



**The
Chosen
People**



Volume XVI, Issue 7 September 2010

REPENTANCE AND JOY

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

Isaiah 53 and Atonement • Celebrating the High Holidays
in Israel • The King's Two Messianic Entries into Jerusalem

ISAIAH 53 AND ATONEMENT



Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City! We enjoyed a fruitful season of ministry this summer. By God's amazing grace, you helped purchase a new building in Brooklyn (we'll tell you more about our renovation progress soon), conducted major outreaches in Israel and New York City and held a children's camp on the West Coast.

We also began our Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaign, and the first phase in New York City is now complete—except for the ongoing follow up with seekers! Please keep praying for the hundreds of Jewish people who are now reading the book *Isaiah 53 Explained* and whom our local staff members are visiting.

The High Holidays are Approaching

We are on the cusp of the High Holidays, which include the Jewish New Year (*Rosh Hashanah*), the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) and the Festival of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*). Your Chosen People staff across the globe is especially busy during this season, as we are conducting services and doing all we can to help our Jewish people see that Jesus is the One who fulfills each of these great biblical festivals.

The focus of the High Holidays is on atonement and the forgiveness of sin. This is the very theme we emphasized during our Isaiah 53 Campaign! Isaiah 53 was written more than 700 years before Jesus and is the clearest prophecy in the Old Testament of the atoning death and resurrection of the Messiah.

This is not easily communicated to today's average Jewish person, who is often secular and unfamiliar with the Bible! Religious Jewish people have developed extensive arguments about why Isaiah 53 does not point to Jesus, but these objections are easier to address by examining the Scriptures, which are viewed as authoritative by both devout Jews and Christians.

As I wrote the evangelistic book we are using for our campaign, *Isaiah 53 Explained*, I wrestled with how to communicate the life-changing biblical truths of salvation and forgiveness through the sacrifice of our Messiah Jesus. I believe the Lord led me, and the book does speak to the heart of today's average Jewish person.

It would be my great joy to send a free copy of this 165-page book to one or more of your

Jewish friends! You can fill out the enclosed card and send it to us and we will send them a copy of the book. Alternatively, you can refer them to our website where they can order it themselves: www.Isaiah53.com.

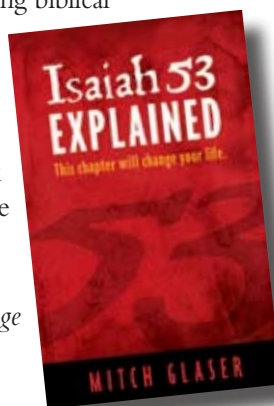
I would like to share an abbreviated portion of the book that is especially well suited to this time of the year when Jewish people—even the most secular—are observing the Day of Atonement. This adapted portion is from the chapter entitled "Isaiah 53 and Atonement." I hope that by reading it, you will be blessed and have a better understanding of the way in which we are communicating these eternal truths to our Jewish people.

As you read, *please remember* that we have written this for the modern Jewish reader who is not yet a believer in Jesus:

Chapter 7: Isaiah 53 and Atonement

Introduction

The idea of atonement is one of the most difficult in the Bible to explain; however, it is also one of the most important of all spiritual truths. It would be impossible to grasp the



meaning of Isaiah 53 without examining the meaning of atonement.

Surveys of the modern Jewish community indicate that most Jewish people do something to acknowledge the Day of Atonement—Yom Kippur. But do we really understand what this means? We know it involves forgiving others and being forgiven by God (the one day a year we believe in God—with or without evidence!), but most people would have a difficult time defining and explaining the idea of atonement.

Both Judaism and Christianity hold this important teaching in common and both faiths are built on this concept, so it is very important for us to understand it! The idea that the Servant dies for our sins cannot be understood without grasping what the Bible teaches about atonement.

Atonement, especially substitutionary atonement, is understandably difficult for the modern mind to grasp, as it is founded upon certain presuppositions that are not widely accepted today.

The Presuppositions of Atonement

The first idea essential to the concept of atonement is that there is a personal God who made us, loves us, desires to have a relationship with us and who also holds us accountable for our actions. This personal God is holy and righteous and created beauty, love and all the things we enjoy in this life. He gave us parameters for our behavior so that we do not misuse all the blessings He has given us. But for some reason, no moralist or philosopher has been able adequately to explain why we continually stray from the divine guidelines found in the Bible. Ignoring these guidelines is called sin.

The second presupposition foundational to understanding atonement is that people find it difficult—even impossible—to meet

God's standards. The Bible describes this "missing the mark" as sin, and claims that sin is endemic to the human condition—no one is perfect. If sin were not universal, then atonement would be optional or only the worst among us would need it. Rather, according to the Bible and also the Jewish religion, we all need atonement!

There are a variety of ways to look for atonement. Some of us try to find atonement through seeking or earning the forgiveness of others. There's nothing wrong with making amends, and as Jews we know that at least once a year this is a major personal project! But making amends is different from receiving atonement.

We might try to earn atonement by personal sacrifice: volunteering or giving money to philanthropy. These efforts have great merit, but once we stop doing them, our sense of peace wanes, so that we live on a perpetual treadmill, seeking atonement generated by our own efforts. We innately know we need to make atonement for the wrongs we have done, but it is in trying that we experience our deepest sense of failure.

Atonement—removing the alienation and guilt that keep us from a close personal relationship with our Creator—only comes about when the problem of sin is removed. From the Bible's point of view, no one among us is capable of achieving the depth of repentance that would enable us to meet God's holy standards.

Once we accept the presupposition that there is a personal God, and that we fail to meet His standards, we then come to a third presupposition: atonement begins and ends with God's efforts, and our responsibility is simply to accept what God has accomplished on our behalf. In other words, atonement from the Bible's perspective is an unmerited and unearned gift.

This is the context for understanding what the Servant described in Isaiah 53 did for you and me. The chapter predicts that God would send His innocent Servant to die in our place and pay the penalty of death, which we deserved. And through his death and resurrection, God's wrath and judgment for our sin would be removed!

Conclusion

Only through accepting God's atonement will we experience peace in our relationship with our Creator—a peace that will enable us to face life and even death with a confidence that comes from an intimate relationship with the God who made us.

The choice is yours!

Happy High Holidays

I hope you will enjoy the rest of the newsletter, especially the featured article by Rachel G., one of our Israel staff members, on how the High Holidays are celebrated in Israel today.

Please remember to request a free copy of *Isaiah 53 Explained* for your Jewish friends, associates or family members. Also, our beautiful *Messianic Jewish Art Calendar* for 2010–2011 is available now, and it is simply spectacular . . . you will love the artist's vivid photographs of Jewish life!

As always, we could not reach our Jewish people without your faithful support and prayers! Thank you!

May the One who made a way to heaven for you and me be your greatest joy!

Your brother,

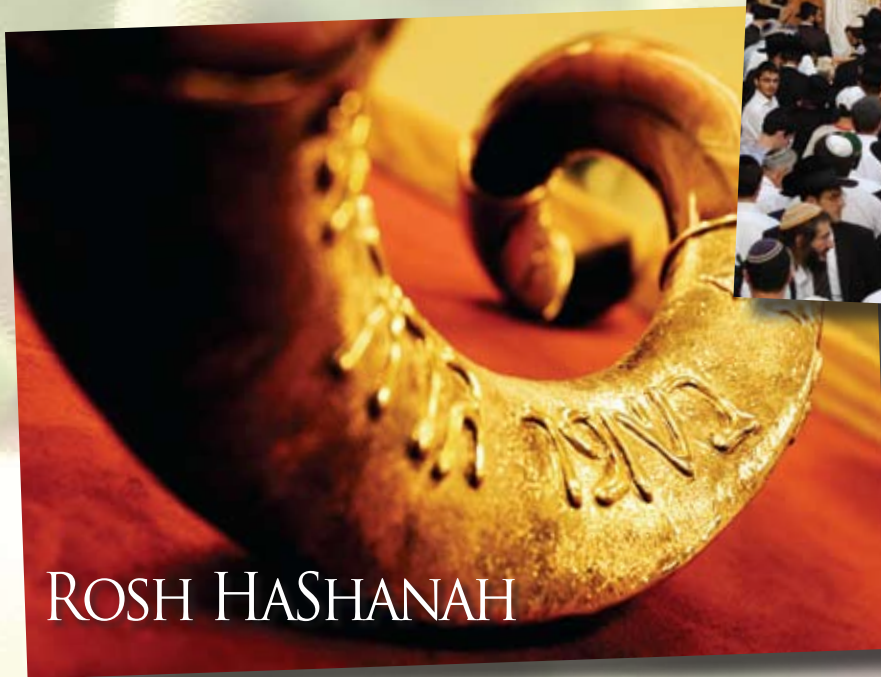

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

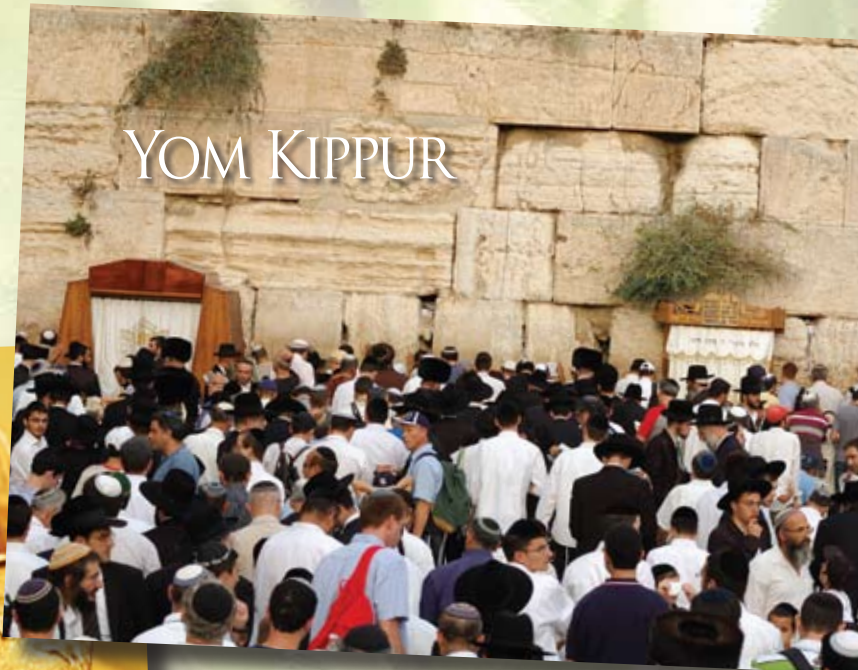
Celebrating the High Holidays in Israel

There is an air of excitement in Israel in the days leading up to the fall High Holidays, and the sights, sounds, and smells are wonderful! The weather has finally become cooler, ripe pomegranates are arriving in the market, and there is delicious golden round *challah* to eat. Beware of getting caught in the market a day or two before the holidays, as it is extremely crowded—everyone is trying to prepare for enough food to last for days on end as stores, buses, schools, businesses all shut down during these festivals.



Rosh HaShanah (the New Year) is the first of the holidays to occur. Both locals and tourists wish each other *Lashanah tovah v' metucha*—a happy and sweet New Year! During Rosh HaShanah, you can expect to hear the piercing blast of the *shofar* (ram's horn). Used at many different times in the history of Israel, the sound of the *shofar* always meant that something important was about to take place.

The first mention of a ram's horn in the Bible occurs in Genesis 22, when the ram that became the replacement for Isaac on the altar was caught in the thicket by its horns. In this regard, the *shofar* reminds us of Abraham's obedience and God's mercy in providing atonement for our sins.



In the days of the Temple, the *shofar* blast marked the beginning of the ten-day period leading up to Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) when the sacrifice presented to the Lord by the High Priest on behalf of the nation would be either accepted or rejected, thus paying for the sins of the people. As believers, we know that a perfect, complete, and eternal sacrifice was made for us—that of Jesus our High Priest!

Ten days after Rosh HaShanah comes Yom Kippur, and Israelis—whether religious or not—flock to the synagogues (the same way many people in the United States attend church on Christmas and Easter). Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day of the year, and it is spent fasting and remembering the sacrifices made in the Temple by the High Priest.

Nowadays, Israelis seek forgiveness from others and try to do *mitzvot* (good deeds) to win merit in God's eyes. On Yom Kippur, you could hear a pin drop all around the country, as not a single store, business, bus or car is in motion. Children look forward to the one day they can freely ride their bikes down the middle of the street!



SUKKOT

The third High Holiday is Sukkot—the “feast” mentioned in John 7:37-38. As the sun goes down on Yom Kippur, you can hear nails being hammered into wooden boards as each family builds a *sukkah* (booth). For eight days, you are supposed to eat and sleep in the sukkah as a reminder of how God provided for the Israelites in the desert and how He provides for us today.

This time of year is the harvest season, and rain is expected to come any day. It has not rained in Israel since March or April, so you can imagine how joyous it is when it does rain. Its effects on the scenery are dramatic—the rain washes away all the dirt and dust and refreshes the city. We are told to pray for rain so that the crops grow and the rivers are filled again (Joel 2:23-24).

There are many layers of profound meaning in Sukkot. We can understand how much we rely on the Lord for our

provision as we see the parched land around us revived by the rain. At the end of Sukkot, Isaiah 12:3 is read: “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” There is a fascinating play on words in this verse, as the word “salvation” is “Yeshua”—the Hebrew name of Jesus. Just as the Lord provided food, water and shelter for the children of Israel in the desert (and continues to provide today), He also provided eternal salvation in Yeshua, Jesus. His salvation washes away all the dirt (sin) in our lives and has revived our souls for eternity!

Israelis approach these holidays in two ways—some are earnestly seeking the Lord’s forgiveness, and others just enjoy the extra days off work and special time with family. Unfortunately, many Israelis miss the tremendous spiritual and biblical understanding of these holidays. This season is a wonderful time to talk about spiritual things with neighbors and friends.

Hearts are a little more open at this time of year as Israelis consider the God of Israel who provides, protects and preserves His people.

Coming to Israel during Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot is an amazing experience. You are welcome to come and see for yourself, as there are many opportunities to volunteer with Chosen People Ministries in Israel! Perhaps you understand the biblical and cultural background of the High Holidays from your studies, but there is nothing like seeing the rain quench the parched hills of Israel or savoring the smells of Rosh HaShanah home cooking coming from an open window.

Our Lord has mercifully kept and sustained Israel for thousands of years—both when His people were obedient and disobedient. All over Israel, the beginning and end of each holiday is marked by the sound of an air raid siren, the same siren used to alert civilians of rockets falling on their towns. This is a somber memorial that there are those who seek to destroy Israel, and yet the God of Israel has kept and watched over the Land. During the fall High Holidays,

Israelis—no matter what their beliefs—realize the depth of God’s love and covenant for His chosen people. 🇮🇱

by Rachel G. in Israel

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 TWO MESSIANIC ENTRIES INTO JERUSALEM

Matthew 21:1-10, 25:31-46; Zechariah 9:3, 14:4-9

Both the Gospel writer Matthew and the prophet Zechariah highlight the two major high points of Messianic prophecy—namely, the two entries of Jesus the Jewish Messiah into Jerusalem. His first entry was to make reconciliation for sin, and His second entry will be to rule as King.

The King's First Triumphal Entry – To Make Reconciliation

“Palm Sunday” celebrates the fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy declaring, *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey”* (Zech. 9:9).

It has been calculated that April 6th in the year 32 AD was the 10th of the Jewish month of Nisan (Palm Sunday) in fulfillment of the first 69 weeks of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan. 9:24-26). A valuable discussion of Daniel’s prophecy may be found in *God’s Man in Babylon* by Dr. Harold A. Sevener,

pp 152-155. Jesus could not have chosen a more dramatic time to enter Jerusalem than the Passover week, when multitudes crowded Jerusalem for the celebration.

Before Jesus entered the holy city, He *“took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed...and they will condemn Him to death...and the third day He will rise again’”* (Mt. 20:18,19).

Why did Jesus announce His suffering, death and resurrection to His disciples before Passover week? Simply because He would die as the Passover Lamb for the sins of the world, in the city of Jerusalem, the city He loved (Lk. 13:34).

Isaac asked his father, *“Where is the Lamb?”* (Gen. 22:7). Abraham answered, *“God will provide for Himself the lamb”* (Gen. 22:8). But John the Baptist announced, *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (Jn. 1:29).

Our Lord ate the regular Passover meal with His disciples on Passover, the 14th of Nisan, the evening before his crucifixion, and

on the third day, He arose from the tomb (Mt. 16:21).

The King's Second Triumphal Entry – To Rule

Zechariah declares that the Messiah will return to Jerusalem to reign, *“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... and the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be — ‘the Lord is one, and His name one’”* (Zech. 14:4,9).

Luke, the historian and Gospel writer, concurs: *“This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven”* (Acts 1:11).

Are you, dear friend, prepared for the return of Jesus as the King over all the earth? Have you been personally reconciled to God? Have you trusted the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, as your Passover Lamb to forgive your sins? Do not delay, for today is the day of salvation (Heb. 3:15). 🌈



A FRIDAY EVENING SALVATION

Bobby Walter, a Chosen People Ministries missionary in Brooklyn and student at the Charles Feinberg Center, reports: “A Jewish man, Jonathan*, has been attending the Mission’s Friday evening fellowship in Brooklyn since early January. Each week, he comes to the study with new, probing questions. As believers befriended him and answered his questions with honesty and clarity from the Scriptures, he became more open. He recently attended Simha, the Chosen People Ministries messianic conference, and after the message (which was on Isaiah 53), he chatted with me and other staff members, and we encouraged him to pray to God asking for help with his unbelief. Two nights later, in his home, Jonathan prayed to receive the Lord. Please pray for his growth in Messiah.”

JEWISH FAITH DECISIONS IN FAR EAST RUSSIA

Celebrate Messiah, Chosen People Ministries’ partner in Australia, continues to bear fruit in Far East Russia under the leadership of Lawrence Hirsch. During the latest outreach, God provided remarkable opportunities for team members to share the Gospel, and over 23 Jewish people came to faith in Messiah. On one such occasion, as staff member Rita Ivenskis was leading a group of Jewish people in prayer to receive the Lord, Lawrence noticed one man in particular. He had a beautiful smile on his face as he closed his eyes and repeated the words of the prayer. Lawrence writes, “We found out later that he was an accomplished surgeon and that it was his birthday. Please pray for this man, as he is now leading others to the saving power of the Messiah.”

ISRAELI HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS RETURN TO POLAND

As part of his ongoing ministry to Israeli Holocaust survivors, Maxim K. organized a trip to Poland for these precious men and women. The travelers were mainly secular Jewish people between 74 and 86 years of age. For twelve days, they traveled to meaningful sites, meeting every morning and evening to study the Scriptures. Maxim reports, “This trip has changed many of these dear people. Our programs, God’s Word, and,

**names have been changed*

most importantly, the love they saw in the Polish believers who invited us—all this made them consider God’s existence and salvation. One woman said that she has never prayed or turned to God, but now she has started to pray together with her husband and they are seeking the Lord!”

NEW YORKERS STEP INTO NEW LIFE

Our Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) workers didn’t let the exceptionally hot weather in New York City stop them from sharing the Gospel. Doug P., who led a team of evangelists, reports on three decisions for Messiah: “A bright, cultured woman in her early sixties prayed to receive the Lord after I shared Revelation 3:20 with her. She is married to an Orthodox Jewish man and she gave us her address so that we could send him a copy of *Isaiah 53 Explained*. One young man, who works in a bicycle rental on Columbus Circle, took the survey that the team members used as a conversation starter. After Nancy witnessed to him, he prayed to receive the Lord and said gratefully, ‘He is in my heart.’ Yet another young man from Central America came to faith after I went over the ‘Four Spiritual Laws’ with him from a tract in Spanish that I ‘happened’ to have in my backpack.”

IN MEMORIAM – MOISHE ROSEN

Chosen People Ministries notes the passing of Moishe Rosen, founder of Jews for Jesus, at age 78 in San Francisco on May 19, 2010. Rosen and his wife Ceil were originally from Denver and came to faith through Chosen People Ministries (at that time known as the American Board of Missions to the Jews) in 1953, through the visitation ministry of Mrs. Oscar Wago. Chosen People Ministries paid Rosen’s way through Bible college, and he went on to serve with the Mission in various capacities, including as the director of the work in Los Angeles, director of missionary training in New York City and as a missionary in San Francisco. He left Chosen People Ministries in the early 1970s in the midst of the Jesus movement and started Jews for Jesus.

Rosen was an innovative evangelist who helped the world know that one could be Jewish and believe in Jesus. He leaves his wife Ceil, daughters Lyn Bond and Ruth Rosen and grandchildren Asher and Bethany Bond.



Patty Liu

Why I Support Jewish Missions

It is God's Holy Spirit Who has moved in my heart and developed a profound and tender love and respect for the Jewish people.

God's love compels me, as "a watchman on the wall," not only to pray and intercede for the peace of Jerusalem, but also to support the work of Jewish missions. The Lord has now called me to come alongside Chosen People Ministries as they continue to provide evangelistic resources, develop leaders through discipleship and classes, and establish Messianic community centers around the world.

For more information on ways you can be involved in giving, please contact us today. Call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535) or email us at giving@chosenpeople.com.

Recently, in a tour of Israel with Chosen People Ministries, I experienced firsthand the rich history of the Land through the eyes of Jewish people who have the true Peace of God, an understanding of the Holy Scriptures, and a personal relationship with their Messiah, Yeshua. I returned from Israel forever changed.

WRITE TO US AND SHARE YOUR STORY OF WHY YOU SUPPORT JEWISH MISSIONS! WWW.CHOSENPEOPLE.COM

Celebrate the High Holidays



Order your copy now of our Messianic Jewish Art Calendar for September 2010 to December 2011. Each month will greet you with a breathtaking photo of a different aspect of Jewish life, a relevant word of Scripture and an encouraging thought about Messiah's promise to His people. They make great gifts, so don't forget to order extras!

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Israel's three most significant biblical festivals—Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot—are examined in full, including a look at their biblical roots, their celebration in the time of Messiah, and by Jewish people today. *The Fall Feasts of Israel* is an invaluable guide to help you understand these wonderful biblical festivals as well as their significance for your spiritual life as a believer in Messiah, whether Jew or Gentile. By Mitch and Zhava Glaser.



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

