

The Chosen People



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PASSOVER: THE STORY OF REDEMPTION

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Photo by Asher Hirsch

Passover

A Prophetic Portrait of Redemption

Dear friend,

Shalom in the great name of Jesus our Messiah. The festival of Passover is just around the corner, and the staff of Your Mission to the Jewish People has been presenting a demonstration called Messiah in the Passover at hundreds of churches throughout North America. I have personally given this presentation perhaps thousands of times in my 40+ years in Jewish ministry, and I never tire of the message.

Maybe it is because of the simplicity of the Good News—Jesus is the Messiah and the *Passover* Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Pastors often give us the privilege of presenting Messiah in the Passover at their congregations with the added joy of celebrating communion—the Lord’s Supper. To *relive* the Passover as described in the book of Exodus and then to participate in communion with fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord is one of the most heart-stirring experiences a believer can enjoy.

If you have never had this experience, please ask your pastor to invite Chosen People Ministries to present this wonderful *living sermon* at your congregation next year. Call 1-888-405-5874 for more information or write to

our Church Ministries Department at churches@chosenpeople.com.

Messiah in the Passover and the Story of Redemption

Participation in a Messiah in the Passover presentation is not only a beautiful experience for the believer, but the Messianic seder is also a very powerful way to help Jewish seekers witness the four-dimensional prophetic portrait of redemption portrayed in the presentation. Messiah in the Passover is the Gospel in living color!

The Messiah in the Passover enables you and your Jewish friends to sit down in the Upper Room and dine with Jesus and His disciples. Your Jewish friend will recognize the traditions, feel comfortable and will usually be more open to hearing about our Jewish Messiah—so please think about attending one of these presentations and bringing along a Jewish friend. Go to our website (www.chosenpeople.com) to find out where a Chosen People Ministries representative is presenting Messiah in the Passover near you!



Jesus the Passover Lamb

There are many references to Passover in the New Testament that affirm the fulfillment of Passover in the person of our Messiah. Let's look at one of the many themes from the Passover and show how it points to Jesus. We find it in John the Baptist's words:

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
(John 1:29)



In order to properly interpret John's statement in this passage, we must understand the Old Testament context. In Exodus 12:3-13, the

Lord commands the children of Israel to slay a lamb and smear its blood on the doorposts and lintels of their homes. The blood of the lamb would then cover the home, thus sparing the first-born males from the Lord's judgment. This is a type (an Old Testament prophetic picture) of what Jesus would accomplish through His crucifixion.

Atonement through the blood of the innocent, spotless lamb would become a way for the children of Israel to understand the sacrificial system, which would soon be revealed at Mount Sinai, and eventually in the power of the death of the Messiah Jesus. He is the Lamb of God who takes away OUR sin!

Born Again - and Experiencing the Passover

I still remember my first Passover as a believer. I came to faith when I was barely 19 years old. Although I grew up in the New York area, I was living in California at the time and it was there that I became a follower of Jesus. I was part of the Jesus movement—at least the Jewish "wing" of the Jesus movement.

I became a believer in November 1970. By the time Passover arrived, I had already left the West Coast and returned home. As you can imagine, my parents did not understand why I had become a believer in Yeshua (Jesus) and they were confused, angry and hurt. They told me that I couldn't share the good news with my sisters, grandparents or anyone else.

My folks were especially worried I would say something to my religious grandparents at our family Passover seder, which was held every year in Brooklyn. I do not blame them! They should have been worried, because unless they had told me otherwise, I would have preached the Gospel to all of them at the family Passover. This probably would not have been well received! I was honoring my parents (a new trend for me after receiving Yeshua) and told them I would try to keep quiet.

This went well for the first part of the Passover seder, until my grandfather raised the shank bone of the lamb and told the story of Exodus 12. At that moment I could barely restrain myself from jumping up and shouting, "Grandpa... Grandpa—it's Jesus." But I didn't do it. It actually took a few more years before I was able to share the Gospel with my grandparents, and when I did, they never talked to me again. This was one of the hardest experiences of my life, but understandable, as they had fled Eastern Europe because of religious persecution that they blamed on "Christians." Other than myself, I do not think my grandparents had ever met

a born-again believer—sadly, a common experience among Jewish people.

You can only imagine the misunderstanding my grandparents, my own mother and father and so many of your Jewish friends have about Jesus. But when your Jewish friends witness Messiah in the Passover, they might realize for the first time that Christianity is the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises, and that you really *can* be Jewish and a believer in Jesus!

Reaching Your Jewish Friends During Passover

Please be sure to send your Jewish friends Passover greeting cards and wish them a sweet holiday. This is one way to show love to your Jewish friends and express an appreciation for

Christianity's roots in the ancient Israelite faith of the Old Testament Scriptures.

You can also learn a lot more about Passover, which you can then share with your friends, by visiting

www.chosenpeople/passover. You can even download an e-book on Passover and much more—so please take a moment to see the resources we have made available for you.

The sights, smells, tastes and story of the Passover all combine to make a memorable celebration that lifts our spirits. At Passover, we honor our past, give thanks for our present, and look ahead to the glorious future the Lord has promised to those who are found in Him. Truly, Passover offers a wonderful insight into the love, mercy and justice of our God in a way that is like no other.

Thanks again for your faithful prayers and generous financial support. On behalf of our board, staff and ministry team—thank you, happy Passover, and have a blessed Resurrection Day!

Your brother,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Jewish Testimonies from Pesach (Passover)

I did it: I surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The bridge was crossed, and there was no turning back.

But what had I done? What did it mean? Was I no longer a Jew? Had I defamed and defiled my Jewish heritage?

It was in the context of this private despair over the state of my Jewish identity that I found myself glancing through a Bible dictionary. As a brand-new follower of Jesus, I was hungry for information about this faith that seemed at once foreign, yet intensely personal.

As my eyes scrolled through the pages, I was shocked to find a word that was organically attached to my Jewish soul. It was “Passover,” and next to it, this definition: “An ancient Jewish memorial of Israel’s redemption through the blood and bodies of innocent lambs, foreshadowing the global redemption provided by the blood and body of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.”

As I read those words, a thousand pennies dropped! I suddenly saw with crystal clarity that the rich traditions of my Jewish heritage were not offended by my faith in Messiah, but fulfilled! In the truest sense, by following Israel’s promised Messiah, Jesus, I was entering the fullest expression of Jewish faith and practice.

A few weeks later, as I sat at the seder [ritual Passover meal] with my extended family, I could barely contain my enthusiasm. I remember my mother whispering into my father’s ear, “So, what’s with our son, the Super-Jew? I thought he’d become a Christian?!” Mom was simply discerning a Divine transaction, which has so often been repeated in the lives of Jewish people who awaken to the reality of Jesus’

Messiahship. It is the return to the Messianic faith of our forefathers.

SCOTT BROWN, SERVING
IN NEW ZEALAND



On one Messiah in the Passover speaking tour, a Gentile believing man approached me. Taking me aside, he confided that his Jewish wife, not a believer, had reluctantly accompanied him to my Passover Seder presentation. I had not been aware of her presence, but had felt led to emphasize the Gospel message with particular clarity that evening. This gentleman, who had been praying for his wife’s salvation for years, shared with me that she was so amazed and intrigued to hear about the Jewishness of Jesus and to see the clear



parallels between the Gospel message and the Passover story. She was open to exploring more—and told her husband that she would go to church with him. This was truly a breakthrough! He was so encouraged in his long prayer battle for her soul, and I was very blessed to have been a part of it!

JENNIFER RODGERS,
SERVING IN
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

It was a beautiful April morning in 1992. So what was a successful Jewish businessman doing going to a Palm Sunday service at a Baptist church?

Early the week before, a business associate had called me at my office with the

following message: “There’s going to be a Jewish man at our church this coming Sunday, and he’s going to speak about Jesus and the Passover. The pastor told us to invite all of our Jewish friends, wanna come?” That’s not exactly what you would call a “seeker-sensitive invitation to the Gospel,” if you know what I mean. But something inside me told me to say yes.

That April morning, my wife and I woke up fighting—and the fighting became intense. We fought at the kitchen table in front of our then eight-year-old son and our two-and-a-half-month old daughter, and we almost didn’t make it out of the house. We fought on the way to the church and almost turned the car around. We were fighting in the parking lot of the building when my friend saw me from the lobby doors. “I guess we can’t leave now,” I said to my wife, and in we went.

There were only five people younger than me in the church, and three of them were my family. Wondering why on earth I was there, I sat through the hymns, the announcements and the prayers. Then I started listening to the presentation called Messiah in the Passover. My jaw hit the floor as this man shared the beauty of the Passover table and how it was a picture of Messiah’s love for His people. So many of my questions about life were answered that morning—and so many new questions were birthed.

Seven weeks later, after much study and meeting with the man who had given the presentation, I came to faith in the Lamb of God who

came to take away the sins of the world.

DENNIS KARP,
SERVING IN
GAITHERSBURG,
MARYLAND



HOW TO

Introduce the Gospel through the Passover Meal

Passover is all about redemption. Each year, in Jewish homes across the globe, Jewish people gather together to celebrate the holiday during a traditional feast, which is called the *Passover Seder*. The seder commemorates God's redemption of Israel and retells the story of their liberation from Egypt. It not only recounts Israel's escape from their harsh enslavement under Pharaoh, but also presents a clear picture of redemption.

Jesus celebrated this feast with His disciples on the evening before His death (Matt. 26:17-30). During the celebration, Jesus used the elements of Passover to explain how His death and resurrection would provide redemption from enslavement to sin (Matt. 26:26-29). The seder speaks about redemption and is an easy way to introduce the Gospel in a Jewish context.

THE NEED:

Any good story needs a conflict, and the Exodus is a great story. Enslavement is a prerequisite for redemption. If Pharaoh had not oppressed Israel in Egypt, the story of Passover would not have been possible. Israel's enslavement prepared the way for the Exodus (Ex. 1:11-12; 6:6). As the Jewish people were slaves under Pharaoh, so too has all of humanity been enslaved to sin and alienated from God (Is. 59:2; Rom. 6:20-21; Eph. 2:1-3).

BITTERNESS:

The story of Passover reminds the Jewish people of their oppression. The seder illustrates this bitterness through both salt water and bitter herbs, typically horseradish. Both elements encourage the participants to recall the tears the nation shed in Egypt. This bitterness leads God's people to look for their Redeemer. God did not

design creation to be full of suffering—and just as in the time of the Exodus, our affliction and the brokenness in creation cries out for a redeemer.

REDEMPTION:

God poured out ten plagues upon Egypt, but redeemed Israel through the tenth plague. God instructed the people to kill a flawless lamb and spread its blood upon the doorposts and lintels of their homes with hyssop (Ex. 12:5, 21-22). God redeemed Israel through the death of the lamb. John introduced Jesus as the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29). Jesus is the Passover Lamb, who not only redeems Israel, but the entire world through His sacrificial death (1 Cor. 5:7).

MATZAH:

No seder is complete without matzah, the unleavened bread (Ex. 12:19-20). The Jewish community refers to the matzah as the bread of affliction. It reminds the nation that they had to leave Egypt in haste. During the seder, each family places three special pieces of matzah in the center of the table. The leader breaks the middle matzah and hides it until after the meal. At the Last Supper, Jesus handed each of His disciples a broken piece of matzah and told them that it symbolized His brokenness (Lk. 22:19). Yet Jesus did not remain broken; He rose from the dead. The return of the broken matzah during the seder can be an illustration of Jesus' resurrection.

THE CUPS:

During the seder, each participant drinks from four cups, reminding Israel of the four expressions of redemption (Ex. 6:6-7). The third cup is "the Cup of Redemption." Jesus handed this cup to His disciples and said it represents the New Covenant (Lk. 22:20; cf. Jer. 31:31-34), which promises both redemption and the forgiveness of sin.

THE HOPE:

The Feast of Firstfruits is a little-known holiday God prescribes during Passover (Lev. 23:9-14). God instructs Israel to offer the first part of their harvest on the first day after the Sabbath following Passover, which is the Sunday following Passover. It was on the Feast of Firstfruits that Jesus rose from the dead, giving hope to His people for the future resurrection (1 Cor 15:20-23). Though the story of Passover begins with oppression, God provides redemption and gives hope for future restoration.

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 SORROWS OF THE TRIBULATION COMPARED WITH THE SONGS OF THE MILLENNIUM ISAIAH 24 - 27

Isaiah 24 through 27 is known as the “Little Apocalypse of Isaiah.” The contents of these chapters point to the great judgments of the coming Tribulation time, including the anguish on the earth that will be followed by the Great Millennial Kingdom of the coming Messiah.

THE SORROWS OF THE TRIBULATION: WORLDWIDE COMING JUDGMENT FOR SIN (Isaiah 24)

The sovereign God of the universe is also its righteous judge, and is about to empty the whole earth as a result of sinful conditions (Is. 24:3). No one will be spared due to their social status or resources. Judgment will be upon both priests and people, masters and servants, creditors and debtors (Is. 24:2).

The basis for judgment is the multiplication of iniquity. The earth’s inhabitants have transgressed God’s laws and revolted against the Lord Himself (Is. 24:5-6). Cities will be destroyed and those surviving will fear for their lives (Is. 24:10). As Jesus the Messiah predicted, there will be floods and earthquakes. The earth will “*stagger like a drunken man, and sway to and fro like a hammock*”

(Is. 24:20; Mt. 24:7-8). God will pour out divine judgment on the earth, because it will be polluted by its inhabitants, and violation of the law will be the order of the day (Is. 24:5-6).

God is not simply a tribal deity, interested only in a relatively small group of people. Rather, His divine concern extends to the whole world (Is. 24:1-13). His judgments are universal; they involve both the celestial and terrestrial realms (Is. 24:21). The entire earth is destined for judgment on the “Day of the Lord” (Is. 24:17-23). All cities are equally doomed, whether pagan cities or the Holy City itself (Is. 24:10; 25:2; 26:5; 27:10).

God’s judgment awaits all humanity, because all people are alike—sinful and destined for judgment.

THE SONGS OF THE MILLENNIUM AND THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL (Isaiah 25 - 27)

Amid these stern admonitions, Isaiah gives a glimmer of hope: he proclaims a joyous note, looking forward to the final “victory over death,” when the Lord will “*swallow up death in victory... and will wipe*

away all tears from all faces...” (Is. 25:8). When writing to the believers in Corinth, the Apostle Paul quotes this passage to describe the importance of the resurrection, because it proves that death itself, the last enemy, will be conquered (1 Cor. 15:54).

Paul informs us that the Messiah Jesus has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel (2 Tim 1:10). Isaiah tells of the coming age when “*He (God) shall cause them that come out of Jacob (Israel) to take root; Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit*” (Is. 27:6).

All Israel that is scattered will be gathered to worship the Lord in Jerusalem when “*the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish...and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem*” (Is. 27:13).

CONCLUSION

Only Jesus the Messiah could declare, “*I am the resurrection, and the life. He that believes in Me, though he may die, yet he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*” (Jn. 11:25-26)

BAPTISMS MULTIPLY AT JORDAN RIVER SERVICE

Israel Director Michael Z. officiated a service at the Jordan River with seven candidates for baptism in attendance. As Michael started to preach the Gospel, a big crowd of people gathered. As he continued to openly proclaim the name of Jesus, more people came to listen. Suddenly, two of them approached and asked Michael to baptize them as well. They prayed to receive Jesus and joined the group waiting to be baptized—and they were not alone. Following Michael's salvation invitation, another six people said, "Yes," to Jesus! That day, altogether, God allowed Michael to baptize fifteen people.

THE REST OF THE STORY...

Later that same day, while Michael was praying with the new believers at the Sea of Galilee, a husband and wife approached him and said that they had been listening carefully at the baptismal site. They had taken the message very seriously, but needed time to consider it all. The problem was they were from Moscow and needed to return home that day. They took Michael's contact information, and a few days later they called to announce that they had made their decision for Messiah and were ready to be baptized. The couple returned to Israel from Moscow, and Michael had the honor of baptizing them. Michael writes, "There was such joy and such tears on their faces, one had to see it to believe it. Praise the Lord!"

A JEWISH MOTHER FINDS THE SON

When a Jewish mother comes to faith, it is a day of rejoicing—especially if it is your own Jewish mother! Long-time staff member Boris Goldin, who has prayed for his 90-year-old mother to meet Messiah for over twenty years, reports that his prayers have been answered. To make it even sweeter, it was Boris who led her in "the sinner's prayer." For many years, she considered her son a traitor to the Jewish people—but his family's faithful witness at last enabled her to see that it is reasonable to be a Jewish person and believe in Messiah Jesus. Now Boris' mom says she no longer fears death, because she knows where she is going.

*name changed

FRIENDSHIP LEADS JEWISH MAN TO FAITH DECISION

Paul Cruz, who serves with Chosen People Ministries in Philadelphia, is rejoicing that the Lord has answered his prayers for Carl,* an older Jewish man who received the Lord shortly before he passed away. Carl's son, a Jewish believer, asked Paul to call on his father in the nursing home. Paul soon established a good rapport with Carl since they both had served in the Navy, were both originally from the New York City area, and both loved classical music. As they continued their friendship, the talk deepened to matters of faith and Paul asked if he could pray for Carl. Finally, at the right moment, Carl placed his faith in Messiah.



IN MEMORIAM

Chosen People Ministries notes with sadness the passing of Clara Rubin. Clara, who passed away in Florida at the age of 97, was one of the true pioneers of 20th-century Jewish evangelism, along with her husband, Joe Rubin, who had previously passed into the presence of the Lord. She was also one of the last living links with Chosen People Ministries' early work, the Williamsburg Mission to the Jews in Brooklyn. In 1956, the Rubins relocated to Huntington, Long Island, where they served the Lord for the next quarter century. We pray that her family will take "strong consolation" in "the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:18).

Simcha 2014

Plan to join us at SIMCHA, Chosen People Ministries' Annual Retreat, May 23-26. You'll enjoy fun, fellowship, Messiah-centered teaching and lively worship with Joshua Aaron. There will be programs for all age groups—plus recreational opportunities and family activities. Call 212-223-2252 for registration information, or visit us online at www.chosenpeople.com/simcha.



I AM.
God's Character in Scripture

THE PEOPLE, THE LAND AND THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

"The People, the Land and the Future of Israel" conference was held in New York City in October 2013 at the historic Calvary Baptist Church. You will enjoy this DVD set of the messages from this dynamic event. Included are messages from great speakers like Joel C. Rosenberg, Darrell Bock, and Michael Brown.

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PLAN A PASSOVER MEAL AT YOUR HOME THIS YEAR! DISCOVER CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES' TOOLS TO HELP YOU SHOW MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER TO YOUR FAMILY!



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

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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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