

# The Chosen People



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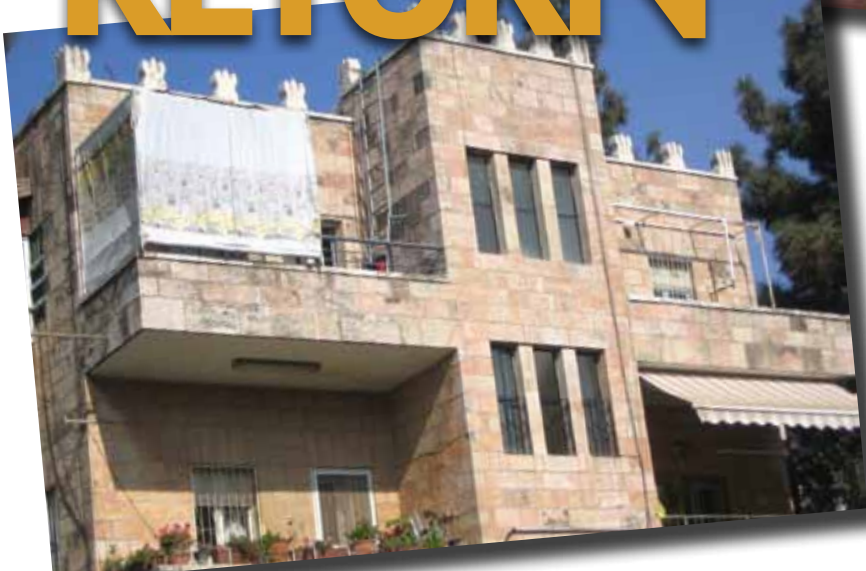
# MESSIAH IN THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

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ISSUE:**

High Holy Days & Messiah's Return • Dr. Walter Kaiser on the Middle East Crisis • Barabbas the Robber or Jesus the Messiah

Illustration by Meris Schbold from the 2012 Messianic Jewish Art Calendar

# THE HIGH HOLY DAYS & MESSIAH'S RETURN



Dear friend of the Jewish people,  
Shalom from New York City! We have had a busy summer of ministry. Now that it is fall, the Jewish world is turning its attention to the High Holy Days. These ancient observances are also very important to all followers of Messiah—both Jewish and non-Jewish.  
Let me give you this year's schedule of holy days so that you can be attuned to the rhythm of your Jewish friends and family during the next few weeks. First, we will observe the Jewish holiday of *Rosh Hashanah*. In English, this literally means, "the head of the year"—that is, the Jewish New

Year! Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of September 16.  
*Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement, will be observed September 25-26. Finally, there is *Sukkot* (the Feast of Tabernacles), which will be celebrated for a total of eight days beginning on September 30 and concluding on October 7.  
I wish I had the space in this newsletter to provide more details about all three of these glorious Jewish holidays. However, my wife and I discuss their importance, especially as they point to Jesus the Messiah, in our book entitled *The Fall Feasts of Israel*. You can also learn more about the

Jewish holy days by purchasing a copy of our beautiful new Messianic Jewish Art calendar featuring the art of a Russian Jewish believer now living in London. Both of these great resources are available through our website ([www.chosenpeople.com/store](http://www.chosenpeople.com/store)).  
May I take a few moments of your time to share with you, from my heart, some thoughts about the first of these great holy days, Rosh Hashanah?

## **Rosh Hashanah: The Jewish New Year**

The great theme of Rosh Hashanah is repentance. One of the most significant moments of the Rosh Hashanah service is the blowing of

the *shofar*, the ram's horn. In biblical times, the sounding of the shofar was usually understood as a warning of impending danger. In Jewish tradition, however, the blowing of the shofar also represents a call to repentance and is a reminder of one of the greatest stories in the Old Testament Scriptures.

This story, found in Genesis 22, describes the occasion when God commanded Abraham to go to Mount Moriah and slay his son, Isaac. As Scripture describes, Abraham was just about to thrust the knife into the body of his young son, when the Lord spoke from heaven and told him to stop. Abraham then found a ram, caught in the thicket by its horns, and sacrificed it as a replacement for Isaac on Mount Moriah.

This is prophetically significant, as Mount Moriah is ultimately where King David purchased the land where his son Solomon would build the Temple, the holiest of all sanctuaries, where thousands upon thousands of animals would be sacrificed for the sins of the Jewish people. It would also be the place where a greater son of Abraham, Jesus the Messiah, would give His life as an atonement for the sins of the world.

The sounding of the ram's horn reminds the Jewish people of Abraham's great faith as he was willing to do whatever the Lord asked him to do—no matter what the cost! Abraham is also a great example for those of us who have embraced Jesus as our Messiah and Lord. We also need to exercise the same obedience and willingness to do whatever the Lord tells us to do, knowing that He will always provide for us.

### **A Season of "Muted Joy"**

I would describe Rosh Hashanah as a season of "muted joy" for me. On the one hand, there is hope and joy because of the focus on the possibilities a new year brings. However, this holiday also makes me

rather sad, because of the emphasis that modern Jewish tradition places upon repentance and good works as the pathway to personal salvation.

Good deeds and repentance can never bring a man or woman into a personal relationship with the God of Israel. In fact, if we learn anything from Rosh Hashanah and from Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, it is that salvation goes beyond any human effort. Although both repentance and good works are important to our relationship with God, entry into His presence can only come through actions outside of our own human capability.

This twinge of sadness I feel is tempered by the great joy I have in knowing that God did for us exactly what He did for Abraham—providing a *sacrificial substitute* at just the right moment. Jesus the Messiah, the perfect substitute as described in Isaiah chapter 53, gave His life for us as a sacrifice for sin. It is through Him that we enter into the presence of God and enjoy the gift of personal salvation, which only God Himself can provide. This gift is available for Jews and Gentiles, on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and every day of the year. We can enter into His presence by trusting in the One who came and paid the price for our sin.

### **He Has and Will Again Tabernacle Among Us**

One day, Jesus the Messiah will return to sit on His throne in Jerusalem and reign as King. In that day, *shalom* (peace) will fill the earth, and all the cares and concerns that weigh so heavily upon us today will disappear. Every teardrop will be wiped away by His presence. All problems, large and small, national, international and personal, will no longer exist—because Jesus will reign as King. The Prince of Peace will finally solve the Middle East crisis!

Please pray for the Jewish people during this important season of the

year. During the fall feasts, the hearts of Jewish people are especially tender towards God—so it is a crucial time to pray for your Jewish friends, to wish them a Happy New Year, to send a Rosh Hashanah card, and to encourage your Jewish friends and family to seek the Lord and find true forgiveness in Messiah.

### **Your Partnership Is Appreciated**

Thanks for praying for Chosen People Ministries, especially as we follow up with the many people we met during **Outreach Israel**, our short-term summer ministry in the Holy Land, as well as with the dozens of Jewish seekers we met through **Shalom Brooklyn** in August. Keep praying also for the many Jewish people who have responded to the **Isaiah 53 Campaign** over the last few months and who are reading and pondering the evangelistic book *Isaiah 53 Explained*.

The traditional Jewish greeting on Rosh Hashanah is "May your name be inscribed in the book of life." I am sure that your name is written in the Lamb's book of life, but I encourage you to pray for your Jewish friends and neighbors, that their names might also be inscribed in His book of eternal life.

Happy New Year!

  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

P.S. In this edition of the newsletter, I'm sure you'll enjoy the summary of Dr. Walter Kaiser's Bible study on Isaiah chapter 19 from our conference on the Middle East crisis held at Biola University. It speaks of the future that is only possible because of the shed blood of our Messiah Jesus.



## Dr. Walter Kaiser's Address at the "Israel, the Church and the Middle East Crisis" Conference

In the spring of 2012, Chosen People Ministries held a conference at Biola University in Southern California on the topic of "Israel, the Church and the Middle East Crisis." Dr. Walter Kaiser, a prominent scholar of the Hebrew Bible and former president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, spoke on **"The Future of the Middle East According to the Bible,"** particularly in light of Isaiah 19. Despite the current turmoil in the Middle East, Dr. Kaiser's poignant and clear message powerfully depicts hope for the future of the region. Here is a summary of the key aspects of his important message about God's future plan for the Middle East.

### The Prophetic Judgment of Isaiah 19

Observing that the Hebrew Bible contains many startling examples of God's judgment and protection of the same nation, Dr. Kaiser asserted that the "most startling of all is the prophecy in Isaiah 19." He goes on to describe how the chapter begins with judgment against Egypt, but ends with an awesome description of a revival in Egypt and a reconciliation of the nation of Israel with two of her former nemeses, Assyria and Egypt. The Bible's 700 references to Egypt demonstrate the dramatic role that this country plays in both the past and the future. Dr. Kaiser chose God's treatment of Egypt in Isaiah 19 as an example of the transformation of Israel's enemies within the collection of biblical prophecies against the Gentile nations (Isaiah 13-23, Jeremiah 46-50, Ezekiel 25-32).

Isaiah 19 starts by depicting God's judgment as He rides upon a cloud against Egypt (Isaiah 19:1). It recalls the last time Egypt experienced "God's hand of judgment" during the Exodus. The judgment described in Isaiah 19 will impact "every aspect of Egyptian life: socially, politically, economically, and academically." God's judgment against Egyptian life will have ramifications in three areas. The first involves the "political and social collapse of Egypt" (Isaiah 19:2-4). Civil war and cultural upheaval will lead the Egyptians to seek deliverance from false gods and human effort.

The second calamity is the "economic collapse of Egypt" (Isaiah 19:5-10). Egypt's agricultural productivity will drastically disintegrate (19:5) as Dr. Kaiser pointed out: "If the Nile dried up, the Egyptian economy would likewise grind



Dr. Walter Kaiser (right) answering questions with Dr. Darrell Bock at a conference forum

to a halt." Isaiah lists the failure of three foundational industries: the fishing industry (19:6,8), the manufacture of linen (19:9), and the export of cotton (19:10). Dr. Kaiser showed how the Aswan Dam, completed in 1970, has "continued to raise economic problems of mega proportions."

The third area of judgment occurs through the "intellectual collapse in Egypt" (Isaiah 19:11-15). Although the country depends upon wisdom from its leadership, folly will predominate and "those who are wisest in the land have little to offer except foolishness." According to Isaiah, the wisdom of Egypt is unable to solve the country's problems; as Kaiser stated, "God had allowed their presumed wisdom to backfire so that nothing was working."

### From Judgment to Deliverance

Isaiah suddenly switches his tone in the middle of the chapter (Isaiah 19:16-17). Kaiser identifies these verses as the "transition from judgment to deliverance." This section looks forward to a time in the future in which two changes will occur. First, the Egyptians will no longer fear the "uplifted hand that the Lord Almighty raises against them" (19:16b), as they did during the Exodus. Second, "the land of Judah will bring terror to the Egyptians" (19:17a). Historically, Judah was never a threat to Egypt, but Isaiah warns of a future time when "mere mention of the word 'Judah' would strike terror to an Egyptian." Kaiser observed that this situation had never before occurred in Egypt—until the "Six Day War" in 1967, when Israel surprised the Egyptian army, which had mobilized in the International Demilitarized Zone of the Sinai Peninsula. "Judah, from that time on, became a new terror to the Egyptians as it has continued to rank among the top three or four military machines on the planet," said Kaiser.

The transitional period leads to Isaiah's conclusion, when he anticipates the future deliverance of Egypt and other Near Eastern countries (Isaiah 19:18-25). God will dramatically change the scene when He intervenes to demonstrate "His salvation and deliverance on a scale that would be eye-popping both to those in Egypt and to those around the globe."



This transformation begins with the conversion of Egypt, including a revival in five Egyptian cities “where Hebrew will one day be spoken” (19:18). Egypt’s revival leads to the establishment of an altar to the Lord in the “heart of Egypt” and a monument at the border between Israel and Egypt (19:19). The “five-city-revival” then extends to the whole land, with the newly-established monument being “a pillar on the border of the country of Egypt that would act as a sort of Statue of Liberty,” recalling “the great time when God came to the country of Egypt in great power” (19:20).

This is not the end to God’s surprises. God promises a time when Assyria and Egypt will be both “co-worshippers and [have] co-equality with Israel” (19:23-25). Isaiah looks forward to a time with “free, mutual movement between Egypt and Assyria” (modern-day Syria and northern Iraq). These former enemies will unite into a “trio of godly states” to worship the Lord together (19:23-24). “Egypt and Assyria are representatives of a larger gathering of Gentile believers from the nations all over the world that will be changed when the King of Kings and Lord of Lords appears a second time.” Isaiah looks forward to a time when, through Abraham’s seed, “all nations or Gentiles of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

As we know, the trajectory of the Middle East changed dramatically two years ago, when violent demonstrations broke out in the North African country of Tunisia. The “Arab Spring” spread to Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria and other countries in the region. Although it is not clear what these revolutions will mean for the future of the Middle East, Dr. Kaiser’s message demonstrates that the Bible clearly shows that “divine judgment will fall on all those nations that oppose God and His plan for Israel and the nations.”

#### Recommended Reading:

*Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations*, Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. (Baker Academic 2000)

*The Nations, Israel and the Church in Prophecy*, John F. Walvoord (Zondervan 1962)

*Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict: What the Headlines Haven’t Told You*, Michael A. Rydelnik (Moody Publishers 2004)

***Kreplach*** (pronounced “krey-plach,” with the *ch* like you are clearing your throat) are small dumplings filled with ground meat, mashed potatoes or other fillings; they are usually boiled and served in a chicken soup. They are like a Yiddish version of Italian tortellini or Chinese wontons. In Jewish homes, they are symbolically served on Rosh Hashanah or at the meal before the fast of Yom Kippur. For Eastern European Jews of humble means in the days of the *shtetl* (villages in Poland/Russia), this was an inexpensive and filling meal to prepare, as it only needs some dough and perhaps leftover meat or potato. You could find a piping hot serving of kreplach in every Jewish grandmother’s kitchen!



#### **Kreplach Recipe** (makes 18 kreplach)

|                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dough:                     | Filling:                     |
| 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups flour | 1 cup ground beef or chicken |
| 2 eggs                     | 1 small onion, grated        |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt    | salt and pepper to taste     |
| 3 tbsp. oil                |                              |

Combine dough ingredients in a large bowl. Knead and roll the dough out on a floured board until it is close to paper thin. Cut into 3-inch squares.

Cook filling ingredients together in a skillet with a tablespoon of oil. Place a teaspoon amount in the center of the square and fold diagonally to create a triangle. Seal the sides by basting it with egg.

Bring a pot of water to a boil, add 1 tablespoon of salt, drop the *kreplach* in and cook for 20 minutes. The *kreplach* will float on the surface of the water when they are finished cooking.

#### Sources:

[www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/Kreplach-236219/](http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/Kreplach-236219/)

[www.chabad.org/holidays/purim/article\\_cdo/aid/1363/jewish/Basic-Kreplach.htm](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/purim/article_cdo/aid/1363/jewish/Basic-Kreplach.htm)

# 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.

## BARABBAS THE ROBBER OR JESUS THE MESSIAH AND KING?

### Matthew 27:11-26

Everyone is faced with decision making in critical situations. Jesus stood before Pilate the Governor, who gave the nation of Israel a choice to release one of two prisoners, Jesus the Christ (Messiah) or Barabbas the robber. Some sources indicate that the name *Bar-rabban* is that of “son of rabbi” and that his personal name was also Jesus, so that Pilate offered the crowd a choice of either Jesus Barabbas or Jesus the Christ.

At the demand of the people, the release of Barabbas is recorded in all four Gospels and is referred to in Peter’s sermon in the Temple portico (Acts 3:14).

#### Yesterday’s world chose Jesus Barabbas instead of Jesus the King and Messiah

Both the Jewish and Gentile worlds made a choice between these two men, who had been condemned by the Jewish Sanhedrin and sentenced to death by the Roman Gentile court. The power of choice is an attribute that was given to Man at his creation. While Man’s choices are limited, God’s choices are limitless.

Human beings are free to make choices, but no human is fully able to control the consequences of his

choices. Yes, yesterday’s world (religious and secular) chose Jesus Barabbas over Jesus the Messiah and King. The world that condemned Jesus to death never realized the enormous consequences of such a choice.

#### Much of today’s world has chosen the philosophy of Karl Marx

Marx was born on May 5, 1818 and educated in German universities. It was in Paris, through his studies in Philosophy and History, that he adopted his communistic beliefs in 1844. A Communist League was formed in 1847, and Marx and Engels formulated the “Communist Manifesto” in that same year. Marx concluded that the capitalist class would be overthrown and eliminated by a worldwide working-class revolution.

Marx’s ideology was not popular during his lifetime. However, its popularity greatly increased after his death and was adopted by a number of nations. The consequences resulting from that choice have included some of the most brutal repressions the world has ever seen. Again, unintended consequences can be disastrous nonetheless.

#### Tomorrow’s world will choose the antichrist

Inspired by Satan himself, this intellectual and political genius (Dan. 8:23-25; Rev. 17:11,12) will begin his career by controlling a Western power-bloc of nations (Rev. 17:12).

His three-and-a-half year rule will attract the attention of the whole unsaved world, which will choose to worship him during the tribulation period (Dan. 11:36,37; 2 Thess. 2:4,11; Rev. 13:5). The antichrist will exert his ability to imitate the person and work of Christ. He will deliver mighty speeches (Dan. 7:8; Rev. 13:5) and experience some sort of false resurrection (Rev. 13:3).

#### Conclusion: Your choice

Joshua declared, “Choose for yourself whom you will serve...” (Josh. 24:15). Moses exhorted, “So choose life in order that you may live...” (Dt. 30:19). An old hymn by Albert B. Simpson asks,

*What will you do with Jesus?*

*Neutral you cannot be,*

*Some day your heart will be asking,*

*What will He do with me?*

Have you chosen to follow the King of Kings? If not, now would be a good time to start!

# NEWS BRIEFS



## EVANGELISTS REACH OUT AT LONDON OLYMPICS

The Olympics in London proved to be a marvelous opportunity for ministry. Volunteers from around the United Kingdom (and one from Romania) came to share the Good News of Yeshua (Jesus) with the many visitors who came to shop and to see family and friends in the Golders Green and Stamford Hill areas—neighborhoods with a high concentration of Jewish residents. Our teams of evangelists gave out materials that focused upon the wonderful picture of Yeshua given in Isaiah 53, and engaged in conversations that planted the seed of the Gospel.



## “YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO THIS MAN!”

Arizona staff member Jeff Kran, a graduate of the Feinberg Center, found an unexpected opportunity not only to address a synagogue, but also to have the rabbi visit the Sunday School class he taught the following day. On a visit to the local synagogue, he was asked about his occupation and explained that he had just completed a degree related to Jewish-Christian studies. The local rabbi was fascinated and asked if Jeff would be willing to take five minutes to address the congregation. The next day, the rabbi not only showed up for the Sunday School, but also invited four friends to hear Jeff speak. Upon departing, the rabbi told his friends, “You need to listen to this man—there’s a lot he can teach you.”

## IN MEMORIAM

Calvin Marsh, a renowned opera singer who put aside the trappings of worldly success to become a messenger of the Gospel through music, passed away on June 18 in Dallas, Texas at the age of 91. In 1967, Mr. Marsh began touring with an accompanist, as a staff member with Chosen People Ministries—known as the American Board of Missions to the Jews at the time. The duo used the artistic name “Messiah’s Messengers” and their repertoire consisted of Christian testimony and music ranging from spirituals to hymns and selections from Bach, Hayden and other classics. Calvin’s was a rare gift, and he used it in service to the Lord he loved.

## “I’M READING ABOUT THE MESSIAH”

Allen Abrahamson, who serves with Chosen People Ministries in



Portland, Oregon, sends an encouraging report from the well-attended Junior Rose Parade. Two volunteers gave a tract and our evangelistic booklet, *The Report*, to a Jewish man named Jesse\*. As the parade began, another volunteer noticed Jesse and asked why he wasn’t watching the parade. Jesse replied, “I’m reading about the Messiah,” as he continued to read *The Report*. Allen has met with Jesse and given him a copy of *Isaiah 53 Explained*. Please pray that Jesse will agree to have a Bible study with Allen and that he will come to faith in Messiah Jesus!

## STUDENT DECISIONS FOR MESSIAH IN NEW YORK CITY

Mark Surey, an evangelist on staff in Brooklyn for the past three years, loves working among the vast variety of university students in New York City. He writes, “The Lord has been very faithful in blessing our endeavors within this community of precious young people, and at least eight Jewish friends who are students and young professionals have become disciples of Jesus. Four of these decisions have been in the last calendar year: please thank the Lord for Anna\*, Victor\*, Matt\*, and Nick\*, who have committed themselves to Jesus. They are a truly cosmopolitan group of young adults with incredible potential for good.”

\*names have been changed

CHAPTER WILL  
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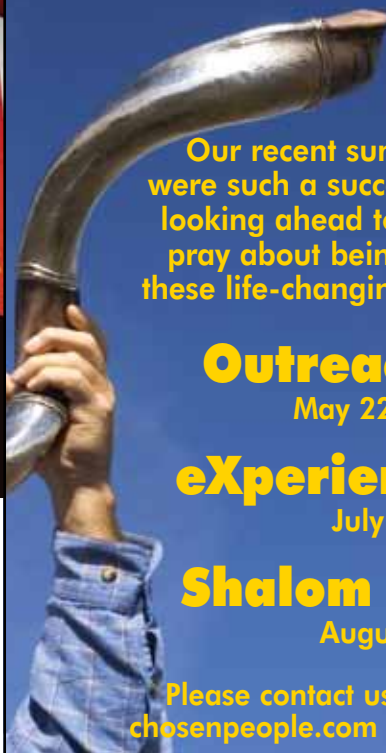
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**Isaiah 53 Explained**

Do you have questions about the meaning of life and spirituality? Maybe it is time to go right to the source and rethink your relationship with the Creator. *Isaiah 53 Explained* will help kick-start your personal pilgrimage and introduce you to a chapter in the Scriptures that has the potential to revolutionize your life!

**Do You Have a Heart  
 for Jewish Missions?**



Our recent summer outreaches were such a success, we are already looking ahead to next year! Please pray about being a part of one of these life-changing missions in 2013.

**Outreach Israel**

May 22–June 20

**eXperience Israel**

July 13–28

**Shalom Brooklyn**

August 2–17

Please contact us at [opportunities@chosenpeople.com](mailto:opportunities@chosenpeople.com) for more information.

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 RESOURCES**



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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)



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