

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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APRIL 2018

DO EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS SUPPORT ISRAEL?

RESULTS OF A NEW SURVEY INSIDE!

EVANGELICAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL | HEBREWS BIBLE STUDY | MINISTRY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT



EVANGELICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Contact our Church
Ministries department
to have Chosen People
Ministries speak
at your church or
congregation.

Dear friend,

Shalom in the great name of Jesus the Messiah. I hope that you had a wonderful Passover/Easter season! Your Mission to the Jewish People presented Messiah in the Passover in nearly one thousand churches over the last couple of months. What a thrill it is for me to see the eyes of my fellow believers open when I explain the Jewish background of the Lord's Supper. I especially enjoyed speaking to the many Jewish seekers invited by their Christian friends to attend our Messianic Passover celebrations. I am sure our staff spoke to multiple hundreds of Jewish people about Jesus throughout the Passover season. Please continue to pray for those who heard the message of the gospel in a Jewish way.

If you would like to have a Messiah in the Passover presentation in your church next year, please call or write to us. You can contact our Church Ministries department at 561-737-1431, or visit us online at chosenpeople.com/churchministries.

ISRAEL'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

We are getting ready to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the birth of the modern State of Israel next month! There is no question that Jewish people have discovered that **evangelical Christians are the best friends of Israel**. I recognized this soon after becoming a believer—I was encouraged and this became an avenue of testimony to my Jewish family and friends.

Remember, Jewish people live under the shadow of the Holocaust, which unfortunately my people

believe was perpetrated by “Christians.” I cannot imagine a real Christian persecuting a Jewish person, but this is the perception of the Jewish community based upon events like the Crusades, the Russian pogroms, and the Holocaust.

It is not easy to change these perceptions within the Jewish community, but they are changing. A few years ago, a Pew Foundation survey found that 34 percent of the Jewish people surveyed believe you can be Jewish and believe in Jesus. That is amazing to me as I think about how my family responded so negatively in 1971 when I told them I had come to faith in Jesus.

In fact, the change is so significant that a number of us wanted to tangibly measure how evangelical Christians view the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. Chosen People Ministries, along with my friend Joel Rosenberg—who has written so many wonderful fiction and nonfiction books—asked LifeWay Research to survey evangelical attitudes toward Israel

and the Jewish people. The survey was completed this past fall and utilized a sampling of more than two thousand randomly selected individuals who responded to four critical questions describing what we understand as evangelical beliefs. In other words, we did not simply ask, “Are you an evangelical Christian?” We actually asked questions that demonstrated they were true Bible-believing Christians who had a fervent desire to see Jews and Gentiles receive Jesus as their Messiah.

We have included some charts on the next page, and I hope that you will study these to get a better feel for how evangelical Christians view Israel and Jewish evangelism in particular.

The results of the survey are generally favorable toward Israel. There also seems to be a growing sympathy for Palestinians, especially for the Arab Christians struggling in hostile environments where they are persecuted and face regular attempts to restrict their religious freedom.

On the other hand, along with all of the positive news about Christians and Israel, we also discovered some critical challenges as well.

According to the survey, evangelical millennials are not quite as pro-Israel as their parents and grandparents. There are many reasons for this, and I can instantly think of three. First of all, our young people did not personally experience the devastation of the Holocaust, which led to the foundation of the State of Israel. As some have said, “Israel was born from the ashes of the Holocaust.” Sympathy for the Jewish people is not part of the millennial generation's DNA.

Additionally, our young people are socially sensitive and justice oriented—which is a good thing—yet, they only know Israel as a well-formed nation with a strong economy and professional army. They were not around for the founding of the



State of Israel and cannot easily appreciate the struggles of the modern State of Israel, the wars fought or the terrorism endured, from the Munich massacre of Israeli athletes to the Ma'alot debacle in May 1974 when twenty-five innocent Israelis were murdered by Palestinian terrorists.

From 1948 until the late 1970s, most Christians, and even most Americans, viewed the modern State of Israel as the underdog and became deeply concerned for the future of the nation. During these years, most evangelical Christians also viewed the formation of the modern State of Israel as the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. I am happy to report that 80 percent of those surveyed believe that God's promises to Abraham continue to this day and include the preservation of the Jewish people and divine deed to the land of Israel!

However, during the last couple of decades, there seems to be a revival of Replacement Theology or what theologians traditionally call Supersessionism. Simply put, this theological perspective envisions Israel as permanently set aside by God, replaced by the Church, and the promises of God to Abraham spiritualized and transferred from Israel to the Church. This viewpoint views the land promises as non-literal and removes any biblical and theological significance from the Jewish people.



Recently, Chosen People Ministries has helped form a new group called the ALLIANCE FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM, which affirms God's ongoing plan for the

Jewish people. This broader community of theologians, pastors, and lay leaders affirms the biblical connection with the modern State of Israel and plans to encourage Christians to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, to love both Jews and Arabs, and to remain committed to bringing the gospel to all the peoples of the Middle East—"To the Jew first and also to the Gentile" (Romans 1:16). The Alliance is planning to produce materials and hold conferences designed to help Christians gain a better understanding of what God is doing in the Middle East, especially in Israel. The Alliance issued a statement that you might want to read and sign — you can find it on the website www.allianceforthepeaceofjerusalem.com.

We also produced a new book entitled *Israel, the Church and the Middle East: A Biblical Response to the Current Conflict*. It is published by Kregel Publications and is now available! I know you will find this book very helpful in understanding the Middle East crisis in light of God's unfolding plan for Israel and the nations throughout Scripture. You can order the book through our online bookstore (chosenpeople.com/store) or with the enclosed card. Read more about it on the last page of this newsletter!

We also surveyed evangelical Christian attitudes about Jewish evangelism and found that 86 percent of evangelical Christians believe sharing the gospel with the Jewish people is important. This is a very encouraging number. However the

survey also indicated that 60 percent of the Christians surveyed have not shared the gospel with a Jewish friend in the last year. That is a number that I am especially concerned about. Also, only 35 percent of Christians with Jewish friends have recently prayed for the salvation of their Jewish loved ones.

We released the results of the survey at a press conference held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on December 4, 2017. At this event, Joel Rosenberg made the following statement pointing out our concerns for the ways some younger evangelicals view Israel:

Millennials are sending the Church a sobering message. At the moment, they're not against Israel. Not at all. But the survey makes it clear that many of them really don't understand Israel's place in the biblical narrative. Thus, their support for Israel is nearly twenty points less than their parents and grandparents. Now, extrapolate that going forward. Unless the Church gives younger believers a healthy, balanced, solidly biblical understanding of God's love and plan for Israel, overall evangelical support for the Jewish State could very well plummet over the next decade as millennials represent an ever-larger percentage of the overall Church body. That said, I'm cautiously optimistic. I've agreed to be part of the founding leadership council of "Alliance for the Peace of Jerusalem" because I see a real need to educate the Church—and particularly younger evangelicals—about God's love and plan for both Israel and her Arab and Persian neighbors and to mobilize them to seek peace, pray for peace, and be peacemakers in a dark and troubled region.

Finally and to our great delight and surprise, the survey pointed out that 2 percent of the evangelicals surveyed claim Jewish ethnicity through a Jewish parent or grandparent. Assuming there are between 50 and 70 million evangelicals in the United States, this would mean there are **between 800,000**

and one million evangelicals with Jewish ethnicity in the U.S. We decided to base our projection on the lower number of evangelicals.

This is a far higher number than we ever thought.

I am sure you will enjoy reading this small portion of the survey results. The full survey is printed in the new book and is available online.

Enjoy the newsletter and remember to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support on behalf of our efforts to reach Jewish people with the gospel message.

In Him,

Mitch



EVANGELICALS SUPPORT ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

THE FIRST TIME WE READ ABOUT THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT IS IN GENESIS 12:1-3:

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

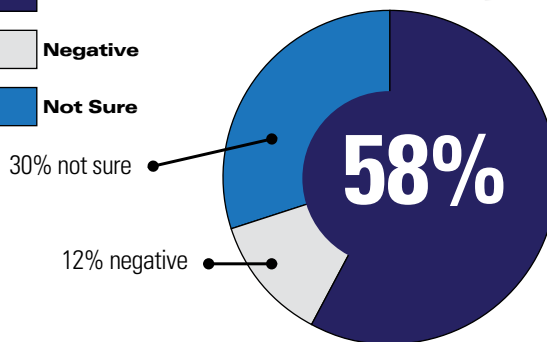
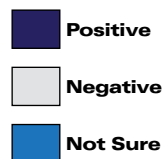
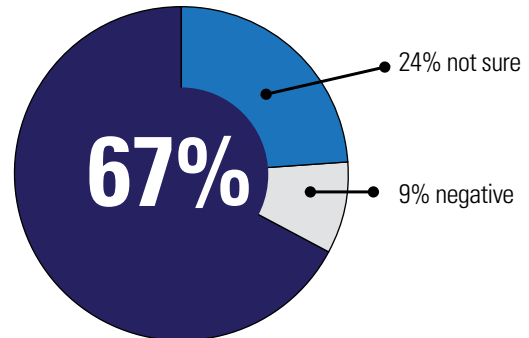
I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

The land boundaries promised in the Abrahamic Covenant are detailed in Genesis 15:18-21 and have never become the actual territory of the nation of Israel. One day these promises will be fulfilled at the second coming of Jesus and the establishment of the Messianic kingdom.

As God promised Abram, "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates..."

Additional references to the Abrahamic Covenant can be found in Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-21 and 22:15-18.

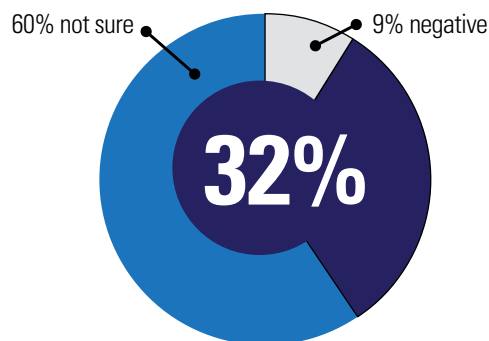
MOST EVANGELICALS VIEW ISRAEL POSITIVELY



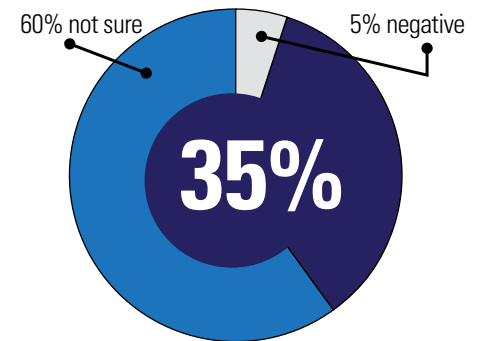
MILLENNIAL EVANGELICALS ARE LESS POSITIVE

87% AGREE SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH JEWISH PEOPLE IS IMPORTANT

11% not sure 3% disagree

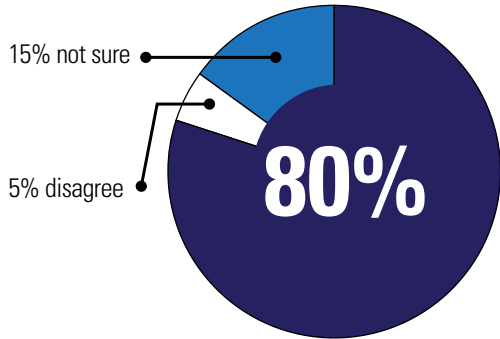


OF THOSE EVANGELICALS WITH JEWISH FRIENDS HAVE SHARED THE GOSPEL WITH THEIR JEWISH FRIEND IN THE LAST YEAR

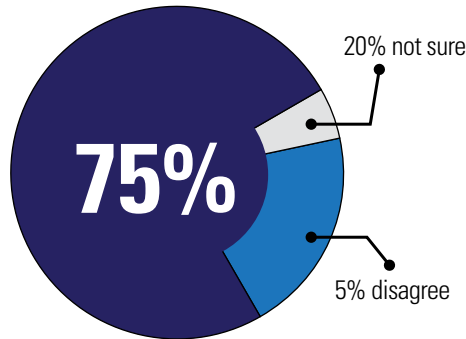


OF THOSE WITH JEWISH FRIENDS HAVE PRAYED FOR THE SALVATION OF THEIR JEWISH FRIENDS IN THE LAST WEEK

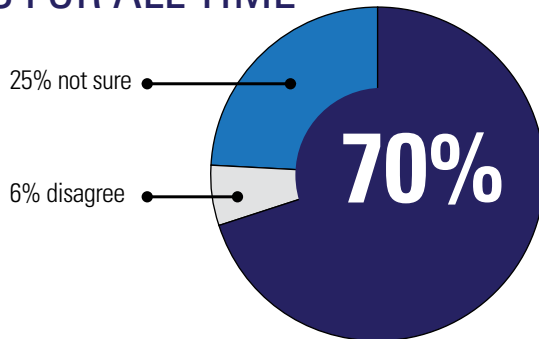
Evangelicals' Understanding of the Abrahamic Covenant



GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS WAS FOR ALL TIME



CHRISTIANS SHOULD SUPPORT ISRAEL'S CLAIM TO THE LAND



JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE A HISTORIC RIGHT TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

2%

OF EVANGELICALS SELF-REPORT THAT THEY HAVE AT LEAST ONE JEWISH PARENT OR GRANDPARENT

Let us know if you need the help of a Chosen People Ministries staff member to reach out to your Jewish friend. You can call us at

212-223-2252

Watch the vibrant testimonies of Messianic Jews on
ifoundshalom.com

In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

Romans 11:5



Hebrews 10:19-25

A New and Living Way to God



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

The writer of Hebrews begins the next section with the phrase, “Therefore, brethren.” Writing to believers, he is saying that all believers now have access to God, or an open invitation, to enter the holy place and to do it with confidence. This verse is reminiscent of Hebrews 4:16, which says, “Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace.” The reason for the confidence wasn’t due to anything on their part, but, rather, because of the blood of Jesus. He calls this confident access to God, “a new and living way.” It is new because Jesus’ sacrificial death for us has created a completely new situation. It is living because this new way is connected to our Messiah Jesus who has risen from the dead. He is alive!

Under the old Levitical system, that privilege was reserved only for the high priest and only on *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement, after a series of very specific sacrifices were made for the priest, for his family, and for the people of Israel. But our great priest is not a Levitical high priest, but, rather, our Great High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, and He sits at the right hand of the Father, “over the house of God.” In view of all that has been done for us, the writer of Hebrews gives a three-fold exhortation of how every believer ought to be responding. Each one of the exhortations begins with the phrase, “Let us.”

The first exhortation states, “Let us draw near.” This phrase describes a posture of worship, of drawing near to God, which is done by drawing near “with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.” The writer is describing a real devotion to God from a mature faith and uses two descriptive phrases to explain how that is possible. “Having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience,” uses the sprinkling of blood imagery from the Levitical sacrifices. It pictures

justification in which believers are declared righteous and free from guilt or a guilty conscience. Second, “Our bodies washed with pure water,” is sometimes said to be speaking of baptism, but more likely it is the progressive sanctification cleansing that begins at salvation and continues through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The second exhortation states, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering.” This exhortation to hold fast to our hope is emphasized in this epistle. Our blessed hope is the fact that Yeshua is the Messiah and He promises to return for us and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is an exhortation to persevere in the midst of very trying circumstances. The writer adds “for He who promised is faithful” as the basis of our perseverance. Regardless of our circumstances, we need to hold fast to our hope, our blessed hope, because of the faithfulness of our Messiah.

The first two exhortations were geared to the individual; the last exhortation is geared more toward the body of believers. “Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.” The context suggests that some believers were abandoning the faith. Therefore, we, the body of Messiah, are to carefully consider how we might cause one another in the body, through love and concern for one another, to live godly lives for Him, do good deeds, and uphold faithfulness to our Messiah. This

type of love is communal in nature and cannot be done apart from other believers. We must encourage one another to fellowship with other believers and not to be isolated. As this is done, we must be mindful of the reality that we are getting closer and closer to the end of days and, therefore, should recognize the urgency of the exhortation. He is coming soon!

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

GENTILE CAREGIVERS PRAY FOR THEIR JEWISH COMPANION

Cathy W., our staff member in Arizona, often shares with the caregivers of Jewish people whom she serves. Victoria had been assigned to care for Pearl,* Cathy's Jewish friend who is a Holocaust survivor. Victoria listened intently to Cathy's testimony and expressed a desire to read the Bible. A week after having met Victoria, Cathy knocked on Pearl's door. Sonja,* another caregiver, greeted her. Sonja, who is from Africa, is a strong believer and a prayer warrior. Holding hands in Pearl's living room, Sonja and Cathy spent several minutes in prayer for the salvation of the Jewish people. It was indeed powerful. God also brought more Jewish people to a Bible study Cathy taught that afternoon. Later on, the Lord gave Cathy the opportunity to once again visit Pearl and Sonja. Cathy and the caregiver gathered at Pearl's bedside and sang praise songs. "We are seeing a softening of Pearl's heart toward Jesus," said Cathy.

A MOUNT RAINIER PASSOVER SEDER

Staff member Olivier M. recently moved to a small town close to Mount Rainier—Maple Valley, Washington, to be exact. It is no Brooklyn or Los Angeles, but God placed Olivier and his wife Ellen within fifty yards of two Jewish families. Their next door neighbors are an inter-married couple with two boys. Olivier and Ellen immediately connected with them upon arrival last summer. When they asked what Olivier did for a living, Ellen jumped in and told them that he teaches the Bible and travels a lot and that he has led more than 500



NEW MINISTRIES GROW IN TEL AVIV

Many new things are happening in Tel Aviv! Israel staff member Rachel, and the rest of the Israel crew, hosted the second annual kids' Purim party (where kids dress up in costumes) at the Ramat Gan Ministry Center. There are a number of other weekly and special events scheduled for the next few months, such as a "meet the author" and discussion night for all those who have ordered the free *Isaiah 53 Explained* book. During that evening, Israelis will get to meet Mitch Glaser, President of Chosen People Ministries. It has the makings of a well-attended evening, considering the hundreds of people who have requested the book! The Center also continues to host quite a few worship evenings and special fellowship dinners for believers.

JEWISH EVANGELISM TIP/CALL TO ACTION

It is often difficult to talk to your Jewish friend or family member about Jesus. How do you bring up the subject without it being awkward? The first step is to pray for the Lord to open up opportunities. You may find that people "coincidentally" come into your path, or maybe the person with whom you have previously tried to share will be more open. Once the opportunity opens up, pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and guidance as to what to say. You'll be amazed at what God can do! In the meantime, it can't hurt to browse our many resources (chosenpeople.com/store) so you can be prepared to share with your Jewish friend when the time comes!

Passover Seders in the last twenty years, in many churches and at home. The wife, who is Jewish, looked at them and jokingly added: "That's it then, Passover at your house next year!" Little did she know that Olivier and Ellen would agree with her and invite them over!

A JEWISH WOMAN ENDURING HARDSHIP SEEKS THE LORD

Darlene, our staff worker in New Jersey, has been ministering to a Jewish woman named Rachel,* a Hurricane Sandy victim who is dealing with some hardships. Rachel and her family are precious to Darlene, who

is excited to share how much the Lord is moving in Rachel's life. Currently, Rachel is reading the Psalms and some of her friends have begun impromptu devotions with her. Rachel said, "God is putting it in my heart to read this." Darlene is amazed at the hunger she has been seeing in Rachel's heart and the transforming work of our Messiah. Darlene said, "I don't know how to explain this, but what I can tell you is that Rachel has never talked like this before. There is a serious reverence in her heart as she is searching, praying, and connecting to her Creator." Please stand with Darlene in prayer for Rachel.

*names have been changed



Simcha

May 25-28, 2018
Bongiorno Conference Center

Plan to join us May 25-28 at Chosen People Ministries' annual retreat in Carlisle, PA. Come to Simcha and let your whole family be renewed by the Holy Spirit as we go deeper into God's word and fellowship with one another! Our special speaker will be Seth Postell, the Academic Dean of Israel College of the Bible and a prolific author. Steve Wiggins, a five-time Grammy award nominee, will return to lead our worship times. There will be programs for all age groups, plus recreational opportunities and family activities.

Call 212-223-2252 for registration information or visit us online at **CHOSENPEOPLE.COM/SIMCHA**

Make sure to stay connected with Chosen People Ministries!



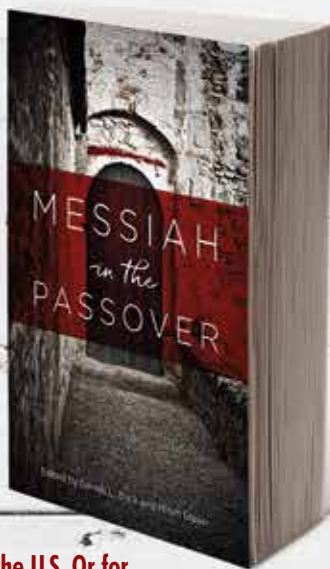
MESSIANIC RESOURCES

Messiah in the Passover covers a full range of topics including the biblical foundations for the Passover and the Lord's Supper, the Passover throughout Jewish and Church history, as well as how Jewish people celebrate Passover today. Also, there is great detail on how to use the Passover as an evangelistic tool in reaching your Jewish friends.

Get your copy of this amazing new reference book today!

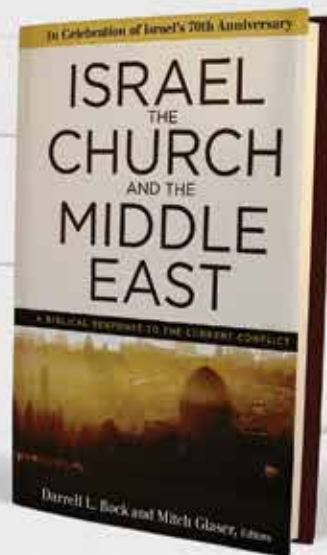
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Israel, the Church, and the Middle East challenges the supersessionist drift of the modern Church, showing that God retains a plan and purpose for the Jewish people. Edited by Mitch Glaser and Darrell Bock, this volume addresses popular criticisms of Israel held by contemporary authors, as well as those who affirm Israel's right to the land. This book will help anyone—student, lay person, or pastor—understand Israel's place based upon a sound exegesis of the biblical texts, the legal arguments for Israel's right to the land, new information on the Palestinians and Israeli Church, and much more. A must read!

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THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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