

The Chosen People



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WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE MIDDLE EAST?

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ISRAEL & EGYPT:

Historic Enemies, Future Friends

Dear friend,

The Middle East continues to destabilize as the turmoil seems to spread to a new Arab country each day. This is unsettling for those of us who love Israel and the Jewish people, as we simply do not know the long-term results of these national upheavals and what the attitudes of the new leaders will be towards Israel. I have some concerns!

Egypt and Israel: An Uncomfortable History and a Difficult Present

In some ways, Israel and the Jewish people have a unique relationship with Egypt. Some Bible commentators have phrased it this way: “Israel was formed in the womb of Egypt.” There is a lot of truth to this—even though it would not have been the choice of the sons and daughters of Abraham to endure 400 years of slavery in preparation for their national birth!

The relationship between Israel and Egypt continues to be important, as Egypt has been a key player in all of the attempts to establish lasting peace agreements in the region—especially the Camp David accords. Yet today we are looking at a very different Egypt than the country of a few months ago. We do not know where Egypt will end up in its attitude towards Israel, and Egypt has the potential to be one of Israel’s

most proactive enemies. This remains to be seen and is cause for prayer.

I am not a political analyst and it is not my intention to analyze Egyptian politics in depth or to pass judgment on the ethics and impact of Mubarak’s fall from power. Rather, I view what has happened in Egypt to be representative of what we might see throughout the Arab world. I do not want to sound hopeless—because I do have a great hope that I want to share with you in just a moment—but in general, I do not see the pan-Arab revolution as especially beneficial for Israel or for the West.

Isaiah 19: The Role of Egypt in the Plan of God

In Isaiah chapter 19, the prophet describes God’s judgment upon Egypt, and later in the passage, Isaiah predicts the future restoration and glories of Egypt. The judgment Isaiah describes is severe and extensive, affecting almost every area of Egyptian life. In verse 1 of chapter 19, Isaiah predicts that the Egyptian gods would tremble in the presence of the one true God and the hearts of individual Egyptians would melt.

In verse 2, the prophet describes a civil war in which Egyptians will fight against their brethren, and in verse 3 he speaks of the day when Egyptians will turn to idols, ghosts, mediums and spiritists for guidance. Another harsh judgment is described in verse 4,

Tzipi Livni, current Israeli Opposition Leader, visits a bombed out kindergarten classroom and meets with former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.



where Isaiah says that the Egyptians would be ruled by a cruel taskmaster some time in the future. Many Old Testament commentators have tried to figure out who this cruel leader might be.

In verses 5-8, the prophet describes natural disasters that would befall Egypt—including the drying up of the Nile River, which was viewed by the Egyptians as the very source of their life and sustenance. The economic destruction of Egypt is predicted in verses 9-10, and in verses 11-13 there is a specific judgment upon the rulers of Egypt, who would act unwisely and, according to the prophet, would be viewed as fools who led Egypt astray.

The complete dissolution of Egyptian society, politics and commerce is described in verses 14-16. Then, in verse 17, Isaiah prophesied that the land of Judah would be a “terror to Egypt”—a symbol of the complete destruction that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has planned for Egypt. Interestingly, in verse 18 the prophet tells us that five cities in Egypt will speak Hebrew and will swear allegiance to the God of Israel.

What follows is probably seldom preached in Christian circles. In some ways, chapter 19 of the Book of Isaiah is similar to the prophecies of Moses in Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26, which describe both the future judgment of the Jewish people and their end-time return to the God of Israel. It appears that Isaiah predicts the same thing for the Egyptians.

According to verses 19 and following, the day will come when Egypt will build an altar to the God of Israel within the borders of the country, and this altar will become a

signpost of God’s loving presence within Egypt. The altar will have such impact that it will cause the Egyptians to cry out to the true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, *“and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day”* (Isaiah 19:21). Furthermore, the prophet predicts that the Egyptians will worship the Lord with sacrifices and offerings, as well as vows of obedience. In response, the Lord will heal the Egyptians in a dramatic and glorious way at that time.

I believe that it is essential for believers in Jesus and those who love the Word of God to live our lives today in light of God’s plan for tomorrow. Knowing that one day the Lord will bring the chaos of our present age—especially in the Middle East—to a glorious conclusion gives us hope, understanding, patience and the motivation to continue praying for the peace of Jerusalem. We know that when Jerusalem and the nation of Israel embrace Jesus (Zechariah 12:10, Romans 11:11-15, 25-29), these blessings promised by God will overflow to the entire Middle East and will keep flowing until the earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters fill the sea!

Understanding the Times and Serving the Lord

I hope that you enjoy the rest of this newsletter, as we explore the

escalating Middle East crisis in greater depth and hopefully give you “fuel” for your prayer life. But please don’t forget what God has planned for the future! There’s no doubt that Egypt, Israel, Iran, and perhaps most of the Middle East will live in crisis and even experience a greater degree of judgment—but, as the Psalmist writes, “joy comes in the morning.”

Meanwhile, as followers of the soon-coming King, we have a mission to proclaim the Good News of salvation to the Jew first and also to the Gentile. I cannot tell you how excited I am about the progress of our new Charles Feinberg Messianic Center in Brooklyn. We will be in the midst of a community of Jewish people who have never before heard the Gospel in a Jewish way, and we continue to need your support and prayers so that the renovation can be completed without debt. As you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, please remember to pray for the building of the new Messianic Center in Brooklyn.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. (Psalm 122:6)

Your brother in the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

THE WINDS OF CHANGE



TUNISIA

FORMER LEADER & YEARS IN POWER:

President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, 28 years

POPULATION:

10.5 million

STORY OF THE REVOLUTION:

The citizens of Tunisia were tired of unemployment, rising food prices and political corruption. They began doing something unheard of—talking about revolution—and slowly became more assertive about their desire for a better country. Easy access to social networking sites allowed the organization of demonstrations and publicity. With these tools, they toppled the government in less than four weeks—an unprecedented development in the Arab world.

REVOLUTION'S RESULT: On January 14, 2011, the President of Tunisia stepped down. This sparked additional revolts and changes throughout the Arab world. Protesters in Tunisia continued to demonstrate against having members of Ben Ali's regime in the new government.

COMMENTS ON THE CRISIS: The Tunisian hero of the revolution was Mohamed Bouazizi, a computer science graduate who could only find a job selling vegetables without a permit. He set himself on fire in protest to the government's ignoring of his complaints that he was beaten by the police.

VIEWS TOWARDS ISRAEL: Before the uprising there were few anti-Israel slogans. If extremists take over the government or the civilian marketplace, Tunisia could turn against Israel.

☆ **PRAYER POINTS:** *Pray for Tunisia to provide greater opportunities for its citizens and its next generation. Pray that the Tunisian people will use their newly-won democracy and freedom of speech wisely.*



EGYPT

FORMER LEADER & YEARS IN POWER:

Hosni Mubarak, 30 years

POPULATION:

83 million

STORY OF THE REVOLUTION:

The demand for change from Mubarak's repressive regime began on January 25 through social networking discussions and through protests in Tahrir Square. Although Mubarak tried to appease the public and keep control, the people persisted and continued to gather by the thousands in Tahrir Square. Within a few days, even the Egyptian

army sided with the people. Mubarak promised to step down in September and hold elections, but the people called for his immediate departure.

REVOLUTION'S RESULT: On February 11, after eighteen days of peaceful demonstrations and relatively minimal bloodshed, the people of Egypt saw the resignation of Mubarak. After the revolution's conclusion, the people even cleaned up their tent city in Tahrir Square with brooms and trash collection!

VIEWS TOWARDS ISRAEL: Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979 during the Camp David Accords. This treaty featured the recognition of the State of Israel—Egypt was the first of the Arab states to recognize Israel's legitimacy. Worries that Egypt will become more aggressively Muslim and turn its back on the treaty are genuine, but unfulfilled at this point.

☆ **PRAYER POINTS:** *Egypt holds a lot of influence in the Arab world. Pray against the influence of radical Muslim groups, and pray for Egypt's new leaders to have wisdom as the country begins to make the transition to democracy.*



LIBYA

LEADER & YEARS IN POWER:

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, 41 years

POPULATION:

6 million

STORY OF THE REVOLUTION:

At the time this issue of the newsletter went to press, Gaddafi had vowed that he would be removed from power only by a bloody fight and his death. As the rebels advanced, they began to capture city after city, but suddenly Gaddafi's troops began to re-take those cities in violent clashes. On March 19, a multi-national intervention by coalition forces (namely the United States, United Kingdom and France) of the U.N. Security Council imposed a no-fly zone over Libya. The United Nations sees this as a way to protect Libyan civilians, because the government forces are targeting them. The U.N. security forces have been welcomed with smiles and cheers from the civilians.

REVOLUTION'S RESULT: The final outcome is yet to be seen, although the protesters are prepared to die in the fight to secure

LIBYA

EGYPT

their freedom. Gaddafi's long reign as dictator is under threat.

COMMENTS ON THE CRISIS: When Gaddafi came to power 41 years ago, Libya was transformed into a police state. The media was heavily restricted and political dissidents were often executed in public. Censorship, arbitrary jailing and torture all became commonplace during Gaddafi's rule. He even formed an international ring of assassins to kill critics abroad.

VIEWS TOWARDS ISRAEL: Gaddafi's Libya has hated Israel and the West, and can be quite militant. Gaddafi has shown no hesitance to attack his country's own citizens or to export terrorism. One extreme case was the Lockerbie bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland in 1988. The bomber was from Libya.

✧ **PRAYER POINTS:** *Pray that the citizens of Libya would remain safe and unharmed. Pray for Gaddafi's heart to change and for him to cease his aggression. Pray for wisdom for the U.N. in dealing with this situation.*



SYRIA

LEADER & YEARS IN POWER: President Bashar al-Assad has been in power for 11 years, and his Ba'ath Party has ruled Syria for almost 50 years.

POPULATION: 22.5 million

STORY OF THE REVOLUTION: Protests broke out on March 15 with demonstrators demanding major reforms in Syria. These protests targeted the Emergency Laws (in effect since 1963)—a feature of many Arab countries allowing people to be arrested without warrants and imprisoned without trial. In an attempt to stay in power and appease the activists, Bashar al-Assad promised to lift some of these laws. Just as in Egypt, these promises were immediately rejected by the people, who called for the complete removal of the Ba'ath party from the government.

COMMENTS ON THE CRISIS:

Such demonstrations would have been unthinkable some months ago in Syria. The revolution began as a "silent protest" through

social media networks and was inspired by the major events that unfolded in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. The Syrian government is one of the most repressive in the Middle East and deadly violence has gripped cities across the country during protests against the ruling Ba'ath party. **REVOLUTION'S RESULT:** As of the printing of this newsletter, the outcome has yet to be determined. The downfall of the Ba'ath party may be the most difficult to date.

VIEWS TOWARDS ISRAEL: President Bashar al-Assad is a close ally of Iran and its regional armed groups, Hezbollah and Hamas. Hezbollah seems to be stockpiling weapons in Syria.

✧ **PRAYER POINTS:** *Each revolution represents so much possible change within the Middle East, and regime change in Syria could be very beneficial for Israel. Pray for a quick outcome, as a number of civilians have been killed by Syria's army and by snipers.*

JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, ALGERIA, YEMEN AND IRAN

These countries have not hit the news as fully as the others, but their people also are calling for freedom and regime change. One can only speculate what the outcomes might be. It would be incredible to see the downfall of Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad through national protests as seen in Egypt and Tunisia. Six months ago, who would have imagined revolution in the Middle East to this scale? Revolutions in these countries would continue the domino effect of change around Israel. Let's pray for peace and safety throughout this unstable region. ☺



Contributions from 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 QUESTIONS THAT STUMPED THE KING'S QUESTIONERS

(Mt. 22:41-46)

Matthew's Gospel records the many questions that the religious authorities asked Jesus. However, King Messiah had two of His own for them that were of particular importance. One of the questions they readily answered; the other they did not.

The Two Questions

Jesus put forth the query, "Whose Son is the Messiah?" (Mt. 22:42). Here was a question on a very familiar theme in the Pharisees' doctrine. They confidently answered, "The Son of David."

The Greek word "Christ" and the Hebrew word "Messiah" are synonymous, both meaning "Anointed One." It was common knowledge that the Messiah would be a descendant of David (Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1,10, Jer. 23:5).

Jesus then asked a second question based on the first one: "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.' If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" (Mt. 22:43-45).

Our Lord asked the Pharisees to interpret Psalm 110:1, pointing out that David was referring to

someone other than himself. By the phrase, "my Lord," he was indeed referring to the Messiah, whom the Pharisees had just acknowledged was the Son of David. "If David then calls Him 'Lord' how is He his Son?" (Mt. 22:45).

On earth, no man calls his own son "Lord." Here is a seeming contradiction. Messiah was both David's Son and David's Lord. The only explanation is the fact that Messiah Himself is Divine.

The Uniqueness of Messiah

Messiah, Son of David, was more than just a special person. Messiah is the Lord, the Almighty who came to earth as a man to die and bring about reconciliation for the sins of the world by His own sacrifice. If the Pharisees had answered the second question correctly, they would have had to recognize the true divinity of Jesus, that He was both God and man. In yet another encounter with the Pharisees, they accused Him of bearing an untrue witness and testimony of Himself (Jn. 8:13). Jesus replied to them, "I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the

Father who sent Me bears witness of Me" (Jn. 8:18). So serious is this matter that He declared to the Pharisees, "...if you don't believe that I am He (Messiah) you will die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24).

Although the Pharisees could not answer the King's question, the Scriptures supply an adequate reply:

- ◆ Messiah was David's Son after the flesh (Lk.1:32; Rom. 1:3).
- ◆ He was David's Lord, for Messiah is God. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16).
- ◆ Messiah is called God (*Elohim*) (Ps. 45:6, Heb. 1:8) and Lord (*Adon*) (Mal. 3:1; Psa 110:1).

"Who do men say that I am?" is perhaps one of the most important questions that Messiah our King poses to all of us. Is He simply one great teacher among many? Or is He truly the Messiah, the Suffering Servant who has died for our sins and now sits in the place of honor at the right hand of the Father? What do you think of Christ? Whose Son is He? 🌈

FUNERAL LEADS TO NEW LIFE IN MESSIAH

Is there any greater joy than leading someone in a prayer to receive the Lord? One of our staff members recently had that joy after a funeral over which he presided. The long-time partner of the deceased had opposed the Gospel in the past. Now, after hearing the message of hope, forgiveness and eternal life through Yeshua (Jesus), he asked questions in tears following the graveside service. This man who once was lost is now found, and has entered into the Kingdom of God!

FIRST MESSIANIC JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM IN POST-HOLOCAUST EUROPE

The First European Messianic Theological Symposium that we hosted and organized in Berlin gathered Messianic Jewish theologians from throughout Europe and Israel. This was an historic event and an important step in constructing a distinctive Messianic Jewish theology that is both biblically based and relevant to the cultural and historical context of post-Holocaust Europe. It was a great success—praise the Lord!

WITNESSING TO ISRAELIS IN LOS ANGELES

While Robin B. was in California gathering information and meeting with partners for our upcoming summer outreach, she struck up a conversation with an Israeli couple who did not yet know Yeshua. Yakov* and Tali* had moved to Los Angeles twenty years ago, and had never met someone who is Jewish and believes Jesus is the Messiah. They talked with Robin about the Messianic prophecies, the concept of atonement and Jesus' life, and asked a lot of honest questions. Before parting ways, they exchanged emails with Robin and invited her for dinner over the summer. Please pray for Yakov and Tali as Robin continues to witness to them. If you would like to participate in our summer outreach to Israelis, call us at 1-888-2-YESHUA.

LIVES TRANSFORMED ONE BY ONE IN QUEENS

Randall and Luda Ford, who work with the Bukharan Jewish community in Queens, request prayer for several friends. Aaron,* an Orthodox man, enjoys studying the Bible with Randall, but so many problems seem to

pound on his door. He and his family really need a touch from God. Sara,* a new believer, had been hesitant to meet with Luda as she feared being rejected by the community. But recently she and Luda studied the Bible together, and Sara expressed her desire to grow in her faith and continue meeting. Randall and Luda write, "Most friends want to meet individually or in very small groups. These meetings are powerful and life-changing. The work in Queens advances one life at a time, and each life testifies to God's grace and power."



NEW BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY IN JERUSALEM

Eugene L. is excited to report that our new food distribution center in Jerusalem has opened its doors to the needy. The Lord provided a facility in a perfect location near the city center and on the same street as the main marketplace. During the first few weeks, we were able to help almost 200 people: Holocaust survivors, the elderly and handicapped, single parents, native Israelis and immigrants from other countries (like Russia and Ethiopia). We also provided food supplies to a local rehabilitation center for alcoholics and drug addicts. Please pray that these acts of love and service, done in Messiah's name, would touch the hearts of the recipients and help lead them to Yeshua.

AFTER 28 YEARS OF PRAYER, ELDERLY PARENTS COME TO FAITH

Staff member Olivier M. is so grateful to God for the privilege of leading both parents to salvation—after having prayed for them for almost 28 years! While visiting his gravely ill father in France, Olivier led his mother to the Lord after a long conversation about God, the Holocaust and eternity. That same afternoon, Olivier was with his father at the hospital. One word at a time, with a breath between each word, Olivier's father prayed to receive Messiah as well, just days before he passed into the Lord's presence. Olivier rejoices: "Both of my parents came to the Lord within six hours of each other—how beautiful for a couple who has done everything together for the past 63 years! Thank you again for your continued prayers."

**names have been changed*

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How can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?

Mark 16:7

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ISRAEL & PROPHECY

Inside the Middle East Crisis (2-DVD Set)

At the historic Moody Church in downtown Chicago, *New York Times* best-selling author, Joel C. Rosenberg, along with Dr. Erwin Lutzer, Dr. Charles Dyer, Dr. Michael Rydelnik, and Dr. Mitch Glaser, opened our eyes to the events that are unfolding in the Middle East from a biblical perspective and provided practical insight on how to love Israel and her neighbors, come what may.



Inside the Middle East Crisis [8040] Price: \$12.95^{US}



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Why I Support Jewish Missions

I recently received an inheritance from a dear Jewish friend who passed away. I tried to witness to her many times but she did not want to hear what I had to say. My Jewish friend rejected the Lord until the day she died, and my heart was broken. After her passing, I vowed to give of the inheritance to Jewish evangelism in order to help bring as many as possible to know the Lord. I have confidence in the work that Chosen People Ministries is doing for Him, and I know that these funds will be used to reach Jewish people for Jesus.

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

