

The Chosen People



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Israel: A Land Torn Apart

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Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” (Genesis 12:7)

Trusting the Lord in a Dangerous World

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City. I am sure you would agree with me that we now live in a very “unsafe” world. But this should not surprise believers in Jesus. We need only turn to God’s Word for confirmation of this uncomfortable truth. The Scripture has often described our present world as unsafe and hostile to the things of God. In good times, we tend to gloss over the more sobering passages. But we ignore them at our own peril—not only from the standpoint of physical well being, but also with regard to our spiritual priorities.

It is good to be reminded that our Messiah said, “...*In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33). Although it is hard to comprehend at times, the Scriptures tell us that the world we live in is temporary, dominated by “the god of this world” and immersed in darkness.

The world God created is certainly beautiful. The rivers, the mountains, the trees, the stars in the sky—these certainly reflect His handiwork, as the Psalmist writes, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork*” (Psalm 19:1). This also holds true for people. The people God created, though tainted by sin, are also beautiful. Although this sometimes seems difficult to believe, it is nonetheless true. God’s Word says that we have all been created in His image and likeness—and God does not create ugliness. But when the god of this world takes hold of the people of this world, there is no question that the impact is dangerous, destructive and sometimes very ugly.

Messiah’s Redeeming Power

We believe that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah for all people. He died and rose so that our sins could be forgiven. We can now receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who transforms our lives so we can be like the One who created us. Isn’t this the heart of the Gospel? God is a redeeming God who, for some reason beyond my

understanding, allowed sin to come into this world. Sin has corrupted what God Himself made so beautiful.

Yet through His redeeming power, the Lord continues to create beauty from ashes, restore what was broken and redeem the fallen. Every time I see believers worshipping the Lord, my heart rejoices. I know this is a foretaste of a time to come, when sin will be permanently removed from our restored planet, God will again be our all-in-all, and together we will worship around His throne. Until then, we live in a dangerous world that is plagued by the destructive power of sin.

This is all the more reason for us as believers to recognize that God has kept us in this world to be His instruments of mercy, grace and redemption. It is through us that God brings a foretaste of heaven to people by introducing them to the Savior of the world.

Gathering Threats

Is there a day that passes that we are not reminded of the gathering threats to our country? We grieve for our soldiers who are dying. We



Living by faith is a constant reality for Israelis, including our Chosen People Ministries staff members who live in the West Bank.

mourn the innocent civilians who are killed each day. The rise and activity of Islamic fundamentalists has changed the character of our national life. One perhaps unexpected result is that this has brought our country closer in spirit to Israel. Israel's daily dread of the sudden, wrenching loss of a beloved family member or friend is not as unimaginable to us as it once was. We experienced our own baptism of suffering on 9/11, and we will never be the same.

The impact of the Islamic fundamentalists' declaration of war upon the Western nations and Israel has created a large national discussion about why this is happening and what our response should be. In Israel, the problems of national security and the tortured relationship with the Palestinian Authority has engendered a similar, internal discussion (often with shouting) about Israel's priorities and how to proceed.

The remainder of this newsletter will furnish a look at some of the forces that are in play in Israel and the issues that are emerging in these tense times.

A Word of Hope

I believe God is using these terrible recent events to remind us, from a spiritual perspective, of the kind of world in which we live.

Dear friend, there is only one hope for this world, and it is the same hope for both Jew and non-Jew. Our hope for peace is the Prince of Peace—Jesus, our Messiah. It is when we are bringing the message of the Gospel of peace to Jews and Gentiles that we become God's holy instruments for redemption in a world that is dangerous and ultimately is passing away.

There are many threats in this world. Some of them are easy to recognize; others less so: "...For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). But there is one thing upon which we may depend. Although Islamic fundamentalism is a real threat, neither this nor any other movement will keep God from fulfilling His promises.

This is the perspective we must have. Earthly decisions stand and fall according to the will of the Lord. If

land in Israel is given back through negotiation, it will only be a temporary concession. Regardless of what earthly governments decide, God will give Israel the land one day because He promised it (Genesis 12:7).

In the final analysis, it is not our land to give away and it is not our land to take. God sets the boundaries. And what He has in store is far greater than any of us can possibly imagine: a kingdom where the Israelite and the stranger will dwell in the land in peace.

But that can only happen when the Prince of Peace reigns in righteousness.

I hope that you find this newsletter helpful, and that it will encourage you to be fervent in prayer and in your witness to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

Your brother in the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



Pray for Israel's Most Influential

ARIEL SHARON



- Born at Kfar Malal in 1928. Freedom fighter for Israel from age of 14. Served in the Israel Defense Forces for more than 25 years, retiring with the rank of Major General.
- Elected to the Knesset in December 1973. Served in high-level government offices until elected Prime Minister in 2001.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU



- Born in Tel Aviv in 1949 and raised in Jerusalem. Attended high school in the United States when his famous father, Professor Ben-Zion Netanyahu, taught history. Returned to Israel in 1967 and served in elite commando unit in the Israel Defense Forces.
- Elected to the Knesset in 1988 and appointed Deputy Foreign Minister.
- Elected Prime Minister of Israel in May 1996 serving until 1999 defeat by Ehud Barak.
- Served as Minister of Foreign Affairs in November 2002 until February 2003, when he was appointed Minister of Finance.

NATAN SHARANSKY



- Born in Ukraine. Became internationally known advocate for rights of Soviet Jewish people.
- Jailed by Russia in 1978 for treason and spying. Cites rediscovery of Jewish heritage as key element to survival in prison.
- His wife, Avital, immigrated to Israel and worked for his release, which took place in 1986. Hailed as hero upon arrival in Israel.
- Founded Yisrael b'Aliyah, a political party to help immigrants in 1995.
- Now serving as Minister without Portfolio, responsible for Jerusalem, social and Diaspora affairs.

MOSHE KATSAV



- Born in 1945 in Iran and immigrated to Israel in 1951.
- Served as Member of the Knesset since 1977.
- President of the State of Israel since 2000. As President, he bears the ancient title of the Head of the Sanhedrin though his duties are largely ceremonial.

LT. GENERAL



MOSHE YA'ALON

- Born in 1950 in Kiryat Haim. Served as paratrooper in various military operations.
- Fought in Operation Peace for Galilee and was wounded in Lebanon.
- Appointed commander of the IDF Paratroop Brigade in 1990. Rapidly advanced to rank of Major General.
- In 2002 became Lieutenant General and IDF Chief-of-Staff.



CHIEF RABBI YONA METZGER

- Born in Haifa in 1953.
- Served in the IDF and was discharged as an

army chaplain with the rank of captain.

- Studied at the Kerem Be-Yavne Hesder yeshiva and served as rabbi of the Tiferet Zvi Synagogue in Tel Aviv.
- Appointed regional rabbi of northern Tel Aviv. Published several books, two of which were awarded prizes by the President of Israel.
- In 2003, appointed Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel.

SILVAN SHALOM



- Elected to the Knesset in 1992.
- As Minister of Foreign Affairs, he joins such famous predecessors as Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan.
- Represents the State to foreign governments and international organizations; explains its positions and problems throughout the world, and safeguards the rights of Israeli citizens abroad.

SHIMON PERES



- Born in 1923 in Poland. Family relocated to Tel Aviv in 1934.
- Served in military and government since 1947.
- Member of Knesset since 1959. Helped form the Labor Party in 1968. Served as Prime Minister in unity government in 1984.
- Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat in 1994.
- Became Prime Minister and Defense Minister in 1995 after assassination of Prime Minister Rabin. Served in this dual capacity until 1996 elections.
- Well-known advocate for negotiated peace agreement with Palestinian Authority.

Sources:

Jewish Virtual Library, www.us-israel.org/jsource
 Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, www.mfa.gov.il

Who is in charge of the Land of Israel? This is not a new question. Throughout its long history, Israel has been ruled by Muslims, Christians and Jews. Each group, at some time or other, has staked a claim for ownership and for God's "seal of approval."

But today, Israel is wrestling not only with foreign enemies, but also with the realities of internal forces that are shaping current events.

There is no more volatile issue in Israel today than the fate of the settlements in the so-called "occupied territories" of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A look at Israel's strongest parties and their positions on this vital question is illuminating.

Likud (Unity)—Strong People for Hard Times

The priority of *Likud*, led by Ariel Sharon, is Israel's national security. Secular in nature, the party has viewed expanded settlements on the West Bank and Gaza as insurance against Arab aggression—practical measures rather than Biblical mandates.

Backed by the United States, Prime Minister Sharon recently proposed dismantling settlements on the Gaza Strip and relocating their roughly 7,500 inhabitants. Although Sharon pushed hard for support, members of his own party soundly defeated the proposal.

Labor—Give Peace a Chance

The *Labor* party is generally to the left of *Likud* and has been traditionally perceived to be more receptive to the aspirations of the Arab refugees. Worn out by years of conflict and ready to take a chance, Israel in 1999 elected Ehud Barak, who defeated *Likud*'s Benjamin Netanyahu.

Prime Minister Barak offered Yasser Arafat the most generous land concessions to date. Arafat refused and instead unleashed the terrorism that has paralyzed negotiations for the past three years. Barak was defeated by Ariel Sharon in 2001.

The Religious Parties

The Orthodox Jewish parties represent a powerful presence in the West Bank settlements that Sharon is hoping to maintain. The religious political parties such as *Shas* (Sephardi Torah Guardians), *United Torah Judaism* and the *National*

Religious Party are fairly united in their support of the settlements.

One notable exception to this rule is *Neturei-Karta International* (Aramaic for "Guardians of the City")—Jews United Against Zionism. This hard-core, anti-Zionist, Orthodox Jewish group is convinced that the secular State of Israel is a political and spiritual disaster. One of their spokesmen, Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss, even went so far as to say, "There will be no peace in the Middle East until there is no State of Israel."

God's Covenant and the State of Israel

Can you imagine a greater variety of viewpoints—and all of them Jewish? Yet the central question is, "How does God's will come into the picture?"

Without question, the guiding vision of Zionism that helped bring about the State of Israel is secular in nature. But is not the Scripture replete with examples of God's unseen hand guiding the forces of history, unbeknownst even to those who imagine themselves to be the chief actors? **Although the relationship between the State of Israel and the Israel of Scripture may be unclear, it cannot be dismissed.**

Despite the uncertainties, faithful believers have the task of announcing the fulfillment of God's promise in Messiah. Then those who are found in Him will say together, "*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'*" (Isaiah 52:7).

Sources:

Jewish Virtual Library, www.us-israel.org/jsource

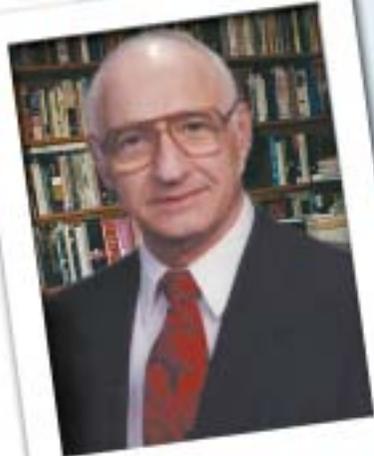
What You Need to Know About Judaism, judaism.about.com/cs/israelelection1

Neturei-Karta, Jews United Against Zionism, www.nkusa.org

Land Control, Settlements and Israel's Political Parties

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



DEMON ACTIVITY AT ITS HEIGHT (Revelation 9:1-21)

Although the language of the Book of Revelation may seem puzzling to us, we must remember that the apocalyptic meaning of symbols such as seals and trumpets was more familiar to the author's first-century readers. We take up our study with the seventh seal, which consists of seven trumpet judgments given in Revelation 8:7 through 11:19. The last three trumpets are described as the three woes: 8:13; 9:12; 11:14.

These woes describe the Great Tribulation (the last 3½ years).

Revelation 9 contains the fifth and sixth trumpet judgments, describing the greatest demonic activity to come upon the earth—the release of two forms of Satanic Force.

THE RELEASE OF DEMONS FROM THE BOTTOMLESS PIT (Revelation 9:1-11)

The “bottomless pit” (*abussos* in Greek) is translated “abyss” in Luke 8:31. This “bottomless pit” is mentioned seven times in Revelation. The one who releases these demons is termed “a fallen star” (Revelation 9:1)—probably Satan himself (Isaiah 14:12).

Smoke emerges from the pit to pollute the atmosphere and darken the sun. From the smoke emerges an army of demons, compared to locusts. These locust-like demons do not devour any green vegetation, but are given assignments of tormenting men for five months—the normal life span of a locust. The description of these hideous demons is symbolized in Revelation 9:7-9. Their task is to torment their

victims and create such severe pain that “...in those days men will seek death and will not find it...” (Revelation 9:6).

All who do not have the seal of God's ownership upon them are the objects of their torment and pain (Revelation 9:4). The king over these demons is named Apollyon, meaning “destroyer,” and suggests some high-ranking archangel of Satan.

THE RELEASE OF FOUR SATANIC ANGELS FROM THE EUPHRATES RIVER

The Euphrates is not only the cradle of civilization (Genesis 2:14), but is also the northern boundary for Israel (Genesis 15:18). Each angel leads part of a vast army of at least 200 million (Revelation 9:16)! The invasion of this army lasts 13 months. Even after five months of torment by locust-like demons, men continue to refuse to repent. The damage of the army's invasion is the destruction of one third of all mankind. Combined with God's other judgments, the calculations total into the billions of human beings taken from the earth (Revelation 9:15). Jesus predicted these judgments in Matthew 24:21,22.

The purpose of all these Divine judgments is to solicit repentance (a change of mind) from individuals who endorse false religions (demon worship), idolatry, murder, theft and sexual immorality (Revelation 9:20,21).

DEMONIC ACTIVITY TODAY

Today, Satan is limited to work chiefly by secrecy and stealth. Demons are described as being in captivity since Calvary. Messiah has stripped them of their unrestricted power to possess souls. No believer should ever attempt to interact with a demon. Such action violates God's command, which prohibits dialogue with the forces of darkness (Leviticus 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

Jesus the Messiah alone is able to free any exploited, possessed person. We must urge that person to come to the Messiah and trust Him for release. “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). ✠

MORE FRUIT IN NEW YORK CITY FROM PASSION OUTREACH

Klaudia Z, a staff member in Brooklyn, reports a recent visit with a Russian Jewish man she had spoken to in Manhattan. She met the man during Chosen People Ministries' outreach the week *The Passion of the Christ* premiered. The man came to Klaudia out of curiosity and asked, "What is this, a synagogue?" Klaudia told him about their Messianic congregation and responded by sharing the Gospel. The man declared, "Now, after seeing *The Passion*, I also believe." Please pray he would make a firm commitment to the Lord and grow in his faith.

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES STANDING WITH ISRAEL IN CHICAGO

The Jewish community in Chicago has 110 synagogues, eight Jewish community centers and numerous services and agencies. Last month, Chosen People Ministries participated in a public demonstration numbering in the thousands that was organized to stand against terrorism and to support Israel's right to exist. Students from Moody Bible Institute who volunteer with Chosen People Ministries carried a giant banner in support of Israel while proclaiming their love for Messiah. A number of people asked questions about their "dual loyalty" to both Messiah and Israel. Please pray for the seeds that were planted during these many Gospel-centered conversations.

CREATIVE MINISTRY IN ISRAEL THROUGH "OPEN HEART" VIDEO CLUB

Sharing the Gospel in Israel requires creativity—and Chosen People Ministries' staff members in Tel Aviv are up to the challenge. They recently started the "Open Heart" Video Club. First, they gathered a collection of evangelistic, Bible-centered movies. Then they attracted a number of interested people through ads placed in various newspapers and magazines. Not only have people come to view the films, but they also stay for conversation in the home-like atmosphere. Now, some have started to attend worship at our Messianic congregations. Please pray for salvation decisions and also for the means to keep this outreach running.

IT TAKES A FRENCHMAN...

Chosen People Ministries missionary Olivier Melnick is not ashamed of his Jewish background—or of being French. In fact, the combination was recently used to draw a fellow Jewish countryman into the kingdom of Messiah. Olivier had been witnessing to him for some time, finding it difficult because of the secular mindset that French Jewish people often display. But on a recent visit, Olivier found him depressed from lack of employment. Olivier shared the Gospel with him—particularly the Messianic prophecies—and David* was finally convinced. He prayed with Olivier to receive the Lord.



SALVATION DECISION FOR DYING CANCER PATIENT

Madeline Goldberg has ministered with her husband, Dan, to Jewish people and others for many years. Recently, Madeline was able to develop a relationship with a Jewish woman who has terminal cancer. In their first visit, Madeline asked her to read the Gospel of John. The two remained in contact by telephone. Ten days later, after reading John's Gospel, the woman opened her heart to receive Jesus. She prayed with Madeline, asking the Lord to forgive her sins and come into her life. Now she wants to talk to her rabbi about her faith. Please ask God to keep her firm in her commitment.

* Names changed

PEACE TO JERUSALEM

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Recorded live in the City of David, this recording weaves the purity of worship into the fabric of Messianic praise.

Magnificent worship that is rich and deep as the history of Jerusalem. Songs include *Roni Roni*, *Hinei Ma Tov*, and *Jerusalem of Gold*. by Paul Wilbur

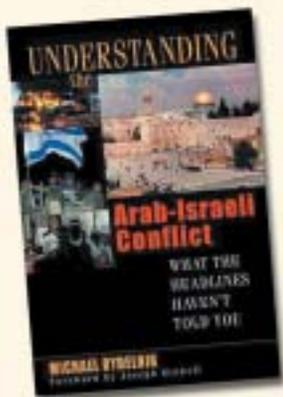
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Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Dr. Michael Rydelnik, professor of Jewish Studies at Moody Bible Institute, goes beyond media images for an in-depth look at the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. This book places the "crisis that never ends" in its scriptural, historical, and prophetic contexts, and challenges the reader to think biblically as we stand with Israel in "praying for the peace of Jerusalem."

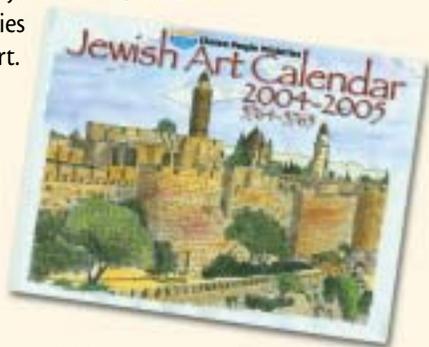
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NEW!! The Jewish Art Calendar

The Chosen People Ministries Jewish Art Calendar is filled with Messianic prophecies and breathtaking Messianic art. This is the perfect gift to give your Jewish friend. Order one for your own home, too, and experience the beauty of the Jewish holidays throughout the year. The calendar goes from September 2004 through December 2005.

calendar 5005 • \$12.95^{us} (pre-order; available August 1, 2004)



A WORD FROM DOUG MCEVOY,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF STEWARDSHIP

Creating a Charitable Remainder Trust

Helping people plan their financial giving can lead to some surprising encounters. Recently, I visited a gracious lady in her lovely home who took pleasure in showing me her antiques. Among them was a doll collection, which she retrieved from her attic. I'm no expert, but I knew they were worth something, and she agreed to have me arrange an appraisal. Can you imagine our astonishment when we discovered these dolls she had from her childhood were worth \$250,000?



The woman wondered what to do. I helped her arrange a Charitable Remainder Trust—a financial arrangement that allows a valuable gift to be donated with favorable tax benefit and which provides income for life and a generous bequest to God's work.



You might not have a valuable doll collection, but a Charitable Remainder Trust might just work for you and at the same time bring the Good News of the

Messiah to the Chosen People.

For more information, call Doug McEvoy at 1-888-2-YESHUA (1-888-293-7482), email giving@chosenpeople.com, or return the response card.

For orders in the U.S. call 800-333-4936. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



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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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Our Spanish website is www.pueblolegido.com. ©2004 Chosen People Ministries.

Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will. "I will bless those who bless you." (Genesis 12:3)