The Levitical feasts from Passover to Sukkot find their fulfillment in Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. The Spring Feasts were fulfilled in the First Coming of

the Messiah, and the Fall Feasts will be fulfilled by His Second Coming—which will be announced with the blowing of trumpets (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Jewish tradition understands that the Lord's appointed times reflect on the history of Israel and also look forward to greater fulfillment through the coming of the Messiah.

As we enter this season—one day to be fulfilled by the return of the Messiah, the repentance of Israel and the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth—we once again marvel at the unconditional love demonstrated by God, who in the fullness of time sent His Son to atone for our sins. By



repenting from our sin and putting our trust in His finished work on the cursed tree, we receive the gift of everlasting life and forgiveness of sin. Let us praise

God for salvation and for the sweetness of His forgiveness.

L'shana Tova Tikatevu —
in Yeshua's name! 🇮🇸

This article was written by Olivier Melnick, who with his wife, Ellen, serves with Chosen People Ministries in Orange County, California.





MISSION PRAYER POINTS

Here are some highlights from Chosen People Ministries' global outreach. Please pray that the Lord will build upon what He has already established!

■ The men and women with whom staff and volunteers shared the Gospel during our summer evangelistic programs—STEP, Hebrew STEP, Outreach Israel and eXperience Israel. Pray for the Lord's leading as we follow up with these folks.

■ Our special High Holiday services at Chosen People Ministries' Messianic Centers—particularly in Jerusalem, Manhattan, Brooklyn, South Florida, Berlin and Buenos Aires.

■ Staff and volunteers around the world as they share the Gospel of Messiah during the busy High Holiday season, which includes Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year, Sept. 19), Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement, Sept. 28), and Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles, Oct. 3-9).

■ The completion of our new Messianic Center in Toronto—that the Lord will provide the needed resources and that the work will proceed in a timely way.

■ Our growing work in Chicago, which is the home of more than 300,000 Jewish people.

GRANDMA ROSE'S HONEY CAKE

by Lori McHugh



A SWEET TREAT TO START THE NEW YEAR!

Try this honey cake recipe for a sweet start to Rosh Hashanah! This has been a three-generation recipe, as I remember my Grandma Rose making it. Of course, it probably goes back even further, as most family recipes do. Perhaps Moses' mom baked it, considering that most of the ingredients were around in biblical times (oil, sugar, flour, raisins, figs, almonds, eggs, honey, spices, leaven). Someday, I hope my daughter Shayna Rose (named after her great-grandma) will continue the tradition. This cake gets better as it ages—but it's so delicious, it won't last long!

1 cup strong brewed coffee	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 ¾ cups honey	2 teaspoons cinnamon
4 eggs	½ teaspoon ground cloves
4 tablespoons vegetable oil	¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 ½ cups dark brown sugar	½ teaspoon ground ginger
3 ½ cups sifted all-purpose flour	½ cup toasted walnut pieces
1 tablespoon baking powder	¾ cup raisins

Preheat oven to 300° F. Generously grease and flour two 9" x 5" loaf pans.

In a 1-quart saucepan, combine the coffee and honey and bring to a boil. Let cool.

In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs. Stir in the oil and brown sugar.

In another large mixing bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and ginger. Stir in the nuts and raisins. (I always double the amount of walnuts, because Grandpa Sid always said, "Not enough nuts!")

Alternately stir the dry (flour) mixture and the wet (honey) mixture into the egg mixture. Pour the batter into the loaf pans and bake for 70 minutes, or until the cakes are springy to the touch. Let cool for 10 minutes, then turn onto wire cooking racks and allow to cool. Wrap tightly in foil.

Do not serve for 24 hours, so that the flavor of the honey has time to develop.



Lori is the mother of Shayna McHugh, our digital communications specialist, and the wife of Tom McHugh, the vice-chairman of our board. Lori is a Jewish believer in Yeshua and a terrific cook!

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 KING'S MEASUREMENT OF FAITH (Matthew 14, 15)

A genuine miracle may be defined as a suspension of natural law. Three great miracles in the Gospels serve to bring to light the measurement of faith.

Lack of Faith (Mt. 14:15-21)

All four Gospels record the miracle of the feeding of 5,000 individuals (Mk. 6; Lk. 9; Jn. 6). When faced with more than 5,000 hungry people, the disciples realized that the meager food supply—a lad's five barley loaves and two fish—was completely insufficient. The disciples counseled Jesus to send the multitude away (Mt. 14:15).

In John's account (Jn. 6:1-13), Jesus tested His disciples and discovered a total lack of faith. This is astounding, since they had witnessed many of the King's miracles, including when He transformed water into wine (Jn. 2:11). The writer to the Hebrews states that *"without faith it is impossible to please Him..."* (Heb. 11:6).

The day after Jesus fed the 5,000, He declared in the synagogue at Capernaum: *"For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the*

world...I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (Jn. 6:33, 35). Jesus took the meager supply offered to Him and miraculously multiplied it to satisfy the hunger of a very large crowd.

Little Faith (Mt. 14:22-32)

Shortly after the feeding of the 5,000, the disciples entered a ship to travel from Bethsaida to Gennesaret, a five-mile journey. They had to row against contrary winds, and a violent storm descended, creating high waves. In the "fourth watch" (from 3 to 6 AM) Jesus joined His disciples by walking across the tossing sea.

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water but did not recognize Him, they cried out with fear (Mt. 14:26). Peter, acting in faith, attempted to walk on the water towards his Messiah, but he began to sink. Immediately he cried out, *"Lord, save me!"* (Mt. 14:30). When Jesus stretched out His hand to rescue Peter, He declared, *"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"* (Mt. 14:31). Here we have the story of "doubting Peter" instead of "doubting Thomas."

Liberality of Faith (Mt. 14:34-36; 15:21-31)

In the region of Tyre and Sidon, which was Gentile territory, Jesus commended a woman of Canaan for her liberality of faith. The King stated, *"O woman, great is your faith!"* (Mt. 15:28).

Evidently, the story of a Jewish woman healed by merely a touch of His garment (Mk. 5:25-34) had reached Gentile territories, resulting in the healing of this woman with a blood disorder.

Conclusion:

The ABCs of Faith

Biblical faith is demonstrated by a sincere change of mind in a sinner, by which he or she trusts in Jesus as the Savior. Saving faith involves both head and heart.

- Faith saves the unbeliever (Rom. 5:1);
- Faith sanctifies (separates) the believer (1 Thess. 5:23);
- Faith strengthens the believer (2 Cor. 5:7; 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Jn. 5:4).

How do you classify your faith—lacking, little, or with liberality? 🌈

NEWS BRIEFS

ISRAEL STAFF MINISTERS TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Israel staff member Maxim K. organized an outreach for Holocaust survivors in Israel by bringing them on a trip from the often-bombarded Sderot to the north of the country. During a beautiful train ride along the coast of the Mediterranean, Maxim, along with a visiting ministry team, sang worship songs and spoke one-on-one with these dear people. In Haifa, they heard testimonies and stories of Holocaust survivors who became believers. The guests were surprised and excited to see people who went through similar experiences and yet still have hope centered in the Messiah Jesus. They had many questions, and many conversations flowed afterwards. We are planning to start a monthly Bible study in Sderot.



MESSIAH ON THE MOVE IN LONDON

The past month has seen a whirlwind of activity for Daniel N. and his family as they have moved the ministry's home to a new and better location in London. In the midst of it all, Sarah* a young Jewish woman who is a graduate of the London School of Economics, started attending services at the Messianic congregation Daniel leads. A friendship quickly formed with another young woman who is a believer, and on the very day that Daniel and his family were moving, word reached them that Sarah had received the Lord. Daniel writes, "We rejoiced, as this seemed to be a sign that the Lord is at work in all of this. It was also a blessing to see how the Lord used another believer to show Sarah the way of salvation."



Daniel, his son, and another couple at the dedication of their new ministry home in London

THREE FAITH DECISIONS IN CHICAGO

Kirill Swiderski, who ministers in the Chicago area, suggested to a woman attending their services that she host a Sabbath meal for her Jewish neighbors as an outreach. She did, and Kirill was able to share from Hebrews 4 that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Sabbath. At the end of the evening, two women came to faith! Also, a Jewish woman seeking the Lord approached Kirill after a worship service, and he gave her a Bible to help her search. Another believer from their group gave the woman a lift home and after a wonderful conversation, the woman who had approached Kirill received the Lord!



FRIENDSHIPS STILL WARM AFTER OVER FORTY YEARS!

Ruth Wardell, one of our treasured Chosen People Ministries retirees, helped organize a reunion of "alumni" from the early days of Chosen People Ministries' Messianic camp meetings in Pennsylvania—some of whom had not seen each other in over forty years. Ruth says, "Several of those attending had received the Lord at the camp years ago, so it was really meaningful to them to be there. It was also wonderful for me to see all these people still following the Lord and living for Him." Later, another camper wrote, "I hadn't seen some of you since camp, and we seemed to pick up as if that were just last summer. The weekend was a mini-version of what camp used to be: singing, memorizing Bible verses, sharing meals, learning about God and Scripture, enjoying play time, sharing with each other and more. It was a great blessing to be able to see you all again."

INVITATION FROM FRIEND LEADS TO INVITATION TO MESSIAH

We continue to see Jewish people receive the Lord in Berlin. An elderly Jewish woman recently visited a worship service as a gesture of friendship to the person who invited her. However, as she listened to the message preached by Vladimir Pikman, the director of the ministry in Germany, her heart was touched. Following the service she prayed with him to receive the Lord! As Vladimir says, "She turned from being a Jewish atheist to being a Jewish believer. Praise the Lord!"

See Israel Through Jewish Eyes

March 8-18, 2010

The Holy Land is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both. A trip to Israel will draw you closer to the Lord and give you a whole new perspective on your walk with God. It is an experience that can transform your life.

For more information on this tour, call 1-561-737-1431 or get a complete itinerary online at chosenpeople.com/tour



Annuities: Building a Legacy

We all want to be found faithful as stewards of God's property. If you are retired or near retirement, desire a fixed income for life, and can use an additional tax savings in the form of an income tax charitable deduction, you should look closely at the benefits available to you through an annuity.

An annuity is a very useful tool to accomplish the goal of good stewardship, even beyond your lifetime. It is an attractive option for those looking to avoid tax penalties associated with most low-income investments.

You can set up an annuity by transferring cash or securities to a ministry you care about, in exchange for income for life. This income may be arranged to continue to a surviving spouse or other individual for life.

Receive your free copy of our brochure, *A Tax Deduction, Increased Income and Joy*, which describes this concept in detail. Email us at plannedgiving@chosenpeople.com or call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535).



The Chosen People Newsletter

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Celebrate with these Messianic Resources

Order your copy now of our **Messianic Jewish Art**

Calendar for September 2009 to December 2010, featuring the tapestries of Israeli artist Bracha Lavee. 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.

Messianic Jewish Art Calendar [5005] • \$13.95^{us}



The Fall Feasts of Israel by Mitch and Zhava Glaser will help you understand three of Israel's most significant festivals: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. A complete examination of each feast looks at its biblical institution, its celebration in the time of Messiah, and its observance today.

The Fall Feasts of Israel [3042] • \$16.95^{us}

The piercing notes of the *shofar* (ram's horn) have echoed throughout centuries of Jewish High Holy Day observances, calling us to prayer. Now you can treasure a *shofar* of your own. They also make wonderful gifts. Because each *shofar* is unique, yours may vary slightly in size and shape from the one shown here. Imported from Israel.

Shofar [5020] • \$40.95^{us}



For phone orders in the U.S. call 1-800-333-4936 OR go online to www.chosenpeople.com for more resources. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

