

The Chosen People

Volume XII, Issue 11 December 2006

Proclaim
all these words
in the cities of
Judah and in the
streets of
Jerusalem...

JEREMIAH 11:6

Photo by Vicki Wolkins

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The Prince of Peace

Now and Forever



Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City—
Happy Hanukkah and Merry
Christmas!

This season, both celebrations begin in the month of December—which is not always the case because of the lunar calendar that governs the Jewish year.

I have to confess I have mixed feelings about both celebrations. For many, “tis the season” to be self-focused and to try and “get as much as you can for yourself.”

But it is also a time of generosity, when people are sometimes genuinely open-hearted and openhanded, even to strangers. I suppose that is the part I prefer to concentrate on in the midst of the rampant self-indulgence of our modern society.

A Joyful Season

Yes, I do find a lot to be joyful for during the holiday season. We are currently running some print and radio ads in various areas and offering our *Joined Together* evangelistic DVD to intermarried couples and their children on both coasts. We will send a free copy of the DVD to all who respond to the ads. We are praying that many interfaith married couples and their children will send for the DVD and discover the One who can bring families together and give them a *real* reason for the season.

The Jerusalem Messianic Center continues to be used in wonderful ways and has been at the center of our relief efforts for Israelis displaced during the war. Also, short-term missions groups are frequently being housed in the building. Regular Bible studies and evangelistic film outreaches are scheduled on weeknights, and local ministries and Messianic congregations are using the Center for their events as well!

Thanks so much for making these ministries possible—in Israel and

throughout the world among God's chosen people.

Is Peace Possible?

However, in the midst of this truly joyful season of the year, there are still many Israelis suffering because of the ongoing impact of the war and the continued unrest in the West Bank and Gaza.

In fact, we are still delivering aid to those terribly affected by the war with Hezbollah this past summer. Because of your generosity, we have been able to show that Jewish people who live in the Land and who believe that Jesus is the Messiah are true Israelis, and that Christians across North America care for the Jewish people. We have distributed thousands of dollars' worth of food, household staples and other types of practical help to Israelis—especially in the northern part of the country. Please pray for our dedicated staff in Israel as they bring the message of the Prince of Peace—Jesus—to the Land of Israel.

I am sure you are familiar with that wonderful Messianic passage in the Book of Isaiah, where the prophet describes the future Messiah through His names:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this (Isaiah 9:6-7).

We learn that the coming Messiah would be a wonderful counselor, ever available to hear our prayers and concerns. We also learn from this list of names that He is

God in the flesh. Can it be clearer? It is a mystery that defies all human reason but is true nonetheless. He is the Mighty God and the Everlasting Father—sometimes translated as “the Father of eternity.”

But, dear friend, there is more to the story.

He is also the *Prince of Peace* who is able to bring peace to those in the midst of humanly unsolvable conflicts. I have seen the Lord do this in interfaith families, between parents and children, and even between groups of people where there would have been no seeming hope for forgiveness or peace.

A Miracle in Germany

Recently we dedicated our new Berlin Messianic Jewish Center. This is the first building dedicated to Jewish evangelism in Germany and perhaps in all of

Europe since World War II! And the location is even more amazing. It is located about ten minutes from where Hitler's generals developed the “Final Solution” that would lead to the deaths of more than six million Jewish people. I cannot tell you how incredible it was for me to watch as 800 plus people—mostly German Christians and Russian Jewish believers who had recently moved to Germany—sang and worshipped the Lord together.

What a sight! I heard from many German Christians that they felt the Lord had given them another opportunity to treat the Jewish people differently. This time, they prayed and were willing to do all they could to love the Jewish people and help them discover Jesus the Messiah.

I was blessed to see the unity between Jewish and Gentile believers in the heart of Berlin. Only Jesus the Messiah—the Prince of Peace—could make this miracle possible.

But dear friend, there is more to the story.

For if the Lord can do this in Germany—what can He do in Israel? We know that one day He will reign as King in Jerusalem and that all the nations of the world will be reconciled in Him. And I look forward to that day. But He is still the Prince of Peace today, and my hope is to see peace between Arab and Jewish believers in Israel. Many

are working toward that, so

that the rest of the nations will see a living example of how the Prince of Peace can bring unity out of strife and forgiveness out of human suffering.

He is all that

the names in Isaiah 9:6-7 imply—and we are His instruments in bringing the message of Jesus to a broken and often greedy and self-centered world!

May the Lord use our workers in Israel and all across the globe and the *Joined Together* video outreach to interfaith married couples. May he also use all of us in our congregations and churches to help the world for whom the Savior died to recognize that He is the Lord and Prince of Peace.

Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas!

Your brother in the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Bethlehem



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Cradle of Messiah

If you were born in a town where your well-known forbears once lived and then returned there to wander its streets in anonymity, you may understand something of what Joseph and Mary might have felt as they journeyed to Bethlehem for the census ordered by the ruling Roman regime.

Although they were far from VIPs in the eyes of the world, theirs was a rich family heritage woven into a history that has played and continues to play an important role in the Land of Promise. What might their thoughts have been as they sought shelter in the town that had played such an important role in the lives of their ancestors and indeed all of Israel?

Did Mary, great with child, and her concerned husband Joseph, reflect upon the Scriptural promise, “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting*” (Micah 5:2)?

Bethlehem - Humble Abode of a Line of Kings

Bethlehem has been a site of importance in the Land of Israel from ancient times. Even its name is shrouded in mystery, as it was transformed from Beit Lahama (House of Lahama, a Canaanite god), to the more recent Hebrew name Beit Lechem (House of Bread).

Founded in 1200 BC and located only five miles south of Jerusalem, Bethlehem was not a large city. Nonetheless, it has played a prominent role in the events that have shaped the history and destiny of the world. Rachel, the wife of

Jacob, is buried in Bethlehem. It was there that Boaz took Ruth for his wife and began the line that would include Jesse, the father of David.

David himself was born in Bethlehem and it was there that the prophet Samuel anointed him King. And of course, it was in Bethlehem where Messiah was born and where, to this day, pilgrims travel thousands of miles to worship even as the Magi did at the time of His birth.

Bethlehem at the Time of Messiah

Bethlehem at the time of Messiah was as the Scriptures describe it: a small town featuring fields that can be seen to this day where shepherds guarded their flocks.

At the time of Messiah, the conflict between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of the World would have been visibly represented in Bethlehem in a most dramatic way. The Herodian, one of King Herod’s palaces, was built on a hill close to Bethlehem nearly 2,500 feet above sea level. This fortress, a grim reminder of Herod’s earthly power, would become, like Masada, a stronghold of the Zealots against the Romans around the year 70AD. It was also used by the Jewish fighters during the Bar Kokhba revolt (132-135). The historian Josephus identifies the Herodian palace as the burial place of Herod—who is remembered as the bloody despot who, hearing of Messiah’s birth, slaughtered infant boys (Matthew 2:16) in a vain attempt to preserve his doomed authority.

Bethlehem through the Centuries

Sadly, Jerusalem was destroyed amid the failed revolts of the first and second centuries. After that, the Land was occupied by the successive empires that fought over it in

the ensuing centuries. Bethlehem too became an object of squabbling, as various factions sought to exert their ruling influence over it.

When the Byzantine Emperor Constantine embraced Christianity in the fourth century, his mother, Helena, caused the Church of the Nativity to be constructed in Bethlehem. The Church was later reconstructed by the Emperor Justinian in the sixth century and its earlier foundations can be seen to this day.

Bethlehem came under Jordanian control in the aftermath of the War of Independence in 1948. Then, after the 1967 Six Day War, Bethlehem passed into Israel's control—only to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority in 1994.

Bethlehem Today

The shift of power from Israeli hands to that of the Palestinians has dramatically changed the character of Bethlehem and caused continuing turmoil in the birthplace of the Prince of Peace. In 2002, about a hundred Palestinian gunmen shot their way into the Church of the Nativity and proceeded to use it as an outpost from which they attacked Israeli soldiers—confident that the media would concentrate its attention on any return gunfire that might damage the structure of the church.

In the decade that has passed since Bethlehem was handed over to the Palestinians, the Christian population of Bethlehem has dropped from 80% to just 20%, and numerous instances of persecution of Christians have been reported.

However, as the prophecies and promises of Scripture are fulfilled, we can rest assured in the knowledge that humble Bethlehem, little among the thousands of Judah, will rejoice in its Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.



8 Things that Make Hanukkah Special

- 1 • Light the menorah and reflect upon Messiah's faithfulness to those who keep His Word
- 2 • Give gifts to loved ones – and do something special for someone in need
- 3 • Eat latkes (potato pancakes cooked in oil) and remember the miracle of Hanukkah
- 4 • Sing Hanukkah songs and praise the Lord
- 5 • Eat sufganiyot (sugar donuts) just for the fun of it
- 6 • Pray for the salvation of the Jewish People and for Chosen People Ministries' staff members around the world
- 7 • Send your Jewish friend a Hanukkah card
- 8 • Give thanks for the Lord's miracles today...

The Lord is indeed working miracles of transformation as His Gospel takes root in the souls He has prepared, particularly in Israel. Michael V., one of our faithful outreach workers, sent along this encouraging report:

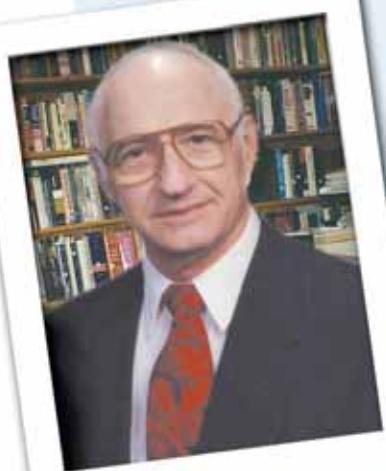
Recently, we attended an annual meeting with many of the fellowships from the region of the Galilee, in northern Israel. Hundreds came, both Jews and Arabs, and all were believers in Yeshua. We had a great time of corporate worship and afterwards, we all partook of the food everybody brought to share. One of the best parts was seeing the youth, a mixture of Jewish and Arab believers in Yeshua (Jesus), standing together before God, hand in hand, praying for the peace of the upcoming generation.

This is a modern miracle indeed—made possible only through the Lord's power to transform hearts and lives.

See the News Briefs section for more on the Lord's work in Israel.

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES *Bible*

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



DAVID'S DOCTRINE ON CREATION

One day God will send angels down from heaven to preach to men on earth. They will exhort all mankind to "...worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water" (Revelation 14:7).

Scripture's teaching about creation is one of the cornerstones of Biblical truth. The "nature psalms" of David (Psalm 8, 29, 33, 65) certainly contribute their share. More than beautiful poetry—which they are indeed—they also reflect the Biblical doctrine on creation.

CREATION WAS DIVINE

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man...for You have made him..." (Psalm 8:3-5).

The world was supernaturally created and came into existence in a

way that was entirely different from anything observable today. The first law of thermodynamics teaches us that nothing can be created directly apart from pre-existent materials. Genuine creation is no longer being accomplished today (Genesis 2:1-3). The original creation occurred without the use of any pre-existent materials whatsoever. We call this *creatio ex nihilo* (creation out of nothing). From God's omnipotence, physical entities were created out of non-physical resources.

David's doctrine of Divine creation is difficult for finite creatures to accept simply because, "...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him..." (1 Corinthians 2:14). Furthermore, those who choose to govern their own lives deny any responsibility to a Creator.

CREATION WAS INSTANTANEOUS

Psalms 32 and 33 are closely related. The last verse of Psalm 32 is expounded in Psalm 33, so that both psalms belong to David's pen.

"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth...For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:6,9).

Here we understand that creation was sudden. The teaching of David is that the creation is saturated with the idea of "sudden appearance" at the direct command of God's order. In all the "creation miracles" of the Messiah, the same sudden transformations came about at the command of His word.

CREATION INVOLVED AN APPEARANCE OF AGE OR HISTORY

"What is man that You are mindful of him . . . for You have made him a little lower than the angels... You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands..." (Psalm 8:4-6).

Here David reflects the Genesis creation account where God created a fully grown man in a fully developed world. The man was given immediate responsibility. In like fashion, creation itself would have an appearance of history or age. The same principle applies to the great miracles of our Messiah. Every visible miracle performed by the Lord on earth involved the creation of "built-in history." Why should we expect anything less in God's original creation?

In his doctrine of creation, David believed and asserted that God's creation was Divine, immediate and with an appearance of age. David's creation doctrine is in perfect harmony with the account of Moses in Genesis, chapters one and two. ☩

PEACE IN THE MIDST OF WAR

The following reports will bring you up to date on what our staff members experienced and contributed during the recent war between Israel and Hezbollah.



FLEXIBLE SERVANT OF MESSIAH

At the age of 23, Solomon,* who lives in Australia and is a part of Celebrate Messiah, is still young enough to keep up with the Russian immigrant children he was working with in Israel when the war started. He stayed on to play a pivotal role in the Chosen People Ministries team headed by Maxim K. and Rachel G. as they organized supplies and shelter for as many of the displaced people as they could. His words describe their collective efforts well:

Maxim headed up the relief projects, serving as the "go to" person and coordinating the acquisition and distribution of food supplies. Latrun, a small village outside of Jerusalem, served as a refugee camp for people fleeing from Haifa and other places in the North. We cared for a children's camp there that had as many as sixty kids aged 6-17.

Rachel was quite involved in the food purchase and distribution. She also poured her gifts and



loving spirit into forging relationships with the children at Latrun, and organizing field trips to the Jerusalem Messianic Center for showers and a night's sleep in a decent bed.

I worked mainly in a support role—running errands and helping the leaders. I also wrote up reports about what we were doing in the form of a newsletter that the Lord used to help raise funds in Australia for the relief effort.

THE RIGHT MAN AT THE RIGHT TIME FOR MESSIAH

Maxim K. has seen hard times—but perhaps his struggles have in some way prepared him for the very special role he was to play as the urgent need for ministry made itself felt during the war with Hezbollah.



Born in Siberia in 1976, Maxim struggled from an early age with a physical disability that made it impossible to walk until he was nine years old. Perhaps this early difficulty contributed to his desire for the things of the world, and they became his goal as he immigrated to Israel to make a new life as a Jew. However, his way of life had by now become a downward spiral. But the Lord reached out to him through "The Shelter," a ministry in Eilat. A minister there befriended Maxim at his worst moment. Maxim finally received the Lord and began to grow. Now he is working in Jerusalem with Chosen People Ministries, sharing the good news of Messiah.

His early contact with "The Shelter" proved of great value. For now it was Maxim's turn to offer assistance. Maxim and Rachel used funds donated by Chosen People Ministries supporters to buy much-needed supplies, and headed south. After driving five hours through the desert, they arrived in the town of Eilat, the population of which had grown by 70,000 in the previous two weeks. Arriving at "The Shelter," they prayed with the people as they delivered supplies. Those who were there were so happy to get the food and the outreach materials, which they passed along to a local school that was caring for 320 refugees. We

know of one displaced family that was so touched by this expression of Messiah's love that they came to faith during the week they were there.

*Names changed



An “End of Year” Gift Brings Joy and Benefits!

Giving with joy brings increased blessing! The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that “God loves a cheerful giver.”

As the end of the year approaches, many of us are thinking about gifts, not only to our families at the holidays, but to God’s work as well. And there is an added benefit of donating to a charitable organization at the end of the year. It is the tax savings we receive for such a donation.

Although all gifts received by December 31, 2006, qualify for tax deductibility, gifts of cash or checks are the most popular choice. Through gifts of cash, it is possible to eliminate or reduce income tax on up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. Larger gifts may result in tax savings in as many as six tax years. Remember, the higher your tax bracket, the more you save.

Gifts of property such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other appropriate assets that have increased in value since you have owned them can result in extra tax savings. Gifts of appreciated assets can eliminate tax on up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. The assets that are best to give are those that have increased the most in value and would result in the greatest capital gains tax if sold.

As the year draws to a close, please pray and consider if you have accomplished your charitable giving goals for 2006. Feel free to contact Doug McEvoy at 1-888-293-7482 for more information. Your personal accountant or other advisors can also provide you with more specific information according to your needs.



Doug McEvoy,
Director of
Stewardship
1-888-293-7482

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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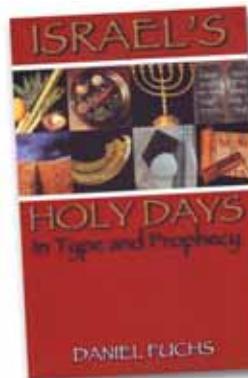
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For the Holidays



Israel's Holy Days in Type and Prophecy

[2013] • \$8.95^{USD}

by Daniel Fuchs

In Leviticus 23, God presents seven annual sacred feasts of Israel. At first this passage seems to simply list Israel's holy days. But the more one studies the Bible,

both the Old and New Testaments, the more one realizes that this passage is more than just a list of holy days; it is actually an outline of God's calendar from eternity to eternity. In this brief but thorough review, the author, a Jewish believer in Jesus, examines the festivals of Leviticus 23, their history, their present celebration in the synagogue and home, and their prophetic fulfillment.



Hanukkah Menorah

[5023] • \$33.95^{USD}

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those who bless
you.” (Genesis 12:3)



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