



**The
Chosen
People**

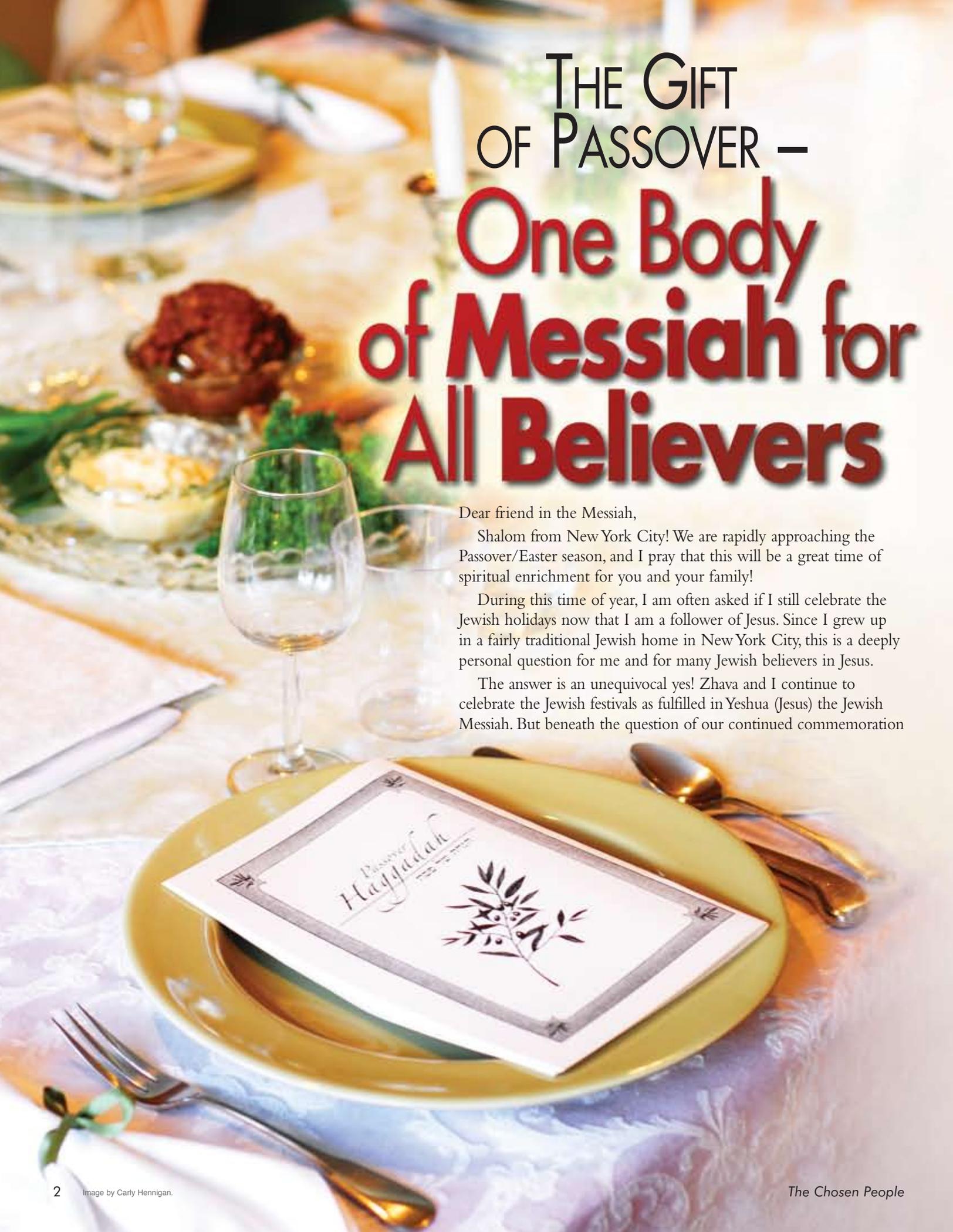


Volume XVI, Issue 2 March 2010

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

One Body of Messiah for All Believers • Life in Messiah through
the Power of Passover • Children of the King (Matthew 18)

A photograph of a Passover Seder table. In the foreground, a yellow plate holds a white card with a decorative border. The card features the text "Passover" and "Haggadah" in a cursive font, along with a small illustration of a branch with leaves and berries. The table is set with a white lace tablecloth, a glass of wine, a glass of water, and various dishes including a roasted chicken, a bowl of green beans, and a bowl of yellow sauce. The background shows more of the table and a white napkin with a silver fork and knife.

THE GIFT OF PASSOVER – One Body of Messiah for All Believers

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom from New York City! We are rapidly approaching the Passover/Easter season, and I pray that this will be a great time of spiritual enrichment for you and your family!

During this time of year, I am often asked if I still celebrate the Jewish holidays now that I am a follower of Jesus. Since I grew up in a fairly traditional Jewish home in New York City, this is a deeply personal question for me and for many Jewish believers in Jesus.

The answer is an unequivocal yes! Zhava and I continue to celebrate the Jewish festivals as fulfilled in Yeshua (Jesus) the Jewish Messiah. But beneath the question of our continued commemoration

of the feasts of Israel, there is another underlying issue. It is the question of whether a Jewish person who receives Jesus is still Jewish—and if so, whether this makes a Jewish believer different from a Gentile believer.

I recently had a dialogue with a Jewish believer on this subject, and I would like to share some of the ideas I wrote to her in a letter. We must begin with Scripture, as this is the basis for the answers to all our spiritual questions.

Jewish Believers – A Special But Not Superior Heritage

In the first few verses of Romans chapter eleven, we read that Paul considers himself to be a Jewish believer in Jesus. In verse five, we see that he recognizes that he is not alone, as there are other Jewish people who believe in Jesus as well. Paul identifies this minority as a remnant. In chapter nine, verse six, Paul says, *“For they are not all Israel who are of Israel.”*

In this instance, Paul is not speaking about Gentiles becoming Jews, but rather contrasting Jews by way of nationality with Jews born Jewish and born again by believing in Jesus. It does not mean that Jews who do not believe in Jesus are not Jews, or that Gentiles who do believe in Jesus are Jews. He simply means the same thing he says in Romans 11—that there is a remnant of Jewish people within Israel who follow Jesus. In other words, Jewish people who have received Jesus have the blessing of being Jewish on the inside (spiritually) through knowing the Lord, as well as nationally by being identified through the covenant that God made with Abraham.

Essentially, Messianic Jews are part of two entities established by God in the Bible—Israel and the Church. This is a great privilege. Messianic Jews are born Jewish and are part of the Jewish people, and that does not change when we receive Jesus as our Messiah. On the other hand, because we have received Jesus, we are also part of the Church, which is made up of people who love

the Lord and is built upon the chief cornerstone, Jesus the Messiah.

In order for the Church to be the Church, there must be both Jews and Gentiles in the same Body. The Church is described as a mystery in Ephesians chapter five, and part of that mystery is that Jews and Gentiles are part of the same spiritual community, receiving the gift of life from the same Savior and sharing in the common life of the Holy Spirit.

So as Messianic Jews we are part of the Jewish people—and therefore part of the remnant—and also part of the Church, which makes us one with our Gentile brothers and sisters. How we keep all this in balance throughout our lives is a great question!

I believe that the ground is even at the foot of the Cross! In all of the passages in Scripture (such as Galatians 3:28) where we see Jews and Gentiles declared as one, we also learn that true spiritual unity is an even stronger and a more powerful testimony in light of our God-ordained diversity. If we handle our diversity with elitism or arrogance, then that is sin. But if we seek to live as the people God made us to be, we will find how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity (Psalm 133).

Passover – A Future Feast Celebrated in the Present

Will I be celebrating Passover this year? Of course—because as a believer in Jesus, the festivals are more meaningful to me than ever before!

It is during the Feast of Unleavened Bread that I am reminded of the Lord’s sinless nature. I will be reminded of His purity and innocence all week, as my family and I will eat *matza* and avoid leavened bread for seven days.

The Passover *Seder* itself will be magnificent, especially as we lift the shank bone on the Seder plate and remember Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. And as we eat the Bread of Affliction, a symbol

of Messiah’s suffering, and drink the third cup—the Cup of Redemption—we will remember His words to His disciples: *“Drink . . . For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”* (Mt. 26:27-28).

As I share this special moment with my family and loved ones, I will remember that the Passover is also a time for the stranger to draw near to the presence of the Lord. I will remember, as the Apostle Paul wrote to the beloved Gentiles to whom God had called him, that although they were once far off, they have been brought near by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13). My Gentile brothers and sisters in the Lord have been brought into the household of faith to share in the same promises of Messiah in which I rejoice. I look ahead to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, which is the fulfillment of all earthly symbols. One day, all of reality—including you and me—will be transformed in the final restoration of all things.

The Passover also reminds us of one more important truth: that redemption is incomplete without the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people who are waiting for Him also understand this—and it is our task to show them that Jesus is the One for whom they have been waiting all along.

Thank you for your prayers and giving that have enabled many Jewish people to find the Lord! Be sure to pray for our Passover outreach this month!

In the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



FINDING LIFE IN MESSIAH THROUGH THE POWER OF PASSOVER



MISSION PRAYER POINTS

Here are some highlights from Chosen People Ministries' global outreach. Please pray that the Lord will build upon what He has already established!

- Pray that Jewish seekers will come to faith at Chosen People Ministries' "Messiah in the Passover" presentations throughout the world.
- Pray for our staff in Israel as they minister through the Gospel Café in Tel Aviv.
- Pray that the Lord will bless the planning and preparation for the Isaiah 53 evangelistic campaign.
- Pray for the new students entering the program at the Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies in New York City.
- Pray for Chosen People Ministries' work in South America as Ricardo Chemi and his staff touch Jewish lives in Buenos Aires and elsewhere.

If you have ever attended a Messianic Passover Seder, it is likely that you have found your faith in Messiah transformed in some life-changing way. Perhaps the presentation deepened your understanding of the Lord's Supper. Perhaps it helped you more fully grasp the connection between the promises of the Hebrew Scriptures and their fulfillment in the New Testament. Or perhaps it was at a Messianic Passover celebration that you, like many others, gave your life to Messiah for the first time or rededicated your life to the Lord.

For some of our Russian staff members, Passover has been a time when they have not only encountered Messiah, but also found new meaning in their long-suppressed Jewish identity. Here are some of their stories.

BORIS GOLDIN— SEEING PASSOVER IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT



Boris Goldin emigrated from Kiev, Ukraine to Brooklyn, New York and came to faith in Messiah after his wife, Shulamit, became a believer in Yeshua (Jesus). At first Boris resisted her witness and argued vehemently with her. But after a year and a half of searching, Boris came to understand the truth of the Gospel and received Messiah. Boris is now on staff with Chosen People Ministries, serving the Lord among Russian-speaking Jewish people in South Florida and leading a Bible study at our Messianic Center in Boynton Beach.

"I remember as a boy in Ukraine, we had pieces of *matza* (unleavened bread) that we kept hidden at Passover—but that's all I remember about it. Father smuggled it into the house lest the Soviet authorities find out. There was one small synagogue in Kiev and my grandfather took me, but there were never people my age there. I celebrated my first Passover as a believer at a Seder led by Mitch Glaser in Brooklyn in 1993. I was able to recognize the Messiah in the Seder in so many aspects of Yeshua's life, death and resurrection. The lighting of the candles, the bitterness of the horseradish—I started to see it all in a different light. Before I became a believer, I read Isaiah 53 and it had a great effect on me. Now I was able to see the relationship between the Passover and the Suffering Servant described in that chapter. Probably the most meaningful thing for me was the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the third cup, the Cup of Redemption. This to me is the most sacred part of the Seder; it is like a reenactment of the Father sending the Son into the world as both sacrifice and redeemer."

MAXIM K.— SURPRISED BY PASSOVER



In 1996, Maxim became one of the many citizens of the former Soviet Union who made *aliyah* (immigrated) to Israel. He came to believe in Messiah in the city of Eilat in southern Israel four years later. Maxim has been a part of Chosen People Ministries for eight years now, working in children's ministry as well as with young adults. He also reaches out to Holocaust survivors.

"Back in Russia, I knew nothing about Passover. The first time I celebrated Passover was in a Messianic congregation in Eilat. I was surprised to understand the meaning of Passover for the Jewish people, the meaning of the sacrifices on behalf of Israel, and the meaning of the Passover Lamb as a sign of the coming Messiah. For me, as a believer and as a Jew, Passover brings an insight into the sacrifice of Messiah. By learning the story of Exodus, I also understood a deeper meaning of this feast in my own life. When I learned about Yeshua as the Passover Lamb, and compared His sacrifice with the sacrificial lamb of Passover, I was even more assured that the Scriptures are God's Word and are trustworthy!"

LUDA FORD— A FAMILY CELEBRATION



Born into a Bukharan Jewish family in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Luda immigrated to New Zealand in 1979. There she studied English with a woman who used the Bible as a teaching tool, and she became a believer in 1982. Sensing a calling from God to go to Israel, she moved there in 1989. Later, after pursuing Jewish studies at Moody Bible Institute, she joined Chosen People Ministries' staff in 1999. Luda and her husband, Randall, currently minister among the Bukharan Jewish community in Queens, New York.

"Growing up in Uzbekistan, we were not very religious. I only have a hazy memory that we ate matza at Passover because we were Jewish. After I became a believer, I heard teachings about Passover, but I didn't have many feelings about it. It was only when I actually celebrated it in a home with believing friends in Jerusalem that Passover became real to me, and I found that it was very beautiful. What is most meaningful to me about Passover is enjoying it as a family celebration. I also see it as a great connection between Jewish believers in Yeshua and the rest of the Jewish people. The message of the Messiah becomes more significant with each passing year, as we speak about it and share wonderful family time when we celebrate it."



RITA IVENSKIS— COMING HOME THROUGH PASSOVER

Rita Ivenskis was born in Ukraine and immigrated to Australia in 1979. She came to faith in 1991 through the witness of a good friend. Rita has served on the staff of Celebrate Messiah, Chosen People Ministries' Australian ministry partner, for the past fourteen years as a missionary and teacher in the Russian Jewish community. Her husband, Elia, is also a believer, and Elia's father, a Holocaust survivor, received Messiah shortly before he passed away last year. Rita's parents also came to faith before they died.

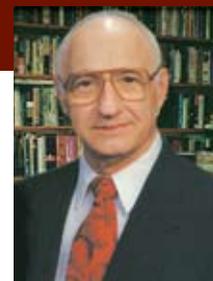
"Although I knew I was Jewish, I had no background whatsoever in the observances of Judaism as I grew up in Ukraine. My grandfather was killed in the War and I think that Ukrainian Jewish people of my parents' generation were simply afraid to live as observant Jews. The first time I celebrated Passover was with Lawrence and Louise Hirsch at Celebrate Messiah in 1996. It was something very special. I felt like I belonged to the Jewish people—that after years of wandering in the wilderness, I had finally come home to God. The Feast of Passover helped me understand my Jewish soul and identity, through my relationship with Messiah. Passover reminds me that Jesus is my Messiah and the Passover Lamb. He is the atonement for my sins and through Him, I have this wonderful relationship with God. I can talk with Him every day—and know that He hears and answers my prayers."

SEE FOR YOURSELF

We hope you enjoyed these testimonies. But don't just take our word for it! If you have not yet done so, you can celebrate Passover in your own home or in a church fellowship setting. Give us a call—Chosen People Ministries has wonderful resources to help you celebrate Passover and see the Messiah in the midst of this ancient ceremony. Call 888-2-YESHUA for more information, and to find out about a Chosen People Ministries Passover Seder near you! 🌈

SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

CHILDREN OF THE KING (Matthew 18)

While on the earth, Jesus the King never had children of His own. Nevertheless, as King of Heaven, He has chosen to adopt many children into His family. To illustrate how to enter and how to act as a child of His Kingdom, Jesus “called a little child to Him...” (Mt. 18:2). Here are three important truths we can glean from His teaching.

ADOPTION (Mt. 18:3,4)

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son...to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Gal. 4:4,5).

Jesus taught that adoption into God’s Kingdom begins with the humility of a child. This results in a new birth, whereby we “enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 18:3; Jn. 3:3-7). While we never adopt our own children, God adopts only His own children! In a civil adoption, we are careful to seek out many pleasing features in those we adopt, but God loved us while we were still His enemies (Rom. 5:8).

COMPASSION (Mt. 18:10-22)

Jesus illustrated the compassion that family members need to

exhibit toward each other as children of the King. Since the Lord had recently declared that He would “build His Church” (Mt. 16:18), the principles He taught here would be applicable for believers in the household of God after the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:41-16; Eph. 4:32).

First of all, His children would be motivated with a love for the lost: “For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost” (Mt. 18:11). This is illustrated by Jesus in His story of the lost sheep (Mt. 18:12-14).

Secondly, the true child of God would be willing to exhibit compassion for other children of God, including family members who are disobedient. In this relationship, the King gives the divine pattern of discipline which the family of God should administer, in love, toward straying “brothers and sisters” (Mt. 18:15-17).

All discipline within God’s family should be administered with love, prayers (Mt. 18:18,19) and compassion with the view of restoring family fellowship. The true basis upon which we forgive

the brethren is God’s forgiveness of our own iniquities (Mt. 18:33-35).

EXALTATION (Mt. 18:1)

The key question that precipitated the entire discussion in Matthew 18 was asked, no doubt, by Peter—“Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (v. 1). When Jesus called for a little child, the disciples knew that, in Greek as well as in Aramaic, the word for children, *paides*, also means “servants.” The house in Capernaum where the question regarding “greatness” occurred may have been Peter’s, and the child may have been Peter’s son. The disciples, like little children, had nothing to offer the Father but love and trust. They had to receive every spiritual benefit, as do all of us, as a gift from the Father.

ARE YOU A CHILD OF THE KING?

Children of the King surround the throne of their Heavenly Father and enjoy the special protection and attention of the angels (Mt. 18:10). Have you entered the Kingdom humbly, as a little child, by receiving the Gospel of Messiah? If not, today would be the perfect day to do so. 🌈

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL AND ISRAELIS

This month, there were so many exciting reports about Israel and Israelis that we wanted to feature them in our News Briefs section:

GOSPEL CAFÉ SPARKS INTEREST

Lisa W., who has been serving in Israel, was strolling along a street in Tel Aviv when a Jewish man approached her to ask for directions. As they conversed, he asked where Lisa was going and she told him she was heading toward our recently-opened Gospel Café. He told Lisa he did not believe in Jesus, but also said that he had been reading the New Testament. He agreed to join her for a cup of coffee at the café. As they opened the Scriptures, he asked Lisa to pray that God would reveal the truth to him. When they ended their visit, the man expressed a desire to join the weekly meeting at the Messianic Center in Jerusalem.

IN MIAMI, ISRAELI COMES TO FAITH

Manuel Goffman, who leads a Messianic congregation in Miami, has been ministering to David,* a young Israeli man who came to a worship service. Manuel says, “My ministry with my wife Rosita is to encourage people in discipleship and bring them to a personal relationship with us

that will, we pray, bring them to a personal relationship with God. This is especially true with the young people, whom we ‘adopt’ as our children. As they see the Eternal One working in their lives, they are led through this experience to receive Messiah, and then continue to grow.” This was David’s experience. He saw the Lord working in his life through the patient ministry of the Goffmans, and just a little while ago he joyfully told them that he had received the Lord!



TEL AVIV MINISTRY OFFERS HOPE AND NEW LIFE TO HOMELESS MAN

The street ministry that Brian S. operates in Tel Aviv confronts human tragedy on a daily basis. But the light of the Gospel banishes the darkness of sin, as Brian tells: “A man named Isaac,* who is a Russian Jew, was helpless, hopeless and homeless, looking for any park or bus bench to sleep on. Until he came to us, he had searched for hope in a bottle of vodka. However, he found real hope when he came to our soup kitchen in Tel Aviv, where he began to surrender his life, begging for us to take him in to our Bible-based rehab center. This is where he cleaned up his physical life, renewed his mind, and within two weeks gave his life to the Lord. Please pray for Isaac as we continue to disciple him and four other men who are new in their faith.”

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS HEAR GOSPEL AT PIANO CONCERT

Henry N., who has led a Messianic congregation in the West Bank for the past ten years, is also a highly gifted classical pianist from a family of similarly gifted artists. His whole family, including his children, gave several concerts for Holocaust survivors and other elderly people in Jerusalem. The listeners were very attentive, Henry reports, not only to the music but also to the Gospel message that followed the program. Henry says, “We even met some people who had attended concerts given by my father and grandfather in the former Soviet Union! After these concerts, it was much easier to present the Good News of salvation to them!”

*name has been changed

I Feel a Sense of Responsibility . . .

I fell in love with the people and the land of Israel on our first visit there in 1997. I support Jewish missions because I believe it is scriptural for individuals and churches to do so (Romans 11:17,18). I feel a sense of responsibility, and I truly believe that if we fail to bring the Gospel to the Jewish people, we are failing to grasp the message of the Scriptures (Romans 15:27).

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For more information on ways you can be involved in giving, please contact us today. Call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535) or email us at giving@chosenpeople.com.

STEP INTO THE ISAIAH 53 EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

Chosen People Ministries' Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) is going to be something special this year. It will be two back-to-back, week-long sessions – July 10-17 and July 18-24. Join us for either or both as we begin our Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaign. This is your opportunity to share the Gospel with the exciting and varied Jewish community of greater New York. Call 212-223-2252 for more information.

www.chosenpeople.com/step



SIMCHA MEANS JOY!

Plan to join us at SIMCHA, Chosen People Ministries' Annual Retreat, May 28-31. This year, our theme will be *Our Love for Zion: Israel's Glorious Future According to Isaiah*, featuring Dr. Mitch Glaser. You'll enjoy fun, fellowship, Messiah-centered teaching and lively worship with Steve Wiggins. There will be programs for all age groups—plus recreational opportunities and family activities.

Call 212-223-2252 for registration information, or visit us online at www.chosenpeople.com/simcha.

May 28-31



Bringing to Life the Story of God's Love at Passover

Messianic Passover Haggadah (#3008) / \$6.95^{US}

This Haggadah has been prepared to show God's redemptive grace in the Passover through the death, burial and resurrection of His Messiah, Jesus, and to symbolize God's spiritual redemption of His people.

Matza Tash (#5026) / \$26.95^{US}

This white Matza Tash is beautifully embroidered in Israel and is a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature.

Seder Plate (#5024) / \$30.95^{US}

This silver Seder Plate is made in Israel and beautifully displays the Seder elements.

Kiddush Cup (#5025) / \$22.95^{US}

This silver Kiddush Cup is about three inches tall.

COMPLETE SET – matza tash, plate & cup (#5027) / \$73.95^{US}



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The Chosen People Newsletter

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



A higher standard. A higher purpose.

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