

# THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL |  
A HISTORY OF CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES IN ISRAEL |  
ANNOUNCING ISRAEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY HOLY LAND TOUR |

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President, Chosen People Ministries

## GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

The modern state of Israel is simply the resurrection of the nation God created through Abraham

Shalom in the Messiah,

**I wish I had been alive on May 14, 1948!**

I cannot imagine what it was like for Bible-believing Christians to see the Jewish people reestablished as a nation in the land of Israel. I would imagine that believers who heard the announcement on the radio or read about it in the newspapers probably thought about some very specific passages in the Old Testament, which promised that the Land of Israel would be the possession of the Jewish people. For example,

*The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you." (Genesis 13:14-17)*

*On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants*

*I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates...." (Genesis 15:18)*

*"I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." (Genesis 17:8)*

*Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order departs From before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever." (Jeremiah 31:35-36)*

*"I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD. (Ezekiel 37:14)*

**And there are so many others—dozens of prophecies promising the Jewish people that the Land of Israel would be their inheritance...granted to them by God alone!**

The odds against these promises coming true were profound. Think about it for a moment. The Jewish people were attacked and dispersed from the land of Israel over and over again by hostile pagan nations like Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. These nations tried to destroy the Jewish people in many different ways.

Yet, the Jewish people always had a presence in the land of Israel, but truthfully that presence was small. For centuries after the destruction of the Second Temple, Jewish people have prayed for the restoration of Zion in their Sabbath prayers. The longing to return to the land always burned within the hearts of the Jewish people.

Attempts to destroy the Jewish people did not cease with the demise of these hostile ancient nations, but continued throughout



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the centuries. In the medieval period in Europe, Jewish people were persecuted and exiled by “Christians” in European countries and dominated by Muslims in the Middle East. The Jewish population dwindled in Europe as Crusades, Inquisitions, and Pogroms hurt the Jewish people causing loss of life and property and demographic shifts—but it didn’t decimate them. The Holocaust did though.

Nothing would compare with the attempted annihilation of the Jewish people by Hitler and his evil accomplices during the Holocaust as **the God who promised to preserve the Jewish people would not allow them to be destroyed!** So, in 1948, from the very ashes of the Holocaust rose an alleged new entity—the modern state of Israel, which in fact was simply the resurrection of the nation God had created earlier from the loins of Abraham and Sarah.

Beginning in 1948, the cities of Judah and Israel began to be rebuilt. The Hebrew language was reinstated as the common everyday vernacular. Jewish people from across the globe, moved by survival and persecution in Europe and the Middle East, fled to the nascent nation and though it was replete with swamps, deserts and dusty foothills, these early pioneers literally put their shoulders to the plow and broke through soil and rock to create the modern state of Israel. The immigrants came from all over the world: Europe, North Africa, North America, South Africa, South America, and from hundreds of nations where Jewish people have been displaced. But now...the Jewish people were home.

The words of the prophet Ezekiel in chapter 36 have come to life in vivid color as we have seen the resurrection of Israel with our own eyes. We know that God has fulfilled His promise, though there is more to come, because we have seen it ourselves. The prophet wrote,

*“I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,” declares the Lord God, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.”* (Ezekiel 36:23-24)

The restoration of Israel is a miracle God performed to show us that He is faithful to His promises. The return of the Jewish people to the land promised to her forefathers is in the process of being fulfilled and will one day be finalized when the Jewish people return to the true Messiah, Jesus, and recognize Him as the true King of Israel (Zechariah 12:10, Romans 11:25ff). And as sure as the Jewish people have returned to the land—this is how sure we can be that the Jewish people will also turn to Jesus in the last days.

Once again, the prophet writes,

*Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all*

*your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.* (Ezekiel 36:25-28)

As you can see, the physical promises are just beginning and the promises of spiritual restoration are just around the corner! Now that the Jewish people are at least in part back in the land of promise, we should expect to see the next steps take place where the Lord begins to stir the hearts of the Jewish people and turns His chosen people to the Messiah Jesus.

## CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES AND ISRAEL

Our Mission, which began in 1894, has been serving in the Holy Land since the 1930s. Our ministry in Israel has grown with the nation and continues to do so because of your faithful prayers and financial support. Thank you so much for helping us reach the nation of Israel when they were less than a couple hundred thousand Jewish people living there. Today there are almost 7,000,000 Jewish people living in the

holy land and your Mission to the Jewish people is there with over 20 staff workers—mostly Israelis—reaching out to the Jewish People. Through the Jerusalem Center, our benevolence distribution operates in five cities within Israel. We are now at work each day telling Israelis about Jesus through our rented Center in the greater Tel Aviv area.

For many years we focused on the growing number of Russian Jewish immigrants

in Israel. There was a tremendous harvest among these new immigrants and half of our staff in Israel, including our leadership team, are the fruit of this revival among Russian Jews who emigrated to Israel beginning in the late 1980s. We will continue to minister to the Russian Jewish immigrants and their families, but we have been slowly turning our attention to the millions of younger and more secular Jewish people living in Israel who are in such desperate need of the Gospel. I hope you enjoy the article about the history of our ministries in Israel. I think you’ll learn a lot about how God has worked in so many powerful ways among Israelis over the last few decades!

## JOIN US FOR ISRAEL’S 70th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

As you continue to read the newsletter, you will see the details for our celebration of Israel’s 70th birthday that will take place in July 2018. This is going to be a fantastic Israel tour—on steroids! We are not only going to travel to the land, but we are also going to host a Bible conference, introduce you to our Israel



NEW IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL

## The beginnings of our ministry in Israel predates the establishment of the modern state in 1948.

In the 1920s, we began publishing a joint Yiddish-English monthly newspaper entitled *The Shepherd of Israel*. At the time, we were known as the Williamsburg Mission to the Jews. In 1921, we started sending 200 copies a year of *The Shepherd of Israel* to Jerusalem, to a British missionary supported by our mission—Frank Boothby. Boothby operated a small storefront called “The Gospel Gate Room” which he kept stocked with Gospel tracts, Bibles, and our newspaper. Boothby reported that the Jewish people of Jerusalem loved the Yiddish periodical and would come by the building to pick up new editions. Boothby faithfully continued in this ministry until his death in 1940. He was our first missionary in the Holy Land.



The final years of the British Mandate were tumultuous times for all in the Land. Boothby had written

in 1938, “[W]hen it becomes known that Jews have turned toward Christ they are faced with bitter hatred and boycott from all Jewish sides, and the Missions have yet not found the means to sustain them or to provide jobs or work of a lasting kind.” After Boothby’s death, we appointed a Norwegian missionary, Sigourd Biorness, to continue the ministry at the Gospel Gate Room, and he often described the unique difficulties in the Land. Jewish refugees were pouring in from Europe, attempting to flee the Nazis, but there was a lack of food, employment, and shelter for the arrivals. Biorness was distraught by the needs of the refugees, as there was little his ministry could provide. Eventually the war closed most of the shipping lanes to the Land, so even Bibles were impossible to ship. After years of stagnation, Biorness resigned from the ministry in 1946, and the Gospel Gate Room went out of existence before the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Yet, the Lord would soon give new life to the work of our Mission in Israel.

In 1949, after the dust had settled from the War of Independence, our ministry, which was now known as the American Board of Missions to the Jews (ABMJ), called a new missionary to lead our work in Israel: Haim Haimoff. He began by serving 25 Jewish believing families in Jerusalem. Soon after, we called W. L. McClenahan to help Haimoff with the administrative side of the ministry. McClenahan was a Gentile believer who had lived in the land for 30 years, and it was his role to register our ministry as a foreign corporation. In 1951,

the State of Israel issued the ministry a certification, stating, “The American Board of Missions to the Jews is now registered under the laws of the State of Israel—one of the first independent missionary societies in the world to enjoy that privilege.”

This certification was a significant blessing, but like the new nation, our work was still on shaky ground. By 1953, Haimoff left the ministry and McClenahan passed away. We attempted to send short-term missionaries to Israel and keep our connections alive, but the Mission had no salaried missionaries in the Land for nearly a decade. It was complicated to send missionaries due to Israel’s immigration laws.

In 1962, Chosen People Ministries called Peter Gutkind, a Jewish believer, to oversee our work. Gutkind served in Haifa and taught Bible classes, distributed care packages, and passed out Gospel literature. By 1965 he enjoyed a thriving ministry in which Israelis were receiving the Lord and getting baptized. However, as the word of his ministry got out, the ire of a violent group of Orthodox activists was aroused. In August 1965, over a hundred Yeshiva Youth attacked Gutkind’s home and destroyed the contents within. Our missionary was spared physical harm and fled, but he knew that the Israeli police had purposefully taken a slow response. Our work in Haifa, just begun, was now in grave danger.

These difficulties challenged the Mission’s President, Daniel Fuchs, as he attempted to look for new ideas. In 1969, he entered into a joint agreement with the American Messianic Fellowship (now known as Life in Messiah) to do a joint broadcast of Gospel radio throughout Israel. The two ministries produced a 30-minute segment, seven days a week. The partnership continued through 1973, at which point our Mission took full responsibility for the broadcast. We also partnered with Victor Smadja, a Jewish believer who had established an Israeli publishing company, Ya’netz Press, and led a congregation in Jerusalem.

Also in 1969, Jacob and Leah Goren, both Holocaust survivors, received God’s call to join the ABMJ and continue their ministry to Jewish children in need. Soon after, Joseph Alkahe, who had been serving as a pastor in Tel Aviv, joined the Mission as well. The ministry was delighted to finally have a thriving ministry in the Land with multiple missionaries in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, and a daily radio program.

Gutkind retired in 1972, Jacob Goren passed away in 1981, and in that same year the ministry decided to cut ties with Alkahe for theological reasons. Leah Goren continued her ministry, but our work in Israel entered a dry season. One high point, however, was the creation of the “See Israel Through Jewish Eyes” program, which brought tour groups to Israel to experience the land and act as good-will ambassadors for the Gospel amongst the Israeli population.

By the late 1980s, our Mission, now named Chosen People Ministries, was struggling financially. Despite a hiring moratorium on new workers, the ministry saw the dire need for ministry in Israel as winds of change were in the air. We began ministry among the thousands of Russian immigrants entering Israel and called Avner Boskey in 1987 to serve as an evangelist in the Land. Boskey established a new messianic congregation outside Tel Aviv, and Albert and Greta ministered to the massive influx of Soviet Jews who were escaping the fall of the Soviet Union.

Two of those new Russian immigrants were Michael and Natalie Zinn. Michael was an engineer who had fled the Soviet Union to make a new life in Israel, but like other Russian Jewish immigrants, the Zinns did not know any Hebrew. They enrolled in a Hebrew language class for new immigrants, and while there, they met an American missionary couple who were also trying to learn Hebrew. They became friends, and eventually Michael and his wife accepted Yeshua as their Messiah.

Today, Michael Zinn serves as the National Director of our work in the Holy Land. He stands on the shoulders of many previous servants of the Lord who ministered in the Land. However, the lessons of the last century in Israel have shown us that ministry cannot stand still, but must always be adapting with the times and finding new methods to reach the lost. Our work amongst 1.4 million Russian Jews continues. Multiple congregations have been planted, benevolence work among the elderly and



FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN SDEROT FROM THE JERUSALEM MESSIANIC CENTER

Holocaust survivors is thriving and work among children through camping programs continues to grow and thrive. Multiple thousands of Israelis are now touched for the Lord by our over 20 Chosen People Ministries staff in the Land.

Perhaps the capstone of our efforts in Israel was the purchase of a beautiful building in the German Colony of Jerusalem, which is called the Jerusalem Messianic Center. It houses our Israel headquarters and is used to host Bible studies and social events designed for outreach. It also has the capacity to house a dozen short-term workers.

However, we believe we are in the middle of a new move of the Spirit as ministry among younger and more secular Israelis is becoming fruitful through the use of digital media. Unlike previous decades, there are now many congregations and believers in Israel who can disciple and follow up with these younger seekers.

This is why our Greater Tel Aviv Center may be the beginning of a new page in our work in Israel. We have the space for a thriving coffee house, evangelistic meetings, and Bible studies. Who knows what the Lord will enable us to do through this space?

No matter what the future holds, we are thankful for the ways the Lord has enabled us to minister in the land of Israel, and for all of the people who diligently served the Lord there in decades past, as well as those who continue to be a witness for Yeshua in the Land today.

staff and various leaders in Israel. You will not only receive an orientation to this miraculous land of promise, but you will also meet those who are doing God's work in Israel by reaching Israelis for the Lord Jesus. I hope you will be able to join us!

We know that there will be many who would like to join the celebration with Chosen People Ministries and so we will need to limit the numbers that we can take to the first 100 people who sign up!

## YOUR SUPPORT AND PRAYERS

We will emphasize the work of Your Mission to the Jewish People among Israelis during the next 12 months and until we celebrate the 70th birthday in Jerusalem.

Once again, we can only continue this ministry because of your encouragement, love, prayers and generous financial support.

I usually do not make a direct ask for funds in our newsletter, but this month I am compelled to

do so because of the great opportunities we have within Israel at this time. We are hoping to take a couple of young Israelis on our staff in Israel and it is simply impossible for them to raise support. If we had an additional hundred thousand dollars this year we would be able to take on two young Israelis to help us with our growing work especially in the greater Tel Aviv area. Please pray about giving generously today to our JEWISH EVANGELISM FUND that enables us to support our growing work in Israel and to support our ministries across the globe! We especially hope to employ a couple of native Israelis, who speak Hebrew fluently, served in the Army, went through the Israeli school system, and know their own people inside and out.

Thanks for considering this great opportunity for the Gospel! Please take a look at the enclosed card, which will enable you to make your gift.

Warmly in our Messiah,

  
Mitch

continued  
from  
page 3

## Hebrews 6:13-20

# An Encouraging Example



Dr. Rich Freeman, D. Min. serves as the Vice President for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia.

Dr. Freeman works with churches throughout the country and abroad, helping to equip God's people to share the Gospel with their Jewish neighbors, friends and co-workers and grow in their understanding of the Scriptures.

The writer of Hebrews concluded the last section with the exhortation to find someone whose faith should be imitated, calling them “those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” In this next section, he offers Abraham as an encouraging example of one who continued strong in faith and patience and obtained the promise. The promise to which the writer was referring was the one God gave to Abraham after he had obeyed God by offering up Isaac in Genesis 22. It was a promise God gave, by swearing by Himself, since, as the writer puts it, “He could swear to no one greater.” God swearing by Himself signifies that He binds His word to His perfect and holy character.

Quoting Genesis 22:16-17, the writer speaks of God's promise to multiply Abraham's descendants. God promised Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, when he and his wife, Sarah, were childless, that He would make from him a great nation. Abraham, though he was seventy-five years old, believed God to do what was impossible. He trusted God to fulfill His promise regarding his descendants by even raising Isaac from the dead should Abraham have had truly to put Isaac to death. Ultimately God's promise to Abraham to make from him a great nation was fulfilled by the birth of Isaac some twenty-five years after the initial promise. Thirty years later Abraham was tested to see if he indeed had the faith to trust God by offering Isaac on Mount Moriah.

By this example, the writer of Hebrews was calling his readers to do what God had called Abraham to do when He instructed him to go to Mt. Moriah. They too needed to continue to believe God at His Word, as they had done in the past, even though it looked as though current circumstances seemed to be leading them to persecution and tragedy. Abraham, “having patiently waited” and remaining unwavering in his faith in God

in the face of circumstances that seemingly were headed to tragedy, obtained the promise.

Beginning in Hebrews 6:16, Abraham is no longer the example, and the oath that God made to him specifically is now considered to be for the benefit of all believers generally. The promise of Genesis 22:18 clearly had Messianic aspects seen in these words: “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” Then the writer of Hebrews declared that the messianic hope was a sure promise, not only to Abraham, but also to the Gentile heirs of what was promised.

When a person wants to end a dispute, one way for them to do so is to appeal to a higher authority with an oath. As an example, some people do this by saying, “I am telling the truth so help me God.” In a similar way God used an oath to guarantee both to Abraham and by implication to all believers, “the heirs of the promise.” As noted previously, God swearing by Himself signifies that He binds His word to His perfect and holy character.

God, therefore, gave Abraham double assurance that He would indeed deliver what He had promised. First, he gave him the assurance of the promise of God for whom it is impossible to lie. Secondly, God gave Abraham assurance that specially guaranteed that particular promise with an oath. That is an encouragement to us as believers as we wait for our blessed hope, the

sure return of our Messiah—the Bridegroom returning for His Bride.

Hebrews 6:19-20 provides us with another visual that illustrates our security in Him. When Jesus our Messiah ascended into heaven He took our hope of a blessed future with Him into the Holy of Holies in the heavenly tabernacle—an anchor for our souls. What an incredible picture. Like an anchor for a ship, it should keep us from drifting away as the difficult circumstances of life toss us about like a storm.

### Read Hebrews 6:13-20 NASB

<sup>13</sup>For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, <sup>14</sup>saying, “I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you.” <sup>15</sup>And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. <sup>16</sup>For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. <sup>17</sup>In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, <sup>18</sup>so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup>This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, <sup>20</sup>where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

A Chosen People Global Ministries Celebration

# ISRAEL'S 70th ANNIVERSARY HOLY LAND TOUR

• JULY 5-13, 2018 •

Next year we will be celebrating the modern nation of Israel's 70th birthday, and it is our hope to gather in Jerusalem for a very special birthday celebration. We are planning six days of tours with experienced licensed Israeli guides, daily Bible conference meetings, and times of worship and celebration. There will be opportunities to learn more about the work God is doing in Israel today through Chosen People Ministries.

## BIBLE CONFERENCE SPEAKERS (EVENING MEETINGS)



**DR. DARRELL BOCK**  
Chosen People Ministries  
U.S. Board member and  
Professor of New  
Testament at Dallas  
Theological Seminary



**DR. MARK  
YARBROUGH**  
Dean of Dallas Theological  
Seminary



**DR. RICHARD  
AVERBECK**  
U.S. Board member and  
Professor of Old Testament  
and Semitic Studies at Trinity  
Evangelical Divinity School



**DR. GREG  
THORNBURY**  
President of The King's  
College in New York City



**DR. RANDALL PRICE**  
Old Testament Bible  
scholar and archaeologist

## DAILY TOURS OF THE LAND

For those visiting Israel for the first time or needing a refresher course, we have an excellent basic tour. Some of the more advanced tours will be led by archaeologist, author and theologian, Dr. Randall Price of Liberty University. He will take you to a variety of archaeological sites "off the beaten tour path." Experienced Bible teachers from Chosen People Ministries will teach the Scriptures at many of the sites.

We will be visiting: Mt. of Olives, Palm Sunday Path, Garden of Gethsemane, Lion's Gate, St. Anne's Church (Pools of Bethesda), Way of the Cross, Jewish Quarter including the Cardo ending the day at the Western Wall, Masada including cable car, Ein Gedi, Qumran, Dead Sea, City of David including the 3D movie & Hezekiah's Tunnel, Southern Steps of the Temple Mount, Upper Room & Mt. Zion, Friends of Zion Museum, Mt. Carmel (Muchraka), Drive through Nazareth & Cana to the Mt. of Beatitudes, St. Peter's Fish Lunch, Capernaum, Magdala, Israel Museum (Model of the Second Temple and Shrine of the Book), Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, View of the Knesset, Bethlehem, Ein Kerem, Ellah Valley, Tel Azaka, Beit Shemesh, Garden Tomb

## EPI-CENTER CONFERENCE

At the end of our tour, we will join thousands of other believers celebrating Israel's 70th birthday by attending a special Bible conference sponsored by Joel Rosenberg and The Joshua Fund.

**Conference registration fees will be the responsibility of the individual participants.**

## NON AIRFARE COSTS ARE \$1,075

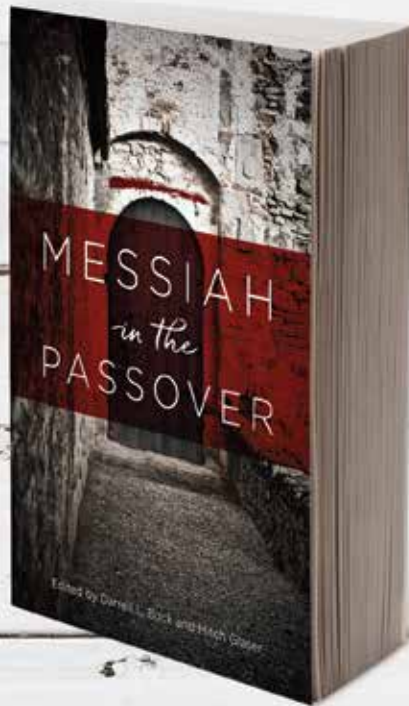
per person in a double room at the 4-star Dan Jerusalem Hotel. This includes 8 nights lodging, breakfast and dinner daily, and guided tours. The price does not include airfare, tips, lunches, and fees to attend the Joel Rosenberg Epi-Center Conference.

**For specific details and more information fill out the enclosed card or visit [chosenpeople.com](http://chosenpeople.com).**



**Messiah in the Passover**, the newest book by Chosen People Ministries, covers a full range of topics including the biblical foundations for the Passover and the Lord's Supper, the Passover throughout Jewish and Church history, as well as how Jewish people celebrate Passover today.

The book, edited by Dr. Darrell Bock, professor of New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, and Dr. Mitch Glaser, president of Chosen People Ministries, provides all that is needed



to conduct a Passover Seder in your home that glorifies the Messiah Jesus as the Lamb of God. Also included are crafts for the children, recipes so that you can make delicious Passover foods, and great detail on how to use the Passover as an evangelistic tool in reaching your Jewish friends.

**Get your copy of this amazing new reference book today!**

#3175 • \$24.95<sup>US</sup>

**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).**



**SHALOM BK**

OFFERING PEACE THROUGH JESUS THE MESSIAH

**This summer you too can be a part of God's grand design for the Jewish People in a unique and tangible way. Choose one week this summer to join Chosen People Ministries for this short-term ministry experience in New York City which has the largest Jewish population in America.**

**Week 1 | July 22-29, 2017 OR Week 2 | July 29-August 5th, 2017**

**To register or for more information, call 1-888-2-YESHUA or visit online at [www.chosenpeople.com/shalombrooklyn](http://www.chosenpeople.com/shalombrooklyn)**

**THE CHOSEN PEOPLE**



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