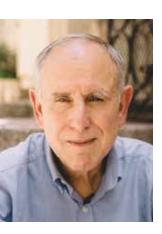


FROM THE PRESIDENT



WILL THERE **BE PEACE IN ISRAEL?**

Only when the Prince of Peace rules on His rightful throne Dear Friend,

Happy almost-Passover. The big news in recent months is, of course, the January announcement of an Israeli-Palestinian peace plan developed by the United States in cooperation with Israel. This could be a very positive step forward, but there has been quite a bit of backlash.

Additionally, the results of the Israeli elections loom large and remain a major concern for those who love the Jewish people. Since I am writing ahead of time, the outcome of the March 2 election is vet unknown. However, by the time you read this, the results will be announced and already impacting the daily lives of Israelis!

The battle is tough, as both Likud (Netanyahu's party) and Blue and White (Benny Gantz's party) are struggling to win the hearts of a broad

spectrum of Israeli voters. Whoever declares victory will need to form a coalition, which means the victor will be forced to govern in partnership with those who might significantly differ in their views of what is best for Israel.

The Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, paints the political battle lines as follows:

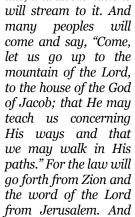
Kahol Lavan (Blue and White) is targeting LGBT voters, religious Zionists, members of the country's Druze minority and first-generation immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. It's also going after even smaller groups—high-tech workers, retirees and immigrants from English and French-speaking countries-though it's not spending much money on them.

In the campaign for the September election, Likud targeted vegans and young supporters of legalizing recreational marijuana use, to little effect. This time it's reaching out to smallbusiness owners and taxi drivers, among other constituencies.

Ethiopian Israelis are a major battleground over which both parties are fighting. Likud's U.S. advisors argue that most Ethiopian Jews in Israel are rightists, and those who voted Kahol Lavan last time did so mainly out of anger at the Likud-led government.1

We must admit that the glorious future we are led to expect from Israel's prophets has not yet arrived! Isaiah wrote.

Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills: and all the nations



He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war. (Isaiah 2:2-4)

I, too, look forward to the great day when King Jesus returns and establishes His throne in Jerusalem and rules over the nations with perfect justice. In that day, peace will flood the earth, and the knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth as the waters fill the sea. That day is coming soon!

This will be the great day of Israel's turning to the Messiah, which Scripture promised, and the fulfillment of all His covenants and promises to the fathers and to King David (Romans 11:25-29), as it says in 2 Samuel 7:16, "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."

Clearly, my dear friend and lover of Zion, we are not there yet! And no matter how the Israeli elections turn out, we will need to keep praying for the peace of Jerusalem, crying out with all our hearts "Maranatha...even so, come, Lord Jesus."

True peace will only come when the Prince of Peace rules on His rightful throne.

So why care about the elections?

I can tell you why! There is a biblical imperative that we hope to accomplish in Israel and across the globe before He comes. We hope to reach as

https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/elections/.premium-asisraeli-election-approaches-likud-kahol-lavan-turn-to-small-scalecampaigning-1.8507429

many people for Jesus as the Lord enables, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile (Romans 1:16).

However, when it comes to the work of the gospel in Israel, we know that if the ultra-Orthodox—for whom we also pray—are given more power in the next government, it will mean that fewer and fewer Messianic Jews will be able to become citizens of Israel and that the spread of the gospel would be limited! This could easily happen, though we pray it does not.

We have recently heard of some Jewish believers in Jesus who were not "missionaries" yet were still denied Israeli citizenship because they were accused of seeking to turn Jewish people to Jesus. This deeply concerns us as we continue to send workers to Israel—especially Jewish believers who can become citizens and remain in Israel for a lifetime.

I fully understand why Israelis do not want Jews or Gentiles coming to Israel to preach the gospel. Most Jewish people still believe that when you become a believer in Jesus you cease to be Jewish. This is not true, of course. But it is probably the primary reason why Jewish people all over the world, not just in Israel, do not believe in Jesus.

In Israel, those who believe this also hold the political and civil power to keep Messianic Jews from becoming citizens of Israel because of their faith. This is not true in America, Canada, or any other country in the world. So, we are praying that the election and coalitions that form will not take a harsh stand against Messianic Jews emigrating to Israel under the Law of Return (making *Aliyah*).

Please pray with us as we are experiencing a wonderful season of growth in Israel. More and more Israelis—especially younger people—are intrigued by Jesus, and we are reaching them one-on-one and through our many digitally-based evangelistic strategies. Our work in Jerusalem is going well, as is the work at our center in Ramat Gan (Tel Aviv area), where we are ministering to young adults and younger families.

We cannot move forward without your love, prayers, and generous support. Thank you for caring!

Freedom from Bondage Through the Blood of the Lamb

I hope you will have the opportunity to experience a presentation of how the Messiah is revealed in the Passover or attend one of our Chosen People Ministries Messianic Passover Seders. If you would like to know where one is taking place near you, simply call 1-888-405-5874.

We also have a number of Passover banquets scheduled throughout North America that you can attend. Or, we would be happy to send a Chosen People Ministries speaker to your church, and you can use that same phone number to schedule a Messianic Passover at your church for next year. We will celebrate our redemption from Egyptian bondage through the shed blood of the lamb slain (see Exodus 12)—a prophetic portrait of the lamb of God who was and is and is to come. This perfect, sacrificial lamb (Isaiah 53:4–6) was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins and sets us free from the greater bondage of sin and death!

Thanks again for your prayers and very faithful support of our work in North America, Israel, and around the world.

Perhaps you would like to give a special Passover offering to support Chosen People Ministries in honor of the Lamh!

As you turn the pages of the newsletter, I know you will enjoy the reports of what God is doing in the hearts of Jewish people and the excellent article by Dr. Walter Kaiser about Israel's future relationship with Egypt. This article is drawn from a chapter in our book, Israel, the Church, and the Middle East: A Biblical Response to the Current Conflict. If Israel and Egypt will one day be fully reconciled, just imagine what He can do today in our hearts! The current Middle East conflict, and even some of the personal challenges we face in our lives, families, and ministries today, are not beyond His reconciling and redeeming power.

He is the glorious Lamb who has all the power of the universe at his fingertips. As the Apostle John (who accompanied Jesus to three Passover celebrations) wrote,

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing" (Revelation 5:11–12).

We seek to honor the Lamb, predicted in the fifty-third chapter of the Book of Isaiah, who was perfect, innocent, undeserving of judgment, and yet suffered, died, and resurrected from the dead to grant forgiveness of sins.

What a great joy to bring this life-changing message to the Jewish people!

Thanks for caring, and Happy Passover!

Mitch

P.S. Please consider a special Passover offering to support our efforts on behalf of the Lamb! We will be happy to send you a thank-you copy of the book mentioned above about the Middle East crisis for a gift of \$116 (Romans 1:16) or more.

The Chosen People MARCH 2020

3

Isaiah 19:18-25

In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will be speaking the language of Canaan and swearing allegiance to the Lord of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction.

In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord near its border. It will become a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the Lord because of oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Champion, and He will deliver them. Thus the Lord will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the Lord and perform it. The Lord will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the Lord, and He will respond to them and will heal them.

In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."

Israel and Her Neighbors: Isaiah 19

by Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. Abridged

o other nation on the face of the earth is so bound up with the history of Israel and the kingdom of God through the ages as the nation of Egypt. There are in excess of seven hundred references to Egypt in the Bible, with some 125 of those references found in the formula: "I am the Lord your God who brought you up from the land of Egypt." This passage in Isaiah 19 preserves for us one of the most amazing expressions, not only of international understanding found in the Bible, but one that specifically envisages the divine use of heavy judgment on that nation for the purpose of bringing about that nation's healing and conversion as a people.

Verses 23–25 in particular offer hope and promise to Egypt. In these verses, God announces that he will make a "highway from Egypt to Assyria," which today is modern Iraq. But what is meant here goes beyond the existence of an international roadway that connects the old Mesopotamian Valley nation with Egypt; it no doubt included trade and cultural interaction, but now it would involve especially the joint worship of these three nations, who have had a record of bitter hostility and violence with one another throughout history. Imagine representatives of currently Muslim countries participating in joint worship services to the Lord God of Israel! The direction of the flow of worshippers will go in both directions: from Iraq to Egypt and from Egypt to Irag—both with Israel!

The final announcement in verses 24-25 seems to be more breathtaking than all the previous promises: These same three nations, who up to this point in history have been at such terrible odds with each other and the great disturbers of the peace of the rest of the world, will turn around and suddenly become a blessing on earth (v. 24). What is more, God will bless each of the three nations individually. He will call Egypt, "My people;" Assyria/Iraq will be named, "My handiwork;" and Israel will be known by God as, "My inheritance," (v. 25). Those are the names that had at one time or another been the exclusive names for Israel, but now were being shared with her former enemies!

The picture that God paints as to what will happen in the final days is startling, to say the least. The three formerly deadlocked nations—Israel, Egypt, and Iraq—will be changed by the grace of God to function as a blessing to all the world. God will include all the nations of the world in His triumph. Even Egypt, that was once most hospitable to Israel, will be converted in the end times, as Jews and Arabs go to the house of God together.

What a day that will be!

od made four promises to the people of Israel in Exodus 6:6–7:

I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

While deliverance from Egypt was accomplished as the waters closed in over Pharaoh's armies, God is STILL delivering and redeeming today. Here are two stories from our workers in Israel about how the Lord accomplished this in their lives.



DAVID'S TESTIMONY

My family's salvation story began in Eastern Europe during World War II. After Germany's surrender, my grandfather returned to his homeland, Latvia, and found that the Nazis had murdered his family. For him, that served as the final confirmation of religion's lies, as he already had been skeptical of religion. The communist ideology that was spreading throughout Russia pulled him even further away from God. He began to work for the communist newspaper, which allowed him to take home a Bible so he could develop explanations against it. My father, sixteen at the time, found it and



became convinced of its truth, placing his faith in Yeshua. He knew no other believers for a decade after that until evangelicals started coming to Latvia to plant churches. My father quickly connected with them, and then my mom and grandmother also started to believe. My grandfather did not come to faith, but he was astounded by the believers' good hearts and high moral standards.

As a kid, I remember going to synagogue on Saturdays and church on Sundays. I felt connected to the Jewish tradition, but I loved Yeshua

and wanted to go to church. I remember the moment the first Messianic Jewish congregation was birthed in Riga; everything fell into place—the Torah, the Prophets, the Writings, and the New Testament. It brought to life what I had always felt inside—that the ancient Jewish traditions and Yeshua complete one another. Today, I serve at a Messianic congregation in Israel, and I do not take this privilege of serving our King Messiah for granted.

EFRAIM'S TESTIMONY

I was born into a traditional Jewish home in New York City in 1951. My parents were first-generation Americans born to immigrant parents. My worldview and perspectives were Jewish and New Yorker.

In our home, we never talked about Jesus. There were two kinds of people—Jews (us) and Gentiles (them). From my perspective, Gentiles were Christians who worshiped some unfamiliar, pagan hero. I was content to stay on "my side" of the street, and no Gentiles I knew were interested in bringing me to "their side" of the street.

That all changed when I was twenty years old. I was on an intense spiritual quest that was fastforwarded by the use of psychedelic drugs, Eastern religion, and a search for meaning. As I delved into a brave new world of philosophy and religion, I realized that I had not looked at the Bible for many years. My journey back to the Bible renewed my faith in

the God of my heritage. As a Jew, I knew I would find truth in my roots. I did not need to journey into Hinduism or Buddhism to find truth; it was all there in the Tanakh.

My slow, methodical journey was interrupted when a friend of mine showed up unexpectedly at my house in San Francisco. She had been on her own journey as a Jew and had discovered that Jesus was the Messiah. She shared with me passages from the New Testament, and I clearly saw that this Jesus was the promised Messiah of Israel. I realized Jesus was for the Jews and that as a Jew, I could be for Jesus. That was back in September 1970, and I have never looked back.

SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES 🕸 BIBLE STUDY WITH DR. RICH FREEMAN





D. Min., serves as the Vice President for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida

Hebrews 13—The Epilogue: Part 2 DIRECTIVES FOR RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS

In the previous Bible study, the writer of Hebrews gave his readers instructions for godly behavior. Beginning in Hebrews 13:7, the writer

provided various directives for religious obligations. He wrote, "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith." The word "remember" suggests that these leaders were dead, maybe even martyred, and they should not be forgotten since they were the ones who likely introduced these Jewish believers to their Messiah by preaching the gospel to them.

If they were already dead or martyred, (the audience of Hebrews was fearful of martyrdom), they were now with the Lord, enjoying the benefits of their salvation. The gospel message these former leaders preached was focused on Jesus, "the same yesterday today and forever' (v. 8). The writer told the Jewish believers in Jesus that remembering those leaders and the message they preached to them would help them "...not be carried away by varied and strange teachings" (v. 9).

accepting Rather than strange teachings, they were to receive strength by receiving God's grace through hearing His Word, "...for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace" (v. 9). The author emphasized that this strength comes from spiritual rather than material food. Obviously, one of the strange teachings that was prevalent when this letter originated was that either eating or abstaining from certain foods would result in greater godliness. The writer refuted that teaching at the end of verse 9 by stating that strength of heart comes "...not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited."

Hebrews 13:10 says, "We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat." According to Leviticus 7:15-18, the priests would eat part of what they offered to God as a peace offering. However, believers

> under the New Covenant feed spiritually on Jesus Christ, the one who is our peace offering. Therefore, those still under the Old Covenant, "who serve the tabernacle," had no right to partake of Him for their spiritual nourishment fellowship with God, since their confidence was still in the old sacrificial system.

> Hebrews 13:11 references the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur: "For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp." In Leviticus 16:27, it says that Yom Kippur sacrifices were taken outside the camp to be burned. This principle of burning the sin offering outside the camp was fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion: "Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate"

> In Hebrews 13:13, the writer challenged these Jewish believers with a final appeal

to identify themselves unequivocally with Jesus as Messiah: "So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach." All Christians bear Jesus' reproach when we identify with Him; these Jewish believers even more so. Suffering persecution and loss of community because of their faith in Jesus as Messiah, these Jewish believers were struggling with the temptation to go back to what was safe and comfortable. The Jerusalem of their day would soon be leveled and the magnificent Temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. The author concludes this section with an encouraging reminder, that all believers are looking forward to "the city which is to come," the New Jerusalem.

(Hebrews 13:12).

HEBREWS 13:7-13 NASB

⁷Remember those who led you,

who spoke the word of God to you; and

considering the result of their conduct.

imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹²Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate, ¹³So. let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.





THE JOSHUA INITIATIVE IS IN FULL SWING!

Chosen People Ministries held its second annual Camp Kesher Winter Weekend in northern Maryland. More than thirty campers ages 8-16 joined us for a wonderful time of fun camp games, indoor swimming, rock wall climbing, and amazing worship and time in the Word. Our theme for the weekend was "Squad Goals," where we took the kids through many of the "one another" commands in the New Testament and focused on how we can be a community that loves, cares for, encourages, and builds one another up in Jesus. It was really a great time for our campers to reconnect mid-year and get some spiritual refreshment. We also hosted our very own gathering of Chosen People Ministries staff members who are less than forty years old in our Brooklyn Center. We had young staff members from all over New York, California, Chicago, and even from England in attendance. This turned out to be a very special time of worship, fellowship, brainstorming, and encouragement for our younger staff. We discussed a variety of trends within the Jewish community and how to minister the gospel in light of them. We talked about the challenges we face in Jewish ministry, and we spent time in prayer, asking the Lord to bring salvation to Israel, to raise up new missionaries, and to move by His Spirit among His people.



NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY CONTINUES TO REACH ISRAELI BACKPACKERS

It is currently summertime in New Zealand, and what a summer this has been! New Zealand is still shaken from the horrific loss of life at the White Island volcano. Storms also ravaged both North and South Islands and closed many roads. Connecting roads on both coasts were impassable. This weather chaos affected travelers drastically. Many had to rearrange their plans and find emergency accommodations! Thankfully, Israelis could stay at Chosen People Ministries guesthouses such as the Zula Lodge, the Homestead, or take refuge in the homes of Christian hosts. One such couple, Irit* and Yaakov,* found their scheduled trip to the West Coast now impossible, so they called staff member Teresa for help. Teresa put them in touch with the Johnsons,* a host family in Admiralty Bay, which is known for seals and some dolphins! Irit and Yaakov loved their stay with the Johnsons and came back to stay with Teresa and her husband again before flying home. Irit told Teresa about their time while fishing on the Johnson family boat. Irit expressed to the family that she is proud to be Jewish, but does not consider herself to be religious. She is frustrated with the "rules and regulations that made it impossible to serve God and made it difficult for them to even want to know God." Teresa was just about to say to her, "Yeshua had the same frustrations" when Irit said to her, "And you know what Bill* said? He said, 'Jesus had the same frustration as you. You have a lot in common with Him!" Teresa laughed and shared with Irit that she was just about to say the exact same thing, and was then able to continue the conversation, sharing that it is a relationship with God that we all need, through Yeshua! Irit was very inquisitive and continued to ask questions all through the evening.

JEWISH WOMEN COME TO FAITH IN CHICAGO

Chicago staff member Roy has been meeting with Dot,* a Jewish woman in a nursing home who recently came to faith. Dot is thankful for the weekly visits and for the time they spend studying the book of Matthew. She, like most Jewish people when they come to faith, knows very little about the New Testament and how Jewish it is. Each week, Roy takes Dot through a chapter, and now she can see how the Jewish prophets spoke of Jesus and his ministry. Melissa,* another Jewish woman, also has come to faith and has begun to attend Roy's Bible study in Highland Park. Melissa is eager to learn how Old and New Testaments link together so that she will be able to share with her parents her new faith. She wants them to understand that she has not stopped being Jewish but has found the promised Jewish Messiah. Please pray for these two ladies as they grow in their understanding of the gospel and are strengthened by their faith.



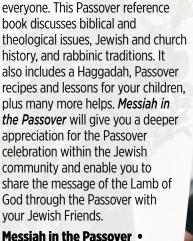
When Helen learned she could bless Jewish people through support for Chosen People Ministries, she was excited to partner with us. She has joined with us in sharing the Jewish Messiah for many years, and recently went a step further. Helen included the ministry in her estate plan.

"By leaving an estate gift, I know this will encourage the promotion of the gospel to the Jewish people, who desperately need their Savior. So many are not believers! I know this will help Chosen People Ministries continue to bring the gospel to Jewish people throughout the world," she says.

What a wonderful legacy Helen is leaving through her estate to Chosen People Ministries!

Like Helen, you, too, can leave a legacy of sharing Messiah with Jewish people, through your will or estate plan. You may designate either a specific amount as a bequest, or a percentage of the remainder of your estate.

To learn more, contact Cindy Forbes, Partnership Director at (212) 223-2252 or cforbes@chosenpeople.com. Thank you! God bless you!



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