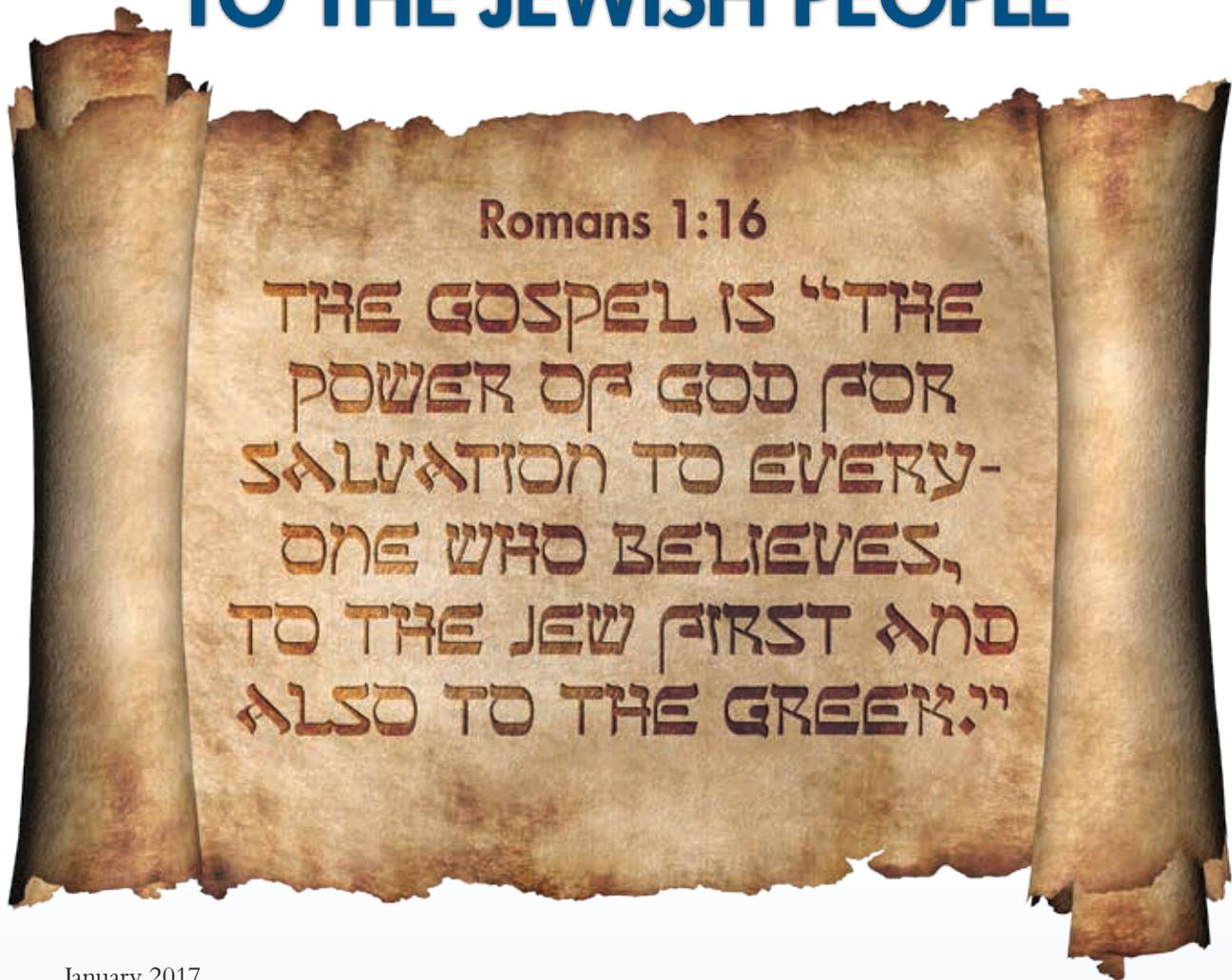


START THE NEW YEAR BY BRINGING
**THE MESSAGE OF NEW LIFE
TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE**



January 2017

Dear friend,

Shalom and Happy New Year from Chosen People Ministries. I hope you are looking forward to 2017. When you know the Lord, you are able to face the future with hope and joy-filled expectation. We know our future is in His capable hands. I am excited and cannot wait to see what He will do through Chosen People Ministries in 2017.

Speaking about our bright and glorious future, I wanted to share some thoughts with you about God's future plans for Israel and the Jewish people from a key passage of Scripture found in the Book of Romans.

A few years ago, I was asked to be part of a panel discussion sponsored by the Carl Henry Center for Theological Understanding that was held on the campus of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. I was privileged to be part of an esteemed group of scholars gathered for the discussion. The text we explored was Romans 11:25-29, which is well known as one of the great passages describing the end-time salvation of Israel and the Jewish people in the last days.

For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” “This is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.” From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God’s choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable (Romans 11:25–29).

I was delighted that the Henry Center was willing to sponsor a discussion with Chosen People Ministries. The following is what I shared with the audience gathered for the event.

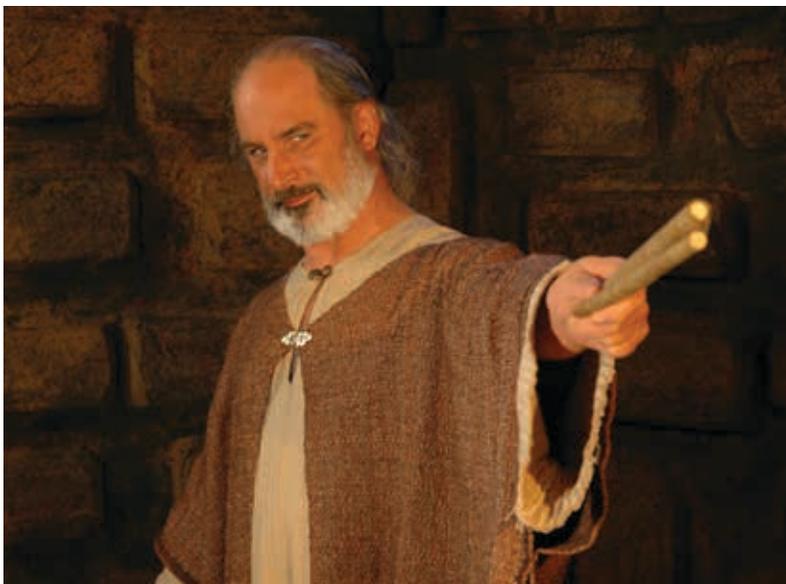
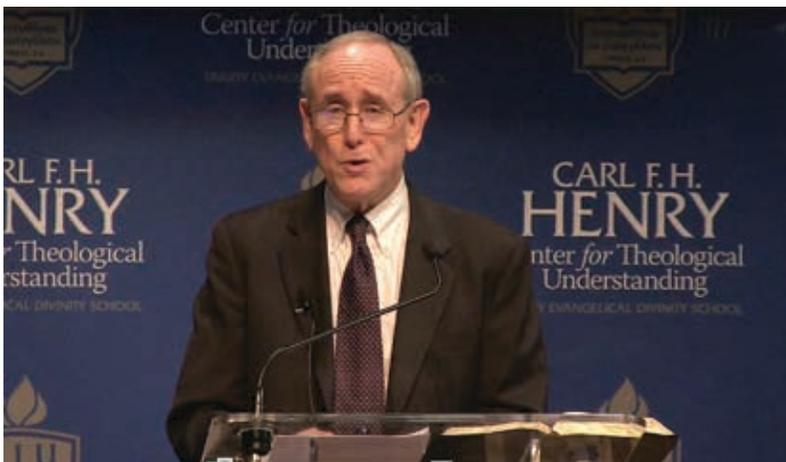
INTRODUCTION

The questions that emerge from our reading of Romans 11:25–29 are especially important for me. Their substance forms the very basis for my identity as a Messianic Jew and my expectations regarding the future of my relatives and extended Jewish family. I would imagine that this was no different for the apostle Paul, for I believe that Romans 9–11 is the section of this great epistle

where the apostle bares his heart and soul for his people—the nation of Israel.

In Romans 11:25–27, Paul is describing the end of an era in which the Jewish people are estranged from God because the Jewish leaders had rejected Jesus at His first coming. However, based upon Paul’s argument in these three chapters, it is clear that God has not rejected the Jewish people at all (Romans 11:1) and has preserved a remnant within the nation (Romans 11:5), until the day when the remnant will actually become the nation. In this passage, the apostle Paul tells us, that in the end, God will save “all” Israel, which I would understand plainly as the entirety of the nation of Israel who are alive at that time.

This cataclysmic end-time event occurs after what the apostle Paul describes as *the fullness of the Gentiles* has come in. It is evident from this passage that prior to the salvation of national Israel and the end of days there will be a season, where God is working among the Gentiles in a special way—grafting numerous wild olive branches into the olive tree as described in Romans 11:16–24.



THE APOSTLE PAUL’S JEWISH HERITAGE AND THE GOSPEL HE EMBRACED IS DRAMATIZED BY STAFF MEMBER ALAN SHORE

ISRAEL'S HOPE FOR SALVATION

This great event is more fully described in other passages of Scripture—especially in certain sections of the Old Testament. For example, Zechariah 12 seems to prophetically document the process by which the end-time remnant of ethnic Israel comes to know the Lord.

Dr. Charles Feinberg, in his commentary on Zechariah, writes the following about the context of this passage:

The actual events, world embracing in character, which are presented include the world confederacy against Jerusalem: the conviction of Israel nationally by the Spirit of God; the presentation of Christ as their rejected Messiah; the National Day of Atonement; the cleansing of the hearts of the nation; the purging of the land from idolatry; the crucifixion of the Messiah, the time of Jacob's trouble, the partial success of the nations invading Palestine (Israel) and besieging Jerusalem; the appearance of the Messiah for His people; their rescue and his coming with his saints; the changed and renovated Holy Land; the Feast of Tabernacles and more!¹



GENTILES ARE CALLED TO MAKE JEWISH PEOPLE JEALOUS WITH THE GOSPEL.

The events described are future to our day. The nations of the earth will surround the Jewish people. Jerusalem will be about to fall. But God will intervene and send His Son to save His chosen people.

Verse 10 is clearly the highlight of the prophecy. The prophet writes,

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn (Zechariah 12:10).

In effect, Romans 11:25-26 is the fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10. And if you add to this Romans 11:12 and 11:15, the picture of future redemption painted by Paul now takes on a greater shape and context.

YOUR ROLE IN REACHING JEWISH PEOPLE FOR JESUS

Where do we stand today? In a practical sense, we should look back to Romans 11:11, where the apostle writes,

I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.

I believe these are the marching orders for the church with regard to Jewish evangelism. Gentiles are called to make Jewish people jealous with the Gospel. This Gospel proclamation, through word and deed, to your Jewish friends and family will be God's way to move us closer to the great day when all Israel will be saved. You never know if the Jewish person you are talking to about the Lord might be one of those who are part of this end-time remnant of

“all Israel.” And, of course, we hope to see our Jewish loved ones come to faith in Jesus now and enjoy the abundant life He brings.

So, what can you do today to make a difference in the lives of your Jewish friends?

- Pray for the salvation of your Jewish friends and loved ones.
- Ask God to give you an open door to speak to your friend or relative about Jesus.
- Share Chosen People Ministries resources with your Jewish friends. We have lots of tracts, brochures and books such as *Isaiah 53 Explained* you can give to your Jewish friends.



MAYBE THE JEWISH PERSON YOU ARE TALKING TO ABOUT THE LORD IS ONE OF THOSE WHO ARE PART OF THE END-TIME REMNANT OF “ALL ISRAEL.”

- Invite them to view our online resources by going to www.isaiah53.com or to hear dozens of testimonies of Messianic Jews who have found the Lord as their Messiah at www.ifoundshalom.com.
- Invite your friend or relative to a Messianic congregation or Bible study. Check our website to see if there is one near you or call us at 212-223-2252 to find a place you can bring your Jewish friend to hear about the Lord.
- Give generously so that Chosen People Ministries can continue to field missionaries, develop and produce evangelistic resources, and much more to help you present a Jewish Jesus to your Jewish friend and family.

Let me remind you that we are not backed by any denomination or group of churches, but rather rely upon the Lord and those believers and churches He moves to support our 123-year-old ministry to the Jewish people. You may use the enclosed card for your gift or go directly to our website at www.chosenpeople.com/donate.

For your gift of \$200 or more we will send you a “hot off the press” copy of our new book on the Passover entitled, *Messiah in the Passover*. I know you will love it.

May this year be a year of great blessing for you and your family as we take one step further towards the return of our blessed Messiah and Savior Jesus!

In Him,


Mitch