

The Chosen People



Volume XIX, Issue 10 December 2013

*Out of you shall come forth
to Me the One to
be ruler in
Israel*

MESSIAH HAS COME

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ISSUE:**

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M.K. Sorbola 2011

MESSIAH WILL

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah! Rejoice, for the Messiah of Israel was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Through His atoning death, triumphant resurrection and majestic ascension, we have life, joy and the hope of His return to establish His kingdom in the Promised Land.

These sentiments and beliefs were the basis for our October conference in New York City, entitled *The People, the Land and the Future of Israel*, held at the historic Calvary Baptist Church in Manhattan.

The speakers included some of the finest biblical scholars alive today; every one of them believes in Messiah's

soon return and that the Jewish people continue to have a critical role in God's plan for the ages.

Our Gift to You!

We professionally recorded all of the messages and a number of exciting testimonies that you can watch online — for free!

This is our special gift to you because of your faithful prayers, support and love for the Jewish people! I hope you will take advantage of these messages given by professors from the Talbot School of Theology, Dallas Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Moody Bible Institute, and the Masters Seminary, as well as Messianic Jewish leaders and scholars Michael Brown and Barry Leventhal, in addition to prolific author Joel C. Rosenberg.

I know you will appreciate the opportunity to delve deep into God's Word and His promises to both Jews and Gentiles! Please feel free to utilize these videos in your Bible classes, small groups or in any way you wish.

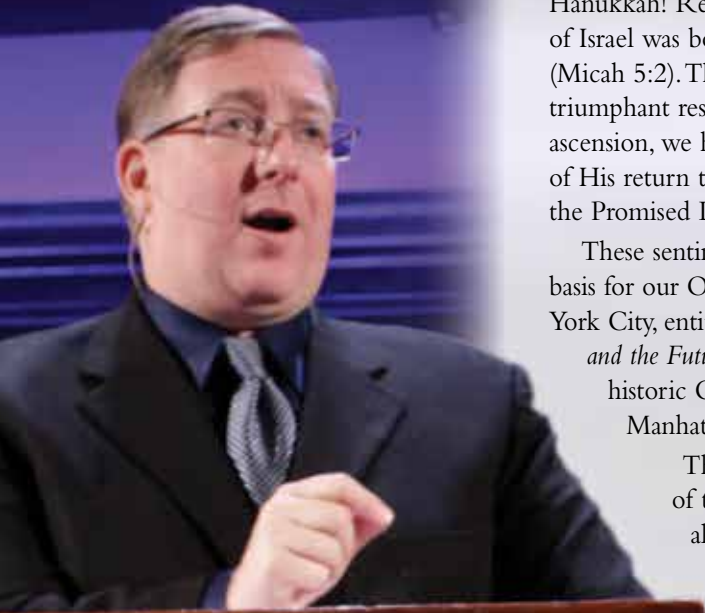
Simply visit www.chosenpeople.com/ videos to enjoy these dynamic messages.

The Lord Is Coming Soon

As we remember Messiah's first coming, we also turn our attention to the nearness of His return. This has been the heartfelt desire of every believer for two thousand years! We pray *Maranatha* — **Come Lord Jesus**. We long to see our broken world healed through the very presence of the Lord!

We also know that the Jewish people will play a significant role in the second coming of the Messiah. This was the heart of my message at the conference. In fact, I tried to show that when Christians truly believe and act upon this biblical truth, then Jewish evangelism becomes a greater priority and a more powerful force. My goal was to demonstrate this link and motivate followers of the Jewish Messiah to take a more active interest in sharing the Gospel with Jewish people and praying for and supporting missions to the Jewish

The Chosen People



COME AGAIN

people. I hope you will listen to the message and share it with your friends who might appreciate it!

The Jewish People and the Second Coming of Jesus

Let me give you a quick summary of the message, which is based upon a few different passages of Scripture.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek (Romans 1:16).

Those engaged in Jewish evangelism are well familiar with this passage and understand its importance in motivation for Jewish evangelism.

I would suggest that the reason the Apostle Paul believes that the Gospel should go to Jewish people first is founded upon his understanding of the role of the Jewish people in the second coming of Jesus. When Romans 1:16 is viewed through this lens, then the urgency of Jewish evangelism becomes evident.

We know that Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles and focused his ministry on reaching non-Jews with the Gospel message. Yet wherever Paul went in his ministry among the Gentiles, he also preached the Gospel to Jewish people living in that area (Acts 13:13-52; 14:1-5; 18:7-11; 19:8-10). He would regularly make sure that this was his first evangelistic effort in a particular city before he spoke to the Gentiles. The salvation of Jewish people was an ever-present concern for Paul, and his actions in the Book of Acts reveal his understanding of what he penned in Romans 1:16.

Why “To the Jew First”?

We cannot fully understand Romans 1:16 without understanding Paul’s conclusion in Romans 11:25-26, where he speaks about the end-time repentance of the remnant of Israel and their acceptance of Jesus as Savior.

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:25-26).

The Apostle’s argument would be as follows: *If Jewish people are successfully evangelized, then Jesus the Messiah will return.* The Apostle had no idea when this would take place, although he probably thought it would be within his own lifetime. Therefore, there was urgency in the tone of his preaching and in his letter to the Roman believers, encouraging them to prioritize the evangelization of the Jewish people. His theology was enacted in his own strategy for missions—and this is why we should follow

suit. In effect, Paul argued that if the church desired to witness the second coming of Christ, the Jewish people must be evangelized.

Based upon the above, the church cannot think of Jewish evangelism as just simply evangelizing “another people group.” The Jewish people have been tagged with a theological import unlike other peoples, and this fact needs to be respected.

Therefore, Jewish evangelism must never become the “great omission” of the Great Commission. Rather, in light of the mandate Paul sets before us in Romans 1:16, the church must make Jewish evangelism a priority.

The Return of the Jewish People and the Return of the Lord

Finally, Paul tells us that the day will come will come when the Jewish people embrace Jesus as the promised Messiah—and that this day will take place after the time of the Gentiles has been fulfilled.

The link is clearly established between the second coming of Jesus and the end-time repentance of the Jewish people.

So, how will this repentance of the Jewish people happen? As Paul writes,

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:11).

Gentiles within the Body of Messiah are called to reach Jewish people for Jesus, and missions to the Jews must help in this great work. In fact, it is part of the Chosen People Ministries organizational mission statement “to help empower and equip our brothers and sisters in the church to evangelize and disciple Jewish people.” Chosen People Ministries hopes to encourage, provide materials and build strategic bridges with Gentiles in the Body of Messiah—including the many Gentile missionaries on our staff—to fulfill this mandate in the twenty-first century.

If we hope to see the return of the Lord, then we must view Jewish evangelism as a biblical priority. As I hope I have shown, these two biblical truths are indivisibly linked. Therefore, we must do all we can to reach our Jewish friends for Jesus and all we can to help those who have given their lives to this holy task.

Have a great holiday, and may the fresh presence of the Lord fill your home.

Enjoy the videos and podcasts —our gift to you in honor of the One who gave His all for us!

Your brother,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

THE PEOPLE, THE LAND AND THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

An Interview with Mitch Glaser about Spiritual Trends and the Gospel in Israel Today

Q. What are some of the most exciting spiritual trends you see in the Land today?

The first is the significant increase of Jewish believers. Sixty percent of them speak Russian as their first language, so there is a tremendous need to provide resources that they are able to use.

Speaking a bit more generally, there is a growing ministry among children and increasing unity among the Jewish believers. We are also participating in active efforts to meet the needs of poor Israelis, as well as Holocaust survivors and other elderly Israelis.

We are seeing the growth of serious Bible college programs and leadership development among Israelis, as well as more Christian books being published in Hebrew and higher-quality training opportunities for younger believers. There are now a number of buildings owned by Israeli believers and ministries among Israelis, including the Chosen People Ministries Jerusalem Center, King of Kings, Israel College of the Bible, and a number of congregations.

Congregations are also maturing to serve the growing number of believers among both Jews and Arabs. The number of Israeli-led congregations has expanded from under a dozen in the early 1970s to now more than 150. The continued development of energetic and creative outreach over the web and the increase in Christian television broadcasting are all signs of the vitality of the movement of the Holy Spirit in Israel.

Q. What are some of the most troubling spiritual trends you see in the Land today?

Let's remember first of all that troubling trends are often God's way of bringing us the greatest opportunities for spiritual growth and ministry fruitfulness. The threat of war and continued terrorism, the challenge of secularism, and the deconstruction of a more biblical morality in the everyday culture are all troubling trends that are symptoms of a deeper, spiritual sickness.

The continued and seemingly irreconcilable differences (socially, politically and otherwise) between Jews and Arabs as well as between the Orthodox and secular Jews is another aspect of this same spiritual conflict.

Additionally, we see the continued marginalization of both Jewish and Arab believers within their own communities, although this is changing slightly. Despite—and even because of—these aspects of spiritual warfare, the future of the Lord's work needs to be Israeli in nature. Therefore, the need for indigenous resources and continued leadership development is a critical challenge and a great opportunity for partnership between Western European and North American believers and Israelis.

Q. Do you believe we are heading towards a “Romans 11:26” world in which “all of Israel will be saved”? Why or why not?

Well, first let's take a look at the passage in question...

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.” (Romans 11:25–27)

Yes, we are moving closer because of the evident signs of the times. If the return of the Jewish people to Israel, Jewish control of Jerusalem, and the surrounding of Israel by enemies seeking her destruction is evidence of the prophecies of the Old Testament coming to pass—and if we add the additional sign of a remnant of Jewish believers in Jesus, which has been increasing since the establishment of the modern state of Israel—then yes. But my feeling is that we will enter this future incrementally.

Q. Is it accurate there are about 15,000 Jewish followers of Yeshua in the Land of Israel today—up from only a few dozen in 1948?

There is no current scientific survey, but my personal experience would indicate that the numbers are somewhere between 10,000 and 15,000...some sources suggest a bit less and others a little more, but these are fairly good “guesstimates.”

Q. Why are Jews coming to faith in so much larger numbers today? What dynamics have changed since 1948, as well as since you came to faith?

There were a great number of Jewish believers in Jesus who perished in the Holocaust, perhaps more than there are today. But now we seem to be growing at a rate throughout the world that will surpass the pre-Holocaust numbers of Messianic Jews.

Israel has one of the fastest-growing movements of Jewish believers in the world. Why? Aside from the prophetic perspective mentioned above, it could be because of the prayers of unrelenting saints, an unwavering witness by many who have pioneered this effort, and the engagement of the Gentile Church around the world with a heart for Jewish outreach. Certainly, today we see growth resulting from the development of a contextualized testimony and the emergence of local Israeli spiritual leadership.



According to the Book of Ruth

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.

The Book of Ruth continues the unfolding story of the people of Israel, the land and their future. What had been initiated in the promise to Eve in Genesis 3:15 continued in the promise made to Shem in Genesis 9:27, was extended to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob beginning in Genesis 12:1-3, and is now extended in the story of Ruth. It is in Ruth where we find the critical link in the Messianic promise to the coming throne and king of the line of David.

The narrative of the Book of Ruth is cast mainly (over 50%) in the form of a dialogue, which traces the steps of a Judean couple, Elimelech and Naomi, along with their two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, who left the town of Bethlehem during a famine in Israel to travel to the adjoining country of Moab. While they sojourned in Moab, Naomi lost her husband, Elimelech, and her two sons to death by unnamed causes. Her two sons had married two Moabite women: Ruth and Orpah.

When, after a number of years, the good news came that food was once again available in Israel, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. Naomi's daughter-in-law, Ruth, was determined to return to accompany her. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the barley harvest was beginning, Ruth, guided by the Lord, began to glean in the fields that belonged to Boaz, who in God's gracious provision turned out to be a relative.

Boaz married Ruth according to the custom of the time, and the grandchild of Naomi, born to Ruth, later became the father of Jesse. Jesse, in turn, became the father of David (Ruth 4:22), who in turn became the King of Israel. The blessing of God, therefore, is seen in: (1) God's kindness and grace to those who had suffered such great personal losses, (2) the inclusion of a Gentile, such as Ruth, not only in the Gospel message, but also in (3) the development of the promised line of David as the first in the line of the One who would be king over Israel when the Messiah returned the second time.

The Book of Ruth, therefore, is God working out His promise and plan through Ruth, which led to her being included in the line of King David. The divine promise to David was repeated in 1 Chronicles 17:14—*"I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever."* Thus, the image of the kingdom of the Lord was indissolubly linked with King David, as the people of the promise and the land of promise were as well.



In the Writings of Luke

Darrell Bock

In some circles of New Testament study, it is said that the Jewish people have lost their place as the people of God due to their rejection of Jesus, and that the Church is, therefore, the new Israel. But such a viewpoint can only be advanced at the expense of many texts, including the writings of Luke in both his Gospel and the Book of Acts. Such an omission is significant, since Luke writes more of the New Testament than any other single writer. This belief undercuts the faithfulness of God and misses an important aspect of God's grace—His persistence in the midst of our unfaithfulness.

The question I pose is this: Is there hope for God's restoration of the original Israel in these texts? What do Luke's writings add to the fulfillment that the Messiah of Israel brings to the world?

In his Gospel, Luke argues that the Church roots its message in Israel's promised hope found in God's covenantal promises, which are rooted in the Hebrew Scripture. The entire saga of salvation involves Israel's restoration, presently delayed by her rejection of Messiah, but still to come. For all that Gentile inclusion and equality in the new community brings, we never lose sight of the fact that it is *Israel's story and Israel's hope* that brings blessing to the world, just as Genesis 12:3 promised. God keeps His promises to Israel, with as many people as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand on the seashore.

Does Luke's Book of Acts help to complete the picture? Here again, nothing in Luke's story should dissuade us from holding on to this hope for Israel. Gentile inclusion does not mean Israel's exclusion. In fact, neither the definition of Israel, nor the expectation for Israel changes. Rather, although God's work in the End Times is now certainly centered in Jesus, Israel's role remains central to the hope of salvation throughout the Book of Acts, including the expectation of national restoration. But now this story extends to the taking of the Gospel to the *entire world*.

Thus, a global perspective becomes a more important part of Israel's story. God will take care of His business and fulfill His promises to Israel one day. In the meantime, the disciples are to take the Gospel's message of hope to all of the world.

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 DESTINY OF GENTILE NATIONS SURROUNDING ISRAEL ISAIAH 13-23

It was A.T. Pierson who stated, “History is His (God’s) story.” Isaiah would certainly have agreed when he wrote the prophetic oracles in Isaiah 13-23. These chapters demonstrate the Divine plan—not only for Judah, but also for ten specific Gentile nations.

Isaiah referred to these nations as “burdens” (Isa. 13:1; 17:1), because he carried a “heavy weight” in his responsibility to announce God’s stern judgment against these nations.

THE JUDGMENTS UPON THE NATIONS

1. BABYLON (Isa. 13:1-14:27; 21:1-10)

Because the Babylonians conquered Israel and enslaved the people, God promises to form an army through the Medes in order to overthrow Babylon and leave their gods shattered on the ground. Isaiah compares the fall of Babylon to the legend of a Canaanite god, *Helel son of Shachar*, a name for the “morning star,” or Venus (Isa. 14:12-15). This false deity experienced defeat when he attempted to overthrow the throne of the God of Israel.

2. ASSYRIA (Isa. 14:24-27)

Assyria had once served as the “rod of my (God’s) anger” (Isa. 10:5). Now, God will not spare His rod on her. The effects of God’s divine hand against Assyria were far-reaching. In Isaiah’s day, Assyria controlled a large section of the Levant. Despite this, Isaiah understood that the Lord had greater might than any earthly power.

3. THE PHILISTINES (Isa. 14:28-30)

The Philistines posed the first major threat to Israel’s independence

(Judg. 13:1; 1 Sam. 4). When David established his throne over Israel, he led the nation to defeat the Philistines (2 Sam. 5:17-22). The Assyrians eventually subdued the Philistines around 734-732 BC.

4. MOAB (Isa. 15:1-16:14)

The people of Moab originated from Lot’s incestuous relationship with his own daughters (Gen. 19:37). Isaiah says Moab’s pride and arrogance will lead to their devastation (Isa. 16:6-12). Eventually, the Assyrians conquered the Moabites.

5. DAMASCUS, CAPITAL OF SYRIA (Isa. 17:1-14)

Next, Isaiah predicts the impending ruin of Damascus, the capital of Syria, and the desolation of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, because the people forgot their God. Since Syria opposed the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Damascus will face destruction and the people will blow away like chaff in the wind.

6. CUSH (Isa. 18:1-7)

Isaiah describes Cush, which Josephus associates with Ethiopia, as “a land of whirring wings.” This term likely arose either due to the infestation of the insects in the land, or due to the swiftness of the nation’s messengers. Despite this judgment, it appears the people of Cush have a future in God’s Kingdom, when they bring gifts to the Lord, the King of Judah when He establishes the Messianic kingdom in Jerusalem (Isa. 18:7; Zeph. 3:10).

7. EDOM (Isa. 21:11-12)

The Edomites were descendants of Edom. The Prophet Obadiah, who

according to rabbinic tradition was an Edomite convert to Judaism, confirms Isaiah’s prophecy, stating that the Edomites shall disappear from the pages of history, because they opposed Israel. The nation vanished from the scene after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

8. ARABIA (Isa. 21:13-17)

Here Isaiah predicts the political instability of the wandering tribes of Arabia. The whole desert area would suffer defeat within a year (Isa. 21:16) and Judah would witness God’s faithfulness.

9. TYRE (Isa. 23:1-18)

Israel had depended upon Phoenicia and commerce with the trading center of Tyre since the time of David’s monarchy (2 Sam. 5:11). The nation’s close proximity to Phoenicia created gigantic problems for Israel, including forbidden marriage alliances that resulted in religious strife (1 Ki. 16:31-33).

10. EGYPT (Isa. 19)

Due to the significance of Isaiah’s prophecy against Egypt, we will address this passage at a later time.

CONCLUSION

God intended Isaiah’s shocking behavior (Isa. 20:1-6) to gain the attention of the nations. He designed the message to communicate His impending judgment to the nations. What will it take to turn our attention from the voices of the world to the Word of God? Isaiah 13-23 reminds us that the Lord is in control of the nations and He can do as He pleases.

NEWS BRIEFS

REPENTANCE AND NEW LIFE IN MESSIAH

Vladimir Pikman, the director of Chosen People Ministries' work in Germany, tells a moving story about a Jewish businessman who engaged him in conversation at a wedding celebration they were both attending. "I have everything," the man said. "Other people envy me, but nobody knows how miserable my life is. I am such a sinner." After patiently listening to the man's sorrowful story, Vladimir told him the Good News of the Lord's forgiveness. When Vladimir asked him if he was willing to start a new life with the Messiah, he gave a confident "yes" and prayed to receive the Lord! Please pray for him, as he grows toward maturity.



SURPRISE INVITATION LEADS TO JEWISH FAITH DECISION IN ISRAEL

While visiting a Messianic congregation led by a friend of his, Eugene Lempert, who serves with Chosen People Ministries in Israel, was suddenly invited to give the message, without any warning beforehand. Praying for God's help, he accepted the challenge and spoke on God's timing in the life of believers—and particularly for his fellow Israelis. The question and answer session that followed became quite lively! Later that evening, at dinner with the friend and his family, Eugene learned that one participant had brought an unbelieving relative to the service—and that he had prayed to receive the Lord after the message!



SEARCHING WOMAN FINDS FAITH THROUGH MESSIANIC MINISTRY



Not long ago, congregational leader Michael Herts was introduced to Karen.* Karen was searching for God, and shared with one of her friends that she

planned to visit a local synagogue. The friend, who is a believer in Jesus, suggested that Karen visit the Messianic congregation Michael leads in Virginia. After the service, she told Michael how powerfully his message had impacted her. The next week, Karen came by herself, and before long, she prayed with Michael and his wife, Debbi, to receive the Lord. Please pray as Michael and Debbi follow up and help Karen grow in her newfound faith.

FIRST SPANISH-SPEAKING JEWISH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE IN MIAMI

David Sedaca, Special Assistant to Mission President Mitch Glaser, coordinated the first conference in Spanish on "Evangelizing the Jewish People in the Last Days." Held November 1-3 in Miami, this event was the fruit of dozens of church meetings and special events raising awareness among Christians for the need to reach Spanish-speaking Jewish people with the Gospel. David also made appearances on several radio stations and television networks in South Florida, speaking on the need to bring the Gospel to "the lost sheep of the House of Israel."



I N M E M O R I A M

Chosen People Ministries received the sad news that Irina N. (last name withheld for safety issues), the wife of staff member, Henry, and mother of teenagers Adi and Magda, passed away on November 10th in Israel after battling cancer.

Irina has been used of God in powerful ways to touch many hundreds of lives as she served at her husband's side in Ariel as part of the congregation he leads, ministering to many women and children. She was a greatly gifted musician and used her skills by leading others in worship and training many children—including her own—to play the piano. Chosen People Ministries' President Dr. Mitch Glaser writes, "I will remember Irina as a sweet, gentle soul who loved the Lord and her family and served her Messiah with remarkable dedication and faithfulness."

*name changed

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS WITH CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES



What are you doing this summer?

Come serve with Chosen People Ministries for a dynamic experience reaching Jewish people for Messiah!

Outreach Israel is a challenging and exciting ministry trip designed for young people ages 18-30 who are interested in reaching Israelis for the Messiah.

May 21 - June 21, 2014

eXperience Israel is a spiritual pilgrimage designed for adults ages 18-35 who want to engage with God by walking through the pages of biblical history and serving the people who live in Israel.

July 13-27, 2014

Shalom Brooklyn (New York City) is a whirlwind of in-depth training, engaging evangelism, and Jewish cultural excursions.

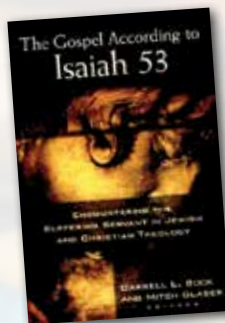
August 2-16, 2014

For more information visit www.chosenpeople.com
call 212-223-2252, or email: opportunities@chosenpeople.com



Based upon the biblical mandate to take the Gospel "to the Jew first," this comprehensive resource looks at the historical, theological, and biblical context for Jewish evangelism, and provides encouragement for Christians and Messianic Jews engaged in this task. *To the Jew First* includes contributions by Richard Averbeck, Craig Blasing, Walter Kaiser, Richard Pratt, Jr. and ten other evangelical scholars.

To The Jew First 3131 \$21.95^{US}



Equip yourself to present the redemptive work of the Messiah to the Jewish community. Exploring issues of atonement and redemption, respected scholars show how Christ is the fulfillment of Isaiah's "suffering servant"—and offer suggestions on how to share the good news with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Written by Darrell Bock and Mitch Glaser. Contributors include Walter Kaiser, Robert Chisholm Jr., Craig A. Evans, David L. Allen, Michael J. Wilkins.

The Gospel According to Isaiah 53 3138 \$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)

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