

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



Volume XXX, Issue 3

APRIL 2024

PASSOVER

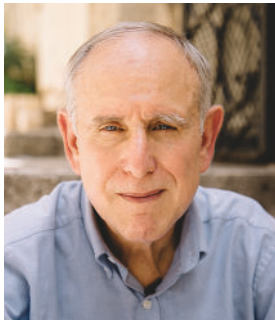
THE HOPE OF VICTORY

PASSOVER POINTS TO A GOD WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Dear friend in the Messiah,

I would like to wish you a Happy Passover and Easter.

Since the exodus, Jewish people have celebrated Passover as a memorial to God's love, power, and plan for His chosen people. It is a reminder of how the Lord of the universe, against all odds, promised to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage and bring them back to the land of Israel (Genesis 15:13–14). Passover reminds us God has not forgotten His promises to His people.



FROM THE PRESIDENT,
MITCH GLASER

If God keeps His promises to Jewish people, then we have further confidence He will keep His promises to all those who have trusted in Jesus!

Each year, on the fourteenth day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, God asks the people of Israel to stop whatever they are doing and observe the Passover—regardless of circumstances. The Jewish community observed the festival amid the darkest moments of Jewish history—the Crusades, pogroms in Eastern Europe, the Holocaust, and the wars following the formation of the modern State of Israel in 1948.

Despite the terrible loss of life on October 7, 2023, and the ongoing war we currently face in Israel, Jewish people will again remember God's miraculous redemption and faithfulness revealed in the Passover! The observance of Passover is a higher priority than all other events or challenges we face as families and as Jewish individuals. Our busy schedules must bow to the Lord's commands and plans—this is true not only for Jewish people but for every follower of Jesus as well!

The prioritizing of God's will we learn from observing the Passover and other holidays is a critical lesson for those who want to follow the Lord. We need to be ready to drop what we are doing in order to obey the Lord and follow Him. This practice is an important lesson Christians can learn from Jewish people.

PASSOVER: HOPE FOR SHATTERED TRUST

On October 7, most Israelis lost trust in the army and government, whose preparation for and response to the

flagrant violation of Israel's borders was insufficient at best. I cannot blame my fellow Jewish people living in Israel for feeling this way, as they were profoundly disappointed by those entrusted to protect them. When we draw back the curtains of history and look at the story of Passover, we see there is only One who merits our complete trust—God Himself.

Egypt trusted in their numerous gods, but the God of Israel proved Himself stronger than them all. The Lord delivered His people *"with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm"* (Deuteronomy 26:8). Passover teaches us God shows up at the right time, even when it seems all odds are stacked against Jewish people. We trust in God alone for Israel's ultimate deliverance from her enemies at the end of days.

The Bible teaches all humankind is damaged by sin, which clouds our judgment and often causes us to place the concerns of this world above God's concerns. Even the people we love sometimes disappoint us because of sin. Sin also taints all human institutions, which ultimately disappoint us.

God warned Israel not to trust in man but rather in God:

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord! (Isaiah 31:1)

I understand this passage very personally, as I trusted in the world until the day I met the Jewish Messiah, who delivered me from my false reliance and enabled me to stand upon the rock of His faithfulness. Though it may take some time, and we may struggle with trusting in the Lord and not leaning on our own understanding—or the understanding of others—the Lord will always prove Himself trustworthy. My prayer for my people today is for this disenchantment with institutions and people to lead to a deeper trust in the God of Israel and His promises.

IN GOD WE SHOULD TRUST

When I think about the future of Jewish people, I think of passages in the prophets like Isaiah 62, Amos 9, and Jeremiah 31. Perhaps we can take a quick look at this last passage and remember God's promises of Israel's deliverance:

Thus says the Lord, "If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of

Israel for all that they have done,” declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 31:37)

God’s faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham will not allow Him to stand by and watch the destruction of His chosen people. The Lord Himself will make sure Israel fulfills the purposes for which He created and chose them. Passover is an excellent example. For the Israelites to fulfill their divine calling, they had to dwell in the land of promise. Egypt’s power could not stand in the way, and God rescued His people with great signs. Passover is a reminder of God’s faithful track record. Because He has saved and sustained His people thus far, we can be confident He will continue.

We already see signs of Jesus’ soon return when all Israel will recognize Him as the Savior. Many Jewish people have returned to the land of Israel in unbelief and will one day experience the fullness of the Spirit of God. The dry bones of Ezekiel 37 will come alive! Yet, this fulfillment is only the beginning. Jewish people simply living in the land does not satisfy the totality of the Abrahamic promise, as Israel must inherit the land and *dwell in peace* with her neighbors:

In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.” (Isaiah 19:24–25)

As we well know, this has yet to happen! However, it will come to pass when Jewish people turn to Jesus, and He returns to reign as King. Jerusalem, Israel, and the world will then be transformed.

Too often, we end Israel’s story at the cross and see Jewish people replaced by those who follow Jesus—including Jewish people and Gentile nations—without understanding the day will come when Jewish people return to the Lord and Messiah. Only then will the world be blessed as the Holy One promised to Abraham (Genesis 12:3).

Darrell Bock, a New Testament scholar, often says the inclusion of the Gentiles does not demand the exclusion of the Jewish people from the purposes of God (Romans 11:17–18).

Another incredible blessing we look forward to when Jesus returns is God Himself will once again rule over His creation without the limitations the fall caused. As Jeremiah wrote:

They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. (Jeremiah 31:34)

For those who follow Jesus, part of this verse has already come to pass, as God has forgiven all our sins because of our faith in the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. However, this prophecy has obviously yet to be fulfilled entirely. Nevertheless, I believe the universal reign of the one true King is one of the glorious results of the second coming of Jesus!

Passover not only reminds Jewish people of God’s plan of redemption but also reminds those who love the Jewish Messiah today He will come again to deliver our beautiful-but-broken world from the darkness and frailty of sin once and for all.

Passover makes me cry out: “Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20).

Happy Easter and Passover from your Chosen People Ministries family,


Mitch



THE PASSOVER TEACHES ALL OF US WHO FOLLOW THE LORD TO PRIORITIZE THE WILL OF GOD.

P.S. My heart still breaks for the hostages. We must not forget about them but continue to pray for their **release** from captivity, especially during Passover!

“IN EVERY GENERATION”: CELEBRATING PASSOVER IN HARD TIMES

For thousands of years, Jewish people have celebrated Passover, remembering God’s deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and His faithfulness over the centuries. This month, millions of Jewish people worldwide will gather around the table to recount the story of the exodus. But thousands of seats will be empty for those with loved ones who died in the October 7 massacre or in combat, who are still held hostage, or who are serving in the military. The ongoing conflict between Israel and those who seek her destruction will weigh on many hearts at this time of year.

Since last Passover, antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment around the world have skyrocketed. Yet, Passover is still a sign of hope and God’s faithfulness, as a moving and always relevant section of the Passover liturgy testifies: “Since it is not [only] one [person or nation] that has stood [against] us to destroy us, but rather in each generation, they stand [against] us to destroy us, but the Holy One, blessed be He, rescues us from their hand.”¹ Like all those who rose up against Israel in the past, Israel’s current enemy, Hamas, will fail.

Throughout history, Jewish people have celebrated Passover during perilous times, including the Holocaust in Europe and Palestinian uprisings in Israel.

HERE ARE SOME ENCOURAGING STORIES ABOUT CELEBRATING PASSOVER DURING DARK DAYS FROM JEWISH PEOPLE OUR MINISTRY CONTINUES TO SERVE.

PASSOVER DURING THE HOLOCAUST

One of the Holocaust survivors our ministry in Israel serves turned one hundred years old last year! We met him ten years ago and learned his amazing story. He went through the entire Second World War as a Soviet soldier and was even captured. Since he was Jewish, the Germans wanted to send him to a concentration camp, but he and a group of young men managed to escape. When we asked him about Passover during the war, he told us this story:

At that time, we (Jewish Soviet soldiers) were all communists, and it was not customary to celebrate religious holidays. But in 1945, we were in Germany. It was April, and we, several Jews from Ukraine, decided to celebrate Passover since this could be the last holiday for each of us. We had nothing, no matzah [unleavened bread], no wine. But we lit candles. One of us knew a few prayers, and we repeated after him. Everyone remembered what they had heard from their parents about Passover, and we tried to retell the whole story.

But the most memorable words were: “Next year in Jerusalem!” It was difficult for me, as a Soviet soldier, to dream about Jerusalem or Israel at that time. But these words entered my heart so deeply that for many years, though I never fully celebrated Passover again, every year during that time, I said to myself, “Next year in Jerusalem.” I didn’t believe that I would ever see Jerusalem, but in 1990, I was able to leave for Israel, and I have been living in this beautiful country for more than thirty years. For me,



APRIL 1948
GAN-SHMUEL
PASSOVER

Passover will always be a holiday of hope and faith.

Another Holocaust survivor we serve was born in Czechoslovakia. She survived a ghetto and a concentration camp. In 1943, when she was nine years old, she and her mother were part of a group of Jewish people taken to the Stutthoff concentration camp in Poland. Men and women were separated, and many children were separated from their parents and placed in different barracks. Thankfully, she and her mother ended up in the same one and survived together. These are her words about Passover in the camp:

I remember one day, someone said, “Today is Passover.” Nobody knew whether this was true since we didn’t have calendars. I remember everyone was in a particular mood, and a group of Jewish women sang songs. I was a child, and one woman came up to me and gave me a potato, saying, “We don’t have matzah, but someday we will be free and will celebrate Passover in Jerusalem.”

The potato was a priceless treasure for me. Of course, I didn’t believe I would survive or ever be in Jerusalem. But God has His plan, and today, I live there. Every time I celebrate Passover, I remember that woman, the potato, and the words that we will be free.

¹ https://www.sefaria.org/Pesach_Haggadah%2C_Magid%2C_First_Fruits_Declaration?lang=bi

A TIMELINE OF CONFLICTS

May 1948

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL / GAZA BELONGS TO EGYPT

June 1967

ARAB ARMIES AMASS ON ISRAEL'S BORDER // IN THE SIX-DAY WAR ISRAEL GAINS GAZA, WEST BANK, SINAI, AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

2000-2005

SECOND INTIFADA / ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM GAZA IN 2005

2009

ISRAEL'S OPERATION "CAST LEAD" TO STOP HAMAS ROCKET ATTACKS INTO ISRAEL ENDS WITH A CEASEFIRE

1987-1993

FIRST INTIFADA / PALESTINIAN UPRISING IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

2007

ISLAMIST MILITANT GROUP HAMAS OUSTS SECULAR PALESTINIAN FATAH FROM CONTROL OF GAZA IN CIVIL WAR

PASSOVER AT THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL



Our ministry serves another woman who was born in the land of Israel in 1939. She remembers her family celebrating Passover in 1948, just a month before Israel declared independence. She recalls how primarily women observed Passover at home then because the men were away, serving in the army. She describes how her faith in Jesus, the Messiah, brought meaning to Passover:

For me, Passover has always been a memorable holiday of God not abandoning His people. After the

Holocaust, many people from Eastern Europe who had gone through camps and ghettos began to arrive in Israel. There were children with numbers on their forearms who recounted terrible things, yet still, Passover was a holiday of hope. I remember my uncle returned home, and all the women were happy. We lived in Hadera, and our neighbors also came to our *Seder* (Passover meal). As children, we were delighted we could have a tasty and satisfying meal. The adults were happy and sad simultaneously, and

everyone was waiting for the State of Israel to be established.

My parents, uncles, and aunts were religious. They went to synagogue and celebrated holidays; Passover was always one of the most important holidays in our house. But the older I got, the more holidays became unimportant to me. When I started a family, Passover became just a meaningless family tradition for us. Everything changed when, eight years ago, I recognized Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). In recent years, we have been joyfully celebrating Passover and understanding its true meaning—the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb!

PASSOVER DURING THE SECOND INTIFADA

The Second Intifada (Palestinian uprising) in Israel started at the end of *Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish New Year) in September 2000. It began with attacks on Jewish Israelis in the population centers of Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem. From there, it spread throughout the country. The most lethal aspect was the suicide bombers, who would target public buses and various facilities. They aimed to inflict death and destruction on Israeli citizens as they went about their daily business. One of our staff in Israel recalls celebrating Passover in 2002:

My wife and I were living in the Tel Aviv area with our two sons. Our older son entered the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in October 2001, so during Passover 2002, he was not with us as he was on guard duty at his base. I remember how Passover eve felt incomplete as we did not have our whole family together. Also, with an increase in terror attacks and bus bombings, it was a somber time in Israel. Still, we observed the Passover and commemorated God's deliverance from Egyptian bondage thousands of years ago.

After our Seder, we turned on the news to be devastated by the report of a Hamas

terrorist attack at the Park Hotel in the Israeli coastal city of Netanya. It was the deadliest attack against Israeli citizens during the Second Intifada. The next day, then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared a state of emergency and launched Operation Defensive Shield to root out the terrorists. Eventually, those responsible for the Park Hotel massacre and other acts of terrorism were arrested.

We remember the solemn days of Passover 2002, the horrors of that massacre, and the many dear people and friends who died during the Second Intifada. But we also remember the saving hand of the Lord God, who redeemed our people from bondage to Pharaoh.

We remember the even greater redemption during a Passover two thousand years ago when Yeshua died and rose from the dead to be the redeeming Messiah. We yearn for the day when Yeshua will return to Israel and complete the redemption of Jews and Gentiles that began so long ago. During these grim days of the current war, our prayer is the same as the first followers of Yeshua, "Come quickly, Yeshua, come quickly."

EVEN AND PERHAPS
ESPECIALLY IN DIFFICULT
TIMES, PASSOVER IS A
SYMBOL OF UNITY AND
HOPE FOR THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY AROUND
THE WORLD.

Please pray for Israel and Jewish people everywhere celebrating this biblical festival this month. As families recount the Exodus story, may Jewish people see God is mighty to save in every generation. This Passover, we also pray many will recognize and turn to Jesus, our Passover lamb. "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

2014

ISRAEL'S "OPERATION EDGE" SEVEN-WEEK CAMPAIGN AIMS TO STOP NEW ROCKET ATTACKS BY HAMAS

August 2022

A THREE-DAY WAR IN GAZA / 1,000 ROCKETS FIRED AT ISRAEL BY THE PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD TERRORISTS

October 7, 2023

HAMAS LAUNCHED AN UNPROVOKED AND VICIOUS SURPRISE ATTACK ON MORE THAN TWENTY ISRAELI COMMUNITIES, KILLING 1,200 AND TAKING 240 CAPTIVE.

Present

ISRAEL IS FIGHTING A WAR AGAINST TERROR IN GAZA, THE WEST BANK, AND IN THE NORTH / LEBANON BORDER.

2012

TENSIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS ESCALATE WHEN ROCKETS AND MORTARS FIRED FROM GAZA

May 2021

AN ELEVEN-DAY WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS ENDS WITH A CEASEFIRE

The Lamb of God: John 12 and Exodus 12

There is an amazing parallel between the story of the first Passover in Egypt (Exodus 12) and the final week of Jesus' life (John 12). Exodus 12 begins with instructions regarding a lamb:

Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, "On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household" (Exodus 12:3).

So, the instruction is for each household to take a lamb on the tenth day of the first month, which is the Hebrew month of Nisan. The lamb was to be unblemished, meaning no imperfections whatsoever. To confirm the lamb's flawlessness, the fathers—the heads of those little communities—had to diligently care for them (Exod 12:5–6). They had to be sure the lamb was the perfect sacrifice to save them from death, the last plague (Exod 12:21–24). Imagine how hard it would be for children (and adults) to care for this animal, treat it like a pet, watch it die, and then eat it. But this is exactly what would happen. The whole congregation of Israel would kill the lambs all at the same time, at twilight, as though all the lambs were killed as one (Exod 12:6). Then the lamb's blood would be placed on the doorposts and lintels of each house as a signal to God to prevent the destroying angel from killing those within the home.

John 12 is in many ways a parallel to Exodus 12. It begins with this description: "Jesus, therefore, six

days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead" (John 12:1). Jesus went to Bethany to the house of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, His friends. At sunset, the eighth of Nisan would have begun and since Nisan 14 began on Thursday evening, this would have been a Sabbath meal He would have shared with the family.

Sunset the next night to sunset Sunday night was the ninth day of Nisan, very likely the day the lamb was selected and brought into the community. This was the day Jesus entered Jerusalem, presenting Himself as King Messiah and ultimately as the Lamb of God. Just as the first Passover lamb was brought into each household on the tenth of Nisan perfect and without blemish, so also Jesus came into the house of Israel. He would be examined over the next four days to see if He indeed was who He claimed to be. Four days later, after celebrating the Passover supper with His disciples, Jesus was brought before the religious authorities and handed over to the Romans for execution.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He is the fulfillment of Passover. Like the first Passover lamb who redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt, Jesus' death on the cross has redeemed us from slavery to sin. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 5:7, "Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed," and just like the first Passover, it was very personal. Just as the Israelites at the first Passover had to personally apply the blood of the lamb to the doorposts of their houses, so also each individual now needs to personally apply the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, to the doorposts of their hearts. Have you made Passover personal by trusting in Jesus the Messiah? If not, I pray you will today.



Rich Freeman, DMin, serves as the vice president for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

JEWISH WOMAN COMES TO FAITH IN JESUS IN BROOKLYN

Praise the Lord, and please join our staff in praying for Aliyah,* a Jewish woman who recently gave her life to Messiah at our Messianic congregation in Brooklyn! She had been visiting since November and meeting one-on-one with one of our female staff members. During one of their weekly meetings, Aliyah clearly articulated the gospel, understood her need for forgiveness, and prayed to receive Jesus as her Messiah! Please pray for her growth and protection—she has already faced some spiritual attacks since coming to faith. Pray for strength and wisdom for our staff as we disciple her.

SOCIAL MEDIA HELPS A WOMAN FIND MESSIAH IN MARYLAND

Almost three years ago, Esther*, one of our staff in Maryland, spoke with a woman who responded to one of our media ads out of mild curiosity. Jill* was skeptical and maintained she could never believe in Jesus. However, she allowed Esther to send her literature. They stayed in touch, though Esther sometimes left unreturned messages on Jill's voicemail. Esther regularly sent Jill handmade Jewish holiday cards. Jill finally contacted our ministry again shortly after receiving a Hanukkah card in December.

Within the first few minutes of talking with Esther, it became apparent the Lord had been preparing Jill's heart and drawing her to Himself. On her own, with no human prompting, she had purchased a study Bible and begun reading the Gospel of Matthew.

Jill spoke candidly about life events leading to her heartfelt search for God. She and Esther spoke on the phone for several hours. They looked at the Scriptures, and Esther explained what becoming one of Messiah's disciples meant. After Jill read verses out loud from her Bible, Esther asked if she believed the words of the Scriptures they had gone over and if she was ready to acknowledge Jesus as her Messiah. She was ready to commit her life to the Lord. Hallelujah!

Esther has continued meeting with Jill over Zoom for discipleship meetings and finds she is very devoted to Bible study. Jill visited a local congregation we recommended to her, and she has told family members about her faith (they are not accepting of it). Please pray for Jill as she grows as Jesus' disciple.

*Names changed

ENTIRE ISRAELI FAMILY FINDS MESSIAH THROUGH HOST ISRAELIS NETWORK

In June 2023, the Katz* family became the first Israeli travelers to use our Host Israelis network. They traveled across the United States for about six months, staying with a dozen or more hosts on our network. Before they left their home at the beginning of last year, they had never heard of Jesus or the gospel. While traveling, they heard the gospel from every host they stayed with on our network, who also gave them evangelistic materials and the New Testament in Hebrew. They read everything eagerly and followed up with many questions.

We are so happy to report—praise God—not only is the Katz family now professing faith in Jesus as their Messiah, but they connected with our staff there once they returned home to Israel. They got plugged into the Messianic community for essential fellowship and discipleship!

The Katz family volunteer at Chosen People Ministries' outreach center in Tel Aviv, which was converted into a packing and distribution center to bring provisions and the gospel to those in need during the war.

After three long years of building the Host Israelis network, we already see the fruit of our labor. Seeing our first guest come to faith feels like God's stamp of blessing on this network. God has proven Himself victorious and faithful against all the many spiritual battles and heavy opposition we faced in building this network. We pray this is only the first of many Israelis who come to faith in Jesus through hosts on our network.

We pray Israelis will increasingly use our network, hear the gospel, and come to faith in Messiah.



Our staff and some volunteers at the Tel Aviv Messianic Center

Brooklyn Center

MESSIANIC RESOURCES



Two books to help you better understand Passover this year. **Messiah in the Passover** + **The Gospel in the Passover** two-book special: PRICE: \$16.95^{US}

This Passover reference book discusses biblical and theological issues, Jewish and church history, and rabbinic traditions. It also

includes a Messianic Family Haggadah (Passover guidebook) as well as Passover recipes and lessons for your children. Plus you will find many more helps in the back of the book. **Messiah in the Passover** will give you a deeper appreciation for the Passover celebration within the Jewish community and enable you to proclaim the message of the Lamb of God through the Passover to your Jewish friends. PRICE: \$17.95^{US}

The Gospel in the Passover is a condensed version of **Messiah in the Passover** written for those who want to explore the traditions of the Passover and deepen their understanding of the links between Passover, the Last Supper, and Communion. PRICE: \$8.95^{US}

God's Plan and Purpose for the Jewish People by Mitch Glaser provides a biblical overview of God's plan in order to bring us to a realization of what our response should be today. This is a clean, informative, and concise booklet revealing God's plan for His people has not ended, even to this day!

PRICE: \$8.95^{US}



Order using the enclosed card or call 1-888-2-YESHUA in the United States. For more resources, visit us online at store.chosenpeople.com.

YOU ARE SHOWING JEWISH PEOPLE THE WAY TO NEW LIFE IN THE MESSIAH, JESUS!

Your partnership with Chosen People Ministries impacts the lives of Jewish people from Ukraine to Israel to the United States and in many nations around the world!

Because you have a great heart for helping the chosen people find hope in the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, you may want to consider these strategic giving options to multiply your impact:

- ▶ A **Charitable Remainder Trust** is an irrevocable trust generating a potential lifetime income for you and your family—with the remainder of the donated assets going to present Jesus to Jewish people through Chosen People Ministries.
- ▶ A **Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)** differs from the Charitable Remainder Trust as it is designed to provide income to Chosen People Ministries immediately and for several years, after which the property either reverts to you or passes to those you designate, typically your children or grandchildren.

You can also have a significant impact by **donating a life insurance policy** you no longer need.

To find out more about these and other strategic giving options, contact Cindy Forbes at 212-223-2252, ext. 1208, or cforbes@chosenpeople.com today!

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

The Chosen People newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries. For more information or to receive *The Chosen People* newsletter, write to: Chosen People Ministries, International Headquarters, 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022.

In Canada, write to: Dufferin-Lawrence PO Box 58103, Toronto, ON M6A 3C8 (www.chosenpeople.ca). In Great Britain, write to: P.O. Box 47871, Golders Green, London, NW11 1AL (www.chosenpeople.org.uk). In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah Australia, P.O. Box 304, Caulfield, South Vic 3162, Australia (www.celebratemessiah.com.au). Senior Editor: N. Surasky. Contributing Editors: J. Corrales, E. Karp, R. Larsen, M. Goldstein. Designer: L. Ruedinger. Cover Design: M. Jacoby.

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