

The Chosen People



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HAPPY 66TH BIRTHDAY, ISRAEL!

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ISRAEL!

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom from New York City! It is time for myriads of Jesus-loving Jews and Gentiles to sing happy birthday in Hebrew!

Israel turns 66 years old this month—can you believe it? I wish I had been alive in May of 1948 when modern Israel became a nation! I have met many believers, a bit senior to myself, who remember the moment. To think that God brought His chosen people back to the Holy Land after being scattered for two millennia...

What a miracle!

The Dry Bones Are Alive!

Ezekiel predicted the return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel.

Therefore prophesy and say to them, "Thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have

opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,' says the Lord" (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

A careful reading of the text will make it apparent that Ezekiel had something far greater in mind than the return of the remnant of Jewish people from Babylon under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. The events foretold by the prophet go beyond even the miraculous return of the Jewish people culminating in the establishment of modern Israel in 1948!

I interpret this modern return of the Jewish people to the Land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as both the fulfillment of prophecy and the beginning of the conclusion of history! I also believe the above "dry bones" text speaks of the re-gathering of the Jewish people from across the globe as taking place in stages.

Let's take a quick look at these stages of return, so that we can better understand how followers of the Jewish Messiah can participate in the events ahead!

I will focus on Ezekiel 36, but be sure to read chapters 36-39 to get the full picture!



STAGE #1: THE RE-GATHERING OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

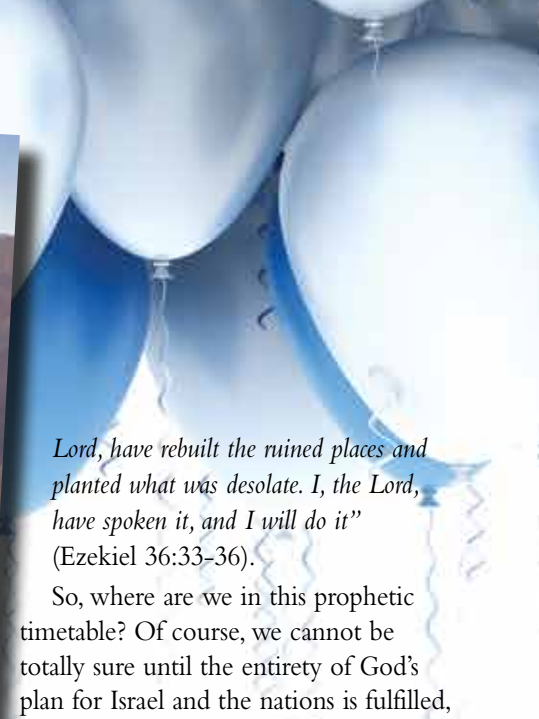
The Lord promised to re-gather the Jewish people, taking them from the dispersion and bringing them back to the land of Israel. This first stage refers to a physical restoration and is not yet spiritual. It seems that the return to the Land, at least in part, precedes the repentance and spiritual restoration of the nation.

This would mean that today's gathering of the Jewish people could very well be the fulfillment of this prophecy, as Israel is a nation currently characterized by unbelief. Modern Israel is a secular nation—a nation under man rather than under God. Take a look at what Ezekiel writes,

"And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord," says the Lord God, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land" (Ezekiel 36:23-24).

Some believe that Israel can only settle in the Land *after* the spiritual restoration, but in fact the prophet indicates that it is the opposite: *first* the Jewish people return to the Land (as described in verses 23-24 above), and





then they are spiritually restored (see verses 25–29 below).

STAGE #2: THE SPIRITUAL RESTORATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL

Sometime after the Jewish people are back in the land of Israel, God pours out His Spirit upon the Jewish people and they are spiritually restored as well. Again, read the words of Ezekiel and apply them literally to the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you” (Ezekiel 36:25–29).

We see a national spiritual restoration at many levels in this passage. The Jewish people are cleansed from sin, given a new heart, indwelt by the Spirit of God, driven towards obedience to God’s law, and finally viewed as reclaimed by God as His people. He is no longer

pouring out judgment upon the Jewish people for their sin and disobedience, but is now restoring the Jewish people and creating the close and personal relationship He always desired to have with His chosen people. This passage is similar to Romans 11:25–29, Zechariah 12:10, Jeremiah 31:31–35, and many other texts.

We have yet to see this part of the prophecy fulfilled, but we are confident that as the Lord fulfilled stage #1, He will also bring the ensuing stages to pass as described in this magnificent prophecy.

STAGE #3: THE RESTORATION OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL

The third stage describes what is so often pictured in Scripture as a literal kingdom characterized by great blessings in agriculture, the curse on the earth being lifted, the rebuilding of cities and much more.

Thus says the Lord God: “On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the

Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it” (Ezekiel 36:33–36).

So, where are we in this prophetic timetable? Of course, we cannot be totally sure until the entirety of God’s plan for Israel and the nations is fulfilled, but it does seem that we are in stage #2 where God is beginning to draw the Jewish people back to Himself.

This is why Chosen People Ministries exists! We are a 120-year-old tool in the hand of the Lord, bringing the Good News to our Jewish people so that they can hear and believe! One day, more and more Jewish people will believe—to the point that Romans 11:25ff is fulfilled and the Messiah will return to reign as King and complete the restoration which will bring ultimate blessings to both Israel and her neighbors.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support as Your Mission to the Jewish People reaches God’s chosen people everywhere, and especially Israelis—whether they are living in the Land or traveling around the globe! I hope you enjoy the newsletter; we deeply appreciate your prayers and are grateful for your faithful support.

Your brother in the Messiah,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

P.S. Be sure to wish Israel a happy birthday...maybe by joining Chosen People Ministries on one of our exciting tours of the Holy Land!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ANY OF OUR SHORT-TERM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE VISIT US AT: CHOSENPEOPLE.COM/SHORTTERM, OR WRITE TO US AT OPPORTUNITIES@CHOSENPEOPLE.COM.

SHORT-TERM MINISTRIES – REACHING ISRAELIS AROUND THE WORLD

Backpacking Trips

Robin B. leads our backpacking trips, on which she and her team members are able to encounter hundreds of Israelis who travel to exciting destinations—such as New Zealand, India, and Argentina—in search of the answers to life’s most daunting questions. They are often searching for spiritual fulfillment, and are therefore very open to conversations about Yeshua (Jesus).

This is especially true of young Israeli men and women who have completed their military service. They entered the Israeli army as adolescents, and now they are young adults wondering what is next! There are countless wonderful stories from these trips of God using these teams to reach out to these wandering Israelis. Unfortunately, we do not have the space in this newsletter to share them all! Here is one moving story from a recent trip to Argentina:

We met a young Israeli woman named Silvi in Buenos Aires [Argentina] at a large Sabbath party. When we arrived in another city a few days later, we bumped into her again; she immediately said she was so glad to see us and wanted to spend more time with us. As we wandered around the city, Silvi and I got into a conversation about God. Silvi was raised Orthodox and went to a girls’ Yeshiva (religious Jewish school) in Jerusalem for two years. She believed that following God should be more about personal connection, and was seeking ways to find this “path.” I began sharing things that Yeshua said to the Pharisees in Matthew 5—and Silvi just kept saying, “Yes, this is what I think, too.” I shared the Gospel, the Jewishness of the Gospel and some of my testimony. We are still in touch and she is already talking about meeting again in Israel to explore this “path” further.*

In the Holy Land

Outreach Israel: This ministry trip is designed for college students and individuals ages 18-30 who are interested in reaching Israelis for the Messiah. Outreach Israel offers excellent opportunities to witness for the Lord and encourage Israeli youth who are part of congregations in the Land. It is an amazing experience—we read the Bible where it happened, live in Jerusalem, and have great adventures, including snorkeling in the Red Sea. Most of our time is spent in ministry—really connecting with Israelis, serving them and showing Yeshua’s love in practical ways. Robin B., the trip leader, shares this story from last year’s trip:

One night we went out to walk along the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias. We met a young woman named Lilah, and were talking to her about Jesus. She had previously met a believer and was very interested to explore the Scriptures with us. Right there she sat on the ground, and we opened our Bibles. Her boyfriend, Uri,* was trying to stop her from talking with us. A few of us went to sit with him and began talking with him about his band. All this time, Lilah was still reading Scripture with the rest of the team. Suddenly, Uri asked a bit about our faith in Jesus and invited all of us back to their home. It was a small studio apartment, and the 14 of us crammed in. We listened to music, and Lilah taught us about Yemenite Jewish culture, which led to more questions about Jesus. This lasted until 4:00 in the morning! Not long after this God-orchestrated evening, Lilah came to believe in Jesus as her Messiah! Pray for Uri and the seeds planted.*

eXperience Israel: This trip is designed as a spiritual pilgrimage for young adults (ages 18-35) who want to engage with God by walking through the pages of biblical history and serving the



Are you a believer who has a heart for the Jewish people? If so, then a short-term experience in Jewish outreach—including evangelism, discipleship, and hands-on training—is for you!

When you participate in one of our short-term service opportunities, you will experience something similar to this testimony from a past member of an eXperience Israel team:

Israel was an amazing experience, and God really put it on my heart that I needed to get out of my comfort zone, and talk to people who need to hear the good news of Jesus. I would love to go back, and I realize now how amazing it is to be able to talk to people who live in a completely different world, and who are so interested in hearing the Gospel. That trip also made me start to seriously think about missions. I have always had it in the back of my mind, but now it has pushed its way in front of everything. — Heather

people who live in Israel. This multi-faceted trip is led by Chosen People Ministries staff member Justin Kron. He explains,

No matter whether we're serving the under-resourced at a humanitarian aid distribution center, visiting Holocaust survivors, or meeting young Israelis along the beach or at a café in Tel Aviv, there is never a shortage of divine encounters and conversations that God provides for our team members. It is always a thrill to hear one of our team members share about a person they spoke with, like this past year when one of them shared that it was the first time that she had ever shared her faith with someone who was truly interested in listening. There are many Israelis who are open to dialoguing about who Jesus is.

Brooklyn: The "Other Holy Land"

Brooklyn, New York now has the largest concentration of Jewish people in the United States, and second in the world only to Israel itself. This thriving and diverse Jewish population, which includes everything from secular Israelis to the ultra-Orthodox, provides a tremendous opportunity to reach the broader Jewish community—and that's what you'll be doing, should the Lord open the door, with our short-term outreach **Shalom Brooklyn** (previously called STEP), which takes place every summer in New York City. Our New York Area Director, Jeff Siegel, writes:

Last year during Shalom Brooklyn, we had a health fair on Brighton Beach, which is known for its Russian Jewish community. Many attended, and more than five Jewish people came to know Yeshua (Jesus) on that day alone. We set up book tables and

conducted surveys throughout the city, and we had many good conversations at some of the train stations in Brooklyn that service ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods. We also hosted an outdoor Jewish film festival and a wellness night at our Russian Center, and each Friday we distributed challah (Sabbath bread). It was a fruitful and fulfilling time, as we were able to have many great conversations about Yeshua and the true meaning of peace and were used by the Lord to lead a number of people to faith.

The Lord promises in the book of Jeremiah chapter 31 that a day will come when all Jewish people will know Him. Shalom Brooklyn is an opportunity to work for the Lord to sow seeds towards that day. Come join us!



*names changed



We covet your prayers for the missions that will take place this summer in New York City, Israel and around the world. Here is a helpful prayer calendar so that you can pray specifically for these ministries. May God bless you for your faithful prayers for the Gospel to go out this summer!

SUMMER PRAYER GUIDE

May 21	Outreach Israel begins. Pray for traveling mercies, and for the team to be energized during their preparation time.
May 28	Outreach Israel team arrives in Israel!
June 10	Outreach Israel team hosts banquet for Holocaust survivors.
June 17	Outreach Israel team serves poor and needy Israelis in the food distribution centers.
June 21	Outreach Israel team travels back to the U.S. Pray for smooth travels.
July 13	eXperience Israel begins. Pray for traveling mercies!
July 17	eXperience Israel team serves poor and needy Israelis in the food distribution centers.
July 24	eXperience Israel team hosts children's ministry.
July 27	eXperience Israel team travels back to the U.S. Pray for smooth travels.
August 2	Shalom Brooklyn begins!
August 4	Shalom Brooklyn team hosts wellness clinics and health fairs on Brighton Beach.
August 8	Shalom Brooklyn team conducts a children's sports camp and street evangelism.
August 9	Second week of Shalom Brooklyn begins. Pray for endurance for the team members!
August 13	Shalom Brooklyn team conducts surveys in Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods.
August 15	Shalom Brooklyn team sets up book tables all around New York City. Pray for engaging conversations about Yeshua!
August 16	Shalom Brooklyn ends. Pray for safe travels for team members as they return home. Pray for successful follow-up with all the contacts made by the team.



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 BOOK OF WOES ISAIAH 28-33

There are several lengthy sections in Scripture where we face God's pronouncement of solemn and emphatic woes. One example is the castigation of the Pharisees in a series of woes proclaimed by Jesus, "*Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites...*" (Mt. 23:13).

The sustained sound of "woe" in the Hebrew language is like a high-pitched siren. In our text (Isa. 28-33), Isaiah enunciated six woes on those who scorn God's Word, trusting rather in their own resources as well as help through foreign alliances. Israel and Judah were both indicted in Isaiah's day. The woes are as follows:

I. **Woe to the Drunkards and Scoffers (Isa. 28:1-13)**

Israel, the Northern Kingdom, is addressed as Ephraim because of its tribal prominence. Both Amos and Hosea ministered to Ephraim during Isaiah's time. The Word of God stressed the evil of drunkenness not as a weakness to be pitied, but as a sin to be condemned. This sin enveloped those who were in offices of leadership and responsibility (Isa. 28:7).

II. **Woe to the Rulers of Judah (Isa. 28:14-29)**

Like their northern neighbors, Judah was also guilty of scoffing at Isaiah's warnings (Isa. 28:13-14) and of failing to trust in the Lord (Isa. 28:15).

In contrast, God affirms that He would set up a sure foundation, a prophecy only fulfilled in the Messiah, spoken of in Scripture as the "cornerstone" and the "rock of ages" (1 Pet. 2:6; Isa. 28:16).

III. **Woe to Ariel (Isa. 29:1-24)**

Jerusalem is addressed under the poetic name of "Ariel" (The Lion of God). Isaiah often blends immediate historical events with similar future prophetic events. The Assyrian invasion under Sennacherib was near at hand, and further in the future is the invasion of Israel, which must take place before Messiah's coming Kingdom.

The major problem is that the Devil blinds the eyes and hardens the hearts of unbelievers to the Word of God (Isa. 29:10-13; Jn. 12:39, 40).

IV. **Woe to an Egyptian Alliance (Isa. 30-31:5)**

A "double woe" is pronounced on those who reach out to unbelieving nations for help, instead of trusting in God's almighty power. To pay for Egypt's help, the Southern Kingdom sent donkeys and camels loaded with gifts—yet it was all in vain (Isa. 30:6, 7; 31:3).

V. **Woe to Assyria, Judah's Invader (Isa. 33:1-12)**

The fifth and final woe is against Assyria, which is called "The Destroyer" and "The Traitor"—no doubt because after having received tribute money from King Hezekiah, Sennacherib still demanded unconditional surrender from Judah (2 Kings 18:14-36).

The Lord would respond to the faith and prayers of the Jewish remnant. He would merely blow on the Assyrians, and they would burn up like chaff or stubble (Isa. 33:10-12).

CONCLUSION

Some woes have significance for us today. With great prophets like Isaiah in mind, Jesus stated, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Lk. 6:26).

NEWS BRIEFS

HOSPITAL STAY BRINGS SPIRITUAL HEALING

Vladimir Bortsov, who serves in Toronto together with his wife, Anna, was recently recovering from a serious illness. While in the hospital, he shared a room with Sandro,* a 35-year-old man who has suffered from diabetes for many years and was quite depressed. His family members came to see him often, yet he was not cheered by their visits. When Vladimir saw this, he felt deep compassion. After asking God to give him the right words, Vladimir began to share the Gospel—and Sandro’s eyes filled with hope. He listened without interrupting, and then prayed with Vladimir to receive the Lord. From a person who had been filled with despair, Sandro became a person full of hope. After Vladimir was discharged from the hospital, Sandro hugged him and thanked him for introducing him to Yeshua (Jesus).

JEWISH WOMAN COMES TO FAITH IN GERMANY

Eugene I., who serves in Germany, reports that after one of the Sabbath services, a Jewish woman who regularly attends asked for prayer for a problem she had. After they spoke about it, Eugene, who has developed a good rapport with her, felt specially led to ask if she wanted to receive Messiah. She immediately answered that she did. Eugene writes, “Filled with joy and boldness, we prayed the prayer of *teshuvah* (repentance) together and the Lord filled the room with His *shalom* (peace)!”

HEALTH UPDATE – NERIYAH A.

Neriyah A., whom many know as a gifted evangelist in Israel, has suffered from kidney disease for many years. After Neriyah received some years of benefit, a donated kidney he received failed, leaving him with no alternative but to return to dialysis. About a year ago, a pastor from New Jersey came to Israel and was willing to donate his kidney, but the transplant couldn’t be accomplished because of other health issues. However, these issues have now been addressed, and Neriyah has received the go ahead to have another kidney transplant. Please pray for God’s timing.



HUMMUS EVANGELISM

Hummus is a traditional Middle Eastern food made from mashed chickpeas, olive oil and other tasty ingredients. Staff member Zohar Gonen, who ministers at the hospitality house in New Zealand that caters to backpacking Israelis, is a master at preparing this popular dish. He and Scott Brown organized a Hummus Night for their Israeli guests. That evening, Zohar met a woman whose profession in Israel is to mediate between parties who are in conflict. He used this as a springboard to share with her how much the New Testament speaks about reconciliation. The woman was intrigued by the various verses that speak about peace and reconciliation and was very eager to receive a New Testament to start reading it for herself.



ISAIAH 53 ISRAEL CAMPAIGN

The Isaiah 53 Campaign is Israel is going well. We have sent 80-plus Hebrew versions of *Isaiah 53 Explained* to Israelis. The Tel Aviv area is showing some openness and we are praying about increasing our staff in this great city to reach younger and more secular Israelis. We have also added the Spanish Isaiah 53 web site as well, and are concentrating ads in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Please continue to pray!



IN MEMORIAM

Chosen People Ministries notes with sadness, but in firm hope of the resurrection, the passing of retired missionary Jean Ambro. Jean had an active ministry, particularly with intermarried couples in the San Fernando Valley in California. She retired from the Mission in 1987.



*name changed

Kesher in Hebrew means connect. At Camp Kesher, we seek to connect kids with Yeshua (Jesus), each other, and the wider Messianic community.

Camp Kesher is the ideal place for kids from Messianic families to explore their personal relationship with Yeshua as we reinforce the Messianic values and teaching being instilled at home and in their congregations. Away from the pressures of everyday life, kids can feel free to experience Yeshua's love in a friendly and encouraging setting. From making challah for the Sabbath to playing "capture the flag," this overnight camp has it all!

Activities include: swimming, worship, basketball, arts and crafts, counselor hunt, witnessing skits, campfires, boating, archery, the steeple-chase, and much, much more!

July 6-13, 2014 • For kids ages 8-16

Located in Honeybrook, PA



For more information please visit our website: www.campkesher.net



"At Camp Kesher, you don't have to be afraid to be Jewish and a believer in Yeshua. You are encouraged to express your faith in a fun atmosphere!" – Zach (camper)

"When my kids get home from Camp Kesher, they begin talking about how they can't wait to go back next year." – Dennis



The Report
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The Chosen People Newsletter

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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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