

The Chosen People

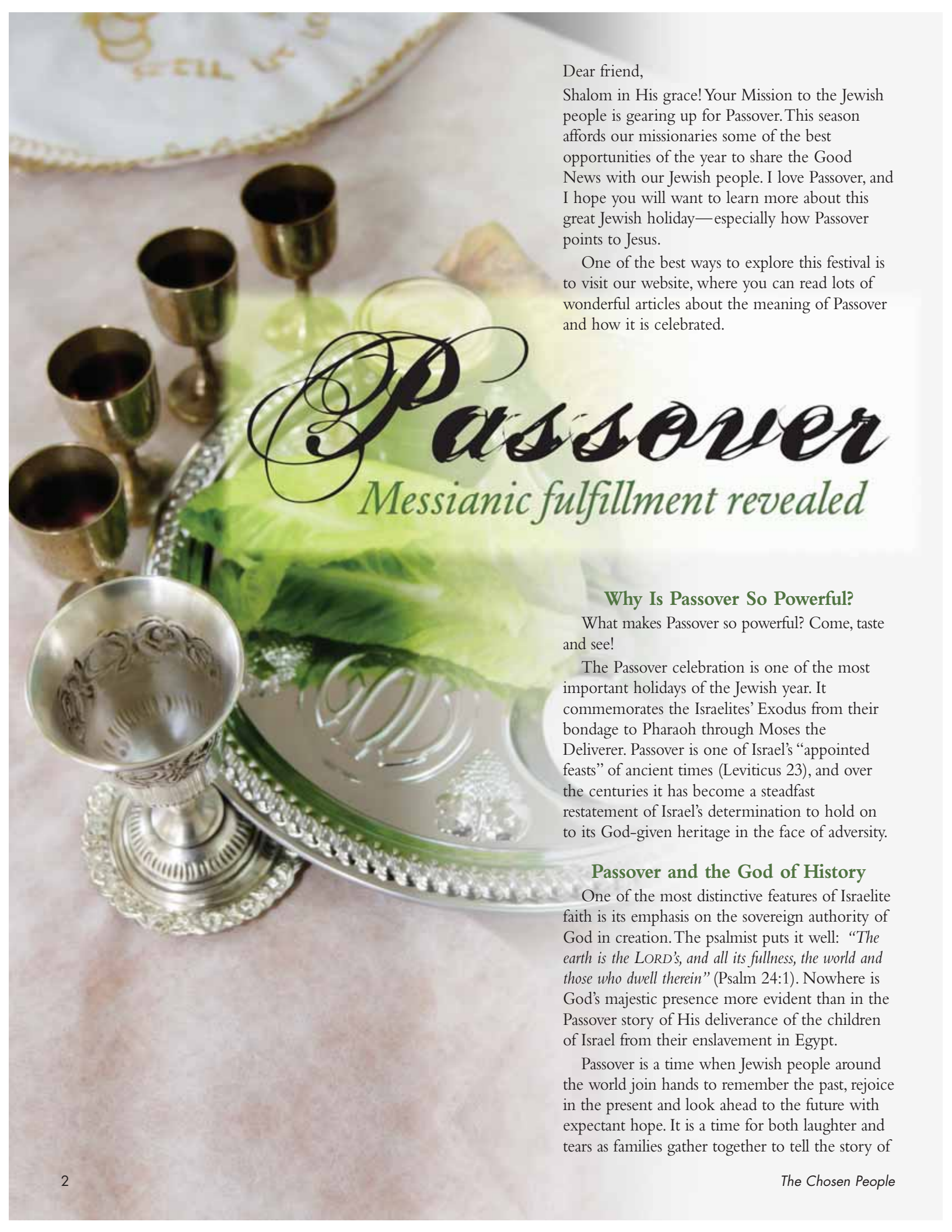
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Passover

Messianic fulfillment revealed

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A photograph of a Passover Seder plate. The plate is silver and contains green vegetables, including lettuce and celery. Several silver chalices are arranged around the plate. The background is a light-colored surface with a white cloth featuring gold embroidery.

Dear friend,
Shalom in His grace! Your Mission to the Jewish people is gearing up for Passover. This season affords our missionaries some of the best opportunities of the year to share the Good News with our Jewish people. I love Passover, and I hope you will want to learn more about this great Jewish holiday—especially how Passover points to Jesus.

One of the best ways to explore this festival is to visit our website, where you can read lots of wonderful articles about the meaning of Passover and how it is celebrated.

Passover

Messianic fulfillment revealed

Why Is Passover So Powerful?

What makes Passover so powerful? Come, taste and see!

The Passover celebration is one of the most important holidays of the Jewish year. It commemorates the Israelites' Exodus from their bondage to Pharaoh through Moses the Deliverer. Passover is one of Israel's "appointed feasts" of ancient times (Leviticus 23), and over the centuries it has become a steadfast restatement of Israel's determination to hold on to its God-given heritage in the face of adversity.

Passover and the God of History

One of the most distinctive features of Israelite faith is its emphasis on the sovereign authority of God in creation. The psalmist puts it well: "*The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein*" (Psalm 24:1). Nowhere is God's majestic presence more evident than in the Passover story of His deliverance of the children of Israel from their enslavement in Egypt.

Passover is a time when Jewish people around the world join hands to remember the past, rejoice in the present and look ahead to the future with expectant hope. It is a time for both laughter and tears as families gather together to tell the story of

Moses and Pharaoh, of bondage and freedom, of mercy and judgment, and the redeeming power of a God who remembers His covenant promises to His beloved people.

It is also something more. The Exodus and the Passover are part of the series of events that God has placed into motion, beginning with Abraham. His hand is evident in the lives of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs. This same God guides His people through Moses, Joshua, the Judges, the Prophets, Priests and Kings. God has been present to His people both in the Holy Land and in Exile, and His will culminates in the ministry of Jesus the Messiah, who was present with the Father even before the earth was made.

Passover and the Ministry of Messiah

Who has not fantasized about traveling back in time? To celebrate the Passover is almost as close as you can get! Just as Jewish people understand that the purpose of the Passover is to allow each person to participate in the Exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago, so it is that the Passover banquet allows believers in Messiah to visualize ourselves sitting alongside the disciples in the presence of Jesus Himself on the night before His crucifixion.

While the themes of Passover—freedom, the overthrow of the wicked and the victory of the powerless—strike a chord with people from many cultures, believers in Messiah have a special reason to cherish the Passover. On a certain night almost two thousand years ago, Jesus the Messiah sat with the disciples, took the heavenly symbols of the Passover into His earthly hands, reinterpreted them and fulfilled their meaning as only He could.

In His hands, the unleavened Bread of Affliction, symbolizing the suffering of Israel, became something

more—it became His affliction and suffering. The Third Cup of Redemption, symbolic of the blood of the Passover Lamb, became the redeeming power of His own blood, shed for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28). From that moment forward, the Passover meal was forever transformed.

The Passover celebration has changed so little since the time of Jesus' ministry among us that as we read the Gospel accounts of the Last Supper, we are struck by how closely they parallel the same Passover service the Jewish people observe from year to year. As we recount the same events that Jesus and those who were with Him on the last night of His earthly life remembered, it is as though we are receiving the Bread of Affliction and the Cup of Redemption from His own hands.

Elijah's Chair and the Ministry of God's People

Passover is not merely a time to look back at a storied past; it is also a time to look confidently ahead to a glorious future. The tradition of the empty chair of Elijah, which symbolizes the promised coming of the Messiah, is a sign to believers that there is work for us to do before He arrives in glory.

That work is to faithfully carry forward the Great Commission, especially to the Jewish people (Romans 1:16), obediently and sacrificially demonstrating His love to all. Chosen People Ministries is called to partner with churches and believers in this wonderful calling, and I am both proud (in a good sense) and grateful to be a part of it.

Bringing Redemption from Sin!

I often view our Chosen People Ministries workers, congregations and Centers all across the globe as signposts to a sinful and broken world announcing the good news



that salvation for sin is available—to the Jew first!

We are opening a new Messianic Outreach Center in the heart of Jewish Brooklyn, home to almost 900,000 Jewish people. This was no easy task, as five Jewish landlords refused to rent to us because of our faith—but God provided! We already have a thriving Russian Messianic Jewish congregation in Brooklyn that will move out of a home and into this new space. This wonderful ministry site will also allow us to do evangelism among Israelis and more religious Jewish people. Please pray for us as we increase our presence in this borough of New York City.

I would love to tell you more about our works in Los Angeles, which I recently visited, or in Florida, where we are in the process of renovating our new Messianic Outreach Center in the Jewish heart of Palm Beach County.

The Lord is faithful, and He continues to give us the joy of proclaiming redemption to our Jewish people through the shed blood of the Lamb.

May the Lord fill you with His joy this Passover. What greater joy could we have or share than knowing that our sins are forgiven and that we have been given the gift of everlasting life? I never tire of telling this wonderful story!


Thanks for your love, prayers and partnership.

Your brother
in the Lamb,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



MESSIAH in the Passover

A Powerful Instrument of God's Saving Message

by Scott Brown

So subtle are the workings of the Holy Spirit that it may be foolish to suppose they can be measured. Nevertheless, in the course of twenty-five years of sharing Messiah with my Jewish brethren, no evangelistic instrument has yielded more astounding results than the "Messiah in the Passover" presentation. It seems to be one of the Lord's favorite tools for probing deep into the hearts of Jewish people.

I will never forget the day God powerfully stirred several Jewish hearts during a "Messiah in the Passover" demonstration just a few miles from my home. It was a Baptist church in the sleepy little village of Ashton, Maryland. In the preceding weeks, the pastor had dutifully charged his congregants to "bring a Jewish friend" to this special service—and some did!

At the conclusion of the service, I noticed something unusual: a small crowd huddled in one of the aisles. Supposing this was a medical emergency, I rushed to see if I could assist in any way. While not a medical

emergency, it turned out that Divine surgery was in progress as the Spirit of God penetrated deep into the heart of a Jewish businessman who was lying prostrate on the floor and weeping. Once again, God had used the Passover demonstration to unveil the saving grace of Messiah's sacrificial death, burial and resurrection. Another Jewish soul was coming home.

A Life-Changing Invitation

After praying with the gentleman and noting his name and address for follow-up, I headed out the door. Out of the corner of my eye, I observed a rather imposing figure moving hurriedly in my direction, as though in pursuit.

As it turned out, this was yet another Jewish businessman who had been invited to the service that day. But instead of lying on the ground weeping, he gave me the distinct impression that he wanted *me* on the ground in tears! Being a lay leader in his conservative synagogue, he made it perfectly clear that he was not "fooled by this *meshugas*" (craziness) about the Passover prefiguring the Messiah. I offered him my usual invitation: "Why don't we meet for an hour this week and study the Torah to see if these things are so?" Energized by the prospect of proving me wrong, he eagerly accepted the invitation.

In the ensuing weeks and months, that "hour" grew to dozens of hours of kitchen table Torah study in his home. While there are many privileges associated with the work of a Chosen People Ministries staff member, the most profound is that of watching God lift the veil that lies on Jewish hearts (2 Cor. 3:15-16). The fire of God's living Word steadily melted away M.'s skepticism until that glorious day when he surrendered his life to the Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus). At a *Yom ha'Atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day) service at our Messianic congregation, during the singing of

Israel's national anthem, *Hatikvah* ("The Hope"), tears streamed down M.'s face as he privately encountered the Hope of Israel, Jesus. On the day of the celebration of Israel's independence, M. was set free.

Scott Brown is in the process of relocating with his wife, Margie, and their family to New Zealand, where they hope to minister as Chosen People Ministries staff through hospitality and "servant evangelism" to the many tourists (including a significant number of Israelis) who travel there.

Meeting Messiah in the Passover

A true story by M.K.

My life growing up in Washington, D.C., was as ordinary as you could imagine. I attended suburban schools and went to synagogue regularly with my family. We were not overly religious, but we were observant Jews and kept all of the holy days. My favorite was Passover.

My dad's family lived in South Africa, but all of my mom's family was in the Washington area. She had one sister and five brothers, and all of our relatives would get together for Passover *seder*—including six sets of aunts and uncles and thirteen cousins! We went through all of the seder rituals, ate a big meal and hardly ever made it to the end of the service. I guess you could say that we went through the motions without any real understanding.

After high school, I moved out of the house and also moved away from my Jewish upbringing. I was off to see the world and experience life, but I was looking for life in all of the wrong places.

Time marched on; I married and embarked on a very lucrative career. Three months after our second child was born, I received the most important phone call of my life. It was from a Christian business

associate who invited me to his church. He said a Jewish man was coming to speak about Jesus and the Passover. I was intrigued and accepted his invitation, and on Palm Sunday in 1992, off I went to church with my wife and two young children.

Little did I know the effect that the speaker, Scott Brown, and his teaching, "Messiah in the Passover," would have on me.

New Life as Messiah's Man

It was on that Sunday that I saw the Passover seder as I had never seen it before. I saw how the Cup of Redemption and the broken middle matza—hidden and later brought back to life for all—represented Jesus. I was rocked to the very core of my soul. God had grabbed my attention and I would never be the same.

Afterwards, Scott met with me to discuss all the issues that God had raised in my heart. My intent was to prove Scott and his message wrong, but as we studied the Hebrew Scriptures together and explored the idea of Jesus as Messiah, the evidence became overwhelming. Six weeks later, during the celebration of Israel's rebirth as a nation, I was reborn as a child of God and a believer in Yeshua (Jesus).

Scott disciplined me for many years after I came to faith. He encouraged me to go on Chosen People Ministries' Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP), where God called me into ministry. As my ministry developed, Scott was always there to go to for advice and counsel, and we remain close friends to this day. My eternal thanks go to this man and to Chosen People Ministries for saving me from death through Messiah's message of eternal life.

M.K., who must remain anonymous, and his family recently "made *aliyah*" (immigrated to Israel), where they have joined the growing staff of Chosen People Ministries workers in the Land of Promise.

ELEMENTS OF THE PASSOVER SEDER

The elements of the Passover, handed down through centuries of tradition, illustrate Messiah's life and ministry. Here are a few of them.



The Four Cups

These represent the four "I wills" of Exodus 6:6-7.

They are called

Sanctification, Judgment,

Redemption and Praise. The red of the fruit of the vine represents the blood of the innocent Lamb through which we are saved.



Unleavened Bread (Matza)

The "Bread of Affliction" illustrates the suffering of the Lord's sinless Servant on behalf of Israel and the nations.



The Lamb's Shankbone (Zeroah)

The shankbone stands for the sacrifice that cannot be offered because of the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. It reminds believers of the "once for all" sacrifice Messiah offered on our behalf (Hebrews 7:27).



The Parsley (Karpas)

This symbolizes the hyssop (an indigenous plant) used to place the blood of the Lamb upon the doorposts and lintels of the Jewish homes during the tenth and final plague (Exodus 12:22).



The Bitter Herbs (Maror)

Bitter herbs illustrate the bitterness of life in bondage to Pharaoh. They also remind us of the bitterness of Messiah's betrayal after the Last Supper (John 13:21-27).

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



AN INTRODUCTION TO MATTHEW, GOSPEL OF THE KING

Matthew's Gospel is a book written by a Jewish author to Jewish people about the Jewish Messiah. It is designed to present Yeshua (Jesus) as the King of the Jews. Matthew documents the claims of Yeshua to be the true Messiah, so that the reader can make an intelligent decision about Him.

Matthew (Levi) was an unpopular tax collector or "publican" in Capernaum for the Roman government. Jesus called him to discipleship (Mt. 9:9-13). His quick response was no doubt due to his exposure to the public preaching of Jesus. Matthew was officially chosen to be one of the twelve Apostles (Acts 1:13) and held a large reception for Jesus in his home so that his associates could meet Him.

The strong Jewish flavor of Matthew's Gospel and its anticipation of the destruction of Jerusalem (Mt. 24, 25)

suggest that this book was written prior to 70 AD.

Because Matthew quotes repeatedly from the Old Testament (a total of almost 130 times), his book is of special interest to Jewish people. Specific references highlight Messiah's fulfillment of prophecies that validate His claims to be Israel's long-awaited King. The phrase "king of heaven" occurs 32 times in the entire Bible, and only in Matthew's Gospel. The spoken words of Jesus comprise 60% of this Gospel. It is placed first in the New Testament canon because it is the natural bridge between the Old and New Covenants.

We must remember that Matthew journeyed with Jesus for about two years and would have had a vibrant recollection of His activity and preaching. In addition, Matthew no doubt drew upon other sources such as

Mark's Gospel and oral tradition. Hence his Gospel was cherished from the very beginning by early Jewish and Gentile believers.

Matthew makes reference to matters of special interest to his Jewish people, such as "the holy city" (Mt. 4:5) and "the holy place" (24:15; 27:53), to the "Son of David" (1:1; 9:27; 12:23), to the Law of Moses (7:12) and to the fulfillment of prophecies (1:22; 4:14).

Jewish questions such as the following are addressed :

- A) Was Jesus in the lineage of David?
- B) Did He uphold the Law of Moses?
- C) Had He come to establish the Messianic kingdom?

Since Messiah (Hebrew) and Christ (Greek) both mean "anointed," the Jewish people expected that the true Messiah would embody the three functions of Prophet, High Priest and King—all anointed offices.

Matthew's book is the good news to the Jewish people that all these hopes were fulfilled in Yeshua (Jesus). Utilizing a topical rather than a chronological approach, the following outline summarizes Matthew's treatise:

- A. Advent of the King (Mt. 1-4)
- B. Principles of the King (Mt. 5-7)
- C. Authority of the King (Mt. 8-10)
- D. Progressive resistance to the King (Mt. 11-20:28)
- E. Public rejection of the King (Mt. 20:29-27:66)
- F. Post-resurrection appearances and instruction of the King (Mt. 28)

This article begins a series of lessons on Matthew—Gospel of the King.

Dr. Daniel Goldberg was born and raised in an Orthodox Jewish home in Los Angeles, California, and became a believer in the Messiah at the age of 17. He holds degrees in Bible, Sociology and Theology. In 2002, he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

"IN THIS PLACE, I FEEL LIKE I'M HOME"

Ricardo Chemi, who leads Chosen People Ministries' Messianic congregation in Buenos Aires, had the pleasure of welcoming José,* a Jewish seeker from a traditional well-known local synagogue. After the service, Ricardo had the opportunity to talk to him about the Messiah and to explain that Ricardo's congregation was a place where Jewish and non-Jewish people got together to worship the only true God through Jesus, who joins us as one people. After their conversation, José responded, "In this place, I feel like I'm home."



PROPERTY FINALLY FOUND FOR BROOKLYN MESSIANIC CENTER

As you may already know, Chosen People Ministries has had a hard time renting a facility to establish our Brooklyn Messianic Center. But praise the Lord, we finally have found room for a congregation of fifty or sixty and space for other types of outreach right in the heart of a community of tens of thousands of Jewish people in Brooklyn. After five landlords who would not rent to us, we finally found one who would! We praise God for this wonderful opportunity.

A HAPPY REUNION

Retiree Ruth Wardell had a happy reunion with Jewish believers who attended her children's outreaches in New York in the 1960s. The group was called "Faith for Teens" when they were younger, and later the "Messianic Youth Fellowship." Her former students traveled from Israel, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, California and Texas. They are now in their 50s and Ruth is in her 80s. Some of the group had not seen each other since they met together in New York. We praise the Lord that the fruit of Ruth's faithful work remains after all these years.



*Names changed

"I WANT TO KNOW THIS JESUS"

Henry M.'s ministry can truly be described as "to the Jew first, and to the Muslim." As a guest speaker in Egypt for two weeks, Henry was required to report to the police for "protection" and to give them his schedule. For three days, the Muslim police followed Henry's team closely in their police car to the group's Gospel meetings. Finally one evening, the police supervisor sat by the door of the church and heard the Good News of Messiah. A number of people inside the church came to Jesus. After the service, the policeman waited for Henry at the door and told him, "I want to know this Jesus." Please pray for protection for this new brother in Messiah, and that God will use him mightily in Egypt as a light among the Muslims.

JEWISH SEEKER FINDS "JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH"

Michael Cohen, who serves the Lord with Chosen People Ministries in Southern California, preached a message at his congregation on Romans chapter five, which stresses how we are justified by faith in Jesus and that our justification provides us with peace, grace and access to God. Michael writes, "What was



exciting was that a Jewish unbeliever named Anna*, who had been witnessed to by many Jewish believers over many years, was visiting for the first time. Then, after the service, she prayed to receive the Lord!" Now, she attends the Cohens' Tuesday night Bible study for teens and adults.

I N M E M O R I A M

Robert Miller, whose life-long love for the Jewish people and unswerving commitment to Jewish evangelism inspired countless colleagues and others, passed away at the age of 92 on February 28, 2008. He and his wife, Althea, joined the Mission in 1966. Until their retirement in 1987, they ministered in Washington, D.C., and in Southern California. The Millers had nine children and numerous grandchildren. Robert was predeceased by Althea, and he is remembered as a faithful and uplifting teacher and preacher of the Word. Robert retained a sharp interest in every facet of Chosen People Ministries' work until the end of his life and he was always thrilled to hear of the ministry's ongoing activities.

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Bringing to Life the Story of God's Love at Passover

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To the Jew First (#3131) . . . \$21.95^{US}



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Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

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

