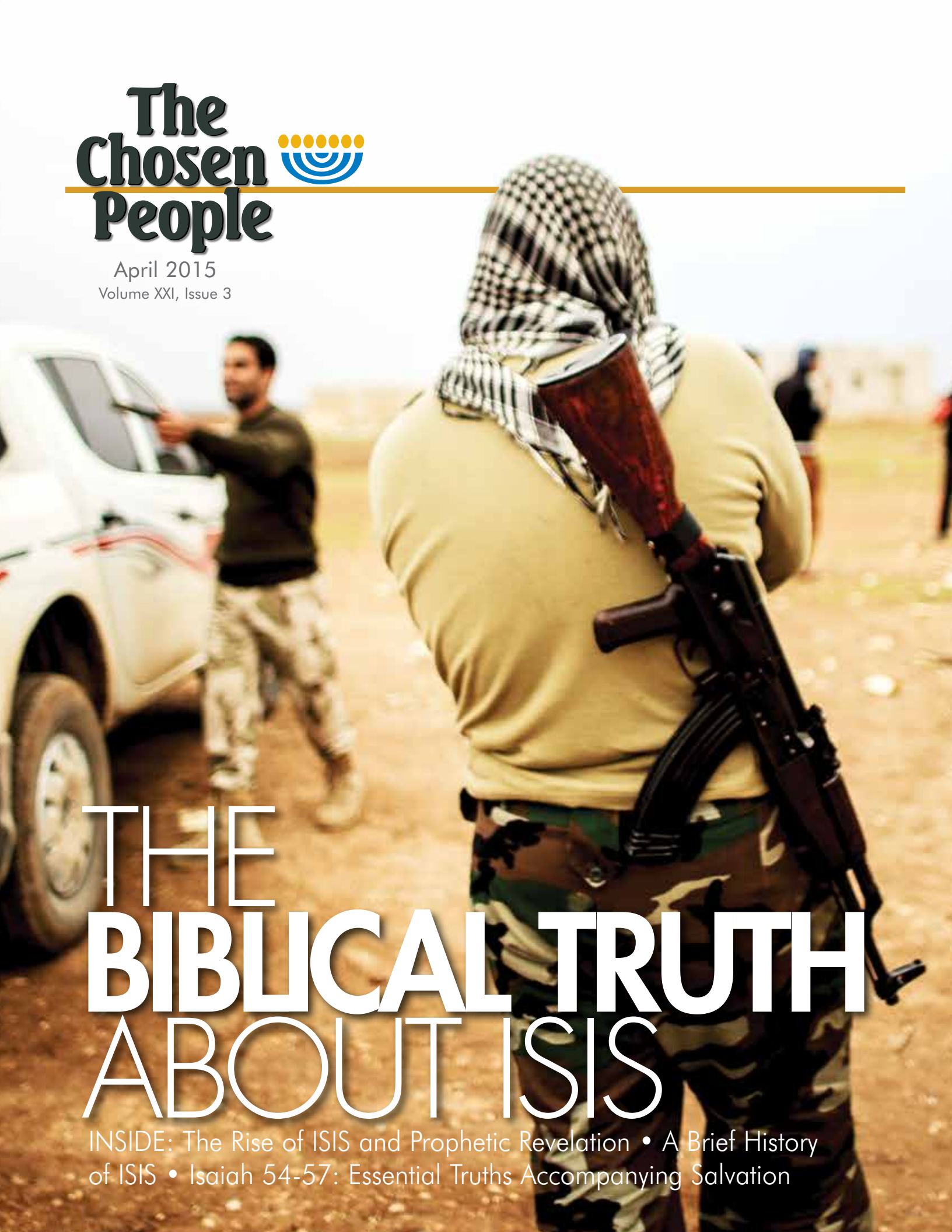


The Chosen People



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THE BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT ISIS

INSIDE: The Rise of ISIS and Prophetic Revelation • A Brief History of ISIS • Isaiah 54-57: Essential Truths Accompanying Salvation



The Rise of ISIS and Prophetic Revelation

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City!

We live in dangerous times. The rise of ISIS and the behavior of this movement towards Jews and Christians is sobering. Should the emergence of a group that hates and beheads Christians, inspires global antisemitism, and endorses the destruction of Israel surprise us? Probably not! Yet, we are only slowly coming to realize the extent of their vision and determination to achieve their goals of establishing a modern caliphate across Iraq, Syria and neighboring Arab nations. Clearly, we have seen that they will stop at nothing

Jews and Christians Experience a Common Threat

We will explain quite a bit about the history and purposes of ISIS in this newsletter, but it is important to understand that they are just one expression of a common stream of *jihadi* Islam that also flows through and determines the ideology and activities of groups like Hezbollah and Hamas.

I was heartsick when I viewed the photos of the Egyptian Christians beheaded by ISIS. It is evident that ISIS holds a particular disdain for Christianity, along with Israel and the Jewish people. But the battle lines have never been clearer, as it is obvious now that a common enemy unites the Jewish people with Christians.

The Future of ISIS According to the Scripture (Zechariah 12:1-10)

No one could have predicted the resurrection of an Islamic empire in the Middle East during these Last Days any more than we could have predicted the re-gathering of the Jewish people to the land promised by God. You must admit, we are living in extraordinary days!

Your Mission to the Jewish People holds to the promises in the Old Testament predicting the continuing return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel and the eventual full restoration of the Jewish nation. So let me explain, in light of scriptural revelation, why the shocking current events we see and read about should not take us by surprise.

The Bible envisions this *end-times* scenario and further assures us that all the promises to Israel, the Jewish people and the Church will literally come to pass one day in the future. The only question that I and others have is, “When does this prophetic future begin?” There is no denying that the scene is set and the table is prepared. We seem to be on the precipice of the return of Jesus and all of the events attached to what I call “the very end of the very end.”

Rightly Reading the Signs of the Times

One of the passages of Scripture that makes this clear to me is found in the writings of the great prophet *Zechariah*—whose very name means “God remembers.” Written in the days when the Jewish people had begun to return to Israel after the Babylonian exile, chapter 12 describes the return of Israel to the Lord and the return of the Lord to Israel.

I would suggest that you read the entire chapter and do not stop at chapter 12, but continue through chapter 14. You will see that the prophet views a final great war between Israel and her enemies, the repentance of the Jewish people and their turning to Jesus, the return of the Messiah, the conquering of the enemies of Israel and God, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God with Jerusalem as its capital.

As we follow along, we see that in the early verses of chapter 12, enemies are surrounding the Jewish people in Israel. After what seems to be a terrible

period of trial and tribulation, they are about to be destroyed. However, God cannot let that happen and promises to destroy those trying to destroy the Jewish people.

It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it... In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the Lord before them. And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:3, 8-9).

However, the Lord is not simply interested in saving Israel from her enemies, but rather saving Israel from her sins! And instead of a simple military victory, the prophet predicts the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disheveled Jewish remnant perched on the verge of destruction, who then respond to the pouring out of the Spirit of God upon them by turning to the one “who was pierced.”

I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10).

A season of national repentance falls upon the Jewish people who then experience what you and I cherish so deeply—the very covering of our sins through the blood of the perfect Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity (Zech. 13:1).

For the sake of space I will leave the reading of the rest of these chapters to you so that you can see what unfolds in that great day when the Jewish people

turn to Jesus. The Jewish people will be restored physically, spiritually, and nationally, which will then be used by God to bring the blessing of His Kingdom upon the entire world.

I am not making the bold statement that the rise of ISIS is the fulfillment of prophecy. But the rise of the Islamic nation certainly seems to fit in with the unfolding of God’s plan predicted by the prophets, as well as portions of the New Testament, especially Matthew chapter 24 and certain passages in the book of Revelation. Regardless, we need to be vigilant, prayerful and more committed than ever to the Great Commission to reach the Jewish people, Arabs, and all the peoples of the earth who so desperately need to know the soon-coming Savior.

I hope that you will find this newsletter helpful in understanding ISIS. I believe that we, in the West, are just beginning to fully understand their goals, motivation, theological convictions and the role they play in the world today, as well as in the future plan of God. With all my heart, I believe that we should take note of the signs of the times and be prepared to live for the Lord and to make Him known among the nations. But one thing I will stress: whatever may come about in the times to come, our future is secure for one simple reason—Jesus the Messiah is the ultimate victor!

Thank you so much for your prayers for the salvation of Israel and for your financial support. We could not continue this great work among the Jewish people in the United States, Israel, and across the globe without your help. Your Mission to the Jewish People is doing more than ever before to reach them with the Gospel.

Your brother,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



© Hrlumanog | Dreamstime.com - Al-Qaeda In Syria Photo

A Brief History of ISIS

In light of the global attacks of the last few months, most people are somewhat familiar with the group ISIS. The acronym has become synonymous with violence, terror and bloodshed. As they continue to advance their cause in the Middle East and beyond, we need to better understand who they are.

Their Name:

ISIS stands for the *Islamic State of Iraq and Syria* and is also known as ISIL or the *Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant*. By the end of June 2014, ISIS renamed itself the “Islamic State” as it proclaimed the creation of a global caliphate.¹ Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, their leader since 2010, declared that he was the new caliph and as such, was now ruling all Muslims. To date, the introduction of a new caliphate has been far from welcome by various Muslim countries. ISIS, ISIL and IS are all mostly synonymous.

Their History:

ISIS was founded in 1999 by the Jordanian extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Within five years, al-Zarqawi’s new group chose to associate themselves with Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda. They are considered to be Islamic extremists, Islamists or Jihadists, closely linked to the concept of *Jihad* or “struggle.” Various similar groups, such as the Taliban, Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda, Hamas and Hezbollah have also made the news for decades, but ISIS appears to be in a league of its own.

By early 2014, Al-Qaeda officially dissociated itself from ISIS, and the new group became a self-sustained entity. Al-Qaeda refused to be held responsible for ISIS’ actions which they deemed to be “too extreme” in some cases.² ISIS has proven to be a growing force to be reckoned with. They have lived up to their barbaric reputation. They continue to advance in the Middle East, spreading their grip on a terrified, ill-prepared region.

Their Ideology:

ISIS follows a very extreme form of Islam known as Salafism (in Arabic *al salaf al salih* means the “pious forefathers”). It promotes violence and bloodshed to establish and maintain Qur’anic hegemony through a very strict adherence to the

Qur’an and *Shari’a* law. ISIS adheres to an apocalyptic theology and believes that the *Mhadi* or “guided one” will soon arrive and redeem Islam. ISIS has declared *jihad* against all infidels. That includes westerners, Christians and Jews. But it also includes any other “Muslims” who do not pledge allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as the new caliph, such as Hamas.

Their Methods:

ISIS has taken less than 18 months to establish their barbaric reputation.

While they are still described as a terrorist organization, they are also known as a militia that is well trained in guerrilla warfare. They have shown great organizational skills from a military standpoint. This is unusual for a group of this sort where corruption, chaos and military inadequacy are usually the norm.

Their recent beheadings, rapes and live burnings are done to intimidate and almost paralyze the world into an inability to respond appropriately. Additionally, they are very astute in using the social networks and the internet to spread their propaganda of terror, as well as recruit fighters all over the world.

ISIS represents a brand of Islam that knows no boundaries to its violence. It continues to attract members in various countries around the globe who go to the Middle East to train and then return to their respective countries to attack their own communities. The lack of moral equivalence between a group driven by an ideology worshipping death and a world valuing human life is always going to be a challenge.³

There are still Jewish communities living in other Middle Eastern countries. To read more about them visit: www.chosenpeople.com/communities.



* www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/talking/jew_refugees.html. Numbers vary for Iran.

Jewish refugees from Western Asia 1948-2014

ISIS and the End Times



One of the most shocking aspects of the rise of ISIS, particularly with regard to the horrifying murders it has committed, is the pure, unadulterated hatred that has accompanied these gruesome acts.

Where does it come from? The

secular media hasn't a clue. It says, if only ISIS members weren't so poor; if only they had more jobs. However, if we look deeper, we will soon discover that ISIS views Judaism and Christianity as religious competitors that must be silenced through any and every means possible. Only one worldview can emerge victorious — and according to ISIS, the final chapter of history must end in victory for Muhammad.

The Maze of Islamic Eschatology

Islamic eschatology is difficult to understand and sure to confuse those who have little or no knowledge of religious systems in general and Islam in particular. This is why many are puzzled about the motivations of ISIS. Some members may simply be driven by the desire to inflict harm and pain on others, but most are committed to a certain theology that shapes their present and future.



SCREEN GRAB VIA TKLUST

The recent execution of 21 Coptic Christians can shed some light on ISIS' motivations. In the video released on Sunday, February 15, 2015 the phrase "They supplicate what they worship and die upon their paganism," appears on the screen as the men are lowered to their knees. This puzzling assertion holds a clue as to ISIS' understanding of end-times prophecy and attitude toward Christianity. For ISIS, the presumed Christian veneration of the cross is evidence of the corrupt nature of Christian theology. In fact, Christianity is viewed as a threat to ISIS' dream of the establishment of the future *caliphate* (Islamic government) and the authority of the *Mahdi* (Islamic messiah).

It might come as a surprise, but Jesus is a central figure in the end of days in Islamic theology. However, in their way of thinking, Jesus' role is to put an end to all religions other than

Islam. Of course, this is not the Jesus of the Bible. It is the Jesus of Islamic conception.

Arming Ourselves with the Truth

There are some amazing parallels between Christian, Jewish and Islamic end-time scenarios. All recognize a final confrontation between the forces of evil and the forces of righteousness. Islam and Christianity see a role for an Antichrist-like figure and acknowledge the importance of Jesus.

The differences, however, far outweigh the similarities. A Jesus who stands for the destruction of Jews and Christians? Unthinkable! A Christ who returns to establish the caliphate of Islam? Not according to the inspired Jewish prophets!

Believers are facing grave challenges today from ISIS. We must first and foremost arm ourselves with the knowledge that our scriptures provide in order to combat falsehood. We must also understand the kind of battle in which we are engaged. As the Apostle Paul writes, "*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*" (Eph. 6:12).

Finally, we must acknowledge that ISIS is not well understood by the West. We must reckon with the motivation that sanctions gruesome killings and a variety of criminal activities all in the name of a religious belief that may be as fervently cherished as that of the most convinced Christian and observant Jew. This is in fact what makes ISIS so dangerous, as they are driven by their theology. And if anyone can understand this — we can!

Our Response

We must pray for the peace of Jerusalem. If ISIS has its way, it will stop at nothing to either destroy or take over Israel. Neither Isaiah nor Jeremiah ever named ISIS specifically, but they do say enemies would surround Israel, and this is apparently coming true in even more alarming fashion. As the second coming of the Lord looks closer and closer as the predicted future unfolds before our eyes, let us pray, but also prepare our hearts for the difficult times to come by drawing close to the Lord. Let us also do all we can in these days to proclaim the truth that there is salvation in no one other than Jesus the Messiah. This is true for Jewish people and non-Jews, whether they follow Hinduism, Buddhism or Islam.

We worship a Savior who loved us all so much that He died for our sins and rose from the grave, conquering death. We serve an all-powerful God and we should not fear the future. We should look ahead knowing that what was foretold will come to pass. Our responsibility is to be His vessels of mercy and grace to all — to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles — including ISIS!

1 A caliphate (Arabic: *khilafah*) is a form of Islamic government led by a **caliph** (Arabic: *khalifah*) — a person considered a political and religious successor to the prophet, Muhammad and a leader of the entire Muslim community. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate

2 www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/al-qaeda-disavows-any-ties-with-radical-islamist-isis-group-in-syria-iraq/2014/02/03/2c9afc3a-8cef-11e3-98ab-fe5228217bd1_story.html

3 www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/

SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS ACCOMPANYING SALVATION Isaiah 54-57

In chapters 54-57, Isaiah examines several essential truths accompanying Messiah's atonement for all humanity. These wonderful revelations enable us to rightly grasp the extent to which the Lord calls each believer into an ever-deepening relationship of covenant love.

ISRAEL ELEVATED TO THE PLACE OF WORLDWIDE BLESSING - ISAIAH 54

Messiah's redemption, accomplished in Isaiah 53, now has application, first, to the nation of Israel, then to the individual believer. God's relationship with Israel is unique; no other nation has experienced a similar covenantal relationship with God. Israel's dwelling is compared to a tent that is being enlarged (Isa. 54:2).

Living in a tent signifies Israel's pilgrim journey on earth. God's severe judgment on Israel is viewed as *"but for a moment"* (Isa. 54:7), compared to the glory that is to come afterward. Many Gentiles will be surprised to discover that Israel will occupy a leading role among the nations of the world according to Isaiah's predictions (Isa. 54:3).

AN APPEAL TO ALL PEOPLE TO COME TO GOD FOR SALVATION - ISAIAH 55

God's word is full of gracious appeals. The only requisite is a

burning thirst (Isa. 55:1; Jn. 7:37; Rev. 22:17). Here is a general appeal to the entire earth (Isa. 55:1-7). Messiah promised that the one who drinks the water He gives will never thirst again (Jn. 4:14).

The appeal stresses the truth that salvation cannot be purchased, but received only by God's grace (Isa. 55:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9). Many people are not aware of God's grace, seeking to earn or pay for that which will never satisfy (Isa. 55:1-2). Such are exhorted to *"listen carefully"* to God's promise of a *"new, everlasting covenant"* presented in Isaiah 55:3 and stressed by the writer of Hebrews (Heb. 10:16-18).

MORAL OBLIGATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S REDEMPTION - ISAIAH 56

Whether the person is Jewish or Gentile, the exhortations of chapter 56 toward justice and morality apply to all who seek to serve the one true God. Salvation always brings with it the obligation of godly living.

The calling of the Gentiles (Isa. 56:6) in that future day emphasizes a note of universality. While there is no Temple today, one is reminded that the Lord cleansed the Temple twice in His ministry on earth. Isaiah 56 tells of a universal worship center to be called, *"...a*

house of prayer for all people" (Isa. 56:7; Mt. 21:13).

A CONTRAST OF THE WICKED AND JUST MAN - ISAIAH 57

"The wicked are like the troubled sea...there is no peace, says my God, to the wicked" (Isa 57:20-21). Terrestrial kings and rulers are frequently susceptible to pride and arrogance, but the great Sovereign of heaven dwells with the humble believer (Isa. 57:15).

The contrite and lowly spirit of God's children stands in antithesis to the apostate and proud attitude of the wicked, who must repent to avoid facing an eternity of separation from our loving Creator.

CONCLUSION

The pronouncement of peace by Isaiah to those far and near (Isa. 57:19) sounds identical to the teaching of Ephesians 2:14 concerning the fact that Messiah made peace by His atoning work. He preached peace to the near (Israel) and the far (Gentiles) and broke down the *"dividing wall"* between them (Eph. 2:14).

Have you found peace with God?

NEW MEMBERS CLASS IN LONDON MESSIANIC CONGREGATION

Daniel Nessim, who has labored patiently to plant a Messianic congregation in the Jewish section of London known as Golders Green, is pleased to begin his first set of New Member classes. He reports, "It is an exciting step, and people clapped when the announcement was made at our last meeting. We will soon be appointing our first leadership team. This is part of our goal, to help this Chosen People Ministries' congregation onto its own two feet and to empower every member to play their part in the body. We also will be able to renew our ministry's lease in Golders Green for another year or two. By working and living in the Jewish world we have good opportunities to talk to Jewish people on a regular basis, and we want to keep that up."



MESSIANIC MINISTRY EXPANDING IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

Boris Goldin, based in Florida, is a Russian believer who sometimes returns to his country of birth as a missionary. Partly through his efforts, Chosen People Ministries is expanding in four new cities: Sevastopol and Rostov in Russia, and Kherson and Mariupol in Ukraine. There, we are seeing the formation of new Messianic congregations or small groups that want to work with us. Please pray for strong and healthy contacts with those new affiliates of the ministry. Also, through the support of ministry partner donations, Chosen People Ministries has been able to send financial resources to buy medicine and food for elderly Ukrainian Jewish people who have been unable to relocate during these difficult times.

UKRAINIAN FAMILIES FIND WARM WELCOME IN ISRAEL WITH CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

Neriyah A. has given much time and effort to help four Ukrainian families relocate in Israel after fleeing the war zone. He writes, "We not only met them in the airport, but also found and furnished the apartments for them, thanks to donations from the congregation. These people have attended our congregational meetings and some of them have already received the Lord. Before the Passover, we are planning to baptize 15 people. Please pray for more leaders that can help in our congregation."

On a regular basis we have about 70 adults, plus children. Now, we need a bigger sanctuary."

WIFE OF ISRAELI BELIEVER FOLLOWS HUSBAND IN FAITH

Maxim Katz, whose gift of reaching Holocaust survivors in Israel is truly blessed, reports that the wife of a survivor who came to faith not long ago has now taken the same step. Uncertain for some time as to where she stood, her prayer was that she might have the faith that her husband does. The Lord has answered her prayer! Maxim writes, "She attends the congregation with her husband and we are awaiting warmer weather to perform her baptism."

WITNESSING TO ISRAELIS WITH A KOREAN ACCENT

Did you know that Korean Christians have an especially warm heart for Jewish people and for Israel? Veteran staff member Doug P. now has the joy of training a group of Korean Christians about how to share the Gospel with Israelis! The group will be all ages... children, high school, college and adults. They are going to Israel in August for 10 days for the express purpose of sharing the Gospel. Doug is teaching them, especially the children, to sing Israel's national anthem. For training the adults, he is using the first two chapters of his book, *How to Share Jesus in a Jewish Way*, which has already been translated into Korean.

KID'S CAMPS



Attending camp is one of the most formative experiences a young person can have. Camp activities will assist our children in forming a well-rounded Messianic identity that will carry them to young adulthood, and beyond. Activities will include worship, boating, archery, swimming, sports, hiking, campfire and group games. For kids ages 8-16.



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Call Mike Cohen at
(818) 521-6700 or email
mcohen@chosenpeople.com



Honeybrook, PA
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For more information
visit our website:
www.campkeshar.net

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Shalom Brooklyn is a whirlwind of in-depth training, engaging evangelism, and Jewish cultural excursions in New York City. Two sessions are available: August 8-15 and August 15-22.



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2015 President's
Israel Tour

OCT 26 - NOV 5

Tour the land of Israel and visit the Jerusalem Messianic Center with Chosen People Ministries President, Dr. Mitch Glaser and Dr. Rich Freeman, Vice President of Church Ministries and Conferences. Enjoy a spiritual journey through the Holy Land designed to draw you closer to Yeshua and to the Jewish people!

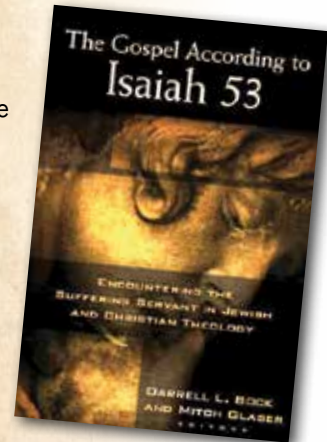
For more information contact **Dr. Rich Freeman** at
rffreeman@chosenpeople.com or call 561-737-1431.

MESSIANIC
RESOURCES

The Gospel According to Isaiah 53

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

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

