

The Chosen People



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**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

The High Holy Days – In the Shadow of Messiah’s Sacrifice •
New Feature: Meet the Missionaries • Revelation Study



The High Holy Days – In the Shadow of Messiah's Sacrifice

The cover image of Rosh Hashana is by Samuel VeraSforzza. This and other of his paintings are featured in this year's Jewish Art Calendar available from CPM for just \$12.95. Use the order card.

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

The Jewish High Holy Days are upon us. Our Chosen People Ministries staff members are getting ready for dozens of outreach services around the world. Without a doubt, this is the most significant season of the year for the Jewish community—and a very important time for your mission to the Jewish people. More Jewish people will hear the Gospel and be open to the message of Jesus during the next few weeks than at any other time of the year.

The connection between the sacrificial system in the Old Testament and the atoning sacrifice of Jesus the Messiah is one of the most important in Scripture. Let me explain a little about it.

The Sacrificial System in Scripture

Although I grew up in a traditional Jewish home, I gave very little thought to the sacrificial system described in the Old Testament. Like most Jewish people, I viewed it as something Judaism had outgrown.

For one thing, the Synagogue is not at all like the Temple in the Scriptures. We have rabbis, not priests. We offer prayers, not animal sacrifices. In fact, most Jewish people today think the sacrificial system is barbaric—and are glad the Jewish religion no longer requires the sacrifice of animals.

After I became a believer in Jesus, I began reading the Jewish Scriptures and grew in my understanding of the Word of God. But even so, I still had a problem comprehending the sacrificial system. I knew that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. But I still could not believe that the God who made cute little furry animals wanted us to sacrifice them—and in such a gory manner.

As a New Yorker, I have not seen many animals butchered. But unlike some of my fellow Jewish people, I actually had some images in my mind when I thought of animal sacrifice.

You see, my grandfather was a butcher! He owned a butcher shop in Brooklyn and I visited him there regularly. So I have some idea of what the sacrificial system might have looked like—and smelled like—because of the time I spent at my grandfather's shop.

But, like most modern day Jews, I observed the Jewish Holidays without recognizing the deep importance and significance of the sacrificial system.

The Heart of the Sacrificial System

Studying the Hebrew terms which describe the various sacrifices was an eye-opener for me. Let me share some of these terms with you so you can understand why the sacrificial system is so important.

Each of the sacrifices points to Jesus—Yeshua, who is the fulfillment of all the Law and Prophets.

The general term for “sacrifice” is *korban* (קָרְבָּן). This has been translated as “sacrifice,” but it really comes from the Hebrew word *karav* (קָרַב), which means “to draw near.” In other words, the emphasis placed upon the very term “sacrifice” is not primarily the killing of an animal or even the shedding of the animal’s blood, but rather drawing near to God. This becomes quite clear from Leviticus 10:3, which says, “*By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.*”

The Sacrifices in the Book of Leviticus

Several different sacrifices are noted in Leviticus, and each one is described by a unique Hebrew term. Let me list them:

- 1** The **Guilt Offering** comes from the Hebrew word *asham* (אָשָׁם), which simply means “guilt.” Someone who sinned unintentionally made this offering once they became aware of their sin.
- 2** The **Burnt Offering** comes from the Hebrew *olah* (עֹלָה), meaning “to rise up,” just as smoke rises up from the burnt offering.
- 3** The **Sin Offering**, from the Hebrew root *chet* (חָטָא), which

means “sin” but can also mean “to purify.”

- 4** The **Fellowship Offering**, from the Hebrew word *shalom* (שָׁלוֹם), meaning “peace.” This offering symbolizes the desire for peace with God.
- 5** The **Meal Offering**, from the Hebrew *minchah* (מִנְחָה), which means “to cause to rest.” This is an offering of flour, oil and frankincense.
- 6** The **Thank Offering** comes from the Hebrew word *todah* (תּוֹדָה), meaning “thanksgiving.”
- 7** The **Freewill Offering** comes from the Hebrew word *nedevah* (נִדְבָה), meaning “to offer willingly,” for no other reason than because one wants give something to the Lord.
- 8** The **Ordination Offering** is from the Hebrew word *miluim* (מִלּוּיִם), which comes from a root meaning “completeness,” or “to be full.”

In the Shadow of the Sacrifices

Most of my fellow Jewish people know very little about the sacrificial system. But during the High Holy Days, especially *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement), reminders of the sacrifices abound. Even the blowing of the *shofar* (the Ram’s Horn) reminds us of the substitutionary sacrifice God provided to Abraham so that he did not have to slay his son, Isaac.

Draw near to Him.

The entire Yom Kippur service in the synagogue is modeled after the sacrifices designed for this all-important Day of Atonement.

Modern Jews might be repulsed by the sacrificial system, but throughout the High Holy Days, we live in its shadow. We know that God demands more than good

works—or even sincere hearts—in order to grant forgiveness of sin. As Jews, we know there is something missing.

What is Missing?

As we have seen, God ordained the sacrifices to give us the opportunity to draw near to Him. This is the underlying meaning of sacrifice. And the sacrificial system—the Festivals, the Priesthood and the Temple—were given for one purpose: to bring beloved Israel close to God.

God wants us to have peace and fellowship with Him. But from the start, He has also made it clear that we cannot achieve this on our own. Our sin has created a barrier between us and God. But the Good News is that He sent His Son as the ultimate *korban* sacrifice to draw us close to God Himself. Each of the sacrifices I have described above in some way points to Jesus—Yeshua—who is the fulfillment of all the Law and Prophets. He Himself is our atonement, the One whom God sent to draw us to Himself.

God set the sacrificial system in place as a temporary measure and as a prophetic pointer to the atoning sacrifice offered by Messiah Himself. He is our great High Priest, Who not only offers the sacrifice, but is Himself the sinless offering.

This is God’s will, and as Hebrews 10:10 tells us, “*By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*”

My prayer is that God will use the High Holy Day services provided by your mission to the Jewish people, to demonstrate clearly that the sacrificial system was designed to draw us to the Light of Yeshua, in Whom we have forgiveness of sin and everlasting life.

Yours in Him,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

This year's STEP outreach proved to be a big confidence builder. Rachel helped coordinate an outreach in Manhattan on July 4th, in which over 20,000 people were given Gospel tracts. Rachel says, "I've learned a lot when it comes to preparing and organizing STEP, especially grooming my leadership skills. It's been a privilege to co-lead STEP and I love being an encouragement to those who are new at this. For me, Jewish ministry and leadership are 'in my blood'—I love the fact that I can dedicate my time and energy to serving the Lord this way. I couldn't see doing anything else!"

Al Reichman

Dr. Al Reichman, who comes from a long line of Orthodox rabbis, was first exposed to the Gospel at age 8, when a friend invited him to attend a Vacation Bible School. After that summer, two of his sisters attended a youth camp sponsored by the same church and came home having accepted Jesus as their Savior. Al and his sisters began to attend church.



As a child, Al felt pressure to profess faith in the Lord outwardly, but struggled for a long time with the knowledge that he was not a sincere believer. However, as a teenager, Al finally, genuinely began trusting Jesus as his Messiah. However, this decision was a costly one—his father mourned him as dead and never spoke to him again.

Al and his wife, Michele, are now on staff with Chosen People Ministries, where Al serves as National Ministries Representative and as Southwest Regional Director. His duties include traveling to churches all across the country, sharing his burden of taking the Gospel "to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

One recent ministry highlight shows how God can use our own experiences to touch other lives. While preaching in a church in Missouri, Al described how long it took him to reach a sincere faith in Messiah. When he gave the invitation, a lady came forward, weeping. As Al tells it, "She came to me later, still weeping—but this time they were tears of joy. With her voice quivering, she simply said, "Thank you for your story." I asked if she had put her trust in Jesus as her Savior that morning and she nodded her head. She went on to tell me that she, too, had been pushed into praying a prayer as a very young girl, but knew in her heart that she had never truly believed in or trusted Christ. She was thrilled to have this settled once and for all."

Al and Michele have a daughter, Korrie.

Daniel Nessim

Daniel Nessim is the son of Jewish believers.

Through the example of their love of Messiah, Daniel became a believer when he was just seven years old. Two years later, the family moved from London, England, to Canada, where his father became the director of Bible Testimony Fellowship. In 1986, Daniel's father founded Zion Messianic Fellowship in Vancouver, British Columbia. The help Daniel gave his father in planting this work proved to be excellent evangelistic training for the future.



Daniel is married to Deborah, also a Jewish believer. Together, they host regular outreaches and fellowship meetings for Jewish people in Seattle, Washington. The Nessims began service with Chosen People Ministries in 1998, establishing a ministry of evangelism and discipleship to the Jewish people of the Seattle region.

Much of their ministry comes through fellowship groups. Daniel helps lead the *Minyan* once a month. This meeting is named after the gathering of ten Jewish men, the number Jewish tradition teaches is a prerequisite to holding a prayer service. This fellowship group meets at different homes or restaurants and its purpose is to strengthen the fellowship of Jewish men, both believers and seekers who also attend.

Another group is the *Chavurah* (Fellowship) hosted by the Nessims to provide an opportunity for fellowship and training in Jewish evangelism.

Daniel tells us,

As a Jewish believer, I serve as a resource to show Jewish seekers that it is possible to be Jewish and to accept Messiah. Through my upbringing and training the Lord has equipped me for the privilege of serving in this way.

Recently, we have had the privilege of making the friendship of a Jewish man who is searching in regards to spiritual things. His wife is a believer and he is asking questions like, 'How can a Jewish person believe in Jesus?' and, 'What does it look like for a Jew to believe?' 'David' is really winning our hearts and our hope is that he may soon choose to give his heart to God, accepting His Son. Our friendship is growing, and I know God is drawing him toward a decision.

I'm also excited about another vision we have, which is to develop coffee house ministry. I am praying and talking with other Jewish believers to begin something in Seattle, no far from the university. We want to attract Jewish seekers and also operate as a Messianic center.

Daniel and Deborah live in the Seattle area with their son, Sammy.

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

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



MESSIAH'S TITLE DEED TO THE EARTH (Revelation Chapter 5)

The fifth chapter of Revelation shows Messiah exercising His Lordship over the earth. The royal reign that was conceived “before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24) speeds toward its consummation, as we see Messiah regaining the rightful authority that man lost through sin in the Fall (Genesis 3).

Chapter 5 describes four superlative attributes that qualify Messiah to inherit and rule over the earth.

His Titles (5:5)

All heaven, earth and Hades were searched to find One qualified to open the scroll (5:3) and John wept until One was found with titles in keeping with His superior authority. Messiah is called the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah” (5:5). Long ago, Jacob prophesied, “*The scepter shall not depart from Judah...until Shiloh comes*”

(Genesis 49:10). The lion image signifies mastery, sovereignty and victory.

Messiah is also called the “Root of David” (5:5). In His humanity, Jesus had His roots in David (Isaiah 11:1). In His Deity, Yeshua is the Root of David. He who created David was also the “offspring of David.”

Revelation 22:16 declares, “*I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you...I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.*” By virtue of His superior titles, Messiah is qualified to reign.

His Worthiness (5:12-14)

The “lion” is now worshiped as the “Lamb.” The notion of Jesus as God’s sacrificial Lamb abounds in Scripture (John 1:29, 36; Acts 8:32; 1 Peter 1:19). As the Lamb, He is the One who purchased people by His death, yet lives evermore to be

worshiped and adored by every creature.

Here is a fulfillment of Philippians 2:10, “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.” Prayers as well as praise are offered up to the Lamb upon the throne. These “incense prayers” are a sweet odor (Revelation 5:8) to Him who makes intercession for the saints (Romans 8:27) and answers their petitions (Revelation 6:9-11; 8:16).

His Wisdom (5:6)

“...in the midst of the throne...stood a Lamb...having seven horns and seven eyes...” (5:6). Jesus in His omniscience is seen as the “Lamb having seven eyes.” Here the Holy Spirit (“the seven Spirits of God”) appears in close connection to the slaughtered Lamb (God the Son). This text provides the basis for the Holy Spirit proceeding from both the Father and the Son.

His Works (5:9,10)

Messiah’s redemption and judgment are both in view. The past work of atonement and reconciliation are connected with the “Lamb of God.” But the “Lion of God” reminds us that the “wrath of the Lamb” is forthcoming (Revelation 6:16). God has appointed His Son to sit as Judge over the Supreme Court of the Universe (John 5:22; Revelation 20:11-15).

Messiah the Lord

Messiah Jesus alone, by virtue of His superlative attributes, is qualified to reign, not only over Heaven and Earth, but over each and every one of us. You and I must submit either to Messiah’s redemption or to the wrath of the Lamb of God. There is no middle way. Choose life (Deuteronomy 30:19)—in the Name of Jesus the Messiah. ✨



STEP IN A WEEK VOLUNTEERS WITNESS FOR MESSIAH

Earlier this summer, eleven “STEP in a Week” volunteers brought the Gospel to the streets of New York City. Linda, a STEPper from Houston, met with a Jewish businessman and his wife who expressed great interest in Jesus. Linda shared how Bible study and spiritual emphasis had truly enriched her marriage. The couple was intrigued and Linda is hoping to keep in contact with them. She shared, “It was an exciting opportunity to ‘provoke them to jealousy’ as Romans 11:11 commands us.”

“I AM ONE OF THEM!”

Recently, Chosen People Ministries staff member Luda F. was encountering difficulty while handing out flyers in New York City for English and Bible classes. A Jewish couple confronted her and told her the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah were “for Christians, not for Jews.” Just then, a rabbi stepped up and Luda asked him, “Isaiah and Jeremiah, aren’t they Jewish books?”

“Yes,” admitted the rabbi, and added, “Some Jews believe in Jesus.”

“That’s right,” Luda replied. “I am one of them!”

ARIZONA WOMAN FINDS JEWISH ROOTS IN JESUS

Paula,* who converted to Judaism over twenty years ago, had become increasingly discontent in her synagogue. Open to an alternative, she heard about Cathy Wilson, Chosen People Ministries’ outreach worker. Paula and Cathy met regularly throughout the spring, and Paula attended Scottsdale Bible Church’s “Jewish Roots of Christianity” Sunday School classes and also the monthly Messianic fellowship Cathy helps lead. Several weeks later, Cathy reports, Paula became a child of God by putting her faith in Messiah!

NEVER GIVE UP!

Michael Z., the Director of Chosen People Ministries’ work in Israel, recently baptized another new Jewish believer. Ruth* is a Jewish immigrant who for the last eight years worked with Christians in Moldova, using her expertise as an English teacher to help them with translation projects. Their Christian witness made an impression on her, and Ruth began a spiritual search. Then in Israel, while attending Chosen People Ministries’ Messianic congregation, she made the decision for Messiah. Michael says, “It was an absolute joy for all of us, and one more encouragement to never give up. Everything has to come in its time.”

“YIDDISHE MAMMEH” PROCLAIMS THE GOSPEL

Chosen People Ministries’ Lauren B. has a rare gift for working among the Hasidic community—the most Orthodox of Orthodox Jews. Becoming a new mother has given her the opportunity to form many new relationships with other mothers of newborns. With motherhood on her mind, Lauren wrote a tract, called *Yiddishe Mammeh* (“Jewish Mother” in Yiddish). Our team in Brooklyn is planning to distribute 4,000 *Yiddishe Mammeh* flyers to Hasidic women in time for the High Holy Days. Please pray that God will provide the funds.

REMEMBERING JONAS COHEN

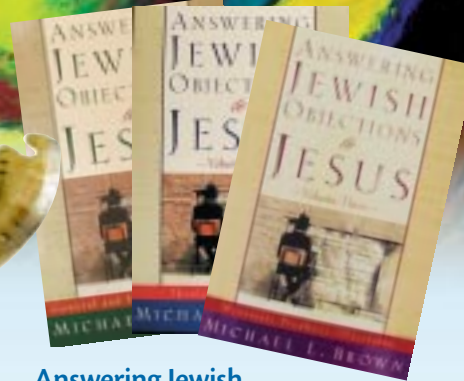
Jonas Cohen, one of the Mission’s faithful workers and the last Jewish man to be baptized by Leopold Cohn, the Mission’s founder, passed away on June 15th at the age of 94. Retiree Ruth Wardell recently wrote in tribute, “He was known for his excellent teaching, his sense of humor and his love for Jesus.”

His wife, Rachel, who died in 1975, was a faithful co-worker.

* Names changed

Reaching Jewish People

Especially During the High Holy Days



The Jewish Art Calendar

Do you like the cover of this newsletter? This original art is found in this year's Chosen People Ministries Jewish Art Calendar, which is filled with Messianic prophecies and fascinating insights into the Jewish holidays. This is a perfect gift for your Jewish friend, or order one for your own home, too. (September 2003 through August 2004)

calendar • 5005 price: \$12.95^{US}

The Shofar

The Ram's Horn has sounded through the centuries as a call to repentance and to gather God's people. Now you can own this beautiful *Shofar* from Israel to display or use as a reminder of Messiah's presence and power. Each *Shofar* is unique and may vary slightly in size and shape from the one shown.

shofar • 5020 price: \$36.95^{US}

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 Christ, and its observance by Jewish people today.

book • 3042 price: \$11.95^{US}

Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus Three Volume Set – 10% Savings

Have you ever wondered why your Jewish friends object to the claim that Jesus is the Messiah? If so, this three-volume set by internationally known author and speaker Dr. Michael Brown is for you.

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SPECIAL! price: \$44.95^{US}

WANTED:

A believing person or couple to serve with Chosen People Ministries in Israel for a one-year term. Must have good administrative skills, public relations ability, and not mind working behind the scenes.

This is a support-raise missionary position. Missionaries would need to live in or near Jerusalem and work with Michael Z., our Israel Director.

To learn more please call 212-223-2252 and ask to speak with Stewart Jefferson.



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)