

The Chosen People



Volume IX, Issue 4 May 2003

THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL *The Future of the World*



**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

The Future of Israel The Future of the World • Meet our Regional Directors • Keeping Balanced and Alert to Signs • Revelation Study

The Future of Israel of the World



Dear friends,

Shalom from New York City. This past month was filled with images of war.

We are all weary of war, yet war is a fact of life and will continue to be until Jesus reigns as King on planet Earth. Jesus Himself told us in the Olivet Discourse that “wars and rumors of wars” (Matthew 24:6) would characterize human history until the day He reigns victorious.

And because God’s Word is true, you can be assured that this day will come. If you want to know where humankind is headed, then you must turn to the pages of God’s Word for answers.

Don’t you find it remarkable that even thousands of years after the Bible was written, our end-times eyes are still focused on the Middle East? If you want to know what will happen in the future, then you must pay attention to Israel. The destiny of the Jewish people is intertwined with the Second Coming of Jesus and the final act of world redemption.

Many sections of Scripture detail the role of the Jewish people in the end days, but one chapter in particular, Zechariah 12, shows us how crucial the Jewish people are to the fate of the world. Once again, our eyes are drawn towards the Middle East.

Zechariah Chapter 12

The chapter begins with what almost seems like a CNN news report!

According to the prophet, the nations of the world are gathering against Israel to stage a final attack against this tiniest of nations.

The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it" (Zechariah 12:1-3).

At the heart of it all is a spiritual conflict. After all, the Apostle Paul tells us that our real battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). In other words, the real war we are fighting is against the devil.

Behind the scenes of history, the evil one has been trying to destroy the Jewish people and will continue to try until the end of time. He hopes to destroy the Jewish people so that the end-time remnant does not embrace the Messiah Jesus. But we know that the evil one will not succeed!

The Repentance of the Remnant

The prophet describes a day of battle when it seems that all hope is gone for the beleaguered remnant. With their backs against a wall, the Jewish people are about to be destroyed once for all. But something dramatic happens. The remnant repents and receives the One who died for them, and they are delivered from certain destruction.

It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I 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. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn (Zechariah 12:9-10).

The description of these events is startling! God sets out to deliver His people—because He is faithful to His promises. He did swear to Abram that He would bring blessing to the world through his descendants (Genesis 12:3), a promise He repeated to Isaac and Jacob.

The Holy One of Israel could not possibly allow His chosen people to be destroyed.

Yet the key to their deliverance would go far beyond military means; because the problem and motivation for the destruction of the Jewish people is spiritual, the solution is spiritual as well.

The remnant will turn to the One whom they have pierced and repent. This will precipitate the Second Coming of Jesus and lead to an intense period of national mourning.

This should not surprise us, as Jesus Himself said it would happen in Matthew:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say,

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" (Matthew 23:37-39).

We will see this prophecy of the Savior fulfilled when the prophecy of Zechariah is fulfilled. The end-time remnant will repent and receive the One Whom their forefathers rejected, and His coming will begin the transformation of the planet.

True Messianic Peace

True Messianic peace will come after the events of this day take place. Each day brings us one day closer. The reports we read and watch during these days are a realistic reminder that the "end of days" can happen at any moment.

What do we do until then?

We proclaim the Good News to Jews and Gentiles. We have been called by the Lord—who will one day return to reign as King—to go into the world and bring His message of peace.

This is why I am so grateful for you and for our missionary staff around the world. Because of your faithful prayers and support, our staff—serving in ten countries now—is able to fulfill this mandate to reach the world. We will continue to do so, with God's help and yours, until that Day comes upon us. I especially admire the courage of our workers in Israel and other difficult places. What an example they are to us!

Enjoy this newsletter. I pray it will help you to look ahead in hope, knowing that one day, He will put an end to war and establish peace on the earth.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Your brother,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Meet Chosen People Ministries' Regional Directors

Regional Numbers:

Northeast
703-481-8836

Midwest
773-338-5959

Southeast
561-499-3873

Southwest
800-260-5200

West Coast
949-679-1261

Rev. Richard Freeman – Southeast Regional Director



The Freemans

Richard Freeman was born and raised in a Jewish home in Brooklyn, New York. Following his *bar mitzvah*, however, he drifted away from the synagogue.

In 1973, he married Julia, who received the Lord in 1982. She began praying for her husband's salvation and through Chosen People Ministries, Richard heard

and responded to the Gospel message.

In 1999, Richard became Vice-President of Church Ministries and Conferences for Chosen People Ministries. In 2001, he was also appointed Southeast Regional Director. Rev. Freeman lives in Florida, where he hopes to establish a Messianic Community Center.

Richard and Julia have three children: Heather (Mrs. Cody Forbes), Brian and Joel—and one grandchild, Cody.

Rev. Dennis K – Northeast Regional Director

Dennis K was raised in a conservative Jewish home. After college, he began a successful business career, but spiritual questions troubled him. He accepted the Messiah at Son of David Congregation in Maryland, which was planted by Chosen People Ministries.

In 1996, Dennis joined the staff as a missionary, and in 1998, he also became leader of Sar Shalom Fellowship in Herndon, Virginia. He studied at Capitol Bible Seminary in Lanham, Maryland.

Dennis was appointed Northeast Regional Director in 2002. He will coordinate staff in New



York City and help establish the Mission's outreach in Boston; Washington, DC and Baltimore.

He is married to Tina, with five children: Ryan, Maxine, Zachariah, Yael and Samuel.

Eva Rydelnik – Acting Chicago Director

As the Coordinator of Chosen People Ministries' branch in Chicago, Eva has been active in evangelism, discipleship and other ministry responsibilities.

Part of her work involves mentoring our students at Moody Bible Institute, where Eva herself began as a student in 1973. While there, she

taught a weekly Bible study with the Mission. Many of the students with whom she has worked at Moody have now gone on

to become staff members with Chosen People Ministries here in the States as well as in Israel.

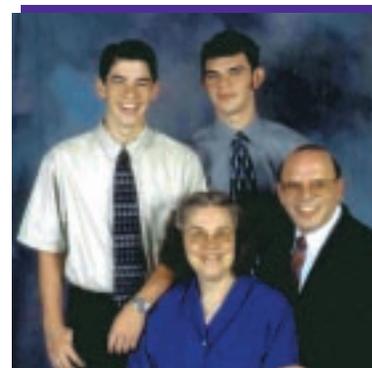
She is married to Dr. Michael Rydelnik, who is the head of the Jewish Studies Department at Moody. They have two sons: Zach and Seth.

Dr. Al Reichman – Southwest Regional Director

Dr. Al Reichman, who comes from a long line of Orthodox rabbis, accepted Jesus as a teenager.

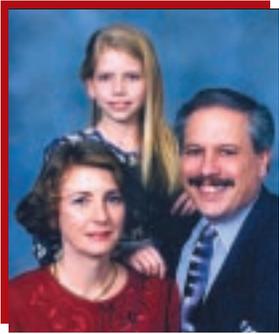
However, his decision came at great cost—his father mourned him as dead and never spoke to him again.

Al joined Chosen People Ministries in 1997 as a National Ministries Representative. As Southwest Regional



The Rydelniks





The Reichmans

Director, Al hopes to establish a growing Chosen People Ministries presence in that region.

Al holds degrees from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, and Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, Alabama.

He and his wife, Michele, also mentor Chosen People Ministries' student missionaries in colleges and seminaries in the greater Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

Al and Michele have one daughter, Korrie.

Rev. Larry Feldman – West Coast Director

Larry Feldman, whose Jewish upbringing was in Philadelphia, put his trust in the Messiah in 1972. He attended Moody Bible Institute and also Dallas Theological Seminary.

Since joining Chosen People Ministries in 1974, Larry has done evangelistic work in Brooklyn, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Dallas and California.

He became the founding leader of *Congregation Shuvah Yisrael* (Return O Israel) in Irvine, California, in 1998.

As West Coast Regional Director, Larry is working to

establish Messianic centers in urban centers in California, Washington State and Arizona.

He and his wife, Fran, have two daughters: Rachel and Rebekah.

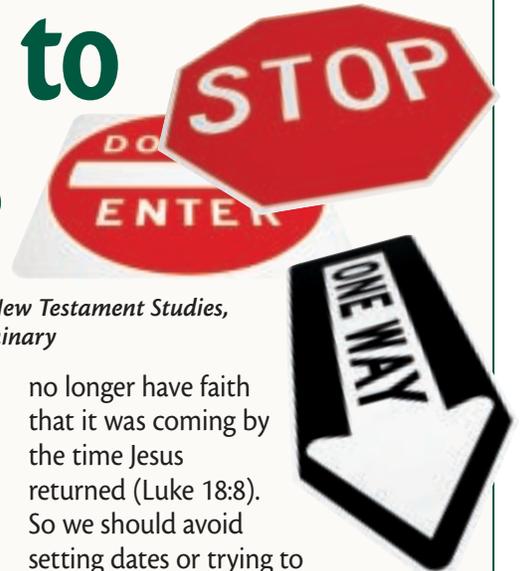


The Feldmans

Keeping Balanced and Alert to Signs



*by Dr. Darrell Bock
Research Professor of New Testament Studies,
Dallas Theological Seminary*



With all that is happening in the Middle East, it is an interesting time to be alive. How is a believer to respond to what is taking place? Might this be the End? A look at Jesus' teaching on the End can keep us in balance, while we stay alert.

About the kingdom to come, Jesus Himself said six things: (1) it could come at any time (Mark 13:28-33), (2) its exact date was unknown (Mark 13:32), (3) it meant that everyone was accountable to God Who would one day judge evil and establish righteousness (Matthew 25:31-46), (4) He would suffer before it came (Luke 17:25), (5) the Gospel would go out into all the world before it came (Mark 13:10), and (6) in the meantime there was a mission to accomplish (Acts 1:6-8).

The tension between the idea that the kingdom could come at any time and the mission that must take place beforehand meant the Church both constantly looked for His return and also constantly engaged in mission. This means that the Church is called to be a witness until He comes, no matter what comes.

According to the Gospels, that day would come like a thief in the night (Luke 12:39; Matthew 24:43) or suddenly (Luke 17:24-31). It was something to always be prepared for and keep watch to see (Luke 12:35-48; Matthew 25:1-13). Nonetheless, it might take so long that some would

no longer have faith that it was coming by the time Jesus returned (Luke 18:8). So we should avoid setting dates or trying to figure it all out. Just know, one day He will return. In effect, Jesus taught that although this end might come at any time, setting a date for it was impossible. Better to be faithful until it comes than to try and figure out when it might happen (Luke 12:35-48).

Jesus describes the end itself as a gathering of the righteous and a time of separation of the righteous and unrighteous (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Matthew 25:31-46). For the righteous, it will be like sitting at the table of fellowship with God, at a great banquet (Luke 22:16-18, 30). In general, Jesus was more interested in the End as a place of fellowship with God than in giving details about its "environment" or what it looked like.

The arrival of God's kingdom meant that one's accountability to God's rule will become clear. And He said it was imperative to respond to the kingdom announcement in order to have a share in that End to come. Jesus' message about the End was compact. It is definitely coming; it will come quickly, possibly soon, but most important is that we be part of it by responding to Him and His message. So keep balance by sharing Him with others until He comes.

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

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



Messiah's Messages to the Seven Churches – Part 3

We have previously explored Messiah's messages to the churches at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos and Thyatira. This month, we will examine the messages to the last three of the seven churches of Revelation 1:4-3:22.

These last three also begin with an attribute of the Risen Lord and generally contain an approval, a reproof, a prescription and a reward.

The Assembly at Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)

Sardis, a city both wealthy and wicked, was known for its manufacture of woolen garments. Since only a remnant in the assembly kept the faith (3:4), they garnered only weak approval. Messiah's reproof to them minces no words—"you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead" (3:1). The assembly is counseled to remember, repent, watch and wait, lest Messiah Jesus come upon them as a thief in the night. Should they heed Messiah's words, their reward would be white garments, which

were a symbol of purity (see Revelation 6:11; 7:13). Also, Messiah Himself would testify on their behalf before the Father and the angels (see Matthew 10:32).

The Assembly at Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)

Located on the main route from Rome to the East, Philadelphia was known as the "church of brotherly love." This assembly received much praise, with no reproof whatsoever. Messiah commends them for their belief in the inspiration and inerrancy of God's Word and for their confession of the incarnate Christ—"for you... have kept My word, and have not denied My name" (3:8). Messiah encourages them to "Hold fast... that no one may take your crown" (3:11). If faithful, their reward

(3:7) will be an open door (of service), and deliverance from the terrible "Day of the Lord" (3:10—see I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51,52; John 14:1-3). Their faith will also bring them deliverance from their enemies (3:9—see Philippians 2:10,11) and a pillar in God's Temple (3:12—see Revelation 21:22).

The Assembly at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

Laodicea was a wealthy trade center, with a medical school famous for its eye salve. In contrast to the church at Philadelphia, Laodicea receives no approval and plenty of reproof. It is lukewarm and nauseating to the Lord (3:15,16), and boastful of its riches (3:17). In reality the church was "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (3:17b). In verse 3:18, Messiah admonishes them to seek spiritual riches and "eye salve, that you may see." If they mend their ways, they will receive a promise that has echoed throughout the centuries to churches and believers everywhere—"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (3:20). They will also receive a promise to share in His future reign (3:21).

Taking Messiah's Message to Heart

The seven assemblies (churches) singled out to receive Messiah's messages are by no means unique. We can surely see ourselves in them. How often we fall down in the areas of faithful obedience. Yet, if we seek His correction, Messiah is there for us always—forgiving, encouraging and empowering us to fulfill His commands. Let us take heed. ✨



**GREAT THINGS HAPPENING
DOWN MEXICO WAY**

Chosen People Ministries' work in Mexico City is flourishing. With a population of 25 million people, Mexico City is the largest city in the world. It also boasts the largest Jewish population in Mexico—a well-established community of about 25,000. Elias and Rosa Habif have established a Messianic congregation in Mexico City itself, and another outreach in the suburb of Pachuca. They recently celebrated a baptism service for a number of new Jewish believers whom Elias had discipled. This month, Chosen People Ministries will also host a conference on Jewish evangelism in Mexico City.

THE POWER OF WITNESSING

Suzi Elman is an active witness for Messiah. She and two colleagues at Chosen People Ministries recently made a presentation about using God-given opportunities to share the Gospel. Afterwards, a Jewish believer who had been present was encouraged to witness, once again, to her critically ill father. Visiting in his hospital room, she shared the Scriptures she had heard in the presentation. She also gave him a tract that shows that when Jewish people receive Messiah, they do not cease being Jewish. After a short time, the man prayed with his daughter to receive the Lord! Only a week later, he passed away.

INVITATION TO MESSIAH – RSVP

Chosen People Ministries' President Dr. Mitch Glaser has been a missionary to the Jewish people for over thirty years. Not long ago, he spoke at a church meeting in the Bronx, one of the boroughs of New York City. While at the church, he witnessed to a Jewish woman who was not yet a believer. He shared his testimony and some passages of Scripture. As they parted, Mitch also gave her a couple of books and the *Joined Together?* videotape. Not long after, the woman called Mitch with some news. She had responded to his invitation to Messiah and had received the Lord! What an encouragement!

**JEWISH DOCTOR TAKES PATIENT'S
PRESCRIPTION**

Have you ever heard of a Jewish doctor following a patient's advice? Recently, a Christian woman visited the Messianic service in Southern California led by Chosen People Ministries' Larry Feldman. As she and Larry chatted, she suddenly became very excited. She leaned over and whispered, "My internist is here!" She explained that about five years ago, she had shared the Gospel with him and had given him a Bible, which she urged him to read. Larry told her that this Jewish doctor had begun visiting the congregation and that he had come to faith in Messiah Yeshua three years ago. When she heard this, she wept with joy.

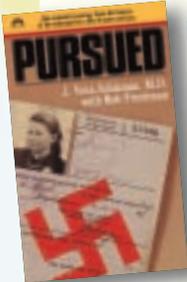
MINISTERING TO THE BROKENHEARTED

You may already know of the terrorist bus attack some weeks ago in Haifa that claimed the life of 14-year-old Abigail Litle. The day following the attack, Chosen People Ministries' Leonid B. ministered in music at the congregation that the Litles attend. He dedicated his concert to Abigail. After a minute of silence, during which the congregation stood in memory of those killed, Leonid ministered the comfort of God's Word through his music. In a separate report, Leonid let us know that four people recently received Messiah through Chosen People Ministries' Israel outreach—a married couple, an older Jewish woman and a young man from Azerbaijan.

**CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES FINDS "NEW
BEGINNING" IN JAPAN**

Rich Freeman, Vice President of Church Ministries and Conferences, recently returned from Japan, where he was hosted by an association of 70 churches with a long history of support for Jewish missions. In fact, one older pastor remembered meeting Dr. Daniel Fuchs, the President of the Mission, in 1971. Rich commented, "The churches showed remarkable understanding of the priority of Jewish evangelism. We are looking forward to working with the churches of Japan. This is definitely a new beginning."

BOOKS TO GIVE TO YOUR JEWISH FRIENDS



Pursued

by J. Vera Schlamm with Bob Friedman

Pursued is the story of Vera Schlamm, a Holocaust survivor who made it her life's goal to be a better Jew. Her tale of survival and accomplishment is inspirational and beautifully told. You'll want to share the story of her faith in Messiah and the surprising path that brought her to that.

#3103 price \$6.95^{us}



The Hiding Place

by Corrie Ten Boom

In World War II, she and her family risked their lives to help Jewish people escape from the Nazis, and their reward was a concentration camp. This story is sure to touch your heart.

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by Josh McDowell

Josh McDowell's timeless examination of the true nature of Christ and His impact on our lives is one of the best-selling Christian books ever. Written by a former skeptic of Christianity, it is a hard-hitting book for those who doubt Jesus' deity and His purpose.

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The Messiah in the Old Testament

by Walter Kaiser

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For more information call 888-2-YESHUA

Good News for IRA Investors

Are you aware that IRA investors are getting a tax break? There have been changes made to the IRA regulations that mean a lower income tax.

This means you'll be able to pass more of your IRA investment on to your heirs. Also, you can name Chosen People Ministries as beneficiary of all or part of your IRA. It's a great way to continue supporting Jewish Missions!



For more information, call Doug McEvoy at 888-2-YESHUA.



The Chosen People Newsletter

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)