

# The Chosen People



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# THE DAY OF PENTECOST GOD IS FAITHFUL TO COMPLETE WHAT HE BEGAN

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

The Giving of the Law, the Giving of the Spirit • Celebrating Shavuot • Recipe: Moroccan Chicken • Bible Study: Passover



# THE GIVING OF THE LAW THE GIVING OF THE SPIRIT

Shalom! Passover and Easter have now passed, but Pentecost is on its way! This beautiful festival, shared by Jewish people and followers of Jesus the Messiah, has far-reaching implications for us all.

## **The Festivals of Israel**

The Lord designed the festivals of Israel to focus the Israelites' hearts and minds on various elements of His person and plan. The festivals also point to the coming of the Messiah—this is especially true of the seven great festivals outlined in the twenty-third chapter of Leviticus.

I believe Jesus Himself had these festivals in mind, along with other passages of Scripture, when He told the two disciples on the road to Emmaus,

*“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:25-27)*

Passover is a prophetic portrait of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The celebration of Unleavened Bread reminds us of the sinless nature of the Savior. The feast of First Fruits, which takes place on the Sunday after the Sabbath of

Passover, speaks of the Messiah who would rise as the “first fruits” from among the dead.

### **The Fourth and Final Spring Festival**

The final spring festival is called *Shavuot*, the Hebrew word for “sevens.” This is because Shavuot is to be observed on the fiftieth day after Passover, after “seven sevens”—that is, seven weeks—have passed. In Christian tradition, the festival is called Pentecost, which is related to the Greek word for fifty.

At Shavuot, the Israelites were to offer the first of the grain harvest. This was symbolized by the offering of two leavened loaves of bread (Lev. 23:17). The festival was a day of thanksgiving to God, who had faithfully completed what He had begun—bringing forth a harvest to be enjoyed by His people.

### **Pentecost and Jewish Life**

There are many Jewish traditions associated with Pentecost. Tradition says that King David was born and died on the day of Pentecost, and that

Ruth took on the yoke of the Law on this holiday. In fact, the entire book of Ruth is read in the synagogue on Pentecost, or Shavuot, to honor this tradition.

One of the Hebrew titles for the holiday is *Zman Matan Torah*—“the season of the giving of the Law,” as the rabbis believed that the Torah was given on the day of Pentecost. We eat special holiday bread shaped like a ladder—a reminder of the Jewish tradition that Moses climbed a ladder to heaven to receive the Law.

### **Shavuot and Pentecost: the Fulfillment!**

If Passover was fulfilled in the death of the Lamb of God, and First Fruits was fulfilled in His resurrection, then how was the festival of Shavuot fulfilled by Messiah?

In the second chapter of Acts, we see this festival fulfilled in some remarkable ways. It is no coincidence that God selected this Jewish festival as the day when He sent His Holy Spirit!

The 120 disciples had gathered together to pray and focus on God’s work. They were waiting in obedience to Jesus’ command (Acts 1:4-5) and also because no work was to be done during Shavuot (Lev. 23:21). God blessed their obedience in a powerful way.

The presence and power of the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples on the fiftieth day after Passover. It was a new revelation, given on Pentecost in fulfillment of God’s promises to pour out His Spirit in the last days! (Joel 2)

According to rabbinic tradition, the soul of every Jew throughout history was present at Mount Sinai when the Law was given, and each person heard the giving of the Law in their own native tongue.



When the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus the Messiah died for our sins, those who listened to the disciples’ preaching heard this new revelation in their own native languages. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be present at this new Pentecost?

### **The Rest of the Harvest**

The Messianic fulfillment does not end there!

As I mentioned above, the Israelites were to offer two loaves of leavened bread to the Lord at Shavuot—a symbol of presenting our lives to the Lord, who provides the harvest. The harvest also represents the people who come to faith in Messiah—and it is our joy to offer our lives to the Lord and continue working in His fields until He returns!

Some suggest that there is even further significance to the *two loaves*—that they symbolize Jews and Gentiles coming together in the unity of the Spirit to work together, hand in hand and arm in arm for Jesus—until He comes again!

Jews and Gentiles have been brought together through the miracle of Pentecost, and we share a common calling to reach the world for Jesus. Together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we have a common mission—to bring the Good News of Jesus the Messiah to the Jew first and also to the Gentile! (Romans 1:16)

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support for Chosen People Ministries as we share the Gospel with Jewish people around the globe until our Messiah returns.

Happy Shavuot/Pentecost—and may the Lord fill you with the power of His presence!

Your brother in the Messiah,

  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

# CELEBRATING



## MOROCCAN CHICKEN

Prep time – 10 minutes  
Cooking time – 30 minutes  
Serves 8-10

2 large chicken breasts	1/2 tsp cinnamon
1-2 onions	1 14.5 oz can chickpeas
2 cloves garlic	1/8 tsp spicy chili
2 14.5 oz cans stewed tomatoes	Salt
2 cans water	Pepper
1 1/2 Tbs honey	Apricots and dates
1 tsp ginger (or ginger powder)	Pine nuts for topping

1. Cut chicken into bite-sized pieces and fry it in olive oil with the onion and garlic. Transfer to a pot with stewed tomatoes and water, and bring to a boil.
2. While simmering, add honey, cinnamon, ginger and spicy chili. Add the chickpeas and salt and pepper to taste.  
NOTE: This dish is supposed to be a nice blend of sweet and savory, though usually the sweet taste is a little more dominant. If you prefer less sweetness, just add pepper and a little spicy chili, but sparingly — you can always add more later!
3. Fifteen minutes before serving, add 1/3 cup dried fruit. The dates will dissolve and the apricots will blow up like balloons.
4. Serve over rice or couscous with pine nuts as an optional topping.

During the joyous Jewish holiday of Shavuot, many special foods are eaten to commemorate the *Zman Matan Torah*—“the season of the giving of the Law.” The rabbis believed that the Torah was given on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after the second day of Passover. Never before had the Israelites had the Word of God written down to read and remember.

Shavuot reminds us to be thankful for God’s Word and to delight in it. As the Word is read, it should bring joy, sweetness and happiness. This is why we eat sweet dairy things like cheesecake or *blintzes* (crepes or pancakes with a sweet cheese filling inside) on Shavuot. These foods help us remember that “honey and milk (God’s Word) are under your tongue” (Song of Solomon 4:11).

As Shavuot falls in the spring, right around the time of the first harvest, people often decorate their homes and synagogues with fresh greens, flowering plants and floral arrangements. Children weave stems together to make flower crowns. All this is done to remember the thanksgiving offering brought to the Lord as thanks for



providing the first harvest and provision after the winter.

The Lord provided a written Word for His people to be better able to

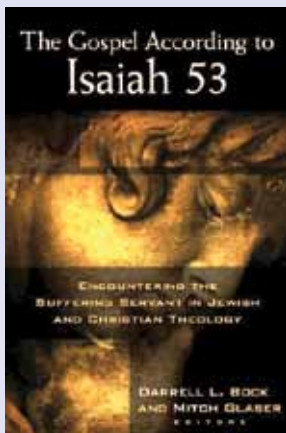
obey, and as an expression of gratitude, His people brought Him the first of the springtime harvest.

On Shavuot, most synagogues are open all night long for a special reading of the book of Ruth, one of the five *megillot* (scrolls, including the Song of Songs, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Esther, that are read on special holidays). The message is about a young woman who relied on the Lord to provide for her and her widowed mother-in-law’s basic needs. Ruth gleaned in the harvest fields as she hoped for her kinsman-redeemer to marry her. Although Ruth was not Jewish, she believed in the God of Israel and was rewarded for her faith. Shavuot shows us many examples of how the Lord provides for His people—in

# SHAVUOT

both practical and spiritual ways. As dawn approaches, you can find Jewish people walking home, having stayed up all night, ready for a little sleep and looking forward to a Shavuot brunch!

Ashkenazi Jews only eat dairy on Shavuot, but many Sephardic Jews from the Middle East, North Africa and Southern Europe eat dairy for brunch and a big meat meal later in the evening. Sephardic foods contain more punchy, zingy spices, couscous, chickpeas, eggplant and dried fruits such as apricots and dates. On the opposite page we've shared a traditional Jewish Moroccan chicken recipe with dates, apricots, honey, cinnamon and a delicious hot/spicy taste. This dish can be made quickly and served over couscous or rice for an authentic Sephardic Shavuot evening meal. Enjoy!



## BOOK REVIEW

Few biblical passages depict the suffering and atonement of the Messiah as clearly and poignantly as the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. Surprisingly, this text is not the product of New Testament writers, but the message of a Hebrew prophet who lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Considering the important role the prophet Isaiah plays in shaping both Jewish and Christian theology, this chapter should be of interest to any student of the Bible.

The recently-published work entitled *The Gospel According to Isaiah 53: Encountering the Suffering Servant in Jewish and Christian Theology*, edited by Dr. Darrell L. Bock and Dr. Mitch Glaser, provides an indispensable resource to anyone who desires to delve into the interpretive complexities of this chapter. Bock and Glaser have compiled contributions from a remarkable array of Christian and Messianic scholars to examine the various aspects of redemption and atonement presented in Isaiah 53.

Featuring contributions by distinguished Bible scholars, including Dr. Michael Brown and Dr. Walter Kaiser, this book offers a unique, diverse, and thorough analysis of the passage. Whether you are looking for a scholarly analysis of Isaiah 53 or ways to incorporate the chapter into a presentation of the Jewish Messiah from the Hebrew Scriptures, this book is a necessary addition to your collection. The anthology of great scholarship on a crucial passage of Scripture makes *The Gospel According to Isaiah 53* an accessible and valuable resource for all, including the most erudite Bible student.

See back page to order your copy.

# 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 INSTITUTES THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMUNION AT PASSOVER

### MATTHEW 26:17-30

Christianity is Jewish in its origin, as the context of the celebration of the Lord's Supper amply demonstrates. Passover, the first feast listed on the Jewish calendar on the 14th day of the month of Nisan, commemorated the exodus from Egypt (Ex. 12). This great feast, which had already been celebrated for 1,500 years at the time of the first century, was rooted in Israel's past and was uppermost on the minds of Jesus and His disciples as they dined with Him on the last night of His earthly ministry.

#### PASSOVER: DELIVERANCE FROM DESTRUCTION

The first of many attempts to annihilate the Jewish people was made by the Pharaoh of Egypt. God instructed the Jewish people to "*stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD...*" (Ex. 14:13). In light of the subsequent persecutions that culminated in the Holocaust and continue to this day, Passover has become a particularly profound holy day of hope for the Jewish people. It reminds us that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has not and will not abandon His chosen people (Ex. 6:2-5; Rom. 11:25-29). Other Jewish holidays celebrating God's deliverance of Israel from

destruction are Purim and Hanukkah. Had the Jewish nation been extinguished, there would be no Christ (Messiah) or Christianity.

#### JESUS AND THE PASSOVER LAMB

Messiah's ministry reached a climax at His last Passover. The death of Jesus took place on the first day of Passover, the beginning of the Jewish feast of Unleavened Bread (Mt. 26:17). In the days of Jesus, when the Jerusalem Temple stood, the observance consisted not only of the sacrifice of a lamb, but also of the special eating of the sacrifice, a joyous occasion for the Jewish community.

The Jewish people began to keep the Passover and all of its ordinances in the wilderness of Sinai under Joshua. But the Scriptures record very few specific Passover celebrations. Passover observance declined in Hezekiah's time, in the eighth century B.C. Under Josiah, a most memorable Passover was celebrated (2 Kings 23:21-23).

John the Baptist understood the significance of Jesus' coming into the world. Pointing to the Messiah, he declared, "*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" (Jn. 1:29) In the New Testament, the paschal lamb is

made to typify Messiah Jesus (Heb. 11:28).

#### JESUS THE MESSIAH INSTITUTES THE LAST SUPPER (Mt. 26:25-30)

The major feature of the Last Supper Passover was the announcement and institution of a New Covenant (Testament). Jesus demonstrated how, from that point on, the Lord's Supper would revolve around the partaking of unleavened bread and the third cup of Passover, the Cup of Redemption. Thus, the Messiah instituted "Christian communion." The New Covenant was implemented by Messiah's death, resurrection, ascension and the announcement of His return (Mt. 26:26-29).

On the day of Pentecost, 3,000 Jewish persons trusted in their Messiah and began to celebrate the New Testament era by "*breaking bread from house to house...*" (Acts 2:46). In this way, celebrating the Lord's Supper began to become separated from its early grounding in the Passover. However, Passover/communion will be celebrated in a new and fresh way when Jesus the Messiah returns to set up His Kingdom (Mt. 26:29).

# NEWS BRIEFS

## TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE ATTEND MIDDLE EAST CRISIS CONFERENCE

More than two thousand people attended the *Israel, the Church and the Middle East Crisis* conference in La Mirada, California. Speakers Joel C. Rosenberg, Dr. Mitch Glaser, and Dr. Walter Kaiser discussed the End Times and the role of Israel and her neighbors in God's plan. The conference also highlighted the testimonies of a Russian-Israeli Messianic believer and an Iranian evangelist and former Muslim. There were also seminars on how to witness to both Jewish people and Muslims. Recordings of the conference are now available (see back page).

## NEW BELIEVERS ARE ONE IN MESSIAH

Lawrence Hirsch, director of *Celebrate Messiah* (Chosen People Ministries in Australia), tells about an exceptional event that had never happened in their ministry before: "We had a baptism service for eight new believers in Yeshua (Jesus): three were Jewish, two were Iranian, one Iraqi, one Afghani and one Italian. All of them attend our Messianic congregation in Melbourne and they were all baptized in faith and obedience to the Lord despite possible backlash from their families. It was a very moving and inspiring occasion, and a great testimony of what Yeshua has done in making us one in Him!"

## REJOICING OVER A NEW SISTER IN MESSIAH

Staff members Eugene and Dasha have great cause for joy in the Messianic congregation where they serve in Germany. Magda,★ a Jewish young woman, recently received the Lord! God faithfully answered Eugene and Dasha's prayers for His Word to be effective and bring fruit in the lives of the Jewish people who come to the services. Magda has many questions concerning her new life as a believer, and Eugene asks for prayers for this new sister in Messiah.

## JOYFUL PURIM CELEBRATIONS TOUCH HEARTS IN ARIZONA

Cathy Wilson, serving in Arizona, reports that God blessed the four Purim (Feast of Esther) outreaches there. Over one hundred people attended, including a great number of Jewish seekers. Cathy had wonderful one-on-one conversations with many of these folks during and after the festivities. At one condominium complex in Central Phoenix, where many Russian Jewish people live, the outdoor celebration included dancing, singing and reading from the book of Esther. Cathy writes, "A Holocaust survivor who joined us was visibly moved, and a young Russian Jewish woman was in tears as she sang 'He Is My Defense' with me. What a lovely Purim!"

★name has been changed

## ISAIAH 53 LOS ANGELES OUTREACH REPORT

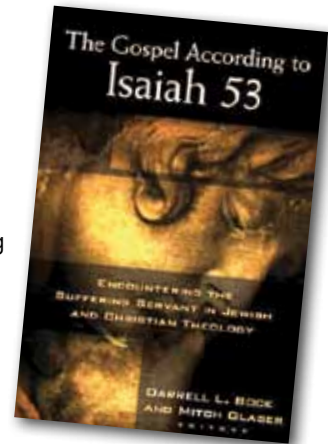
The on-the-ground Isaiah 53 Los Angeles team enjoyed an incredibly fruitful outreach on the streets and beaches of Los Angeles during the Isaiah 53 campaign in March. Using book tables with evangelistic literature, Messianic music, door-to-door visits and other creative strategies, team members spoke with hundreds of Jewish seekers about the prophecy of Messiah found in Isaiah chapter 53. We now have contact information from many of the seekers whom team members met, and Chosen People Ministries' staff workers will be following up to continue the conversations about Jesus.



# MESSIANIC RESOURCES

## The Gospel According to Isaiah 53

Equip yourself to present the redemptive work of the Messiah to Jewish people. Exploring issues of atonement and redemption, respected scholars show how Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's "suffering servant"—and offer suggestions on how to share the Good News with your Jewish friends. Edited by Darrell Bock and Mitch Glaser.



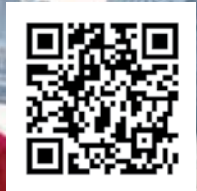
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For phone orders call 800-333-4936 in the U.S. Or for even more resources visit us online at [www.chosenpeople.com/store](http://www.chosenpeople.com/store).

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Saturday August 4 - Sunday August 19



More than two thousand people attended the "Israel, the Church and the Middle East Crisis" conference in March at Biola University to hear addresses by featured speakers, author Joel C. Rosenberg, leading evangelical Old Testament scholar Dr. Walter Kaiser, and Dr. Mitch Glaser. The conference also included a variety of workshops and panel discussions on topics



such as how to witness to both Jewish people and Muslims, the impact of antisemitism on Jewish evangelism, and the plan and purposes of God for the Jewish people. Many

were encouraged and equipped to delve further into the Scriptures, and to share the Gospel with their Jewish and Muslim friends.

### Special Limited-time Conference DVDs Israel, the Church and the Middle East Crisis Conference DVD set 8041 \$19.95US

All orders received before May 31, 2012 will receive FREE shipping. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



### The Chosen People Newsletter

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)

