

The Chosen People



Volume XI, Issue 4 May 2005



NEW HOPE IN THE PROMISED LAND

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HOPE Amidst Growing Anti- Semitism

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom from Jerusalem. I am writing to you from our new Messianic Center! I wish you could be here with me! It is beautiful.

I am here for a couple of weeks to pray about and develop our strategy for the use of the Center and to plan some of the renovations that are needed. A few of our Board members and senior staff have joined me on this trip. The high point of our time has been meeting with our Israel staff members and their families. What a dedicated and capable group! I cannot tell you how important the Jerusalem Messianic Center will be to our growing ministry here in Israel!

It has also been a joy to get to know some of our new neighbors. Many of them are religious Jews, and we hope to reach them for the Lord. We will do all we can to love them and shine the light of Messiah.

The Israel staff wanted me to let you know that they are grateful for your support and prayers. We know we could not possibly have expanded our ministry in Israel and purchased this Center without your help.

Israel Still Embattled

As I write to you today, Israel remains in a battle for survival. Land on the West Bank has been turned over to Palestinian authorities, and this decision has caused incredible internal turmoil within Israel.

Just when we thought peace might come, terrorists have returned to their foul tactics. Just a few weeks ago, in the midst of an agreed-upon cease-fire, five Israelis were killed and 50 others were wounded outside a Tel Aviv nightclub in a suicide bombing. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for this reprehensible act. Once again, the Jewish people are reminded that there are those who are bent on our destruction!

Why would anyone intentionally organize attacks that kill innocent civilians? The simple answer is, "This is the very nature of terrorism." We all understand this. But this question brings us to the very core of the human heart and condition.

It is almost impossible for average people like you and me to understand the motives and actions of terrorists. Media propaganda

often tells us that these attacks arise from feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. We are then expected to understand that the only option for those who are oppressed is to vent their anger and accomplish political purposes through terrorism.

This is unacceptable. There is no rationale that justifies killing teenagers gathered at clubs or families as they shop in an open marketplace. We know that the human heart is sinful and, unless transformed by the power of the Gospel, can move individuals and nations to promote the very evil they seek to end. Terrorism is a cancer that destroys the soul and the dignity of those who resort to it.

Most of us cannot even begin to comprehend how fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters can commit these acts of violence against fellow human beings.

We live in an increasingly unsafe world. I read the newspapers just as you do—and shudder at reports that both Iran and North Korea are capable of producing nuclear weapons. I too am deeply troubled by their willingness to sell these weapons to nations seeking the destruction of Israel.

These things cause each of us to ask the question, "Will there ever be peace in Israel?"

Our simple answer to this nagging question is, yes, peace will come one day, but not as we would hope—not until the Second Coming of the Messiah, when He reigns on His rightful throne in Jerusalem.

What of the Future?

When He returns, a new season of peace will prevail not only in the Land of Israel, but also throughout the world—for Scripture clearly teaches that the destiny of the Jewish people and the nations is linked in Messiah.

As Paul writes in Romans 11, "*Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!*"

It is clear, "...for if their being cast away is the **reconciling of the world**, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?" (11:12,15).

In that day, all of the glorious prophecies associated with the Second Coming will be fulfilled. The Israel of tomorrow will not only live in the Promised Land, but will also be a people characterized by godliness and faith.

As Isaiah describes, "*Also your people shall all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified*" (60:21).

Furthermore, in that day, Israel will finally be at peace with her neighbors, or I should say, Israel's neighbors will finally be at peace with her!

Isaiah also writes, "*Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise*" (60:18).

We should continue to work for peace today, because we know what God intends for this region and for the world. But we also must have a realistic view of the nature of man. We are sinners and, therefore, the best way to change a nation is one heart at a time. This is why we are committed to preaching the Gospel in Israel among Jewish people—and of course, among Arab people—who are willing to listen.

It is a big mistake to think that, since we believe the Land of Israel belongs by covenant to the Jewish people, we are somehow anti-Arab or uncaring about Palestinians—especially when it comes to their salvation. Nothing could be further from the truth!

We know that true peace can only come when Jesus sits on the throne of our lives. We have seen some wonderful signs of this in pastors and young people, both Jewish and Arab believers.

We also hope that diplomatic efforts will be successful. One day without someone being killed is

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worth it, and we are happy to see the interest President Bush has taken in trying to secure peace in Israel.

Of course, it is not our place to comment about the methods used in the diplomatic process, but we do pray that the Lord will give our leaders wisdom and hearts to understand the Bible and God's plan for the people of Israel.

Living Today in Light of Tomorrow

As those who love the Lord, we feel that we must do something to help God's chosen people. We know what the Lord has in mind for the future, but what can we do today that will make a difference in Israel and for the Jewish people?

First of all, we need to continue praying for the peace of Jerusalem. This is commanded by the Psalmist, and also brings a great blessing (Psalm 122:6). When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we are really praying for the Lord Jesus to return and reign in peace.

We can also encourage those who are preaching the Gospel in Israel. As I sometimes say to friends, "Preaching the Gospel in Israel is legal, but it's not always safe!" We have a great team in Israel proclaiming God's Word, and I hope you will stand with these dear and dedicated staff members with your prayers and financial support.

We still need additional funds to pay for our new facility in Jerusalem, so that we will not have to incur any debt. We want to use all of our funds for ministry and not for interest on a loan. And we are very close! You

can give a gift towards the Center by checking the box on the enclosed response card.

I also want to encourage you to visit Israel yourself!

On my recent trip to Israel, our staff and friends enjoyed our first fellowship meal at the new Jerusalem Messianic Center.

Is it safe? I believe so! Our wonderful and experienced guides are very careful about where they go and would never allow you to be in harm's way. Besides, you are not the target. It is a great help right now to Israelis to have evangelicals visit Israel.

There is also a growing understanding among Israelis and the Jewish community in general that born-again Christians are the best friends of the Jewish people. Your presence on our tour in November, when we dedicate YOUR new Jerusalem Messianic Center, would be a great encouragement to our staff and to the many Israelis you will meet and have the opportunity to talk to about Jesus.

So, please read more about the tour in the attached flyer, and pray about coming—maybe bringing along some members of your church or congregation as well.

Thanks for your love and partnership as we bring Jesus to the Jewish people, in Israel and in twelve different countries across the globe.

Your brother in
the Messiah,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

P.S. REMEMBER...

Your generous gift today will be maximized, as we still have the opportunity this month to have your gift matched by 50%, if we receive your gift soon. Thanks again for praying about giving a generous gift to the Jerusalem Messianic Center!



Anti-Semitism – The Soul-Killing Sickness of the Western World



“Anti-Semitism is on the increase...and enlightened people are not immune to it.”

These words, written in 1945 by the renowned British author George Orwell in an essay titled “Anti-Semitism in Britain,” might just as easily have been written in 2005.

Richard Jinman, reporting on February 11, 2005, in the English newspaper “The Guardian,” wrote:

The number of abusive or violent attacks on Jewish people in Britain reached record levels last year, according to figures released yesterday. A total of 532 “anti-Semitic incidents”—defined as malicious acts on Jewish people or property—were recorded in 2004.... The figure was a 42% increase on the 375 anti-Semitic incidents recorded in 2003 and considerably more than the previous record of 405 in 2000. Among the 532 incidents were 83 physical attacks (up 54% on the previous year), four of which were life-threatening.ⁱ

If one wants further proof, one need only look at the party photograph taken earlier this year of England’s Prince Harry dressed up in a Nazi uniform.

Does it mean that Prince Harry hates the Jews? Perhaps not. But it does show that he is painfully ignorant of history. His widely reported “stunt”—for which he hurriedly and unconvincingly apologized—spits in the face not only of the Jewish people, but also of every civilian and military family in England who lost loved ones in World War II.

This widespread ignorance has fertilized the soil from which a fresh crop of “Jew hatred” has begun to spring, not only in England, but across all of Europe.

A Spreading Virus

Just as a virus has the power to mutate and reemerge in a more stubbornly pervasive form, the latest

waves of anti-Semitism seem to be taking hold and spreading at an ever more alarming rate. One measure of this is the firebombing of a synagogue in Lugano, Switzerland, this past March—the first incident of its kind there in decades. The fire, which was accompanied by another arson targeting a Jewish-owned shop, destroyed the synagogue library. Regretfully, we are used to reading about such destructive acts in France and Germany—but Switzerland?

Dr. Shimon Samuels of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, stated that the “...firebombings of the Synagogue of Lugano and a nearby Jewish shop are testimony to the ever-rising anti-Semitic violence in cities where, since World War II, attacks on Jews were thought to be taboo.”ⁱⁱ

The UN and Israel: High Points and Low

Israel began with great gratitude for the United Nations. However, the relationship has soured over the years. Here are some high and low points:

High Point:
In 1947, the new UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) recommended the formation of a Jewish homeland.

High Point:
November 29, 1947, the UN passed *Resolution 181*, which created the State of Israel. The vote was 33 to 13, with ten countries, including Britain, abstaining.

Low Point:
November 10, 1975, the UN passes *Resolution 3379*, which declares that “Zionism is a form of racism.”

Today:
A rift of resentment exists as the UN still serves as a mouthpiece for Israel’s detractors.

The World Jewish Congress, which keeps a close watch on such matters, has this glum assessment of the present situation: “Anti-Semitism in Europe has risen exponentially in the recent years...[and] is at a level unseen since the end of the Second World War.”ⁱⁱⁱ According to the WJC, a report just issued by France’s National Advisory Committee on Human Rights indicates that ethnic and religious-based incidents of violence in France have reached their highest level since 1994—including a rise in anti-Semitic incidents in 2003-2004 from 601 to 970.

The Anti-Defamation League, which was founded in 1913 and is one of the most important monitors of anti-Semitism worldwide, issued an open letter to Dominique Perben, the French Minister of Justice. Written by Abraham Foxman, the ADL’s National Director, the letter says, in part,

The recent report of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights indicating that anti-Semitic incidents increased dramatically in 2004, not only in number but in severity, is extremely disturbing.... It is good that France is addressing the problem of anti-Semitism. It is now critical that sufficient action is taken to make a difference on the ground to ensure that the Jews of France will feel completely secure in their country.”

Why is This Happening?

In an article written late last year for the U.S. Department of State, Edward B. O’Donnell, Jr., Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, observed:

What we are seeing today in Europe is a perverse combination of the new and the old. The old is the ancient strain of European anti-Semitism.... The new is the complex mixing of ethnic groups in Europe since the end of World War II.... This is a variation of the classic warning about new wine in

old wineskins. The new population mix... is having difficulties adjusting to the new situation into which it has been thrust. It lashes out at the very society of which it seeks to be a part. One of the results has been repeated attacks on Jewish community facilities and on individual Jews.”

These comments demonstrate uncommon insight, for they draw the connection between the past and present. In other words, the ancient prejudices are reemerging, dressed up in modern clothing. However, the root causes have not changed. Jealousy, fear and religious bigotry all have their part to play. But underneath it all is the same hatred engendered by our adversary, Satan.

Do these troubling developments mean that an overwhelming or even a simple majority of Europeans hate the Jews? The polls seem to indicate not. Even in France, most people disapprove of anti-Semitism. However, there is absolutely no doubt that this minority of haters has recently felt far more emboldened.

One of the most important reasons for this is the rise of hostility against the Israeli government and the media’s torrent of criticism against Israel. While many people (including many Israelis) freely cite this Israeli administration’s shortcomings as “the loyal opposition,” the fact of the matter is that many detractors of the Jewish people have used the increase in political criticism as a cloak for religious and ethnic hatred that has, in truth, little to do with politics.

What Can We Do?

As believers in Messiah, we have a vital part to play to stem this tide. Starting at home, we are charged with the task of praying for the Jewish people and demonstrating our support by coming alongside our Jewish neighbors with affirmation as well as the encouraging words of the Gospel.

GOD’S CURE FOR ANTI-SEMITISM

- The Jewish people are still God’s chosen people (Romans 11:1)
- Praying for the peace of Jerusalem is commanded by God (Psalm 122:6)
- God promised blessings to those who bless the Jewish people (Genesis 12:3)
- There will be an end-time judgment on those who hated the Jewish people (Matthew 25:31-46)
- Remember that Jesus the Messiah is Jewish (Matt. 1:1)

We must speak out against religious and ethnic hatred wherever we find it—not only against the Jewish people, but against anyone. The Body of Messiah has a prophetic ministry to stand against anyone whose words and actions betray that their source is the Master of Lies.

We must also search ourselves. Is there any false thing in us that needs the power of regeneration that only the Spirit can supply? For did not our Master tell us, “First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:5)?

The soul-killing sickness of anti-Semitism has only one sure antidote: the perfect love of Messiah that “casts out fear” (1 John 4:18) and carries us from death to life.

ⁱ “Anti-Semitic Attacks Rise to a Record Level” www.guardian.co.uk/religion/Story/0,2763,1410472,00.html

ⁱⁱ www.wiesenthal.com

ⁱⁱⁱ www.worldjewishcongress.org

^{iv} www.adl.org

^v www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/rm/38113.htm

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

by Daniel Goldberg, Th.D., D.D.



THE SECOND BABYLON – Snapshots of Sin

We discovered that the “First” Babylon of Revelation 17 was ecclesiastical—a “religious monopoly” (see last month’s article). But the “Second” Babylon described in Revelation 18 shows it developing into the economic and commercial center of the world.

Revelation 18 gives us three “snapshots” of Babylon’s role as future governess of worldwide commerce and prosperity.

Snapshot # 1 A Reputation For Wickedness

The picture we view of Babylon shows us the world capital of sin. This city, rebuilt during the Tribulation and perhaps situated once again on the banks of the Euphrates River, will no doubt serve as the future headquarters for the Antichrist.

Its future reputation will be broadcast from heaven above to hell below. It will become famous as a center of demonology and false doctrine (18:2), a vortex of sinful pleasure and luxury (18:7), the heart of worldwide commerce and finance (18:3,12), the distribution center for

drugs (18:23), and the pacesetter for the persecution and martyrdom of true believers (18:24).

Snapshot # 2 A Reputation For Riches

The commodities noted in Revelation 18:12-13 are all luxury items, not basics. Like in the jewelry department of an exclusive department store, we discover gold, silver, pearls and other precious stones.

Luxury items include citron wood, ivory, brass, marble, spices and ointments. Revelation 18 does not neglect the stomach, mentioning pastries, wine, oil, fine flour and wheat. All the merchants of the earth are made rich through serving this city. It is a metropolis where all luxury items have become the necessities of the greedy.

Snapshot # 3 A Reputation For Ruin

The ruin of Babylon described in Revelation 18:17-23 will be instantaneous and complete.

“For in one hour such great riches came to nothing...” (18:17). Here is the greatest stock-market crash of all time! In the 1929 United States stock-market crash, many committed suicide, and the reverberations were felt around the world. The Apostle John informs us that the merchants of the world will be found “weeping and wailing” (18:15).

The destruction of commercial Babylon will be final: “Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone . . . saying, ‘Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore’” (18:21).

Recognizing the Forces of Destruction

What are the reasons for the future instantaneous and complete destruction of Babylon? Can we recognize these forces already operating in our world today? They are: pride (18:7), materialism (18:11), murder (18:24), substance abuse (18:23), and Satanic practices (18:2).

What is the result of this ungodly combination? So thorough will be the destruction of Babylon that no archaeologist’s spade will ever unearth a single fragment of the city’s remains. The city “...shall not be found anymore” (18:21). The wrath of God is therefore executed toward those who fill their cup of iniquity to overflowing (18:6).

Contrast this with the words of Revelation 11:15: “...The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Jesus, the “Rock of Ages,” is the only refuge from the wrath of God, not only against the Babylon of the future, but against all sin, including our own. ☆



Our first fellowship meal at the new building. Michael's daughter helping Dad lead worship!

JERUSALEM MESSIANIC CENTER UPDATE

The Jerusalem Messianic Center is already being used to reach Jewish people in Jerusalem. Last month, a leadership training program involving 20 people was hosted at the Center, a joint project of the Caspari Center and Chosen People Ministries as well as some other Israel-based ministries. It was a joy to serve the body of the Messiah in Israel by sharing the Center.

As you read this, the building is being renovated! We are plastering and painting, and equipping the kitchen and meeting areas. We are doing all of this by faith, as we still need to raise the funds for the Center itself. The matching grant, which adds 50% to your gift for the Center, runs out in June. Please consider making a gift today for the Jerusalem Messianic Center. Our first outreach team arrives on June 1st!

STANDING ROOM ONLY AS RABBI AND MESSIANIC JEW DEBATE

Messianic scholar and author Dr. Michael Brown and Orthodox Rabbi Shmuley Boteach addressed the question, "Can Jews Accept Jesus as the Messiah?" at a spirited but respectful debate held in Scottsdale, Arizona last month. An estimated 1150 people attended the standing-room-only event. The question-and-answer period was heated at times, and there were good conversations afterwards. See the back page for a video of a previous debate.

MINISTERING TO THE DYING

Olivier Melnick, staff member in Southern California, heard that an elderly Jewish man who was on his deathbed wanted to talk to somebody about God. The man was a German Jew who had escaped the Holocaust and had lost both his parents in the camps. Olivier, who is also from Europe, established a bond and shared the Gospel with him. After some deep discussion, Olivier was able to lead the man to the Lord. Olivier said, "What a joy it was to see this Jewish man trust his Messiah and secure his place in eternity."

RETIRED – BUT NOT FROM MESSIAH'S SERVICE!

84-year-old Ruth Eddy may be retired from Chosen People Ministries—but she is still active for the Lord. Recently she struck up a friendship with Rita, another Jewish senior citizen. Although Rita had been "warned" about Ruth by neighbors who knew of her faith in Messiah, a friendship developed as they walked their dogs together. Ruth spoke of her faith and bought Rita a Bible. As their friendship developed, Ruth continued to share the Scripture. Finally, Rita opened her heart and prayed to receive the Lord.



► Staff member Neriyah and his baby daughter. Please continue to pray for Neriyah, who needs a kidney transplant.

Interfaith. United. And Loving It.

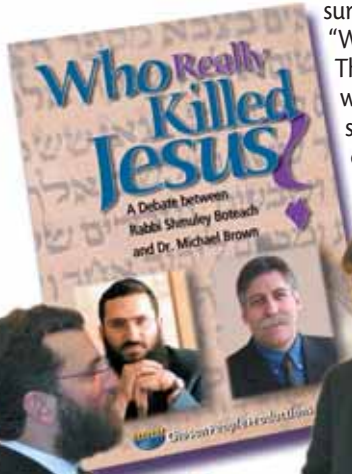
Joined Together? video by Chosen People Productions will explore answers to the pressing questions asked by your interfaith married family and friends. *Joined Together?* is a 45-minute documentary featuring four interfaith married couples who share their discovery that faith in the Jewish Messiah can bring a dynamic and joy-filled basis to their marriage, proving that holidays can be times of meaning and unity instead of tension.



Joined Together?
DVD #8024 • Price: \$19.95^{US}
VHS #8025 • Price: \$19.95^{US}

Searching for Answers

This spirited debate between Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and Dr. Michael Brown reflects the 2000-year-old controversy surrounding the question, "Who Really Killed Jesus?" This video of the live debate will provide a number of surprising and even startling conclusions.



DVD #8031
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Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

There's still time!



STEP-IN-A-WEEK July 10-17 2005

STEP is a whirlwind week of in-depth training, engaging evangelism and Jewish cultural excursions.

A typical STEPper's day:

- 7 am - Wake up
- 9 am - Worship/Devotional
- 10 am - Class - *The Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith*
- 1 pm - Lunch at Katz's Deli
- 3 pm - Distribute tracts around Brighton Beach & Coney Island
- 6 pm - Dinner at Nathan's on Coney Island
- 9 pm - End the day with a time of prayer for the people we met



Why not use a few days of your vacation to learn about the Jewish people, experience the culture and share the message of salvation? It's a wonderful opportunity to bring your home group or Sunday school class for a week-long ministry adventure!

For more information call **1-888-2-YESHUA**
or visit us on the web at: www.chosenpeople.com



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)

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