

The Chosen People



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REACHING A NEW GENERATION

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Messiah • Bible Study: Meet Isaiah, Prince of the Prophets



Brian Crawford attends the Charles Feinberg Seminary program in New York City and took the picture of the young Messianic adults who attended the Muchan conference in Paris leaping for joy in the Messiah.

The Growing Messianic Movement

Dear friend,

Shalom! I remember asking Jesus into my heart as if it were yesterday. It was the most momentous decision of my life, and the peace and love that flooded my soul that day has really never left me. I love the Lord with all my heart, mind and soul and desperately want others to know Him—especially my own Jewish people.

I grew up in a traditional Jewish home in New York City, and my receiving Yeshua, (Jesus) was the last thing my mother, father or even I ever expected. I have never looked back, but I must admit that when I put my faith in Yeshua I looked side-to-side and behind me to see if there was anyone else there—and apparently, there was not. I thought I was the only Jewish person in the world that had ever believed in Jesus.

At the time, I simply had never heard of a Jewish person believing in Jesus. It was a lonesome path. It seems silly upon reflection, but I want you to try and understand how foreign it was for me to believe that Jesus was the Messiah—especially coming from a traditional, New York Jewish home.

Since then, I have met hundreds, if not thousands, of Jewish believers in New York, California, the rest of the United States, and in the many countries I have travelled to over the years—in addition to many Gentile brothers and sisters as well. What a wonderful community we have in the Messiah!

I never feel alone anymore, but when I became a believer at 19, the joy of my salvation was tempered by the incredible loneliness I felt when I first came to the Lord—emotions I can still identify with to this very day. It is one of the reasons I have encouraged our



Chosen People Ministries staff to pay special attention to new Jewish believers in Jesus and to spend as much time with them as possible!

A Movement for Yeshua

At the time I came to faith in the early 1970s, we were actually part of a growing movement of young Jewish people coming to faith in what was then called “The Jesus Movement.” We just were not aware of each other’s existence! Eventually we began meeting one another: Jewish believers in their late teens and early twenties from the United States, Europe, Israel and many other very Jewish cities and communities across the globe. This was really the start of the modern Messianic congregational movement, and it strengthened Jewish missions like Chosen People Ministries.

This “modern Messianic movement,” which some people date from 1967, the year the Jewish people



recaptured Jerusalem, has blossomed and is now becoming a second-generation movement that includes my own children.

When I and other Jewish people who became followers of Jesus tried to witness for our faith, we experienced considerable opposition and persecution. You see, in the eyes of the mainstream Jewish community, a

Jewish follower of Jesus was no longer considered Jewish. Jewish followers of Jesus were deemed *converts* or “apostates” who had given up their Jewishness and embraced a foreign religion. There was simply no common understanding within the Jewish community that a Jewish person could believe in Jesus and remain a Jew.

I know this because I was raised with this mindset. In fact, when I was on the brink of receiving Jesus, and had taken to heart His command to forsake all for Him, I thought to myself that if faith in Him required me to stop being Jewish, then I must be willing to make that sacrifice to become His follower. Of course, this was not true. When I accepted the Lord, I discovered that I had actually joined the “remnant within Israel” (Romans 11:1,5) and had become, in effect, part of the “Jewish wing” of the Church.

After telling my parents and friends that I had become a follower of Jesus,

I was viewed as having committed ethnic suicide! This had incredible consequences for me. Like so many of my fellow Messianic Jews at the time, I felt deeply rejected by those whom I most cared for and most wanted to reach.

Happily, times have changed—and today we have a new generation of Jewish believers who assert their identity as Jewish followers of Jesus in ways our “older generation” would never have thought possible. It is exciting!

A New Generation

We now have hundreds of Messianic congregations where Jewish believers can express their Jewish identity, celebrate the Jewish festivals as fulfilled in Jesus, and take on a less marginalized role in the Jewish community. In this, I feel like a pioneer—as my generation of Messianic Jews paved the way for a

new generation of Jewish believers in Jesus to have this experience.

I see a couple of reasons for the Jewish community having become more tolerant—not the least of which is that many of us bore the brunt of the opposition over the years. No longer do most Jewish people say that they have never heard of a Jew believing in Jesus. We are now a known community within the greater Jewish community. For example, there are more than 10,000 Jewish believers in Israel, including hundreds who serve in the military!

There has also been a change in the Church. Many Christians now want to relate to their Jewish heritage in Jesus. We are living in a wonderful, new era, in which Christians now understand that Jews who believe in Jesus want to identify as Jews and to be proud of their heritage. Jewish believers are affirmed and encouraged by our brothers and sisters to be part of the Church and also to remain part of the Jewish community for the sake of a more effective testimony to other Jewish people.

We live in wonderful days of opportunity! This is one of the reasons I am so thrilled about our recent conference of 160-plus Messianic young adults from across the globe. It is also why I am so excited about our Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies, where we are training a new generation of leaders in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn.

I pray that the Lord will allow your heart and soul to share the thrill of seeing Jewish young people coming to faith and standing for the Lord Jesus—in Israel, the U.S., and in many places around the world. Thanks for your prayers and generous financial support which fuel this movement!

Your brother in the Messiah,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Surrounded by the soaring walls of a Sephardic-style synagogue and the Israeli-accented melodies of the Friday night Sabbath services, hundreds of Jewish people crowd into the one-hour service on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York City. Half of them are below the age of 30. Many are students and young professionals. They are the group we have come to call “Millennials”—and they are a demographic Chosen People Ministries is committed to reaching.

Not all Jewish Millennials are religious. Many channel their impulse to gather in other directions. They are fond of going out with friends, joining special interest groups, dating whomever they please, or advocating for special causes regardless of the religious, ethnic or racial affiliations of the others involved. They often reject organized religion, except perhaps for a few holidays to please their parents, because it may not suit their philosophies or interests.

There is a world of difference between the poles of religious and non-religious Millennials. Many fall somewhere in between. This Jewish Millennial population is diverse, but there is a commonality. They investigate whatever interests they may have, but all the while they keep their Jewish heritage somewhere in their minds, often toward the back.

We as believers who have been blessed by the Lord and changed by Jesus need to be effective witnesses to this needy and largely uninterested age group of Jewish people. God has given us the gift and privilege to be able to proclaim the Good News of His kingdom. The question is, “How do we reach the Jewish Millennials with the truth that Jesus is the Messiah for whom their people have been waiting?”

We must find up-to-date, creative and innovative ways to communicate our message. But we must not forget that there is one tried and true method of reaching anyone—and especially Jewish Millennials. It requires commitment, time and prayer, but by devoting yourself to a relationship with a young person, you communicate more than the Internet ever could. When a mature believer exudes what the Spirit of God has done in his or her life, Millennials will take notice.

In the next two decades, the Millennials will be running Fortune 500 companies, raising families, making public policy, and conducting international affairs. The challenge before us is this—what will you and I do to reach these young Jewish people who desperately need the hope of the Gospel in a world that continues to walk away from God?

AJewish musician and I sat down for lunch and conversation. My young Jewish friend has come to believe that Judaism and Christianity find too much “flaw” in humanity. Also, after praying in a synagogue for months after his father’s death, he found only a void that was unable to be filled. Adam* desires peace, but the emptiness he felt in repeating prayers in a language he doesn’t even speak has left him searching. He seems to think that Eastern religion is the only other option for him—although the sad irony is that Eastern religion finds even more “flaw” in humanity than Judaism/Christianity.

Adam knows he is Jewish, period—but exploring Jewish identity is irrelevant for many Jewish young people today. Instead, he is more focused on satisfying his desire to be comforted and also to be in harmony with humanity and the earth. Yet by God’s grace, Adam is asking searching questions, like many Jewish young people around the world! The answer awaits them, and as long as Adam searches, I believe God is faithful to satisfy Adam’s desire for comfort and peace through our Prince of Peace.



Reaching “Millennials” for

I met Moishe,* a young Israeli photographer, at a Hanukkah party in Manhattan. We spoke for over an hour as we bonded over photography (I used to be a photographer), Israel, and *latkes* (traditional potato pancakes for Hanukkah). The next week, a friend invited Moishe to a concert by a Jewish believing artist. Moishe loved the music, but wasn't happy that the musician spoke about Jesus. As he was leaving, he saw me and asked about the "Jesus stuff," leading to a good conversation.

From there, our friendship grew. He avoided spiritual matters; he had grown up in an Orthodox house and didn't want much to do with God. I simply prayed that his heart would be opened—and after a month, he suddenly began asking questions about God and Jesus. I gave him a Bible and we studied it together for hours in his basement apartment.

He then called me to tell me about a fight he had with his mother, who was not happy that he was friends with me and that he had been studying about Jesus. When he defended me and Jesus out loud to his mother, it made all the difference—he realized that he believed. He professed faith in Jesus, and I started discipling him. What was the key? In hindsight, I would have to say that there were three things: I had become his friend, I trusted God to speak to his heart, and I followed up with him consistently.

While working with Jewish young people over the last few years, I have come to realize that many of them—regardless of their level of religious observance or knowledge of the Bible—are motivated by issues of social justice. They often have a real desire to participate actively in working towards achieving fairness, justice, and equality in society. This has also become a popular trend among young Christians, who see a great need for us to do our part in ministering God's love through social action.

In light of this, a group of us in Brooklyn recently sought to bridge the gap between ourselves and the Jewish youth on a local college campus by partnering with another ministry to raise awareness about human trafficking, a horrendous form of modern-day slavery. With this as our platform, we set up book tables and held an event on campus about the horrors of human trafficking, as well as how to get actively involved in stopping it. We were able to befriend many Jewish students through our shared desire to fight this social injustice. Through these ongoing relationships, we have been able to share the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus, who is the ultimate Redeemer for the enslaved.

** names have been changed*



Messiah's Kingdom

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.

MEET ISAIAH: PRINCE OF THE PROPHETS

We are excited to present this first article in our series on the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah stands as one of the most significant books in the Hebrew Bible and we know more about Isaiah than many of the other writing prophets. Isaiah's name is even significant; it means, "God is Salvation."

HIS PERSON

By tradition, Isaiah was cousin to King Uzziah. His father was Amoz (Isa. 1:1). He was married (Isa. 8:3) and fathered two sons named: *Shear-Yashuv*, meaning "a remnant will return" (7:3) and *Maher-Shal'al-Hash-Baz*, meaning "quick to the spoil, swift to the plunder" (8:3). Scholars believe Isaiah lived in Jerusalem, near the Temple (Isa. 6) and was married to a prophetess (8:3).

God commissioned Isaiah as a prophet in the last year of King Uzziah's reign (Isa. 6:1). It seems Isaiah spent much of his life serving as a court preacher or "chaplain" to the king. Isaiah had a long ministry, and tradition states that he was slain in two during King Manasseh's reign. Hebrews 11:37 may verify this tradition.

HIS PERIOD

The historical background of the prophet is found in 2 Kings 15-20

and 2 Chronicles 26-32. These years in Israel's history were a time of great struggle, both spiritually and politically. According to Isaiah 1:1, the prophet's ministry covered part of King Uzziah's rule, and the entirety of the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. These kings ruled from about 790 BC through 686 BC. Isaiah was born somewhere around 765 BC and died around 680 BC, so he may have lived into his eighties. Isaiah's ministry spanned nearly sixty years.

Uzziah's long reign of 52 years was a period of domestic prosperity and significant foreign influence. This means Isaiah grew up in an era of affluence and prosperity, during the reigns of King Uzziah over Judah and King Jereboam II over Israel. During this time of the divided kingdom, both monarchs contributed to their respective nations' economic and political prosperity. However, the outward affluence led to widespread spiritual amnesia, when many forgot God. Although the prophet focuses on Judah and Jerusalem, he also addresses the Northern Kingdom, Israel.

HIS PROMINENCE AND HIS MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

The New Testament writers quote Isaiah more than all the other

Old Testament prophets combined. There are approximately 308 quotations or references to Isaiah in the New Testament. The Apostles frequently quote from Isaiah, both from early and later chapters, attesting the unity of Isaiah's prophecy.

The book of Isaiah abounds in Messianic prophecies. He foretold the virgin-born son Immanuel (7:14), the Prince of Peace (9:6), the Rod from the stem of Jesse and the Branch (11:1), the Shepherd (40:11), the Man of Sorrows and the Lamb brought to the slaughter (53:3,7).

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Isaiah not only spoke of Israel's return from Babylonian captivity, but anticipated a greater deliverance in the distant future through the Messiah, who is the prominent personality in this prophetic masterpiece.

CONCLUSION

From Isaiah, we glean the essential need of our salvation since "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6). Isaiah 53 is one of the towering Messianic prophecies in all of Scripture and is the basis of Chosen People Ministries' current Isaiah 53 Campaign.



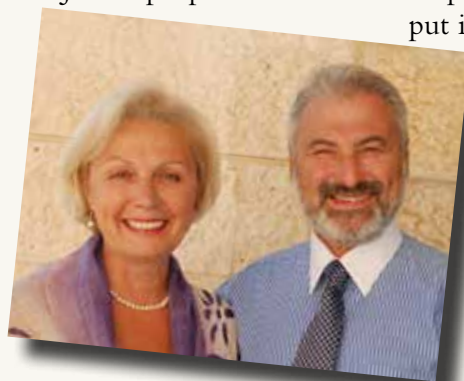
PARIS WAS THE SITE OF THE SECOND MUCHAN CONFERENCE FOR MESSIANIC YOUNG ADULTS. OVER 160 YOUNG ADULTS CAME FROM 16 COUNTRIES TO LEARN TOGETHER, PRAISE THE LORD AND TAKE DARING STEPS FOR HIM.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING LEADS TO NEW LIFE FOR ENGAGED COUPLE

Two young people who had decided to get married were urged by relatives to receive premarital counseling from Vladimir Pikman, the Director of our work in Germany. They were both seeking spiritual guidance, but Vladimir soon discerned that their level of biblical knowledge was quite low—so he patiently unfolded the truths of Scripture to them, starting from the basics. After their first meeting, they both decided to receive the Lord.

MESSIANIC WORSHIP DRAWS JEWISH MAN TO RECEIVE MESSIAH

Boris Goldin, who serves in South Florida and who comes from the Former Soviet Union, was invited to teach at a seminar in Moscow, where the leaders of more than twenty-five Messianic congregations throughout Russia gathered for fellowship, teaching, and worship. As the group was singing Messianic songs, a Jewish man was passing by. Attracted by the singing, he stopped to ask who they were, and Boris explained about Jewish people who believe in Yeshua (Jesus). Boris writes, “He was so eager to know more. After we talked further, I invited him to pray and receive the Lord—and he did! One of the leaders of the local Messianic congregation will follow up with him.”



FAITH BLOOMS FROM SEED PLANTED IN CAMPGROUND

Anna Bortsov, who serves with the Mission in Toronto, is rejoicing about a Jewish faith decision for Messiah. The seed had been planted on a camping trip some months ago, when she and her husband, Vladimir, met and talked with Mike*, a father of five who had lost his job. Recently, Mike found a job in Halifax—and before moving there, he called the Bortsovs to say, “Our meeting and your prayers were not in vain. I repented and got baptized, and now I am going to Halifax as a new man.” Anna writes, “I cried with joy! The Holy Spirit continued His work...Praise the Lord!”

NEEDY ISRAELI WOMAN FINDS FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

Brian Slater, who ministers in Israel, reports that a Jewish woman who was seeking practical aid has also received the Lord. He writes, “She came to our Netanya Food Bank Outreach Center with another sister, desperate and hopeless because her husband had been put in jail for crimes she says he never committed. This young mother has a baby and a small child. The Lord turned her mourning into joy (Psalm 30:11) as she ended up crying out to God and praying with me in repentance for her salvation. Now she has eternal hope and a whole new family.”

**name has been changed*

THE PEOPLE, THE LAND AND THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

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

THURSDAY – Beginning at 7:00 PM

- Dr. Eugene H. Merrill, Dr. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.

FRIDAY – Morning sessions begin at 8:00 AM

- Pastor David Epstein, Dr. Robert B. Chisholm, Dr. Michael J. Wilkins, Dr. Darrell L. Bock
- Dr. Michael Vanlaningham, Professor Craig A. Evans

Evening sessions begin at 7:00 PM

- Dr. Michael L. Brown, Dr. Mitch Glaser

SATURDAY – Morning sessions begin at 8:00 AM

- Dr. Craig A. Blaising, Dr. Mark R. Saucy, Dr. John S. Feinberg
- Dr. Michael J. Vlach, Dr. Barry R. Leventhal, Dr. Michael Rydelnik

CLOSING CELEBRATION 7:30 PM

- Joel C. Rosenberg, Music by Marty Goetz

NEW MESSIANIC RESOURCES IN SPANISH!



A Jewish believer in Jesus examines the festivals of Leviticus 23, their history, their present celebration in the synagogue and home, and their prophetic fulfillment. In Leviticus 23 God presents seven annual sacred feasts of Israel. At first this passage seems to simply list Israel's holy days, but the more one studies the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, the more one realizes that this passage is more than just a list of holy days; it is actually an outline of God's calendar from eternity to eternity. (paperback)

Israel's Holy Days in Type and Prophecy - Spanish [3014] • \$8.95^{US}

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! *Isaiah 53 Explained* makes the story of the Bible understandable, practically and simply explaining how you can have a soul-satisfying relationship with God and revealing the surprising key that makes this relationship possible.

Written by Dr. Mitch Glaser. (paperback)



Isaiah 53 Explained - Spanish [3148] • \$12.95^{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)