

The Chosen People



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JESUS IN THE PASSOVER

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PASSOVER: Redemption Fulfilled

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom and happy Passover! This is a wonderful time of the year for both Jewish people and Christians who know the fulfillment of the Passover through Jesus the Messiah. This year, Your Mission to the Jewish People will be presenting what we call “Messiah in the Passover” at almost a thousand churches during the next few months. Our various Messianic congregations will sponsor Passover *Seders* (Banquets) as well, and so will many local churches and Jewish ministries.

It is quite possible that you might want to have Chosen People Ministries present “Messiah in the Passover” at your church as well. Unfortunately, it is too late for this year, as our speakers are already scheduled—but it is a great time to plan for next year! So please look at the enclosed card and be sure to fill out the information requested so that we can contact your church and pastor to schedule a presentation for next year.

You can also find out if there is a Messianic Seder being held in your community sometime over the next month. The event could be sponsored by a local Messianic congregation, Jewish ministry or even a local church. As a Jewish believer in Jesus, I can tell you from personal experience that “Messiah in the Passover” is an eye-opening presentation for many Jewish people—and many believers as well!

My First “Messiah in the Passover”

I still remember the first time I watched a Jewish believer present a Passover demonstration at a church. Even though I was a new believer, I was able to understand the symbolism of the Passover Seder and

apply it to my understanding of Jesus. He is the Lamb of God, the unleavened bread of life that was pierced, and His shed blood is memorialized by the cup of the New Covenant. There is so much more to tell, as the parallels between the Passover and the Lord’s Supper are extraordinary.

Most of all, I hope you will be courageous and bold and invite your Jewish friends to a Messianic Passover Seder during this time of the year. You can locate a Chosen People Ministries sponsored Passover Seder by going to our website, chosenpeople.com/seder, or contact our church ministries office at churches@chosenpeople.com. In Canada, please call 1-888-442-5535. They will let you know if we are having an event in your area. Please consider bringing a Jewish friend to one of these events—my prayer is that they experience what happened to me.



Inviting Your Jewish Friend to a Messianic Passover Seder

Allow me to give you a few ideas about how to invite a Jewish friend to a Chosen People Ministries “Messiah in the Passover” presentation or to a Messianic Seder.

I am often asked, “How do I decide which Jewish friend I should invite to a Passover Seder?” This is a difficult question with a very easy solution. The answer is to ask the Lord in prayer to direct you as to whom you should invite. Then ask Him to give you the courage, boldness and opportunity to invite your Jewish friend or relative.

You might also wonder whether or not your Jewish friends would even be interested in attending a Messianic Passover Seder. I find that many Jewish people are actually quite interested in going along with a Christian friend to a Passover Seder. It is a rare Jewish person who has never experienced the Seder, even if only in childhood—so you do not have to explain or “sell” the idea of going to a Seder.

One thing I might suggest is that you present this event as an “interfaith Seder;” these are, by the way, becoming quite popular. That way, your friend will understand that there will be a component of Christian teaching as part of the event, and he or she will not feel as though they are being “ambushed” or that you have brought them under false pretenses.

It is perfectly acceptable to tell your Jewish friend that you have discovered that Communion, or the Lord’s Supper, which is such an essential part of Christianity, has Jewish roots.

Your Jewish friend is probably wondering why you would ever want to celebrate a Jewish Passover Seder anyway! Their curiosity might drive them to attend. But the main reason

why your Jewish friend would want to attend the Passover is because he or she is your friend. They want to understand you. They have seen that your faith is vital and dynamic—not simply part of your life, but the core of your life and being. By now, I am sure that this has both attracted your

and that they either can or cannot come based on their schedule. So you needn’t be overly concerned about the way your invitation will be received.

To avoid unnecessary Christian terminology, you may choose to use the word “Messiah” instead of the word “Christ.” You could say “Yeshua” rather than “Jesus.” You might even stress to your Jewish friend that there is more Jewishness to Christianity than most people ever suspect.

Preparing Yourself for the Messianic Seder

Finally, you can prepare yourself for attending a Messianic Passover Seder with your Jewish friend by learning more about Passover yourself. I know the chart in this newsletter will be very helpful to you.

Perhaps the best preparation for you would be to attend a Passover Seder at the home of your Jewish friend. If you are invited, jump at the chance! You will enjoy it and it will provide a point of comparison for the Messianic Passover Seder.

You might also read through the Passover account in the Book of Exodus and encourage your friend to do so as well. This will help prepare you for the evening. Anything you can do to include the Bible—especially the Old Testament—into the framework of your relationship with your Jewish friend will be helpful in the days ahead. Most of all, pray for the event and for your Jewish friend, as this could be an evening that will transform his or her life.

Have a blessed Passover and Easter. May the risen Lamb of God fill your home with His power and joy!

Yours in Him,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

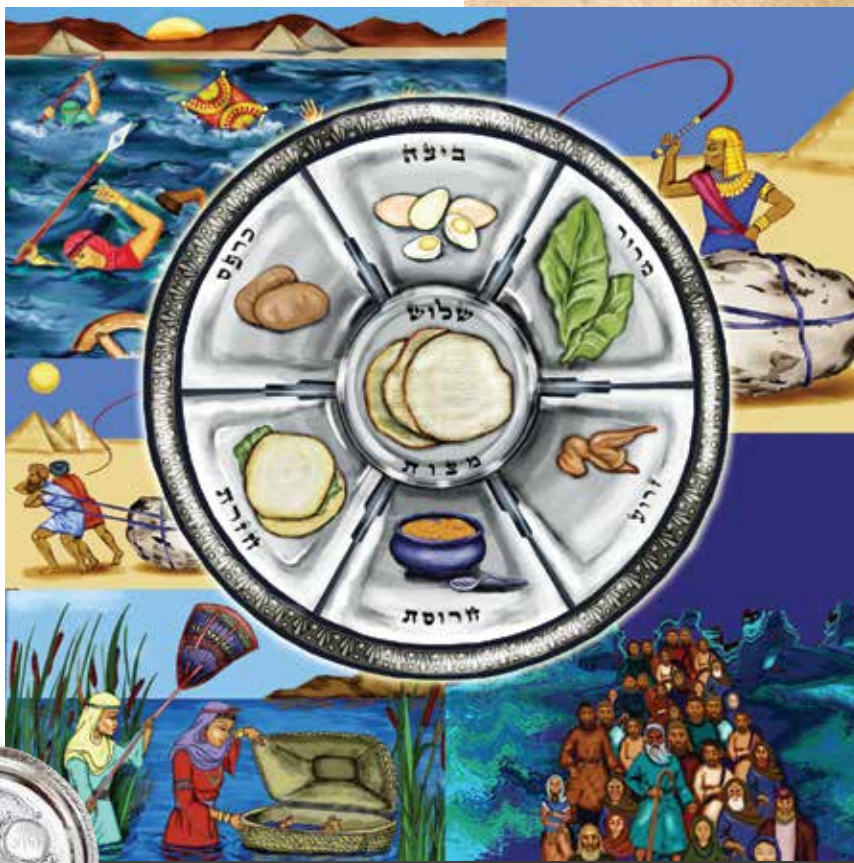


Photos by Cindy Hiemigan

Jewish friend and made them curious. In other words, they might really want to see “what makes you tick” spiritually.

Expect Positive Responses

The one response that you fear the most will probably not happen. Your Jewish friend will probably not get angry and reject your invitation outright on religious or moral grounds. They might reject the invitation because of a scheduling conflict, but not because they are offended. This would rarely happen. In fact, the most probable response is that your Jewish friend would tell you how thoughtful you were for inviting them



Celebrate the Passover with a Seder at Home

The Passover Seder is a wonderful opportunity to present the Gospel in a truly creative and memorable way to family, believing friends and, of course, Jewish seekers. It not only reminds us of God's redemption from slavery in Egypt, but also reinforces the scriptural connection to the ministry of Jesus the Messiah, who has released us from spiritual bondage.

The warmth of table fellowship shared over a good meal, combined with the Passover emphasis on God's redeeming power, has helped many Jewish people understand the relationship of the prophetic promises of the Hebrew Scriptures to their fulfillment in the life of Jesus.

Chosen People Ministries has many helpful resources to help you celebrate Passover. You can find them on our website – www.chosenpeople.com/passover.

The Feast of Passover commemorates God's redemption of Israel from its 400-year enslavement in Egypt. Over 3,000 years ago, the children of Israel suffered under the severe oppression of the Pharaoh. As the Book of Exodus records, God sent Moses to deliver them from the Egyptians, but Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt for the Promised Land. Due to the hardness of Pharaoh's heart,

God proceeded to pour out a series of ten plagues upon the Egyptians, culminating in the final plague, the slaying of firstborn sons of Egypt. God protected the Israelite children with the marking of the doorposts and the lintels of their homes with the blood of a lamb (Ex. 12:1-30).




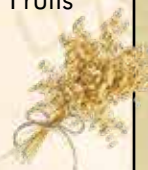
The Jewish people commemorate this event every year through a ceremonial meal known as the Passover Seder. Throughout the world, Jewish families gather to remember the events of the Exodus and to celebrate the faithfulness of the God of Israel. The word "seder," which in this instance means order or procedure, refers to the retelling of the account through a special book known as the "haggadah" (telling of the story). One of the most important purposes of the Passover Seder is to teach the sacred history of the Jewish people to the children of each emerging Jewish generation.

There is an added dimension of celebration for Jewish and non-Jewish followers of Jesus the Messiah, for Jesus celebrated this meal with His disciples on the evening before His death. Known in Christian faith as the Last Supper (Mat. 26:17-30), the New Testament records how the Passover elements of the unleavened bread and the wine have become the basis of the Lord's Supper, or Communion.

As Jesus and the disciples celebrated God's redemption of Israel, Jesus foretold how His death would provide redemption from sin (Mat. 26:26-29). The themes of Passover prepared the nation for the redemption God provides through Jesus' death and resurrection.

PASSOVER:

Promise & Fulfillment

| Theme | Passover | The Messiah |
|--------------|---|---|
| Enslavement | The children of Israel served as slaves under the oppression of the Pharaoh (Ex. 1:11-12; 6:6). | After Adam and Eve's rebellion, humanity fell under the oppression of slavery to sin and death (Rom. 6:20-21; Eph. 2:1-3). |
| The Lamb |  God redeemed Israel through the sacrifice of a lamb without any defect (Ex. 12:5). He instructed the people to sacrifice the lamb and to spread the blood upon the doorposts of their homes with hyssop (Ex. 12:21-22). | John describes Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). In the same way as the Passover lamb was without defect, Jesus was without sin (2 Cor. 5:21). This is why Paul tells us to remember how the "Messiah, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Cor. 5:7). |
| Blood | God redeemed Israel from Egypt through the shedding of blood. When God passed through the land of Egypt, He saw the blood of the lamb on the top and sides of the doorframe; therefore, He passed over the Israelite homes and did not allow the destroyer to take the lives of their firstborn sons (Ex. 12:23). | The Bible teaches us that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness for sins (Heb. 9:22). Jesus tells us that through His blood, He provides the forgiveness of sin (Mat. 26:28). He is the Lamb who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5). |
| Matzah |  During the week of Passover, the Jewish community abstains from eating anything containing leaven and eats only unleavened bread, or matzah (Ex. 12:19-20). When the Israelites fled Egypt in haste, they did not have time to wait for the bread to rise while it baked. | The Bible presents leaven as a symbol of sin (Mat. 16:6-12; 1 Cor. 5:6-8). Jesus was without sin, meaning without leaven (2 Cor. 5:21). Symbolically, Jesus was crucified at the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. |
| Bitter Herbs |  The Torah prescribes three necessary elements of Passover: the Lamb, Matzah and Bitter Herbs (Ex. 12:8). The bitter herbs remind the Israelites of how the Egyptians embittered the lives of the slaves in Egypt. | For believers, the bitter herbs represent how Jesus delivers His people from the bitterness and sorrow of sin and brings joy to our lives. |
| Redemption | The story of Passover represents God's redemption of Israel out of Egypt. | God fittingly chose the celebration of Israel's redemption from Egypt as the day to redeem the world through Jesus' death and resurrection. |
| Land | God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt in order to bring them into the Promised Land. | In the same way, God delivers followers of Jesus from a dominion of darkness to bring them into His kingdom (Col. 1:13), and reminds us that one day God will fulfill His promise to establish His earthly kingdom in Jerusalem. |
| First Fruits |  Following Passover, God commanded the nation to offer the first fruits of their harvest on the first day following the Sabbath; therefore, on the Sunday following Passover, God instructs Israel to offer the first fruits of their harvest as an offering (Lev. 23:9-14). | On the Sunday following Passover, Jesus conquered death and rose from the dead, coinciding with the Feast of First Fruits. As the first fruit of the resurrection, Jesus gives hope to His people that they shall likewise follow Him into eternal life (1 Cor. 15:20-23). |

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.

THE KING'S FINAL ORDERS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE

MATTHEW 28:18-20; ACTS 1:8

Luke, writing in the Acts of the Apostles, breaks down the specific directions set forth in the Great Commission. Quoting the last words of Messiah Jesus, Luke records, *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

The King's instructions are clear. Jesus' followers must preach, as the Apostle Paul paraphrases, "to the Jew first and also to the Gentile." These instructions remain true today.

Unfortunately, the history of the Church indicates the King's followers did not adhere to His final instructions. A brief overview of this history illustrates how the Church did not precisely follow the Great Commission of the King.

THE EARLY CHURCH PREACHED THE GOSPEL "TO THE JEW FIRST"

Evangelism began in Jerusalem and extended into both Judea and Samaria. It finally spread to the ends of the earth.

The Jewish disciples, who heard and received the Gospel, shared it

with the Gentiles, even as Paul established churches in Asia Minor. The Good News extended from Jerusalem. The disciples went first to the Temple in Jerusalem and then to the synagogues of the Roman Empire to reach their brethren.

THE CHURCH OF THE MIDDLE AGES PREACHED THE GOSPEL "TO THE JEW LAST"

Unfortunately, by the Middle Ages, the world had been "Christianized," and the Church was "paganized" by worldly influence. As a result, Jewish contact to the Gospel was in terms of hatred and persecution.

The Crusaders initiated a massacre of the Jewish community by the thousands in 1095. Jewish mothers, in order to save their children from the intense suffering, threw them into rivers so that they would escape the torture of Crusader armies. One motto on a Crusader uniform read *"Kill a Jew and save your soul."* The "Christians" segregated the Jewish people into "ghettos," beginning in Venice, Italy in 1516. This practice spread to other European cities.

THE GOSPEL TO THE JEW "AT LAST"

AT THE END OF THE AGE

By God's grace, despite such shameful treatment, Jewish people have responded to the Gospel throughout the centuries, including a number of rabbis. Among them was Rabbi Leopold Cohn of Hungary.

Rabbi Cohn established the American Board of Missions to the Jews in 1894. Today the Mission is known as Chosen People Ministries. At last, as the Messiah's return approaches, Jewish people continue to hear and respond to the Gospel of King Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, in fulfillment of the prophecies and promises of our own Hebrew Scriptures. Blessed by true Christians, Jewish believers in Jesus can now contribute to the Body of Messiah, in both presence and thought, encouraging the Church to share the Gospel once more "to the Jew first."

NOTE: This article constitutes the last in the series, "Matthew, the Gospel of the King." Our next series is titled: "Isaiah, Prince of the Prophets."

JEWISH HUSBAND AND WIFE UNITED IN FAITH DECISION AFTER 8 YEARS

Larry Feldman, who ministers in Southern California, is one of our longest-serving congregational leaders. He has seen many faith decisions in Jewish marriages throughout his ministry. Sometimes married couples come to faith together—and sometimes over a period of years. Not long ago, after a service, a non-believing Jewish businesswoman who had been attending with her believing husband for about eight years, approached Larry to tell him she had finally received the Lord. Larry writes, “I rejoiced with her and her husband, as we had spent a lot of time with them sharing our faith.”

SPECIAL OUTREACH SERVICE REAPS HARVEST IN MOSCOW

Several weeks ago, Kirill P., our staff worker in Moscow, planned a special outreach service that was attended by forty-seven Jewish guests. After the sermon, Kirill reports, “I urged everyone to pray the prayer to dedicate their lives to Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. Most who had come for the first time prayed this prayer.” At the end of the service, Kirill made sure that Bibles were distributed. Please pray for effective follow-up.



“I SEE. IT’S TALKING ABOUT JESUS.”

Joseph R., one of our newer missionaries, found wonderful opportunities to share the Gospel with Jewish fellow-travelers on flights to and from Israel. One was with Moshe*, a young Orthodox man from Brooklyn who has studied in a *yeshiva* (a center for higher Jewish learning) in Jerusalem. He was quite open as Joseph shared his testimony and listened intently as Joseph shared from the Scriptures about the Messiah. Joseph writes, “Moshe read Isaiah 53 from my cell phone as I waited quietly and prayed for the Lord to give him revelation. Without any prompting, Moshe finished reading and said, ‘I see. It’s talking about Jesus.’”

ORTHODOX JEWISH MAN RECEIVES MESSIAH IN MIAMI

Staff member Manuel Goffman, who leads a congregation in Miami, had the joy of leading an Orthodox Jewish man to faith. Elisha* had been attending services for some time with his Hispanic wife and children. Over the course of months, Manuel could see Elisha moving slowly yet steadily closer to a faith decision. He finally received Messiah, and wanted to make his decision public. During a service, he addressed the congregation, saying that they are now his family, that he felt the love of the Lord through all the brothers and sisters, and that he loved them, too. He closed his testimony with the words, “I also have Messiah in my heart.”

SPIRIT-LED PREACHING HELPS JEWISH WOMAN COME TO FAITH IN NEW YORK CITY

Mark Surey, who serves with the Feinberg Center in New York City, has been encouraging believers to invite their Jewish friends to worship services. One new believer named Debbie took his exhortation to heart—she appeared with three Jewish friends at a church where Mark was preaching and introduced them just before the start of the service. One of them, a native New Yorker called Ruth,* seemed to have a truly seeking spirit. As Mark preached, it seemed as though the Holy Spirit enabled him to preach straight to her heart and mind. Ruth was deeply moved, and after the service, a church elder, who is also a Jewish believer, counseled her for two full hours—after which she prayed to receive Messiah!

SHARING JESUS – IN A JEWISH WAY

Doug Pyle, one of Chosen People Ministries’ most experienced and gifted field workers, was blessed that his second book, *Sharing Jesus in a Jewish Way*, was eagerly received by over 400 students, including Christian student leaders, at the five-day Urbana student missions conference. There must be something to it, because three days before Doug left for Urbana, a young Orthodox Jewish man with whom he had been sharing the Gospel for two years finally received the Lord! If you would like to obtain a copy of Doug’s book, it is now available through the online store on our website www.chosenpeople.com/store.

*Names have been changed

THE PEOPLE, THE LAND AND THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

Save the Dates!

Mark your calendar for October 3-5, 2013! *The People, the Land and the Future of Israel Conference* will be hosted by Calvary Baptist Church in New York City. This exciting conference will provide clear teaching on God's plan for the future of Israel as expressed in the Old and New Testaments, enabling Christians to confront the biblical issues that concern so many of us.

Internationally-known, well-respected scholars including Darrell Bock, Michael Brown, Walter Kaiser, Craig Blasing, Bob Chisholm, Craig Evans, Mike Wilkins and others will be offering their timely insights. The conference will conclude on Saturday night, October 5 with Joel Rosenberg, *New York Times* best-selling author, as the main speaker.

For more information, call 1-888-405-5874 or visit www.chosenpeople.com/conference.

MESSIANIC RESOURCES



Our special **Passover Set** from Israel has a Seder Plate, Matzah Tash, Kiddush Cup, Messianic Haggadah and Leader's Manual.

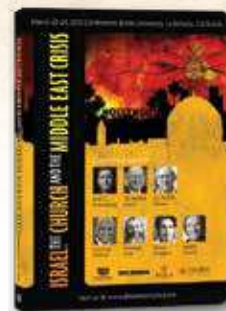
The *Matzah Tash*, or matzah cover, is a pouch with three compartments, each for holding a piece of matzah (unleavened bread). It is

a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature. The *Seder Plate* helps tell the story of the Exodus and points to our Messiah. The *Kiddush Cup* (five inches tall) symbolizes the blood of the sacrificed paschal lamb, or the Lamb of God. It is filled four times during the Passover meal as the story of God's redeeming work among His people, the people of Israel, unfolds. **Items also available for individual purchase.**

Passover Set (5 piece) [5027] • \$64.95 US

Israel, the Church, and the Middle East Crisis (DVD) is the result of Chosen People Ministries' conference held at Biola University. It focuses on the current Middle East crisis, with special attention to what is happening in Iran, Syria, Egypt and Israel, helping you to understand current events from the perspective of Scripture.

DVD set [8041] • \$19.95 US



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

