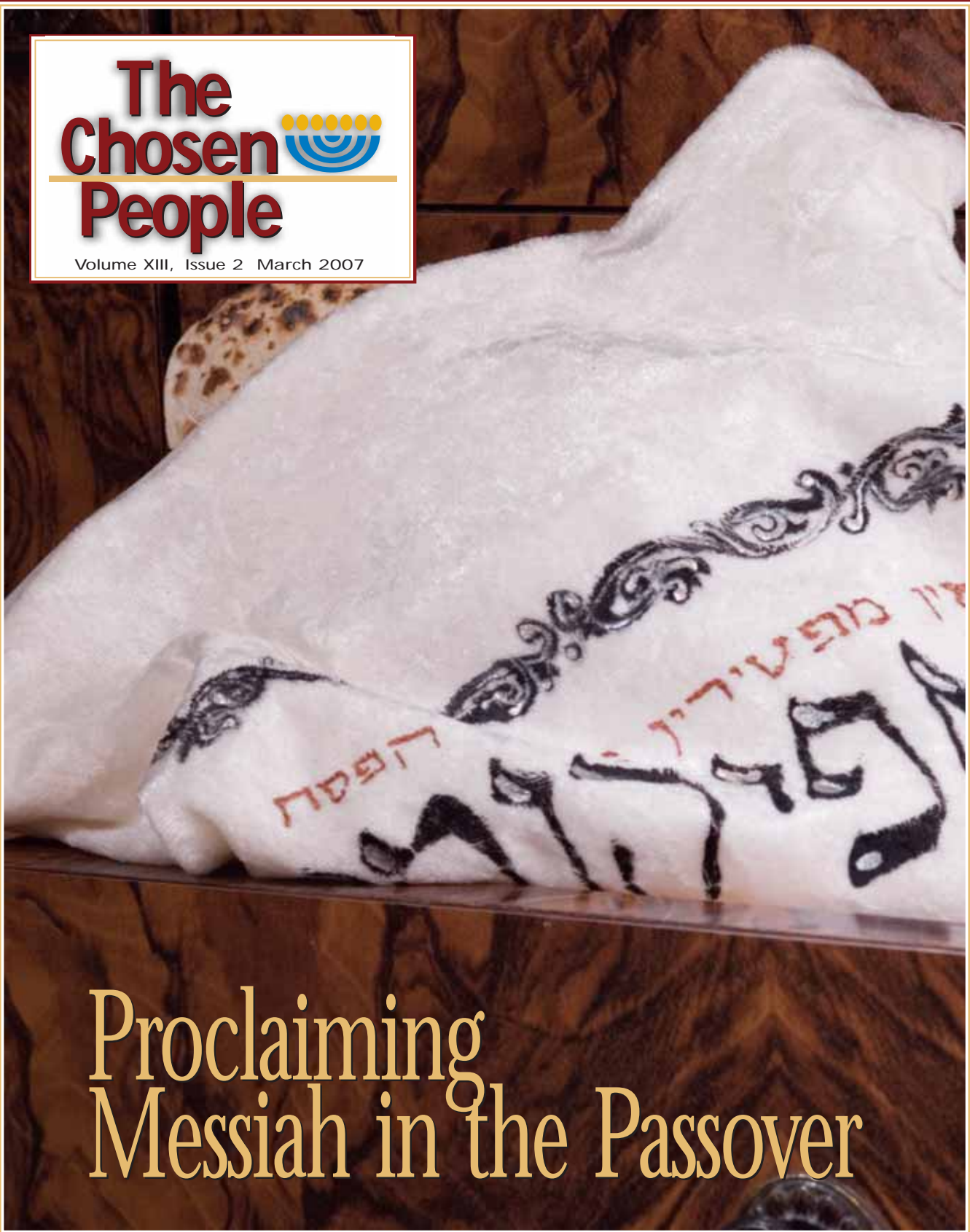


The Chosen People



Volume XIII, Issue 2 March 2007



Proclaiming Messiah in the Passover

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Celebrating Passover in Brooklyn & beyond



On April 12, 1892, the year that Chosen People Ministries' founder Rabbi Leopold Cohn arrived in New York City, *The Brooklyn Eagle*, a much-read newspaper in what was then the Golden Age of New York newspapers, reported the celebration of Passover—on its front page, no less!

An excerpt from the article informs us, “The ceremonies were of a joyful and thankful nature, and were continued at home where Sadir [sic: Seder: Passover Banquet] consisting of prayers, reading the Book of Exodus...and singing of Psalms CXIII to CXVIII inclusive—was observed, the heads of families leading. An elaborate repast, in which matzoths were the most important article of food, was also partaken of. This was a feature of every home, both rich and poor, many of the latter having been provided with the necessary matzoths by various charitable societies.”¹

In the 113 years since Chosen People Ministries has been in existence, much has changed in the borough of Brooklyn. The trolley cars are a thing of the past and so are the Brooklyn Dodgers. Yet surprisingly little has changed in Brooklyn's Passover observance. Jewish families still gather for services in the synagogues and at home to recount the story of the Exodus. Celebrants still dip the unleavened bread into bitter herbs and tasty *charoset*. The Jewish people have endured much and accomplished

much in that time—and so has Chosen People Ministries.

Telling the Old Story to a New Generation

This year, however, something new has been added—a Passover celebration by our Brooklyn Messianic Fellowship, a newly birthed Chosen People Ministries congregation that would make Rabbi Cohn proud. As is always the case with Chosen People Ministries' Jewish holiday celebrations, Passover in Brooklyn will be an occasion for outreach—especially to Jewish seekers.

Peter Shirokov, one of our gifted and energetic young staff members who leads the congregation, tells me, “Right now we are planning several outreach events and celebrations during Passover. We will have a Passover Banquet in Brooklyn, organized by those who attend our new congregation for the benefit of their friends and families. It is a great time to bring along new people and share a festive meal that is also spiritual. Some in the Jewish community rarely think about spiritual things, but Passover was always about a spiritual message in the context of a meal.”

The Jewish community in Greater New York City is changing—and Chosen People Ministries is responding to the new opportunities that change brings. For example, many recent Russian Jewish immigrants are moving to the suburbs, so this Passover, we are hosting a Passover Seder in Old Bridge, New Jersey, in the Russian language as an outreach by our congregational plant there.

In recent years, that area of New Jersey has become a home for many young families who have moved from Brooklyn to the suburbs, and we want to reach out to them as they seek to connect to their

The Search for the Afikomen

*After the meal is finished,
the leader of the Seder lets
the children search for the
Afikomen (dessert), which
was wrapped in an
Afikomen bag or napkin
and hidden before the meal.*

spiritual heritage. We know the value of Passover as a teaching tool to show how Jesus fulfills God's promises as revealed in the Hebrew Scripture and in Jewish history. Peter Shirokov says—and I heartily agree with him—“These celebrations are so full of images of Messiah. Many Jewish people hear such things for the first time during this season. We hope and pray that the message will affect people's hearts as deeply as God is willing.”

Proclaiming Messiah in the Passover around the World

In ministry centers throughout the world, Chosen People Ministries will be celebrating the Passover and presenting the glorious Good News of Messiah's atoning work as the Lord's chosen sacrifice for our redemption.

Vladimir Pikman, who directs the Mission's branch in Germany, sees Passover not only as a family celebration and outreach, but also as an opportunity to strengthen ties with the churches. He recently wrote me, “Almost all our groups and congregations [they are in 14 different cities] are planning to do Passover Seders. Usually, we invite the believers who belong to our congregations, and their families and friends. It is also a good opportunity, of course, to invite Jewish people who are not yet believers in the Messiah. In some cases, we will also invite German Christians to participate with us in these events. This is a very big encouragement for everybody who comes, for it also demonstrates a miraculous unity that Jews and Gentiles have in the Messiah.

“Our major Seders this year will be held in Berlin, Munich and Düsseldorf. We have sent invitations to many people to come and celebrate with us in Berlin and have already received many confirmations

from people coming from different parts of the country. We are expecting several hundred people! It is interesting that many of the Christians who are coming are going to bring their Jewish friends.”

We will be hosting Passover gatherings in Canada, the United States, South America, Germany, France, Ukraine, Russia, Great Britain, Australia and, of course, Israel—and wherever else Chosen People Ministries has a presence.

Celebrating Passover at Home!

Although Passover services are held in the synagogue, the focus of this joyful observance is in the home, where families gather to look back with wonder at the past, with gratitude for the present and with hope for the future. No Passover may truly be said to be complete without at least one guest at the table.

Of course, it is our hope that many of our Jewish people will discover that Jesus the Messiah, this Lamb of God and Bread of Life, is the ultimate “Guest” at Passover. The Seder points to Him!

Passover is a wonderful opportunity to bring the story of God's love alive in an unforgettable way. It is an especially moving experience for Jewish friends who will be touched by your hospitality and may respond to the story of Messiah's redemptive love revealed in this vivid way.

Contact us if you would like to attend a Chosen People Messianic Seder in your area—a great way to introduce your Jewish friends to the Messiah! Call 1-888-405-5874 for more information.

For Zion's sake,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

1 www.eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/Repository.



Zhava's Chocolate Macaroons

What's a meal without dessert? Every Jewish mother loves the excitement that follows when dessert is finally revealed—but on Passover, we need to be a little more creative. These chocolate macaroons (sort of like cookies only better!), one of my special recipes, are sure to bring smiles to your Passover table!

3 egg whites
1 cup sugar
1/3 cup cocoa powder
(unsweetened)
2 cups shredded coconut
(unsweetened)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
just a pinch of salt

First mix the sugar and cocoa together. Then in a separate bowl, beat the egg whites (adding the pinch of salt) until stiff peaks begin to form. Slowly sprinkle the sugar and cocoa mixture, and blend into the egg whites. Then fold in the coconut and vanilla extract. That's it! Now line a baking sheet with parchment paper, and drop the mixture by spoonfuls about an inch apart. Bake them for 15-20 minutes at 350°F, and then share a few!

Makes about 3-4 dozen.

Passover around the WORLD

There is no more meaningful celebration in Jewish life than that of Passover. It is deeply rooted in Jewish history and an essential part of Jewish identity.

But Passover is also as wide as it is deep, because Jewish communities around the world have added their own particular flavors by elaborating upon already existing traditions or even contributing their own. A brief tour of some of them can add to our appreciation of how the creativity of the Jewish people has adorned the ancient story and the time-honored traditions of the Exodus.

Passover Essentials

The essentials of the Passover are the same today as those we find recorded in Exodus. Yet, as Jewish history has unfolded, Passover traditions developed, and by the time of Jesus, such innovations were evident. The Passover was no longer celebrated in exactly the same way, "...with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover" (Exodus 12:11).

The Gospels tell us that the disciples reclined at the Passover Seder. It was certainly not eaten in haste, as the upper room discourse in

John confirms. Some believe that the custom of reclining is of Persian origin and came to symbolize the freedom of the Exodus.

The *Mishnah* (part of the Oral Law) specifies that even the poorest Jew must recline at Passover (*Pesachim* 10:1). Likewise, the four cups of wine, around which the celebration is structured, also are stipulated in the *Mishnah*

and are nowhere mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures but are loosely implied from the four expressions of redemption in Exodus 6:6-7 (*Talmud Yerushalmi*).

However, the unleavened bread and the bitter herbs still play the same prominent roles they had in the beginning. The *Hallel* (Psalms of Praise) is still recited. Also, another important exception is that the lamb is no longer sacrificed because of the destruction of the Temple.

As the *Haggadah*, the liturgical book used during the Passover Seder, developed over the centuries, additional readings and songs were added to the earlier portions of Scripture and Psalms. The song "*Dayenu*" ("It Would Have Been Enough for Us") is a relatively recent addition as is the spirited "*Chad Gadya*" ("An Only Goat"). These songs are a vivid demonstration of Judaism as a living tradition that is



constantly finding fresh application in whatever time and place the Jewish people may be found.

Customs of Passover around the World

Some of the customs that are particular to a specific Jewish community relate to the elements of the Seder Plate, which are the bitter herbs, the egg, the parsley, the shank bone and the *charoset* (a tasty confection that is meant to symbolize the mortar from which the Jewish people made bricks as they toiled in their slavery to Pharaoh). The four cups and the unleavened bread complete the ritual foods of the Seder.

Different Passover customs often originate in the distinction between the Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jewish cultures. The Ashkenazic Jewish people trace their roots to Germany and Eastern Europe; the Sephardic to Spain and the various countries in and around the Ottoman Empire to which they fled as a result of the Spanish Inquisition.

For example, the Ashkenazic Jews make their *charoset* with apples and walnuts. However, the Sephardic Jewish people sometimes substitute apples with a thick liquid made from boiled dates. The centuries-old Jewish community in Venice makes *charoset* as a

concoction of chestnut paste and apricots. The Jewish community of Persian descent is both creative and colorful, and is known to use oranges, pomegranates and even bananas for their *charoset* with pistachios instead of walnuts.

Likewise, *maror*, the bitter herbs, comes in different forms depending on the geographical location.



charoset

Horseradish is the staple of the Ashkenazic Jews, but in Sephardic lands the preferred choice is some form of lettuce.

The breaking of the middle of the three cakes of *matza* (unleavened bread) is a universal Passover tradition that is especially meaningful to Messianic Jews, because it symbolizes the affliction of Messiah (Isaiah 53). Some Sephardic Seders feature the leader trying the difficult feat of breaking this middle *matza* into the shape of Hebrew letters.

Another tradition not found among the Germans and Eastern Europeans is one that is practiced among Afghani Jews, who fashion



whips from scallions or leeks. During the singing of "Dayenu," Seder celebrants use them to beat each other (gently!) in memory of their ancestors who suffered under the whips of their Egyptian taskmasters.

Making Passover Your Family Tradition

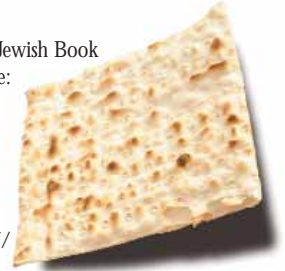
As you can see, Passover is a time when the creative energy of the Jewish people around the world can find full expression as the story of Moses the Deliverer is told and retold. The themes of freedom from bondage and the consecration to God's will are as relevant today as they ever were.

Passover is a wonderful family celebration from which Jewish and Christian homes alike derive great

blowing. Passover is also a wonderful outreach opportunity for Jewish and non-Jewish seekers. It is the old story of redemption and liberation made complete through faith in Messiah, the Lamb of God, who died for our sins and was raised from the dead.

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Jesus the Messiah in the Four Cups of Passover



The four cups of Passover are an integral part of the Passover celebration. They stand for each of the four promises the Lord makes to His people in Exodus 6:6-7.

The Cup of Sanctification

"I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

The Cup of Deliverance

"I will rescue you from their bondage."

The Cup of Redemption

"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm."

The Cup of Praise

"I will take you as My people."

The ministry of Messiah speaks to each of these four promises:

Messiah sanctifies us – "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth" (John 17:19).

Messiah delivers us – "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Messiah redeems us – "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

Messiah is our joy – "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



THE SOWING AND REAPING OF SIN

The record of King David's failure may be traced in 2 Samuel from chapters 11-24. Its tragic results are one of the strongest proofs of divine inspiration of Scripture, for it was certainly not normal for scribes to record the failures of ancient Near Eastern monarchs. Here Israel's greatest hero and king is viewed as a common adulterer, a deceitful man and a murderer.

THE SOWING OF SIN

David, the sweet singer of Israel, who had enjoyed such long and sweet communion with God, still had the flesh within him. And because he failed to mortify its lusts (Colossians 3:5), he exchanged the joys of divine fellowship for a defiled conscience. He also ruined his soul's prosperity and brought down upon himself a storm of calamities.

His sowing of sin began with idleness. Instead of accompanying his army to Rabbah to engage in battle, he remained at home. While in that idle, listless mood, David yielded to the lust of the flesh and its power.

His first sin was allowing himself to be captured by the beauty of Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. The fact that Bathsheba was married and the wife of one of David's outstanding warriors did not deter him. David took her and had sexual relations with her. Obviously, a man of God should have conducted himself in an entirely different manner.

When Bathsheba became pregnant, David devised a plan to hide his sins. But all his schemes were unfruitful. As a last resort, he sent Uriah to the battlefield to be killed by the enemy. This sinful scheme was abetted by the treachery of Joab, Uriah's own commanding officer.

One by one the commandments of God were broken. To covet, commit adultery, bear false witness and then commit premeditated murder was to break four of the Ten Commandments of God. Furthermore, David was convinced that his authority as king would enable him to get away with his evil plan.

THE REAPING OF SIN

Even though David repented bitterly of his sin, God repaid David in kind (Leviticus 24:20), for sin has consequences and carries with it temporal judgment.

David suffered for his sin fourfold. First, Bathsheba's baby died. Second, Absalom humiliated David (2 Samuel 15:6; 16:22). Third, Tamar, his daughter, was raped (2 Samuel 13), and; fourth, his sons Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah were slain (2 Samuel 13:29; 18:14,15; 1 Kings 2:25).

Tragedy after tragedy came to David in his family and to his kingdom—a prophetic fulfillment, which long before, Moses had outlined as the temporal judgments of God that would come upon Israel's disobedient kings (Deuteronomy 27-30). The sword would never depart from David's household, and there would be insurrection in his kingdom.

APPLICATION FOR BELIEVERS

David's sins and God's chastisement have sobering lessons for believers today. No believer, king or commoner, may disregard the law of God without serious consequences. Cover-up for sin results in multiplied difficulties. Sin not only separates us from God, but also produces evil influence on others.

On a more hopeful note, repentance and forgiveness restore fellowship with God. In our next issue, we will consider the repentance of David. ☆

Simcha 2007

Carlisle, Pennsylvania
May 25-28, 2007

In Your presence is fullness of joy. Psalm 16:11

Carlisle, Pennsylvania, will once again be the lovely setting of *Simcha* (Joy), Chosen People Ministries' annual Messianic retreat in partnership with Son of David Messianic Congregation of Wheaton, Maryland. The theme will be **Hope for the Future — Looking for Messiah's Return**. We hope you will join us for what will certainly be a wonderful time of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun!

Our staff has planned a full program of Word-centered workshops and other activities for adults, teens and children. There will also be programs offered in Russian.



For more information and rates contact:

Chosen People Ministries,
241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022
212-223-2252.

www.chosenpeople.com



This year's featured speaker is Dr. Michael Rydelnik. An internationally respected author and speaker, he serves as the director of Jewish Studies at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Dr. Rydelnik will be bringing four messages on **Israel & Prophecy**.

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- ✧ Chosen People Ministries around the World
- ✧ Jewish Evangelism Your Way
- ✧ Responding to Antisemitism
- ✧ Godly Caring for Aging Parents
- ✧ Models for Marriage in Messiah
- ✧ Hope for the Parents of Prodigals

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Matza Tash (#5026) \$22.95^{US}

This silver **Seder Plate** is made in Israel and beautifully displays the seder elements.

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Each of the four times the **Kiddush Cup** is filled during the Passover meal, the story of God's redeeming work among His people is illustrated. This silver cup is about three inches tall. Made in Israel.

Kiddush Cup (#5025) \$22.95^{US}

Complete Passover Set includes matza tash, plate and cup (#5027) \$65.95^{US}

The **Messianic Passover Haggadah** is a must for those who desire to conduct their own Messianic Passover Seder or to gain a deeper understanding of this important event. This Haggadah has been prepared to show God's redemptive grace in the Passover through the death, burial and resurrection of His Messiah, Jesus, and to symbolize God's spiritual redemption of His people.

Messianic Passover Haggadah (#3008) \$6.95^{US}

Our own **How to Prepare for a Passover Dinner** booklet includes directions, helpful hints, and suggested menus.

How to Prepare for a Passover Dinner (#1031) \$6.95^{US}

The Passover Feast has been observed annually by the Jewish people for more than 3,400 years, and this feast is certainly important to Jewish people. But why should it be important to Christians? This tract gives three reasons why: Christians will know our Savior better, will more fully understand the Lord's Supper and will have a more intelligent witness to our Jewish friends.

The Importance of Passover - Tract (#2004) \$0.50^{US}

Order online at www.chosenpeople.com, or for phone orders in the U.S. call 1-800-333-4936.

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. See more Messianic Jewish resources at www.chosenpeople.com.



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



A higher standard. A higher purpose.