

The Chosen People



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THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL HANGS IN THE BALANCE

UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S AT STAKE

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THE PROMISES OF GOD

Shalom from New York City!

I hope you are having a great summer and finding time to rest, relax and enjoy friends and family! The Chosen People Ministries staff is squeezing in a little time as well, but the summer is often one of our busiest seasons for evangelism...and this summer is no different! We currently have two short-term mission teams in Israel, one in New York City and another about to begin a special ministry to Israelis living in Los Angeles. The Brooklyn Messianic Center and home of the Feinberg Seminary is under construction—and already our Orthodox neighbors are asking lots of questions!

God's Promises Will Come to Pass

I am glad that Zhava and I had the opportunity to be in Israel recently. As the debate over future land boundaries intensifies, you could cut the tension in the air with a knife. It is so important for us as believers to pray fervently for the peace of Jerusalem during this crucial time. Praise God, Chosen People Ministries' work in

Israel continues to expand as peoples' hearts become increasingly open to the Gospel.

In a recent letter, I described our ministries among hundreds of thousands of poor Jewish immigrants, mostly from Eastern Europe. I mentioned that during our recent trip to Israel I spoke to a group of elderly Holocaust survivors at a luncheon we sponsored in Sderot, the little town next to Gaza that suffered thousands of missile attacks over the last few years.

I explained to these dear people, from Deuteronomy chapter 30, that one of the greatest proofs of the existence of God and the truth of His Word is the establishment of the modern State of Israel, and the fact that the Lord enabled *them* to survive the Holocaust and return to the Land of promise!

Moses spoke this prophecy just before the Israelites entered the Land of Israel:

...that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. If

any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the

LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. (Deuteronomy 30:3-5)

Moses predicted that the Jewish people would go through a time of judgment and dispersion when they would live outside the Land of Israel, but that the Lord who gave them the Land would eventually bring them back!

We have seen this prophecy come to pass. The Assyrians drove the Jewish people of the Northern Kingdom from the Holy Land in 722 BC. The Babylonians invaded the Southern Kingdom in 586 BC and took most of the population into captivity. After 70 years, a remnant of Jewish people returned to Israel under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. The Greeks



then tried to destroy the Jews by destroying our religion and culture, but failed. However, my people soon found themselves under another Gentile taskmaster—Rome—and we were once again cast out of the Land of Israel after the crushing of Jewish revolts in both 70 and 132-135 AD.

With the Temple destroyed and Jews scattered throughout the Diaspora, the Romans turned Jerusalem into a pagan city. Thus began a long and difficult captivity for God's chosen people, scattered across Gentile nations from one end of the earth to the other.

But this is not the end of the story! After almost two thousand years of dispersion, the hope for the restoration of Israel was fulfilled



on November 29, 1947, when the United Nations declared that the nation of Israel was now a sovereign Jewish State. This was the final step that had begun with the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917 and was further affirmed by the League of Nations. Here is an excerpt from that historic resolution:

Whereas the Principal Allied Powers have agreed, for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, to entrust to a Mandatory selected by the said Powers the administration of the territory of Palestine, which formerly

belonged to the Turkish Empire, within such boundaries as may be fixed by them; and

Whereas the Principal Allied Powers have also agreed that the Mandatory should be responsible for putting into effect the declaration originally made on November 2nd, 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty, and adopted by the said Powers, in favour of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country; and Whereas recognition has thereby been given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country... (see the full text at www.mfa.gov.il)

On May 14, 1948, the modern Jewish State was born! In the words of the founding fathers of modern Israel,

Placing our trust in the "Rock of Israel," we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the Provisional Council of State, on this soil of the homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath Eve the 5th day of Iyar, 5708. (14th May, 1948; www.mfa.gov.il)

We rejoice in the way the Lord brought His people back to their Land. **But this is still not the end of the story**—Moses also promised that the Jewish people would repent and be restored in their relationship to God:

*And the LORD your God will **circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants**, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. (Deut. 30:6-7; emphasis mine)*

The Next Steps

I believe this is the next step in God's plan for the Jewish people—

that His chosen people will return to Him by embracing Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah! This is why the focus of your Mission to the Jewish people has been and always will be the preaching of the Gospel to Jewish people.

I see the events of the 63 years since the establishment of modern Israel as God's way of accomplishing His holy purposes—but the work is far from done! This is why Chosen People Ministries has a growing and active work among Jewish people in thirteen countries, but especially in Israel today. There are now almost six million Jewish people (the same number lost in the Holocaust) living in the Land, and we know that it is our calling to reach them—and Jewish people everywhere—for Jesus, that all the promises of God might be fulfilled!

The promises about the Land and the spiritual promises will one day converge!

Paul writes about the destiny of the Jewish people:

Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Rom. 11:12-15)

This great day is coming—and the presence of the Jewish people in the Holy Land today is simply one sign that God's plan is in progress!

I hope you enjoy this issue and that you will pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May the Lord give our leaders and the leaders of Israel great wisdom and discernment.

Your brother,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

A SECURE Israel MEANS A STABLE MIDDLE EAST

by Tom Doyle

Today as I write these words I find myself in the location that is in the very heart of today's spiritual war. In fact, it is safe to say that when it comes to the global intersections where good and evil collide, this place is "ground zero."

You guessed it—I'm in Jerusalem.

War permeates this city. It always has. How else can you explain that throughout the history of Jerusalem it has changed hands 86 times? It has also been leveled to the ground 17 times. Not much has changed since Abraham, the father of our faith, came to Jerusalem to see the land that God had promised to his descendants. Since then, this place has been in constant turmoil.

Yet Israel continues to rise out of the ashes and today Jerusalem is the most important city in the world yet again. I say that last statement without reservation. No other city in the world demands the focus of the globe on a daily basis like Jerusalem. Washington, DC is the only city to have more reporters covering it, but Jerusalem is the city that God Himself chose to dwell in. Out of all the cities and villages worldwide, this is where God came and stayed—and that puts Jerusalem in a category of its own.

One day Jesus will return to this city and His feet will land firmly on the Mount of Olives. When that day arrives, Jerusalem will be transformed and will never return to the front lines of war. The days of conflict will cease.

But this is not the scene in Jerusalem today. The spiritual tension can be cut with a dull knife. The Friday message from a famous mosque is blasting

through my room as the Imam shouts commands to faithful Muslims to pray. His charge is to call the followers of Muhammad to seek Allah on this weekly holy day. An Arab believer is giving me a running translation of his words. The Imam's message is laced with calls for the destruction of Israel. His anger is palpable, and his passion is felt in every word that echoes through the Old City. Islam temporarily has a choke hold on Jerusalem, the city that God loves.

As Jews are praying at the Western Wall, those who understand Arabic (which would be many) are hearing every word of Friday's message at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. They are used to this, as they hear similar threats and insults from the Imam every week.

Jews in Israel who watch the news are getting a steady stream of antisemitism that is bursting at the seams in the Middle East and rising steadily in Europe as well:

- Iran, which has vowed to destroy Israel, is on the brink of going nuclear.
- Syria wants the Golan Heights back and is prepared for a war with Israel.
- In Southern Lebanon, the Hezbollah terrorist group has 30,000 missiles in the Beqaa Valley waiting to be fired at Israel.
- The Gaza Strip has at least 13 terrorist groups that have united with Hamas in an effort to strike Israel.
- The West Bank, though it is in the midst of an economic boom, is once again restless

and terrorists are gaining popularity and strength.

- Even Jordan, which has been somewhat neutral, is predicting that a regional war with Israel is on the not-too-distant horizon.

Yet Israel is being portrayed as the reason there is no peace in the Middle East.

Israel vs. the United Nations

Enter the United Nations. In September, a vote is scheduled to take place that would circumvent the national sovereignty of Israel. If this vote passes, the U.N. would wave a magic wand and rename Judea and Samaria—commonly referred to as the West Bank—with a new name, *Palestine*.

This is not only unfair, but also unwise. I travel to Israel frequently, and our ministry reaches out to both Jews and Arabs. We have worked among Palestinians in Gaza and Jews in Jerusalem. Believe me, it is a toss-up as to who is dreading a Palestinian State more.

If the U.N. has its way, Jews will be banned from places in the biblical land of Israel. Joshua arrived here with the Israelites 3,400 years ago, so there is definite historical precedence for the existence of the Jewish people here. And now the U.N., which has a strong bias against Israel and a strong Arab-Islamic coalition, wants to take all of that away.

Unstable Israel, Unstable Middle East

While visiting Israel on Independence Day this year, I witnessed first-hand the coordinated efforts of this year's "Nakba" assault. Protests and conflict erupted in Ramallah, at the Mount of Olives, and the Erez Crossing. On Israel's northern borders the fences were knocked down and Palestinians from Syria and Lebanon poured into Israel. *This is just a preview of things to come if Israel is not able to defend her borders.*

What may be surprising to some is that many Palestinians fear what this may mean for their lives. In a recent poll, 70% of all Arabs in the Jewish State prefer to live in Israel. In other words, no one is climbing the fences to escape into Egypt or Saudi Arabia. Will Palestine merely become a larger version of Gaza? Now that Hamas and Fatah have decided to unify, this most likely will be the case.

As the only functioning democracy in the Middle East, Israel must be able to defend herself. The Jewish State is a buffer that keeps hard-line Islam in check throughout the region. But if Israel is required to turn

the clock back 44 years to 1967, this buffer will be lost.

Now that Fatah and Hamas have united, the proposal for a peaceful Palestine would seem to be all but dead. Yet the talks go on as if nothing has happened. What

other country in the world has to give up its land to a terrorist group like Hamas?

Their agenda is a commitment to the destruction of the State of Israel.

If the U.N. vote goes through and is enforced, Israel will be unable to defend herself. Here is what we can expect if all of this comes to pass:

- We know that the God of heaven protects Israel, but humanly speaking, U.N. approval of a Palestinian State will be a disaster for Jews and for the State of Israel. An unstable Israel equals an unstable world.
- Many Palestinians are privately against the U.N. proposal, as they have a measure of protection living in Israel that could soon be gone.
- The Middle East will become even more volatile as hard-line Palestinian Muslims will be manipulated by outside forces like Iran to take the next step towards eradicating Israel.
- Militant Islam, which is the driving force behind all of this, will sense a weakened Israel and regional war will most certainly occur.

Sounds like it's time to pray.

Tom Doyle, a friend of Chosen People Ministries, is Vice President of **e3 Partners** and the Middle East Director for the ministry. Tom and his wife JoAnn are committed to reaching the Middle East with the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ.

They work with Jews and Palestinians that love Jesus and each other.



He is also the author of several books including *Two Nations Under God—Why You Should Care About Israel* (B/H Publishing) and *Breakthrough—The Return of Hope to the Middle East* (Authentic Publishing).



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 FUNERAL DIRGE OVER DEAD RELIGION

(Mt. 23:13-34)

Jesus pronounced eight woes over the Pharisees. One of the most sobering questions we can ask ourselves is whether we are repeating their errors!

First Woe: Bolting and Blocking the Door to Salvation (Mt. 23:13)

Jesus declared, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture"* (Jn. 10:9). When traveling one day, I saw a church and attempted to enter for a season of prayer—but unfortunately, the door was locked!

Second Woe: Robbery in the Name of Religion (Mt. 23:14)

Some of the Pharisees took advantage of people in order to rob them of their money. Many modern religious groups have been exposed as they have exploited their own members. False religion is like a "cloak of covetousness" (Mk. 12:40; Lk. 20:47; I Thess. 2:5).

Third Woe: Religion that Leads to Gehenna (Hell) (Mt. 23:15)

Gehenna is the "lake of fire" mentioned in Rev. 20:14. All "religion" apart from the Savior leads to Gehenna. Jesus declared that *"if you do not believe that I am He [Messiah], you will die in your sins"* (Jn. 8:24). A hollow religious system

without substance leads to a lost soul for eternity.

Fourth Woe: Religion without Reliability (Mt. 23:16-22)

Here Jesus condemns his hearers for breaking solemn oaths. No one was obligated to take an oath; it was voluntary. However, once taken, it was to be honored like a contract (Mt. 5:33). Unreliability in religious leadership is disastrous for any congregation. Woe to denominations or religious organizations that promise to teach the faith of the Scriptures but depart from the Truth.

Fifth Woe: The Hypocrisy of Majoring in Minors (Mt. 23:23)

Undue emphasis on Leviticus 27:30, which prescribes the tithing of mint, dill and cumin (spices and herbs used in cooking) was evidence of misplaced religious priorities. Justice, righteousness and mercy are far weightier matters.

Sixth Woe: An Introverted Value System (Mt. 23:25, 26)

Jesus' hearers missed the main destination that God intended, wandering instead in byways and country lanes. Jesus declared that they cleansed the outside of the cup and dish, but neglected the

primacy of faith in the planning of their priorities.

Seventh Woe: A Religion of Whitewashed Tombs (Mt. 23:27, 28)

Annually, before Passover, Jewish people whitewashed tombs so that no one would come into contact with them and become ceremonially unclean. Corrupt religion may appear adorned on the exterior, but internally it is dead and defiled.

Eighth Woe: The Woe of Self-Deception (Mt. 23:34)

The Pharisees declared that they would have defended all their righteous prophets, had they lived in their day. Yet Jesus declared, *"...I send you prophets, wise men and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify..."* (Mt. 23:34).

Even so, the Scripture prophesies the repentance of the Jewish people—*"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn"* (Zech. 12:10).

Do you have the courage to measure yourself with the standard set by the King of Kings?

GOSPEL GOES OUT IN NEW YORK CITY

New York City has the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, and we are constantly seeking new opportunities to reach this community with the Good News. May 1st was Holocaust Remembrance Day, a day set apart to remember the Holocaust, its victims, and all its horrors. On this solemn day, Chosen People Ministries' Messianic congregation held an outreach concert in Central Park which was attended by over a thousand people. The Gospel was presented through music, dance, and a message of reconciliation and hope because the love of the Father was demonstrated in His Son, the Messiah of Israel. Congregation leader Steve Fenchel asks, "Please pray with us for the Lord to open doors for our ministry and for a great harvest of Jewish souls to come to know their Redeemer."

FAITH DECISIONS IN RUSSIA

Reports of the Lord working through our Messianic Passover Seders continue to come in from around the globe. In our Moscow Messianic congregation, Kirill P. led seven seekers in a prayer of salvation! We held Messianic Passover Seders not only in Moscow, but throughout Russia from the Far East to the central region. In the Far East, one of our workers met a Jewish man who had recently been released from prison. He came to the Messianic Passover Seder and there experienced real freedom—he met Messiah Yeshua and gave his life to Him!

FAMILY RECONCILED THROUGH FAITH

Igor and Vita Swiderski, serving in the Chicago area, recently had a wonderful experience in their children's ministry at a Messianic congregation. Seven-year-old Daniel's* parents were getting a divorce. Daniel was crushed and could not stop crying as he prayed with Vita for God to heal his family. Daniel's mother continued coming to the services, but his father, who had moved out of the home, has always been very opposed to Yeshua. One week, Daniel came running with a huge smile on his face. "Vita, I am so happy!" he said. "Mom and Dad are back together!" Vita could not believe her ears, but then she saw his parents come in together and stay for the whole service! They later shared that God had changed their hearts. Please continue praying for Daniel's father to receive his Messiah.

NEW LIFE IN THE WILDERNESS

Neriyah and Anna A., ministering in Israel, recently experienced the joy of leading dear friends to faith in Yeshua. On the last day of spring break before the children went back to school, these friends invited Neriyah and Anna to the desert in the southern part of Israel. There, they spent about twenty hours hiking and talking about the Israelites who had wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Neriyah and Anna had been witnessing to their friends for the last two years, and on that day the seeds sown over the years bore fruit—the whole family committed their hearts to Yeshua. Neriyah reports, "After the hike we were extremely tired, but encouraged by the fact that our friends were born again in Messiah!"

"THAT WAS THE BEST SEDER I'VE EVER ATTENDED!"

Henry,* a Holocaust survivor, and Ingrid* were invited to a Passover Seder presented by Cathy Wilson and her husband Bob. Both Ingrid and Henry recited the Seder blessings and shared a comment or two during the evening. As Cathy describes, "Henry was absolutely fixated on the telling of God's deliverance at the first Passover and how it so gloriously points to Jesus." When they left that evening, Henry proclaimed, "That was the best Seder I've ever attended!" Cathy visited Ingrid and Henry three days later, and they extended her and Bob an invitation to their Orthodox synagogue. Please pray for this precious couple to put their trust in Jesus, the Lamb of God.



*names have been changed

Why I Support Jewish Missions



I volunteered with Chosen People Ministries this past April on the Brooklyn Messianic Center renovation. I helped Bob Seemar, the missionary in charge (right), and his son, Josh (left), do demolition on this Center in the heart of Orthodox Brooklyn, which will house many effective outreaches as well as a missionary training center.

I knew as I was volunteering on this phase of the building project that I was helping to advance the Kingdom and reach Jewish people in Brooklyn with the Gospel! There is no greater joy than knowing we are Jesus' hands and feet, putting our faith into action.

If you want to make a difference for the Lord and the Jewish people, and you are a qualified sheetrocker, plumber, painter, electrician, roofer, or have any other construction skills, please join us in building a testimony in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn. I know the Lord will use this experience to change you, for your good and His glory!

— Brian Read

Please continue to pray for the renovation of our new Brooklyn Messianic Center. We are looking for qualified and experienced volunteers to help with this vital project. Please contact David Sedaca at 212-223-2252 or go to chosenpeople.com/building.

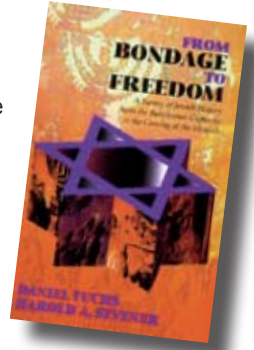


"The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will **arise and build...**" *Nehemiah 2:20*

MESSIANIC RESOURCES

From Bondage to Freedom

From Bondage to Freedom explores three eras of ancient Jewish history: the era of promise—from Abraham to David; the era of failure—from David to the Babylonian exile; and the preparation for the Messiah—from the exile to the Messiah. By Daniel Fuchs and Harold Sevensen.



From Bondage to Freedom [3034] \$16.95^{US}

Israel's Glorious Future

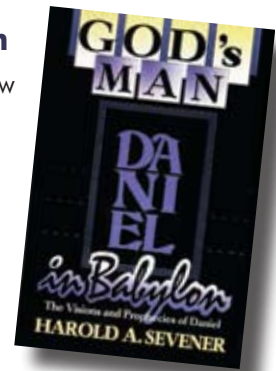
As the nation of Israel struggles to regain control of the land...as Arabs fight and riot against her...how can we know that Israel's future will indeed be glorious? By exploring the ancient prophecies, this book reveals the faithfulness of God to the everlasting covenants. By Harold Sevensen.



Israel's Glorious Future [3038] \$10.95^{US}

Daniel: God's Man in Babylon

A unique Jewish perspective that sheds new light on the events of Revelation, from Israel to Messianic prophecy. In a clear, readable format, Harold Sevensen, past president of Chosen People Ministries explains how the Book of Daniel applies to our situation today and tomorrow.



Daniel: God's Man in Babylon [3028] \$14.95^{US}

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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)

