

# BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT



The  
Chosen  
People



**S**uccess breeds success. We've heard this all our lives, even though we might not know exactly what it means. Perhaps it's about how the ingrained habits of hard work and discipline pay off over the long run. Or maybe it's about how a certain amount of calculation—mixed, let's face it, with luck—somehow produces and keeps on producing this thing we call success.

Whatever success is, we like what it can do for us. Success opens doors to a higher standard of living, a wider sphere of social contacts and increased opportunities to enjoy "the finer things of life." But after we've

enjoyed the ride for a while, a sneaking suspicion may start to creep in to spoil the fun. Perhaps it begins with a single, nagging question: "Is this all there is to life?"

The stories that follow tell how a number of accomplished people began to ask if life had any meaning beyond working to keep the success they had already achieved. In this instance, they happen to be attorneys, who are used to asking probing questions and analyzing facts. But what they found and how they arrived at their discovery could apply to anyone in any walk of life.

Perhaps in the end, the question is not so much what it takes to become a successful human being, but what it means to be a human being in the first place.



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President



SPECIAL EDITION  
Volume XV, Issue 9

International Headquarters:  
241 East 51st Street  
New York, NY 10022  
212-223-2252  
[www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com)

In Australia:  
Celebrate Messiah  
P.O. Box 304  
Caulfield South, VIC 3162  
61-03-9563-5544  
[www.celebratemessiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au)

In Canada:  
P.O. Box 897, Station B  
North York, Ontario M2K 2R1  
416-250-0177  
[www.cpmcanada.ca](http://www.cpmcanada.ca)

In the United Kingdom:  
P.O. Box 47871  
Golders Green, London  
NW11 1AL  
020-8455-7911  
[www.chosenpeople.org.uk](http://www.chosenpeople.org.uk)

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com)  
Our Spanish website is  
[www.pueblolegido.com](http://www.pueblolegido.com)

*The Chosen People* newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries. For more information, or to receive *The Chosen People* newsletter, write to Chosen People Ministries. Editor: Zhava Glaser; Staff Writer: Alan Shore; Art Director: Brian Freeman; Design: Lois Gable. Stock photography is used throughout this newsletter and is meant to be representative only. Cover images:  
©iStockphoto.com | Pgiam and  
©Shutterstock | photobank.ch

PRINTED IN THE USA.



© iStockphoto.com | Lyle Craig

THESE ACCOMPLISHED ATTORNEYS BEGAN TO ASK IF LIFE HAD ANY MEANING BEYOND WORKING TO KEEP THE SUCCESS THEY HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED

© iStockphoto.com | Jeleni Memory



## The Music in *My Heart*

I had always wanted an intimate connection with God, but never could quite achieve it. Music has always played a very important role in my life. Through participation in All-State chorus in high school, and in the Glee Club and Choir at Amherst, I sang a great deal of Christian music, but I always felt uncomfortable when I sang the name “Jesus.”

While at Amherst, I fell in love with Kim, the Protestant woman who was to become my wife. After a fair amount of discussion, Kim converted to Reform Judaism before we were married.

My spiritual transformation began unexpectedly one day in 2005 when I inadvertently tuned in to a Christian radio station and heard a discussion about Yeshua (Jesus). I listened only briefly and turned it off, yet I found myself listening to this station with more frequency—not out of belief, but rather out of intellectual curiosity.

Late one evening while driving home from work and listening to this station, I heard the speaker invite listeners to welcome Yeshua into their lives by believing in Him as Messiah. Almost reflexively, I found myself doing so! I recall my immediate reaction: “Why did I just do that—

and mean it?!” The speaker then described those who believe in Yeshua as walking from the darkness into the light, and this resonated with me deeply.

During the Christmas season that immediately followed this experience, I vividly remember joining my mother-in-law at a Christmas church service. I had never joined her in the approximately twenty years since marrying her daughter! When it came time to sing the hymns—some of which I recalled from my youth as a singer—the moment of truth arrived as we sang the name of Jesus. That old uncomfortable feeling was gone, because now I knew He was my Messiah.

Today, I am a 46-year-old partner at a law firm in New York. I am a graduate of Columbia Law School and Amherst College. I am also a Jewish man who believes that Yeshua is our Messiah.

I remain passionate about God and thankful for the intimate relationship He has given me through His only Son. I believe my faith has made me a better husband, father, professional, and friend of God. My wife and five children have supported and encouraged me as I continue to explore my relationship with God through Yeshua. I recently was blessed to see my daughter become a Bat Mitzvah in a Messianic service, and now look forward to the Messianic Bar Mitzvah of my two sons this fall.

**—Brian Robbins**

## Politics *and Faith*

I grew up in the Washington, D.C. area, where politics was front and center. My father was deeply involved in the political process, working in campaigns and in other forms of political activism. I helped him on campaigns when I was as young as twelve. Although ours was a traditional Jewish home—we attended both Conservative and Reform synagogues—in reality, politics took the place of religion. By my high school years, I considered myself an agnostic.

That changed when someone invited me to a high school group, and I began attending. There I met a number of fellow students who challenged my thinking, and I was also confronted with the possibility that Yeshua (Jesus) was the promised Messiah of Israel. After reading the Scriptures and sensing something in His life that I had been longing for—and seeing that life in the believers around me—I became convinced that it was true.

After I received Yeshua as my Messiah, my life changed dramatically. Like many of my peers, I had been engaging in some self-destructive behavior—but the peace I discovered in my Messiah took away the need for those distractions. Yet as a Jewish believer in Jesus, I was confused. I felt my Jewish identity was an unresolved issue. I knew nothing about Jesus' Jewishness and the essentially Jewish character of His message until the following year in

college at Penn State. There, I met another Messianic Jew who taught me a great deal. For the first time, I realized I could be a follower of Yeshua and still be truly Jewish.

Following college, I went to law school in Washington, D.C. and did graduate work in economics. After graduation I worked as counsel to a committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and later as chief counsel to a U.S. Senate subcommittee. My responsibilities included drafting legislation and overseeing investigative and legislative hearings.

After ten years of working in Congress and a stint as a partner in a consulting firm, I sensed a call to another form of service. In 1988, I went to seminary and became a Messianic rabbi, leading the congregation Tikvat Israel (Hope of Israel) in Richmond, Virginia. God has also shown me a way to integrate my training in a life of service for Him. In addition to leading the congregation, we formed Russian Immigration Services, assisting Russian Jewish immigrants with legal and social services. I am currently a member of the Maryland and D.C. Bars and the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

I knew I wanted to use the practice of law to help those who were at a disadvantage, in response to Yeshua's teaching to love the poor. Today, I strive to serve the needy and to show them the reality of Yeshua the Messiah.

**—Jamie Cowen**



© iStockphoto.com | James Steidl

## An Encounter with a Gypsy

**G**etting a Jewish education was a top priority in my house. I grew up in Atlanta, where my family belonged to a 5,000-member Conservative synagogue. I attended Hebrew school in the evenings and on Sundays, and was active in B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO). Every summer, I attended Jewish overnight camp in the Georgia mountains.

Camp is one of the fondest memories I have of growing up Jewish. There, we experienced Judaism in a natural setting, apart from the religious establishment. We sang Israeli folk songs, had skits and dances, and learned about God and Israel in creative ways. It was a blast!

When I was a teen, Jewish songwriter Bob Dylan became my idol. In the late 70s, he released two albums about Jesus. I was very upset with him—but I never forgot.

I went to college at Florida State, where I majored in creative writing. I wanted to be a writer, but when I realized how challenging it would be to make a living, I did a very Jewish thing—I went to law school instead, graduating from Stetson University College of Law in 1990. At that point I was twenty-five years old and becoming more religious. I attended a Conservative synagogue and prayed three times a day. I studied Maimonides and Rashi and got into Kabbalah.

One year out of law school, I became involved in a major court battle that involved practitioners of the occult. I felt I needed some spiritual help, so I sought out the advice of a Gypsy woman who—it turned out—was a born-again Christian. It sounded strange, as I usually associated Gypsies with fortune-telling. But in this instance,

what followed was the most important thing that ever happened to me. As this woman and her family began praying for me, I started to open up enough to read the New Testament. I quickly discovered that Jesus was Jewish—a fact I hadn't known.

In March 1992, I prayed with my Gypsy friend and received Yeshua into my heart. We Jews often need a sign for confirmation—and God gave me one. A week later I met a sweet college girl named Tara. I knew right away she was my other half, my *besherta*, or "soul mate." Tara became my wife and the mother of our four children.

In August 1998, Tara and I founded a Messianic synagogue. I never would have thought I would be spending most of my time teaching others about Yeshua, but I am very happy to be serving God in this way. Today, our congregation, called Temple New Jerusalem, meets in Dunedin, Florida. I cannot begin to count all the amazing things God has done since the day I said "Yes" to Yeshua in a Gypsy woman's living room. God had a perfect way to reach me, and I am so glad He did.

**—Michael Stepakoff**



© Shutterstock.com | Abramova Keniya



## Coming Home *to Messiah*

**F**or three months after college, I backpacked alone around Western Europe, staying now and then at Christian youth hostels. I was on a meager budget, and hostels were economical—about \$2 or \$3 a night. During my stays, I realized that many of the people working at these hostels seemed to exude love and warmth. Although relatively poor and facing other challenges in life, they seemed to be filled with more peace and joy than I had ever experienced—and I was a healthy, aspiring lawyer from a caring Jewish family.

How did these people get that way, and why was I not like that? I was always preoccupied and worried about things not going exactly according to my plans. I longed for the contentment these people had.

Life went on: I began my law career, married my wife, Cathy, and started a family. My spiritual journey continued when Cathy learned of a Messianic synagogue starting in our city—a place where Jews and Gentiles worshipped together. It seemed like a great compromise on a difficult issue for Cathy and me: she was Catholic, I was Jewish, and we had young children. At this point, I had been a lawyer for fourteen years. Lawyers frequently try to settle a dispute by finding common ground that will satisfy both sides—a win-win situation. Messianic Judaism seemed like the perfect solution.

From the moment I walked into my first Messianic gathering, I felt tremendously comfortable. It was as if I had come home. The people were warm, loving, and caring, and had the same peace and joy I had seen in the Christians I had met in Europe. For the



first time in my life, I actually looked forward to going to services. There was music, dancing, joy, love, and fellowship—all filled with richness and depth.

At a Friday night service on May 1, 1992, the Messianic rabbi honored Holocaust Remembrance Day. He played a video of Rose Price, a Holocaust survivor with a compelling story of how she received Yeshua as her Messiah after being released from the concentration camps.

After the video, the Messianic rabbi asked if anyone wanted to receive Yeshua into their heart. I raised my hand, thinking, “Of course I want what Rose has. Who wouldn’t?” I silently said a short prayer expressing my desire to know Yeshua as my Messiah. Bolts of lightning did not strike the ground. In fact, nothing seemed to change immediately, but I now know that God heard me.

Since that day, God has radically changed my life, Cathy’s life, and the lives of our children. He has graciously and lovingly continued to refine and purify me, little by little, over the last seventeen years. Am I perfect? By no means! But do I know that I am forgiven? Absolutely! Do I know where to turn in turbulent times and Whom to thank when things go well? Definitely!

Now I understand that Yeshua’s sacrificial death was the final Yom Kippur sacrifice that provided redemption and forgiveness for all people. Whoever finds Him receives an eternal reward—I know I have!

—Jim Jacob



© iStockphoto.com | Dave Long

## Silencing the *Voice of Fear*

**F**or four years I attended Hebrew school with my friends three times a week to prepare for my Bar Mitzvah, but it was in my second year that we discussed one issue that piqued my interest. "Jesus was a good man," the teacher said. "He was a rabbi, but not the Messiah." Though I said nothing at the time, I was disappointed because I had come to like Jesus from watching movies shown on TV around Christmas and Easter. I liked His gentle nature and powerful words.

In my third year, a new teacher said the same thing. I raised my hand and asked, "Could we talk about this, because I'd like to know when we made the decision that Jesus wasn't the Messiah?"

"No," the teacher replied. "We don't have time to talk about it." That seemed unusual to me, because our teachers generally liked when students had questions. But the subject was dropped.

As a child, I once came to my parents in fear when I learned that people died. That fear undoubtedly spurred my interest in finding God. At college in the 60s, I examined many religions, still seeking an answer to my fear of dying. I tried to follow various claims of peace from Eastern religions, meditation, prophets and gurus. My only test was whether they could silence that sense of fear—but none of them could.

While in law school, I remembered that I had liked Jesus when I was a boy, and decided to read His words for myself in the New Testament.

I was amazed by His teaching, and I was floored when I began to realize that this Jesus was in fact the Messiah of Israel! When I invited Jesus into my heart, I felt the weight of the world come off me and a strong sense of peace envelop me. That sense of fear was finally silenced, and I am happy to report that it has not returned for thirty-five years—and never will.

I still get angry and act selfish at times, but God is in my life every day now. I try to follow the Bible as I make decisions and carry out my life's responsibilities and relationships. He helps me, especially as I pray. The practice of law brings many pressures, but God is with me in each of these as well. He has blessed our personal injury practice even in the tough times. God has been faithful to me in every promise in the Bible. All the things which make for peace, He has given me in His Son, the Prince of Peace.

**—Jeff Lowenthal**



© Shutterstock.com | Donald R. Swartz





**What constitutes proof enough to make a responsible legal decision? The most rigorous standard is not, "beyond doubt." It is "beyond a reasonable doubt." Can we look at the evidence for the Messianic claim of Jesus and say it is sufficient?**

**The first claim, upon which the rest hinges, is whether it is reasonable to accept that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah. Let's examine just a few of the many prophetic Hebrew Scriptures that support that claim:**

- ☆ He will be a descendant of Abraham – Genesis 12:3: *"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*
- ☆ He will be from the tribe of Judah – Genesis 49:10: *"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his."*
- ☆ He will be from the house of David – 2 Samuel 7:12-13: *"When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you...and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."*
- ☆ He will be born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2 (5:1 Heb.): *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*
- ☆ He will be born of a virgin – Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*
- ☆ He will be God Himself – Isaiah 9:6-7 (9:5-6 Heb.): *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*
- ☆ He will die for our sin – Isaiah 53:5: *"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed."*

There are many more prophecies that tell of the Messiah, and we believe Yeshua has fulfilled them all. If this is true, then there is only one choice to make: accept Him and His promise of forgiveness for your sins, and commit yourself to loving the Lord with your heart, mind and soul. As the Jewish Gospel writer John wrote, *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."*

If you would like to know more, send for the free book, *A Lawyer's Case for God*, by Jim Jacob, Esq., which offers insight into vital issues about faith, life, and the afterlife and examines whether Jesus is really the Messiah of Israel.

*"Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)*

I am Jewish and want to know more about Jesus. Please send me the FREE book, *A Lawyer's Case for God*. 3134F

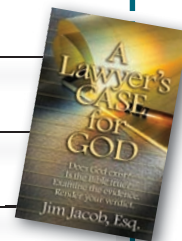
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/P.C. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Chosen People Ministries • 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022 • OR IN CANADA • Box 897 Station B, North York, ON M2K 2R1



[www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com)

HACK09