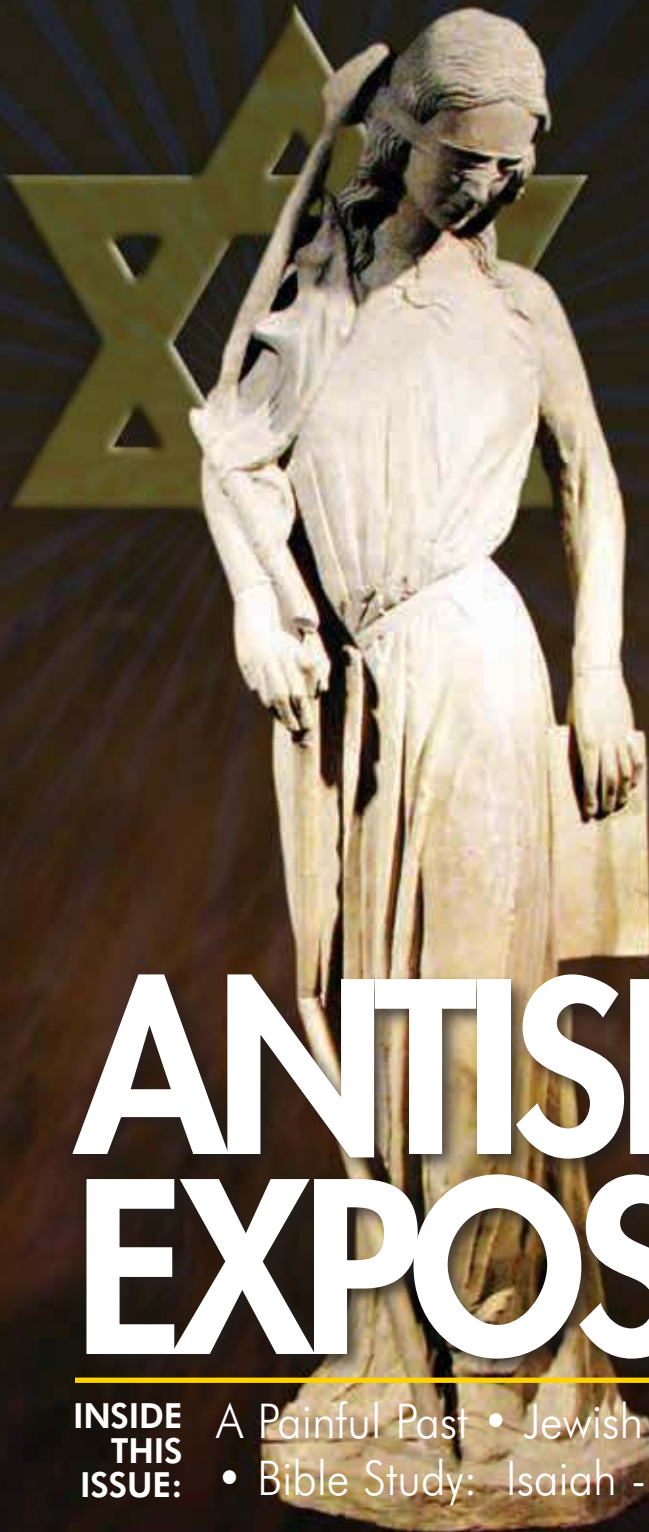


The Chosen People



Volume XIX, Issue 5 June 2013

STATUES IN FRONT OF THE CATHEDRAL IN STRASBOURG, FRANCE DEPICTING THE TRIUMPH OF THE CHURCH AND THE BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL.



ANTISEMITISM EXPOSED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Painful Past • Jewish Evangelism in Light of a Negative History
• Bible Study: Isaiah - Called to Be a Preacher

A PAINFUL PAST



The well-known statues of Ecclesia and Synagoga, carved in about 1230 and situated at Strasbourg's Cathedral of Notre Dame, illustrate the Church's widespread teaching of contempt for the Jewish faith. Christianity, symbolized by Ecclesia, stands in triumphant contrast to Synagoga, who stands for a defeated and humiliated Judaism.

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org

Dear friend,

Shalom. I hope you learn a lot from this volume of the Chosen People Ministries newsletter. The topic of "Modern Day Antisemitism" is critical—particularly with regard to its impact upon Jewish evangelism. This is not an easy subject, and it is one we would probably prefer to avoid, but to do so would be at our own peril. I believe that honestly addressing this issue will ultimately help the cause of Jewish evangelism.

The Upside-Down Picture in Warsaw

My desire to address this difficult topic grows out of a recent experience my wife and I had on a trip to Warsaw.

We traveled to Poland to spend time with our Chosen People Ministries partners in this country, which has been so important in the life and history of the Jewish people.

We also wanted to visit the remnants of the Warsaw Ghetto; this was a sad and moving experience. As you might know, more Jewish people were killed in Poland during the Holocaust than in any other country in Europe. Before the war, there were 3.5 million Jewish people living in Poland—and now there are less than 20,000! Among the millions of Polish Jews who died in the Holocaust were thousands of Jewish believers in Jesus. Zhava and I wanted to learn more about these heroes of the Holocaust who died in Auschwitz, Treblinka and in the Warsaw Ghetto itself.

While there, I had the opportunity to preach in a Polish church and even had the joy of witnessing to an elderly Polish Jewish man who had survived the war and was not yet a believer. We need to pray for Jewish evangelism in Poland, as there are still thousands of Jewish people there who need to be reached with the Gospel!

Our time in Warsaw was personally significant for Zhava and me, as many of our relatives were killed in the Holocaust as well—but nothing compares to the chilling experience we had one evening when we went out to eat in downtown Warsaw with our ministry's representatives in Poland.

The meal was delightful and the service was excellent! But as we were leaving the restaurant, my eyes were drawn to a very strange sight.

There was a picture of an Orthodox Jewish man on the wall that was actually turned upside down. I asked our Polish hosts what it meant, and they told me that this was common in Poland. They said that Poles sometimes hang a picture of a Jewish person in their place of business in order to assure themselves of good financial fortune. In other words, they believed that the presence of a Jewish visage would give them better business! I was thunderstruck by the very idea of this and asked the obvious question, "Then why is the picture turned upside down?"

Their answer took my breath away. They told me that many Poles still dislike Jews and so, even though they wanted the Jewish picture for good luck, they still wanted to indicate their dislike for the Jewish people by turning the picture upside down.

I was horrified, and I hope that the Poles who practice this custom will renounce it.

The Impact of Historic "Christian" Antisemitism

My grandparents, who survived the war, came to the United States from Poland and told me that the Poles did not like the Jews. Perhaps this is

1862

Notable Instances of American Antisemitism

General Grant expelled the Jewish people from Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi. Fortunately, President Lincoln quickly revoked this order.



1913

A young Jewish man named Leo Frank moved from Brooklyn to work as an engineer and superintendent in Atlanta. In April 1913, Frank faced false accusations of strangling a thirteen-year-old girl at the factory. His trial portrayed Frank as part of the northern Jewish aristocracy who perpetually took advantage of the vulnerable and underprivileged. An angry mob abducted Frank, hung him, and then beat his body into disfigurement.



1915

Crowds celebrated Frank's conviction and used his caricature as a means of calling for the reestablishment of the Ku Klux Klan in 1915. The Jewish community founded the Anti-Defamation League to fight antisemitism.

The Chosen People

true — although I also heard many stories about Poles who hid Jewish people and even about priests who lost their lives because they hid Jews during the Holocaust. And of course, the reason Zhava and I were in Poland was because there are believers who today have a great love for the Jewish people.

Still, there is no denying that there is a very powerful antisemitic element that runs deep within the culture of European Catholicism and Orthodoxy. The Catholic Church has recognized this, which was one of the reasons for Vatican II and the various statements of repentance in recent years disavowing historic antisemitism. The ways in which more traditional Protestants treated the Jewish people in Eastern and Western Europe were not much better, as they inherited most of the same views as the Catholics and Orthodox.

These attitudes towards the Jewish people have profoundly impacted Jewish evangelism in both the past and present! This is true not only in Eastern Europe, but all across the globe as the Jewish response to what can be termed “Christian antisemitism” has shaped Jewish attitudes towards the Gospel.

How can almost two thousand years of ill treatment of the Jewish people by “Christians” be counteracted for the sake of the Gospel? Is it possible for Jewish people to believe in Jesus when it seems that Christianity has treated the Jewish people so harshly?

I know there is hope, because I am Jewish and I believe in Jesus! Let me offer a few suggestions on how true



1918

Henry Ford acquired the weekly newspaper *The Dearborn Independent*, in which he published regular antisemitic rants. For example, he accused Jewish people of instigating World War I for profit. He blamed “German-Jewish bankers” for the war and believed that “the Jew is a threat.” Ford also perpetuated an antisemitic lie called **The Protocols of the Elders of Zion**, which outlined a Jewish plan for world domination.

followers of Jesus can overcome the dark history of “Christian” antisemitism and reach Jewish people with the message of God’s love through the Messiah Jesus.

Keep the Message Personal

Make sure your Jewish friend knows that you do not represent a religion, but rather a person—a Jewish person—Jesus the Messiah.

Additionally, try to communicate that following Jesus is not something you are born into, but rather a matter of personal choice—which you had to make as well. Make sure your Jewish friend knows the difference between a real born-again believer and the types of “Christians” who persecuted Jewish people. Sharing your personal testimony will be helpful.

Extend Love and Patience

The dark historical clouds that shroud the light of the Gospel from Jewish eyes can be dispelled by your love. Find ways to prove history wrong and to demonstrate that true believers in Jesus love the Jewish people. Show kindness and concern for your Jewish friends. Respect them when they explain why they cannot believe in Jesus and meet their objections with patience and understanding. Their willingness to consider the claims of Jesus may not happen quickly; time and many positive experiences may be needed to change their attitudes towards the Gospel message.

Be Sensitive to Jewish Life and Concerns

Since your Jewish friend may not expect you to understand the Jewish faith, take the opportunity to astound them with your knowledge of the Old Testament and of issues that concern the Jewish people. Express a love for Israel, send cards on the Jewish holidays, and if antisemitism erupts in one way or another in the world or in your community, tell your Jewish friend that you want to stand with them against this evil.

Do not allow this overwhelmingly negative history to keep you from sharing the Good News with your Jewish friend.

Pray

Most importantly, remember to pray that your Jewish friend will be able to overcome this obstacle through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. After all, God loves your Jewish friend even more than you do! And touching the heart of your Jewish loved one is His work, not ours...so prayer is the key to Jewish evangelism. As the Apostle Paul writes,

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation (Romans 10:1).

Your brother—praying for your loving witness to my people!

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

1930

Father Coughlin, a Catholic priest, became a prominent voice for antisemitic hatred. He created a weekly radio program with an audience as large as twelve million, and his broadcasts accused Jewish bankers of causing both the Depression and the Russian Revolution. He also publicly sympathized with Nazi Germany and Hitler’s policies.



Present

Instances of antisemitism in America declined in the aftermath of World War II though, a few fringe groups still deny the Holocaust, claiming it was a hoax and a Jewish conspiracy.

Jewish Evangelism in Light of

The primary reason Jewish people today will not easily consider the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah is because of the historically negative relationship Jewish people have had with Christianity. Growing up in a Jewish home, I was sure of two things: that Christians did not like Jews, and Jesus was not the Messiah...and I knew that the two were intertwined.

Why? For many reasons!

The History of Antisemitism and Christianity

The seeds of antisemitism were sown by the antagonism of early Christian leaders toward Jews and the Jewish religion. A famous example is John “Chrysostom” (Golden-Mouth), Archbishop of Constantinople (349–ca. 407), whose stirring sermons moved many listeners. But when he turned to Jews and Judaism, his mouth was anything but golden.

He vented his ire against members of his own flock, whom he accused of “Judaizing” because they were visiting synagogues and some were trying to keep the Jewish feasts. Underlying his pastoral concerns was a deep disdain for the Jewish people. He wrote,

Do you not see that you are condemned by the testimony of what Christ and the prophets predicted and which the facts have proved? But why should this surprise me? That is the kind of people you are. From the beginning you have been shameless and obstinate, ready to fight at all times against obvious facts. (Homily V, XII, 1)

This is one example of antisemitism on the part of a “Church Father”—and there is much more! From Origen to Augustine to Luther and Calvin, harsh and negative rhetoric was often used against the Jewish people by Christian leaders. This attitude towards

the chosen people reached a high point in Luther’s treatise entitled, *The Jews and Their Lies*, where he called for the burning of Jewish religious texts and the dismantling of synagogues. In fact, in *Mein Kampf*, Hitler asserted that he was merely continuing what Luther started!

There is no doubt that anti-Jewish teaching by church leaders—both Catholic and Protestant—contributed greatly to the Crusades, pogroms and finally to the the Holocaust.

This intermingling of the Church’s anti-Jewish teaching and the resultant antisemitism it fostered is an almost insurmountable obstacle to Jewish evangelism by Christians today. But this dark cloud can be pierced!

I know this is true because the Lord reached me through faithful and loving Gentile Christians who showed me the

difference between what I was raised to believe and what is true of believers who know the truth and have been transformed by the Gospel. As Paul wrote,

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. (Romans 11:11)

We have the opportunity today to show our Jewish friends and neighbors that Jesus is the Jewish

In Venezuela, this “oldest hatred” is state-sponsored.



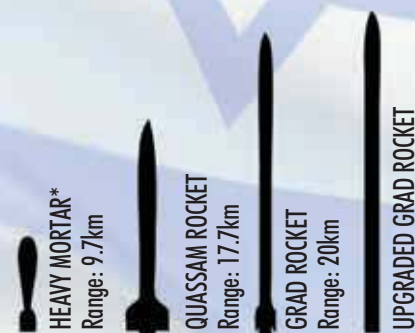
Words More Than Deeds

Universities all over America are promoting yearly anti-Israel conferences under the banner of “Israeli Apartheid Week.” Other organizations prefer to support the BDS movement (Boycott Divestment and Sanctions) against Israel.

Since 2005, terrorists have fired more than 8,000 rockets into Israel.

A strong hatred of Jews is found in the Middle East region, as illustrated by the Arab-Israeli conflict of the last 65 years. If it were not for the global rebirth of antisemitism, the world would have become rather immune to the xenophobic agenda of radical Islam in the Middle East, but the weed of hatred is spreading.

France had more than 370 incidents of antisemitism just in the last year.



a Negative History

Messiah for all—and that His true followers love the Jewish people.

The “Oldest Hatred” Goes Global!

For as long as the Jewish people have existed, their history has been punctuated by antisemitism, the world’s “oldest hatred.” It comes in different forms: from academic boycotts to cemetery desecration to physical violence, not to mention Holocaust denial and even murder.

Based on the latest statistics, antisemitism is at the highest level since the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism started to keep records twenty years ago. Of course, everybody remembers the Toulouse, France massacre of last March that claimed the lives of a rabbi, three students and three soldiers. There are parts of France where Jews do not dare to go out wearing a yarmulke or any visible Jewish symbol.

In 2012
antisemitism
was up by
30% globally.



Antisemitism is also growing in Spain, the United Kingdom, Poland, Greece and Hungary. We have even started to see the rebirth of political antisemitism with Neo-Nazi parties in Greece and Hungary. Europe is rapidly losing its Jewish communities who, for safety reasons, are immigrating to Canada, the United States and, of course, Israel.

Antisemitism in the “Golden Land”

From the late 19th into the early 20th century, approximately three million Jewish people fled persecution in Europe for the United States—which was known as the Goldina Medina, or “Golden Land.” The 1986 animated film *An American Tail* depicts this journey, as Fievel Mouskewitz, a Jewish mouse, and his family flee from ferocious cats in Russia. These cats represent the Cossacks who carried out pogroms, or violent riots, against Jewish villages in Russia and Eastern Europe. The Mouskewitz family believed that living in America would alleviate their problems, but when they arrived, they discovered that cats live here too.

Even so, for the most part, America has treated the Jewish community better than any other nation in history. George Washington established a strong relationship between the United States and its Jewish citizens. Since the first American colonies, the United States has provided a place where the Jewish people have flourished.

Yet while America remains the Goldina Medina, the existence of antisemitism must not be overlooked. Just as the Mouskewitz family discovered “cats” in America, Jewish immigrants to the United States have faced notable instances of prejudice. Typically, these experiences were subtle and less pervasive than in Europe, but at times this hatred has become more overt and venomous.

Today, followers of Yeshua have a unique opportunity to reach out to the Jewish community wherever they are and express Messiah’s love and compassion for the “apple of His eye” (Zechariah 2:8). Antisemitic antagonists and indifferent bystanders of yesteryear can be replaced by people who love, support, and defend the Jewish people. As one of the villagers said in Le Chambon, France, where the whole town saved over 5,000 Jews during World War II, “It was the most natural thing to do.”

Loving Israel and the Jewish people should be the most natural thing to do for Christian believers who understand the biblical mandate of Genesis 12:3. Even though blessing the Jewish people [with the Gospel] might become increasingly challenging, genuine disciples of Yeshua are among the few remaining friends of Israel in a world of many foes. As such, we have no choice but to combat antisemitism.

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.

ISAIAH — CALLED TO BE A PREACHER

The first five chapters of Isaiah picture the prophet as a preacher to Jerusalem and Judah. Let us examine his first three sermons recorded in chapters one through five. One key to understanding the biblical prophet is to remember that his message oscillates between his historical present and the distant future. Therefore, one must discern whether the prophet's message in any given text addresses present or future concerns. Furthermore, Isaiah's prophecy is written in the form of Hebrew poetry, which has its own specific laws of proper interpretation.

SERMON ONE – THE SIN AND CORRUPTION OF JUDAH (ISAIAH 1:1-31)

Here a courtroom scene is employed in which the Lord reads the charges against His people. The heavens and the earth are summoned as witnesses (Isa. 1:2). All the angels are spectators. The charges are as follows:

- I. The nation is likened to a group of "rebellious children," refusing to recognize parental authority (1:2-4). Even the animals had better sense (1:3)!
- II. Israel lacked "understanding" (1:3). This means that they misunderstood God's gracious purposes for them.
- III. The nation was morally ill and in poor health. Israel's moral malady extended from "head to heart to foot" (1:5, 6).

IV. Judah was compared to Sodom and Gomorrah (1:10). What a moral degradation! And what mercy the Lord extended in His not burning Judah to the ground! (See Gen. 19)

V. Isaiah demonstrates God's authority over Israel by employing divine titles (1:24-31) to show His status over the nation as: "Adonai" (the Lord) or Sovereign Master (1:24), the God of the covenant who commands the armies (1:24), and "the mighty One of Israel" (1:24).

SERMON TWO – MESSIAH'S RULE OVER ALL THE EARTH (ISAIAH 2:1-4, 6)

The text of Isaiah 2:4 is inscribed upon the "Isaiah Wall" in Ralph Bunche Park, near the United Nations building in New York City. Obviously the prophet's information projects into the distant future. The expression "the last days" anticipates the coming "Messianic times."

The "mountain of the Lord" recalls Jerusalem as the location of the Temple and the center of God's residence on earth (Isa. 2:2). Even though Isaiah details Jerusalem's impending doom, he still looks forward to the future when Jerusalem will experience a time of greater glory. Micah the prophet also confirms Isaiah's prophetic future in Micah 4. Other "kingdom passages,"

such as Psalms 2 and 46, substantiate the future glory of Jerusalem when Messiah establishes His kingdom on earth.

SERMON THREE – THE HYMN OF THE VINEYARD (ISAIAH 5:1-30)

Isaiah employs a poetic parable to portray the "Song of the Vineyard." In poetic hymn form, God declares His judgment in the form of a parable. He portrays Israel as a vineyard (See Psa. 80:8 and Hosea 10:1). Jesus returns to this same metaphor when He employs the image of a vineyard in His parable of a landowner who plants a vineyard (Mt. 21:33-44).

God planted Israel as His vineyard and expected to find the required fruit. Instead of justice and righteousness, He discovered oppression, drunkenness and rebellion (5:7). God must intervene with judgment in the light of Israel's apostasy.

CONCLUSION

The love and mercy of God cries out, "*Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*" (Isa. 1:18).

Here is the gracious invitation to Israel and also to you and me. Sin is unreasonable, but God is merciful, who provides forgiveness through His Son, Messiah Jesus. "*Thanks be unto God for His indescribable gift*" (2 Cor. 9:15).

OUT OF THE STORM

Robert Pristoop, who serves on staff in New York City, is participating in a new Chosen People Ministries outreach in Staten Island, New York. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, our staff ministered to many Jewish victims of the “superstorm” through relief efforts—and we have followed up by building relationships with them. Robert reports, “We will bring these new friends, many of whom are Jewish people from the former Soviet Union, together once a month on a Saturday evening for a service. Some of them have no concept of Jewish lifestyle. It will be an exciting time of teaching these Jewish people their Jewish roots!”



BLESSING THOSE WHO BLESS ISRAEL

Michael Z., our Israel Director, was pleased to find out about a most encouraging development that came as a result of a speaking engagement at a large conference held in a predominantly Muslim country in the former Soviet Union. The topic of Israel generated con-

troversy, but Michael challenged those in attendance to start praying about Israel and blessing her instead of cursing. Now Michael has heard that after the conference one man helped start a prayer group in support of Israel that has now grown to 200 churches and almost 1,500 individuals! Michael writes, “They invited me to speak at a conference at a 10,000-member church! How faithful is our Lord!”

ONE PLANTS AND ANOTHER HARVESTS

Steve Fenchel, who leads Chosen People Ministries’ Messianic congregation in New York City, is rejoicing that Samuel,* one of the Jewish seekers who has attended services for about a year, has made a decision to receive Messiah. Although Samuel had been meeting with Steve, hearing his sermons, and attending his Bible studies, it was another man whom Steve had disciplined who led Samuel to the Lord while the Fenchels were away speaking in other churches. Steve, however, is doubly delighted—he observes, “This brings out the wonderful

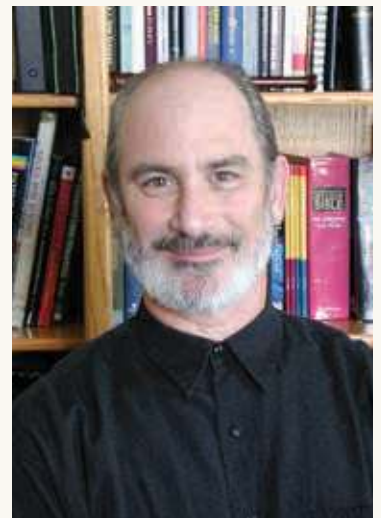
truth that Jesus taught in John 4:37, ‘One plants and another harvests.’ And it’s true!”

CHALLAH PLUS PRAYER BRINGS SALVATION

Staff member Jon Lieberman, who is based in Indianapolis, received a call from Barb,* another Jewish believer, whom he’s known for over thirty years. Her mom was quite ill, and although Barb had tried for years to share the Gospel, her mother was opposed. Jon asked his wife, Tammy, to bake a special challah bread for Barb’s mom—a great favorite among Jewish people. Barb’s mom ate half of it with great enjoyment, and later that day, Jon and Barb prayed on the phone for her. What Jon didn’t know was that the speaker phone was on, and Barb’s mom had heard Jon’s entire prayer. A few hours later, Barb’s mother said, “I guess it’s about time that I stop resisting and receive Jesus as my Messiah.” Barb then led her mom in a sinner’s prayer.

ISAIAH 53 EXPLAINED HELPS BRING JEWISH MAN TO FAITH

Following staff member Alan Shore’s “Messiah in the Passover” teaching in Washington State, a Jewish man approached him with the words, “I felt as though every word you said was meant for me.” After more conversation, Alan gave him his last copy of *Isaiah 53 Explained* and expressed the hope that it would make the Gospel even clearer in a Jewish way. Weeks later, the man showed up at Alan’s doorstep with the book in hand. He said, “I haven’t been able to stop reading this—and you’ve shown me how a Jewish person can be a believer. I’m ready.” With that, Alan led the man in a prayer of salvation and has continued to be in touch with him.



*names have been changed

THE PEOPLE, THE LAND AND THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

October 3-5, 2013
Calvary Baptist Church, New York, NY

This conference will focus on the Bible's account of the role of Israel and the Jewish people—both now and in the future. The speakers are renowned scholars with profound insight into God's unfolding plan and purpose for the nation of Israel as the Scripture depicts them.

This event will also help you develop a deeper understanding of current and future events in the Middle East as described in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. The program will also include testimonies of both Jewish and Arab believers serving the Lord in Israel and conclude with a dynamic Saturday evening message by best-selling author Joel Rosenberg and music by Marty Goetz.

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

THE TRAGIC STORY OF THE CHURCH AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE



From the first "Christian" persecutions of the Jews in the fourth century to the horrors of the Holocaust, from Israel-bashing in today's press to antisemitism in today's pulpits, this shocking and painful book tells the tragic story that every Christian must hear.

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The Chosen People Newsletter

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