

# The Chosen People



Volume VIII, Issue 8 September 2002

A Day that will  
September 11  
NEVER be  
FORGOTTEN



INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Jewish Holy Days and September 11 • Beauty for Ashes • Two Mountain Peaks of Prophecy in Zechariah

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City. This is a solemn month for our city and nation. Just a few days ago, we commemorated the events of September 11, 2001. We remembered the tragedy of that fateful day, the lost lives and families that were decimated, as well as everything that was destroyed.

Nothing can compare to the grievous loss of loved ones. Buildings and even the self-esteem of a nation can be rebuilt, but lives lost cannot be replaced. We continue to pray for those who endured the deaths of family and friends and do what we can to comfort those who mourn.

### The Events of the Day

I remember the sequence of events as if it were yesterday. It was Tuesday morning and our staff was gathering for our weekly chapel. A little before 9:00 a.m., our receptionist cried out, "A plane crashed into the World Trade Center!"

Most of us ran downstairs to the first floor of our Chosen People Ministries headquarters building on East 51st Street—in the heart of Manhattan—and gathered into a small visitors' room where we have a television. Our eyes were glued to the screen as staff member after staff member pressed into the room.

Then, before our very eyes, we all watched as another plane crashed into the second Tower. In shock, we realized that we were

witnessing a diabolical attack on our city and nation.

Our staff remained gathered in that small room with the television, praying, weeping, waiting for word from our loved ones. One of my daughters traveled by subway to school that morning and her trip took her under the Towers—and we had not yet heard if she was safe. The phone lines were down. She called home later that day to say that she was all right.

I cannot tell you how frightened many of us were at that moment, not knowing where our families and friends were or who had caused this—or if there were more attacks coming!

I had feared that many would be angry with God, and yet the opposite was true. Church services in the City and our own Bible studies were filled to overflowing. Many Jews and Gentiles gave their hearts to the Lord.

We continued to trust the Lord, and we took action! That same day, staff members brought drinks, food and Gospel tracts to the rescue workers, who were very appreciative. The next day, we brought hundreds of sandwiches, dry socks and other clothing to distribute. We went down to the Armory where loved ones were waiting for news.

We printed special tracts and had teams at Ground Zero daily and at other places in the City where families were waiting for word. We did all we could to bring the comfort of the Messiah

to those who were waiting and fearing the worst.

### The Immediate Spiritual Impact

We realized immediately that people who had never before been open to the Gospel were now eager to hear about the Lord. We spent hundreds of hours sharing the Gospel and praying with people who the day before had been atheists or agnostics. All across the city of New York you could see posters on buildings and street lamps with the text of Psalm 23. In the midst of tragedy, people were seeking the Lord.

It was amazing to me! I had feared that many would be angry with God, and yet the opposite was true. Church services in the City and our own Bible studies were filled to overflowing. Many Jews and Gentiles gave their hearts to the Lord in the aftermath of September 11.

Just a few days after the tragedy, we observed the Jewish High Holidays, as we did again a few weeks ago. God's calendar does not stop for tragedies or other world events. We conducted our service last year in a building almost next door to the Empire State Building. Those who came were desperate to hear from God. The Jewish New Year (*Rosh Hashanah*) service we conducted in September 2001 will forever be etched in my memory. Inspired by the posters throughout the City, I preached from Psalm 23. I was amazed by the responsiveness of those attending that service.

## The Impact of September 11 Today

Just last week, we again observed Rosh Hashanah and viewed it as a memorial to those who lost their lives a year ago. Our services were moving—especially in light of what we endured. Your Mission to the Jewish people conducted High Holiday services across the globe. From New York to Israel and from Buenos Aires to Montreal, the Gospel was preached and Jesus was proclaimed as the only One who has the power to provide and assure us of eternal life.

The great theme of the Jewish New Year is judgment. According to Jewish tradition, the New Year initiates a ten-day period during which Jewish people are evaluated by God. It is taught that those who are deemed worthy by their good deeds and the sincerity of their repentance will have their names inscribed in the Book of Life. Those who do not, will be judged.

According to tradition, the period ends with the Day of Atonement—in Hebrew, *Yom Kippur*. On this day, recognized as the holiest day of the Jewish year, the fate of men and women are sealed for the coming year.

These are solemn days, even for the most secular of Jewish people, and because of the events of last year, these solemn days of repentance seem to have fallen like a cloud upon the worldwide Jewish community.



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

The opportunities for evangelism have been overwhelming this year. Jews and Gentiles, across the globe and perhaps especially in New York City, are still seeking answers.

The opportunities for evangelism have again been overwhelming. Both Jews and Gentiles, across the globe and perhaps especially in New York City, are still seeking answers.

A year ago, it seemed as though—at least for a few days—the end of the age was upon us. Yet we are still here. And until He comes again, we have the privilege and obligation to tell the world that the One who fulfilled prophecy as a lamb led to the slaughter—our once-for-all sacrifice—has come!

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” (Hebrews 10:23-24).*

Thanks for caring about the salvation of God’s chosen people.

Your brother in the  
Messiah,

*Mitch*  
Mitch

# Jewish Holy Days and SEPTEMBER 11



# Beauty for Ashes—

## Ministry to a Post-September 11 City

At the start of World War II, the noted Christian author C. S. Lewis urged his fellow citizens to realize that the war they were beginning to fight was not a new war. It was, he declared, actually the continuation of a spiritual battle that was far older. The same may be said for us in the United States. When recently interviewed on television, Thomas Friedman, the author of *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, observed that our enemies in the Muslim world are determined to merge Israel, the Jewish people and the United States into a single object of their hatred.

September 11 was in large measure a result of that goal. But the forces of spiritual darkness cannot overcome God. Time after time, Scripture encourages us to remember that He is able to bring great beauty for His Kingdom from the ashes of our pain and loss.

One year later, we asked our Chosen People staff to reflect upon how the September 11 attack shaped their lives and ministries in the time that elapsed since then. Here are some of their stories.

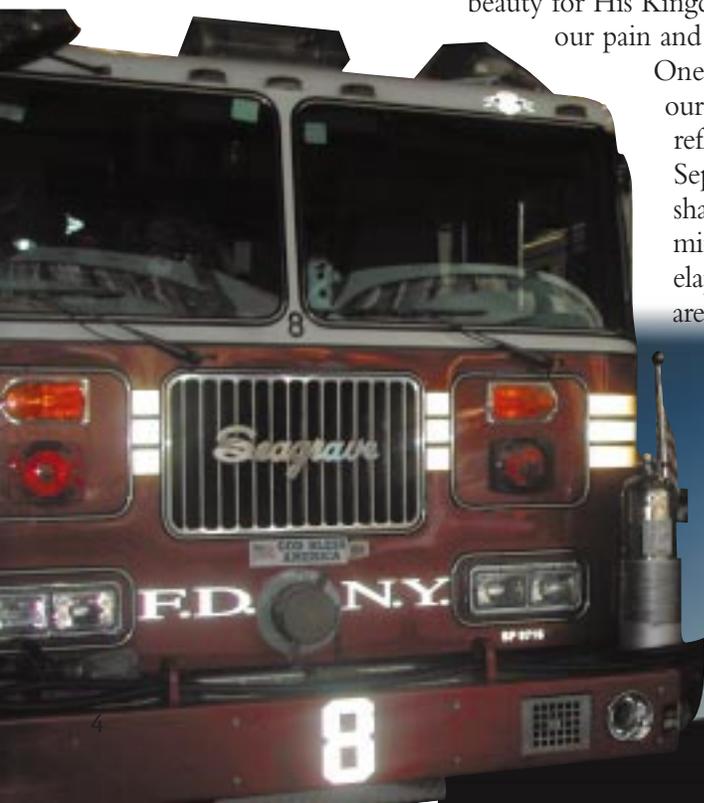


**Laura Fels –  
Baptism by Fire**

I received a true “baptism by fire” into New York City ministry because my first day with Chosen People Ministries was September 11. I work primarily in evangelism with urban professionals—some very “high-powered” executives. These events provided a real confirmation that God wanted me here. From the start, I was challenged to ask how we could minister God’s love with integrity and without exploiting people’s vulnerability.

One conversation really lives in my memory. It was with a woman I met when I went to minister at Union Square four days after the attack. I found her sitting on a bench, looking completely exhausted. She also looked like she really needed to talk. She said, “I’m down here trying to cry. I haven’t eaten or slept in four days and I haven’t been able to shed one tear.” After we spoke for a while, she let me pray with her and the floodgates opened. She cried and cried and I just held her as I prayed for her.

I think what we’re seeing now at this first awful anniversary is a genuine renewal of both grief and also openness. What I’m hearing and sensing now in connection with my ministry to professionals is that the upper echelon of company management across the country has been deeply affected in their perception of what it means to be a business leader.





### Jay and Lauren Bockisch – Faithful Co-Laborers

Chosen People Ministries missionaries Jay and Lauren Bockisch have faithfully labored among the Jewish people in New York City for some years now and are well equipped to evaluate the contrast created by the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Jay recently shared, “There was a tremendous spiritual interest in the first month—really noticeable. One thing I know that has changed is that there are many more Christian groups who want to come here to minister.”

Lauren added, “I think there was also something of a delayed reaction. Four or five months after the attack, we started seeing an increase in the numbers of Jewish non-believers visiting the Chosen People Ministries Bible study in Brooklyn. I don’t even know where they came from.”

Another example of beauty from ashes comes through this story Lauren tells: “Eva,\* a Jewish woman in her late forties who was raised in Brooklyn, contacted me through the Chosen People Ministries web site. I met with her almost immediately and discovered that she was someone who had worked for a large company in the vicinity of Ground Zero and had lost her job as of a result of 9/11. When I shared the Gospel with her, she was genuinely open to the message. Soon after, she accepted the Lord, and we have been meeting for discipleship ever since. Eva is diligently attending the Chosen People Ministries Bible study in Brooklyn.”

Lauren was the first Jewish believer Eva had contact with, and no one knows when, or even if, her spiritual interest would have been kindled without the suffering she endured as a result of the terror attack.

### Tammy Osherov – God’s Servant in the “Frozen Zone”

Although not officially on staff, Tammy Osherov has been a friend and volunteer for Chosen People Ministries for some time. Her unique ministry to the firefighters of New York City and their families is truly an example of Messiah’s love meeting an opportunity born of need. She recalls, “About two weeks after the attack, I went to the Chosen People Ministries *Yom Kippur* service and grabbed a bunch of ‘God Bless America’ tracts and just went down to Ground Zero. The people I met there were practically grabbing them out of my hands.

“I just kept returning to Ground Zero every couple of weeks, and in the middle of November I met a fireman with whom I began to share. He was very open and actually invited me into the ‘Frozen Zone’—the area where only authorized people were allowed to enter. I handed out tracts and Bibles and witnessed to the firemen there. Then I went to a firehouse to bring more tracts and felt an incredible love for these brave firefighters.

“Soon I found myself putting together gift packages for the firemen and their families from donations I was receiving as I began to share with others what I was doing. Among other things, the packages contain Gospel material and the testimony of a pastor who is also a firefighter.

“A year later, I still regularly visit five firehouses and distribute these packages. Truly, I have never felt anything remotely close to this degree of usefulness in God’s Kingdom. This service is just my way of serving God and thanking the firemen and others who have served so faithfully and sacrificially in this crisis.”



### Hard Lessons Learned

The New York City staff at Chosen People Ministries International Headquarters has been in the eye of the storm. Through it all, President Mitch Glaser has seen the ministry respond to the needs that have arisen as God has enabled. His words are a fitting note with which to close: “The impact of 9/11 on human lives cannot be overstated. It has changed us all—I would like to think for the better. I think it has reminded us all of how frail our lives are and how much we need the assurance the Gospel gives us. This has motivated us even more to share Messiah’s life with the Jewish people and all others who live in this amazing City.”

*\*names have been changed*

# See the through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



## TWO MOUNTAIN PEAKS OF PROPHECY IN ZECHARIAH

Nowhere does the prophetic gift of Zechariah shine more brightly than with regard to the first and second comings of the Messiah. His words tower like two mountain peaks from which we may peer into the far distance of time and rejoice in the Lord.

### *The First Peak—the Messiah Comes as Shepherd and King*

In Zechariah 11, God instructed the prophet to act out the role of a shepherd to a flock destined for slaughter. As this shepherd, Zechariah carried two staffs. One staff, called “Beauty,” exemplified the shepherd’s grace and care. The other, called “Bonds,” exemplified the unity of the sheep. Both staffs were broken (Zechariah 11:7-14) depicting the withdrawal of the Messiah’s shepherding care of the nation He

visited during His first Advent (see Matthew 23).

The shepherding care of Zechariah, as well as that of Jesus the Messiah (John 10:1-17), were valued at a paltry thirty pieces of silver—the price of a slave gored by an ox (Exodus 21:32; Zechariah 11:13). In the case of Jesus, the prophecy was fulfilled in the blood money given to Judas in his betrayal of the Good Shepherd (Matthew 27:3-10).

In Zechariah 9:9 we find the prophecy of the first coming of Messiah and His triumphal entry into Jerusalem as her rightful King (Matthew 21:4,5). As the common people waved palm branches and shouted hosannas, the religious leaders planned His death. Thus, the inscription placed on the tree where Messiah died read, “... This is Jesus the King of the Jews” (Matthew 27:37).

### *The Second Peak—the Second Coming of Messiah*

A false shepherd—none other than the anti-Christ—will precede Messiah’s second appearance. He will be Israel’s greatest foe and will instigate a holocaust unprecedented in history (Matthew 24:21,22). The aim of the anti-Christ and all Gentile nations will be the total extinction of the Jewish people. Only God’s intervention will secure the survival of Abraham’s seed (Zechariah 13:8,9; Revelation 12:14).

The return of Messiah occurs in connection with the threat of Jerusalem’s extinction and the great battle of Armageddon. Zechariah declares, “*It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem*” (Zechariah 12:9; see also 14:2,3; Revelation 19:11-21).

Israel will finally recognize her Messiah, resulting in a time of national mourning (*Yom Kippur*) when God will “... *pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced...*” (Zechariah 12:10). The entire remnant of Israel will be cleansed and reborn in a day (Zechariah 13:1; Isaiah 66:8). Thus, Israel will finally be secure in the reign of the Messiah, as He returns in power and glory to claim the Kingdom that the Father has given Him (Matthew 24:30-31).

### *The Powerful Witness of Messianic Prophecy*

Zechariah’s Messianic prophecies bear powerful witness to the life and ministry of Yeshua (Jesus). Countless people have come to faith as they have been persuaded by how precisely and wonderfully Yeshua fulfills Zechariah’s mountain peak prophecies. If you have not yet done so, why not acknowledge and follow Him today?

***Sadness and Hope in Israel***

Michael Z., the director of our work in Israel, reports: "These last weeks in Israel have been the toughest since we arrived here thirteen years ago. Almost every day, we hear the sirens of ambulances passing our home. Terrible news came one morning. My son Daniel's schoolmate was killed in one of the bus explosions. This little girl was on her way to her elementary school. The kids in the school were shocked. The reality is that the war is not just next to us, it is right here."

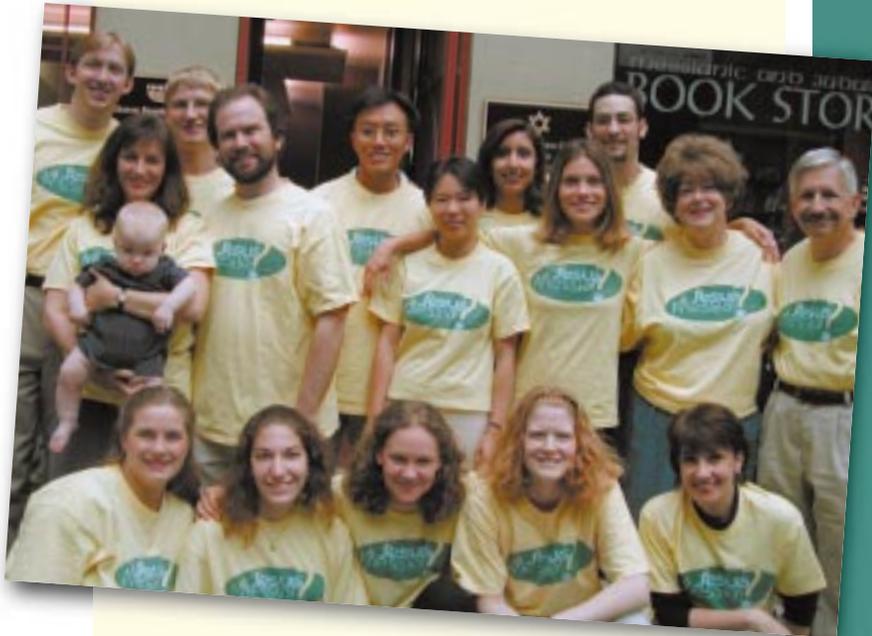
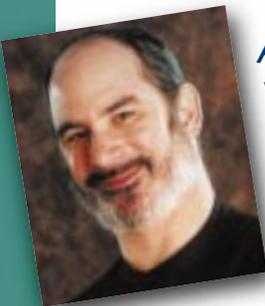
However, the Word continues to be preached. Leonid B. has resumed his evangelistic Jerusalem tours, and he recently gave an evangelistic Gospel concert in Haifa.

***"STEP in a Week" Program Off to Promising Start***

Chosen People Ministries' new "STEP in a Week" program resulted in a large number of people hearing the Gospel. On the very first outreach, a team member was told to move along by a security guard who said he was trespassing. A policeman who observed this asked, "Are you passing out information about Jesus?" When the team member said yes, the policeman responded, "Pass out all the material you want and if anyone objects, come find me!"

***An Unexpected Audience***

While leading the "STEP in a Week" team on a walking tour in Manhattan, co-director Alan Shore gathered the group at a shady bench in Central Park and gave his testimony. Soon, two women who were strolling there quietly joined in to listen. At the end of his talk, Alan spoke with them and discovered they were Jewish. Then Lila, one of the team members, offered them a New Testament, which they gratefully accepted.



***STEP Update***

Was this year's Summer Training and Evangelism Program fruitful? The Chosen People Ministries STEP team gave out about 52,000 pieces of Gospel literature, which resulted in hundreds of contacts and several decisions for the Lord made by both Jewish and non-Jewish seekers. Way to go, team!

***"I Could Believe in Jesus and Remain Jewish"***

Ira\*, a Jewish man in Scottsdale, Arizona, had been earnestly searching for peace. However, he could not bear the thought of giving up his Jewishness. But when David, his Jewish friend who believed in Jesus, invited him to the Chosen People Ministries monthly Messianic fellowship at Scottsdale Bible Church, Ira was quick to respond. He said, "For the first time, things seemed to fit. I saw that I could believe in Jesus and remain Jewish."

Ira also began to attend our Jewish Roots Home Fellowship. Finally, he told his friend David, "I'm going to give my life to Jesus." Following his profession of faith in Jesus as his Messiah, Ira was recently baptized.

\*names have been changed

# The Faithfulness of Paul

All of us want to be remembered as Paul was for his faithfulness (2 Timothy 4:7-8). You can show your own faithfulness to the Gospel by giving to the people and ministries God has placed on your heart—and to your mission to the Jewish people—in your estate plan.

Chosen People Ministries has resources for helping plan a financial future that will allow you to be faithful to both your family and to Jewish evangelism. There are legal ways to maximize your giving:

- ◆ make gifts that provide tax deductions now and income for life;
- ◆ convert appreciated assets into higher yielding investments with minimal tax consequences; and
- ◆ leave significant legacies to the Lord's work while maximizing heirs' inheritance and minimizing taxes.

If your estate is complex, we can refer you to professionals who will evaluate your needs free of charge.

For more information on charitable giving, please contact Amy or Doug at **1-212-223-2252** or indicate your interest on the enclosed response card.



## Hanukkah Menorah

Hanukkah is a time of celebration! The flickering lights of the nine-branched Hanukkah menorah remind us that God is mighty to save and that Jesus the Messiah is truly the "Light of the World." Now you can own this beautifully crafted Hanukkah menorah, made in Israel, to place in your window as a statement of your faith and hope in Messiah.

hanukkiah 5023

price: \$24.95<sup>us</sup>

## The Fall Feasts of Israel

by Mitch and Zhava Glaser

*The Fall Feasts of Israel* will help you understand three of Israel's most significant festivals: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. A complete examination of each feast looks at its Biblical institution, its celebration in the time of the Messiah and its observance by Jewish people today.

book 3042

price: \$11.95<sup>us</sup>

## Shofar from the Land of Israel

The piercing notes of the *Shofar* (Ram's Horn) have echoed through centuries of Jewish High Holy Day observances. The shofar calls us to prayer and reminds us of the blessed hope of Messiah's arrival. Now you can treasure one of your own. They also make wonderful gifts. Because each Shofar is unique, yours may vary slightly in size and shape from the one shown here.

shofar 5020

price: \$36.95<sup>us</sup>

Orders in the U.S. call **800-333-4936**  
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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)