

The Chosen People



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A NEW DAY OF PENTECOST

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A New Day Pentecost

The Biblical Names for the Festival

The Hebrew word *shavuot* may be translated as “weeks” or “sevens” because the holiday falls seven weeks after Passover, as seven, seven-day weeks are to be counted by the Jewish people, beginning with Passover. Then Shavuot is observed on the 50th day. The observance of the Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost) is also mentioned in Exodus 34:22, Deuteronomy 16:16 and 2 Chronicles 8:13.

In Christian tradition, the festival is called *Pentecost*—the Greek term which means “fifty,” as this fourth spring festival is observed on the 50th day after Passover. The grand fulfillment of the festival would take place in Acts chapter 2!

The Biblical Commands

The Bible describes what is to be done during each festival. The following are some of the rules to follow in observing this fourth spring holiday.

God to focus the hearts and minds of the Jewish people on various elements of His person and plan. In addition, the festivals, as much as any other portion of the Hebrew Scriptures, also point to the coming of the Messiah. This is especially true of the seven great festivals outlined in Leviticus chapter 23.

I believe the four spring festivals were fulfilled in the first coming of Jesus. The three fall festivals will be fulfilled in His second coming. Shavuot is the fourth and final spring festival (Lev. 23:15-22).

Shalom in the name of Jesus our Messiah!

What is the one holiday both Jews and Christians have in common? It is Pentecost, the Greek word for Shavuot (Feast of Weeks), which will be observed at the end of the month on Sunday, May 24th. A two-day festival in Judaism, Shavuot will begin on Saturday, May 23rd and end on Monday, May 25th.

May I give you some of the Old Testament and Jewish background to Pentecost/Shavuot? Before I do, allow me to give you a little overview of the Jewish holidays—especially the great festivals described in Leviticus chapter 23.

The Festivals of Israel

I believe the festivals of Israel were designed by

As stated above, Shavuot always falls 50 days after the second night of Passover. The 49 days in between are known as days when we *count the Omer*, a measure of grain that was acknowledged each day between Passover and the Feasts of Weeks. The actual countdown to the 50th day was to begin on the day after the Sabbath (Lev. 23:15), the day when the First Fruit/sheaf was waved.

On the day of Shavuot, two leavened loaves of bread were offered, concluding the grain harvest (Lev. 23:17). The two loaves were the results (symbolically) of the one sheaf, waved before the Lord on the Day of First Fruits mentioned in Leviticus 23:11.

Shavuot is also one of the three pilgrimage feasts when all Jewish males were required to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem.

The Messianic Fulfillment of the Festival

Perhaps the most significant Jewish tradition connected to this holiday is the Jewish belief that the Torah—God’s Law—was given to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai on this particular day. In fact, one of the traditional Jewish names for the festival is *Zman Matan Torah*, “the season of the giving of the Law,” as the rabbis believed that the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) was given on the day of Shavuot.

This helps us understand the story in the Book of Acts, when the ancient holiday was fulfilled!

Let’s paint the picture for a moment.

The 120 disciples (Acts 1:15) were in one place, of one mind, praying and focusing on God’s work. They were waiting in obedience to the command of Jesus (Acts 1:4-5, Lk. 24:45-49) and also in obedience to the Laws of Shavuot regarding “no work” (Lev. 23:21). Many were pilgrims who had left their homes in other places to

be part of this festival. God would bless their obedience now in a powerful way.

Signs and Wonders

After some days of patient waiting, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples on the 50th day after Passover. It was a new revelation given on a new Pentecost! The initial giving of the Torah by Moses at Mount Sinai had come with signs and wonders in the heavens as seen in Exodus 19:16-19.

There were now signs and wonders in the Upper Room marking this new Pentecost as well. It was the birthday of a new revelation and the fulfillment of God’s promises to pour out His Spirit in the last days (Joel 2).

The Tradition of All Israel Being Present at Mount Sinai

The rabbis believed in the pre-existence of the soul. Therefore, every Jew who would ever live, they believed, was present at Mount Sinai—with or without a body! The rationale for this is that every Jewish person at that moment agreed to keep the Torah. The verse used to teach this is,

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient” (Ex. 24:7).

In light of this, it makes sense that there was also a Jewish tradition that all Jews present at Mount Sinai that day actually heard the giving of the Law in their own native tongue. After all, how could they obey what they did not understand?

The fulfillment on the day of this new Pentecost, which took place 50 days after Jesus, the Lamb of God, died for our sins, is obvious. There were signs and wonders, just like at Mount Sinai, and those who heard the disciples preaching heard this new revelation in their own native tongue. Can you imagine what it

would have been like to be present at this new Pentecost? It would have been amazing—especially as the Jewish people realized that the new had come with the power of the old.

Pentecost Today

I am happy to say that the Day of Pentecost continues. Individuals throughout the world are now able to hear the Gospel and even read the Bible in their own language. We are rapidly closing in on bringing the message of salvation through the Jewish Messiah to Jews and Gentiles of every language group and every region on earth. We still have a ways to go...additional translations of the Bible are needed and cross-cultural evangelists have more opportunities than ever before, especially because of the ease of travel and online evangelistic tools. We live in exciting times!

I hope you will enjoy the reports from our staff about how Jewish people are being reached around the world through our missionaries, centers, congregations and ministries through the web—especially our Isaiah 53 Campaigns. Our websites and evangelistic book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*, are now available in twelve languages. This allows us to reach more than 90% of the world’s Jewish population!

Thanks so much for praying for Chosen People Ministries. *We are Your Mission to the Jewish People reaching God’s chosen people with the message of the Gospel.* And we could not do this without your prayers and generous financial support. So, thank you for your love and generosity. I pray that the Spirit of God will fill your heart with joy and your life with power from on high to do His will.

Your brother in the Messiah,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Extending the Gospel to Ukrainian Jews with Helping Hands

As you know, there has been a lot of suffering in the eastern part of Ukraine in cities like Donetsk and Mariupol. There are still thousands of Jewish people living in these areas and a number of Messianic Jewish congregations as well. Unfortunately, because of the war between Russia and Ukraine, the Ukrainian government has cut all payments of pension checks, student aid and other types of funding for the poor.

Many of the Jewish people living in these cities and others in Eastern Ukraine have immigrated to Israel. However, many of the elderly and sick were unable to leave and have continued to suffer considerably because of the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Chosen People Ministries has decided to help those who have remained. We

sent one of our Russian Jewish missionaries to see what we could do in practical terms to relieve their suffering. First of all, we wanted to help those who were already believers. There is good precedent for this in the Book of Acts, as the Apostle Paul collected offerings in Asia Minor and sent them to the saints in need who were living in Jerusalem.

One of the congregations used to be over 200 people. Because of the war, they now have only about 90 people left. Another of the congregations used to be over 100, but now has less than 60. Our relief efforts began with these congregations. We sent \$1,000 to the pastors for distribution, which is not much, but we want to make sure what we did was useful before we did more.

We are delighted to report that God opened up many doors and we were able to get the money in—which is not so easy! The funds were distributed among the poor and elderly people within the congregation. We also provided funds for families whose breadwinner was out of work—and that was quite a number!

One of the congregations took some of the money and distributed it to Jewish not-yet-believers. It seems that one of the tough choices these folks need to make is between food and medicine. And so we now want to do what we can to send additional funds to these believers and also encourage them to share some of what we send with not-yet-believing Jewish people as well.

One of the ways that we helped to show the love of Jesus to these precious people was by providing a box or two of unleavened bread—*matzah*—for Jewish families during the Passover season. This has already taken place, and the believers are so grateful. We also asked them if they would bring boxes of *matzah* to not-yet-believing Jewish families as well. According to our most recent reports, they did!

We are happy to help members of these Messianic congregations and to also help the believers provide unleavened bread to Jewish families. Since they live in the same community, the help easily turns from a box of *matzah* to a conversation about Jesus.

Next, we want to do more so that they do not need to choose between medicine and food. For this, we will need your help! We are calling this effort our *Helping Hands Ukraine Outreach*.

RUSSIA

From Moscow: "This month, a Jewish man by the name of Lev* came to our Messianic congregation in Moscow. He came for the worship service because he wanted to be around people. He is a lonely man; he has no relatives in Russia. He wants to know more about God and the Messiah Jesus. Please keep Lev in prayer for the Lord to help him to open his heart to Jesus the Messiah."

ARGENTINA

From our staff in Argentina: "I really would like you to pray for Luciano,* a Jewish man in his 30s who does not yet know Jesus. After a Christian brought him to the center for one event, he kept coming back, event after event. He seems to be curious and sympathetic towards the Gospel, but has not made a commitment yet. He asks a lot of questions and reminds me a lot of myself as I started going to church. I was curious about all these people who had something different in their lives, and yet it took me almost a year to make a spiritual decision and accept Messiah into my life. Please keep Luciano in your prayers."

HONG KONG

One staff member from our Hong Kong partnership writes, "After returning to Hong Kong, my family got in touch with the Jewish community here. M.T. once brought a Chosen People Ministries staff member from overseas to visit the Orthodox synagogue in Hong Kong and met some Jewish friends there. It is a historic building that is preserved by the Hong Kong government. There is a Jewish community center next to the synagogue. This site is a hub for the Jewish community in Hong Kong. Once, our whole family joined a bazaar organized by the Jewish community. In that event, M.T. talked to a few Israelis in Hebrew, to their surprise. Some of the ladies brought their children to meet ours. We pray that these Israelis can come to know the Lord in this fascinating city. We are also working on missions mobilization work among Chinese churches, helping them to reach out to their Jewish friends."

FRANCE TO ISRAEL

From our Israel staff: "I recently met a university student from Paris. She moved here last summer during the war to flee the rising antisemitism in Paris. Here in Israel, she is newly exploring what it means to be Jewish. Her family celebrates all the Jewish holidays, but during the year they don't attend a synagogue and she hadn't read the Bible. She asked me if my family observes Jewish traditions.

I shared about growing up going to Hebrew school at the synagogue and keeping kosher; and then shared how I was challenged to look at the Hebrew scriptures, and came to find them pointing to Yeshua. She asked a few questions... mostly about how my family reacted...and a bit more about how Jesus could be the Messiah. Please pray for Sarah* as she begins to explore what it now means to her to be an Israeli and reexamines what it means to be Jewish."

*names changed

The Gospel Going Out Around the World!



ISRAEL

From one of our Israeli staff: "E. survived the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp as a child. After liberation, she was sent to a Christian school. She grew up with knowledge of what it means to be a Jew and was taught in the Catholic tradition. However, she never considered herself a Christian. Later in her life, she immigrated to Israel. After her move, she was always happy to fellowship with Christians, but never considered faith in Jesus as a possibility. The director of our Food Distribution Center in Jerusalem was instrumental in leading E. to the Lord. She has now become a faithful volunteer. Her assistance has helped create a positive image of the center. We praise God for this center, as well as the Bible study at the director's house, which was instrumental in bringing E. to faith and to a rich and deep understanding of what it means to be a Jewish follower of the Messiah. We also praise Him for the members of our Israeli staff who have befriended E."

UK

Fiona S. from the UK thanks our readers for their prayers. She writes, "As a result of the Sar Shalom Conference in Finland where I was the guest speaker, a Jewish man from Latvia prayed to receive Yeshua (Jesus) as his Messiah. I am so blessed to see the activity of Chosen People Ministries in Finland, London, Moscow and Berlin. We truly are a global ministry!"

NEW YORK

One of our office staff in New York saw a lady looking intently at our entrance plate, which has the text of Isaiah 53 engraved on it. The staff worker asked what she thought about it. The lady answered, "Oh, that's from the New Testament." It seems the text spoke to her so clearly of Jesus that there was no way she could believe that the text was in the Old Testament. The staff worker told her that it was written by Isaiah, a Jewish prophet, 700 years before Jesus came to earth. The lady, not entirely convinced, shrugged and walked away. Please pray for the salvation of this woman.

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.

A WORD ON FALSE WORSHIP, TRUE HUMILITY AND GOD'S CHOSEN Isaiah 56-58

In these chapters, Isaiah presents a series of indictments against the disobedient in Israel and also a word of encouragement to the faithful.

A CHARGE AGAINST THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL (Isaiah 56:9-57:10)

The godless conduct of Israel's leaders was responsible for the fall of Judah to Babylon. If the prophets, priests, and people had sought the Lord in true repentance, God would have intervened on their behalf. Isaiah called these faithless ones "blind watchmen" and "sleeping dogs" (Isa. 56:10-11).

In the final days of Judah's existence, prior to the Babylon invasion, idolatry polluted the Holy Land and Jerusalem. Idolatry is equivalent to spiritual adultery and prostitution (Isa. 57:3). The nation's leaders betrayed the people by perpetuating idolatry and immorality (Isa. 57:1-8). Literally, the constituents visited shrine prostitutes and offered their children as sacrifices by fire on altars in the mountains. The leaders consulted pagan spiritualists and trusted in them for protection (Isa. 57:9).

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE FAITHFUL REMNANT (Isaiah 57:14-21)

Isaiah proclaims that a special highway will be built in the last days, so that the Jewish exiles may return to their land and serve the Lord (Isa. 57:14; 11:16). God will dwell with His people, because He honors the humility of the faithful. They understand that pride is a sin that God detests (Isa. 57:15; 66:2; Prov. 6:16-17).

The high and holy God does not live in heavenly isolation, but with the humble and contrite heart. The "humble and contrite heart" is in contrast with the self-satisfaction and self-will of the spiritually dead person. The humble ones who have sorrow for sin can be made a monument of divine grace (Isa. 57:15). It has been said that God has three dwelling places: firstly, in the highest heavens; secondly, in the sanctuary; and thirdly, in a humble and contrite heart.

A WORD OF ADVICE ON FASTING (Isaiah 58:3-14)

Fasting has been a part of Jewish observance since ancient times. Isaiah indicates that the children of Israel were complaining that they were not rewarded for their fasts. However, Isaiah reminds them that true fasting

should lead to humility before God and service to others, not strife and oppression.

Messiah Jesus likewise informs us that worship involves more than outward ritual. It includes obedience and submission to God (Mt. 6:16-18). A true fast is to deprive ourselves so that we can share with others to the glory of the Lord. Isaiah describes the attributes of the type of fasting God honors (Isa. 58:6-12).

CONCLUSION: RESTING IN GOD'S GIFT OF THE SABBATH

Worshiping the Lord in spirit and truth, as Isaiah urges, leads to authentic Sabbath rest. This rest has many dimensions, including:

- (1) Rest for the body: The Sabbath Day (Isa. 58:13-14; Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11; Heb. 4:4).
 - (2) Rest for the feet: The rest that Joshua gave when Israel settled down in the Promised Land (Heb. 4:8).
 - (3) Rest for the soul (Heb. 4:10).
 - (4) Rest for the mind and spirit — sanctification rest — through yielding our lives to the Lord (Heb. 4:11).
 - (5) Eternal rest (Heb. 4:9).
- Are you resting in the Lord?

PET CHAMELEON BRINGS WITNESSING OPPORTUNITIES

One of our faithful field workers in Israel sends along this unusual witnessing opportunity that shows how the Lord can use all creatures great and small. “A friend gave me a chameleon. His name is Rocco. He is super cute and gets a lot of attention when I take him out. When I was at a café with Rocco and a friend, we met David,* who was fascinated by Rocco. We talked awhile and decided to meet again. Over coffee the next day, I began to share the Gospel. He asked some really good questions about how I can know Jesus is the Messiah. Pray for David. Within just a few days after this talk, we met in the market and on the street twice more. Each time he has ‘just one more question.’ I’m so thankful for my super-cute chameleon!”



CONGREGATION FINDS VISION FOR MINISTRY IN BROOKLYN AND BEYOND

Earlier this year, Beth Sar Shalom Brooklyn (BSSB) held its first congregational “Mission, Vision, and Value Meeting.” A good turnout and a lively discussion led to a clear calling. As one leader expressed it, “In essence, we believe God has called us to not only establish a vibrant witness for Yeshua (Jesus) in the local Jewish community, but also to be the catalyst for a Messianic congregational movement throughout the greater New York City area and beyond. Our strategic position as the congregation that meets in the chapel of the only Messianic Jewish seminary in the country affords us the unique training resources and the steady flow of committed and equipped workers for the Jewish mission field.” Please pray that the Lord will bring that vision to fruition.

CHINESE BUSINESSMEN MEET MESSIAH’S MESSENGERS IN ISRAEL

While in Israel, staff members Randall and Luda Ford shared a meal with three Chinese businessmen overlooking the Dead Sea. One of them asked, “How can a country of a few million people rival Silicon Valley? We do business in Europe and North America, but this nation is the most remarkable. The progress of Israel is impossible to explain.” Luda and Randall both showed from the Scripture how Israel’s reestablishment demonstrates God’s faithfulness and confirms that the prophecies about the Messiah are true. At the end of the conversation, they carefully wrote down the first verses of the book of John, which Randall was able to quote in Chinese! As a result, these business travelers felt convicted to make Christian connections upon their return to China.

SPANISH-SPEAKING MESSIANIC CONGREGATIONS GROWING IN ISRAEL

Chosen People Ministries’ David Sedaca, whose South American roots make him particularly knowledgeable about Spanish-speaking Jewish people, notes that over the past decades, many Spanish-speaking Jewish people have immigrated to Israel. The largest number came from Argentina, but there are Jewish people now in Israel from almost every Latin American country. While recently in Israel, David responded to requests to teach and preach in Spanish-speaking congregations in Haifa, Beersheba, Ashkelon and Ashdod. He reports, “In spite of opposition, the Lord is moving in a mighty way and hundreds of Spanish-speaking Jewish people are receiving Jesus.”

FROM EVANGELISM TO DISCIPLESHIP

Robert Walter, a Feinberg Center graduate now ministering in Brooklyn, has been spending time with a young Jewish man, David,* every week, studying the Bible, beginning in the Old Testament. When they reached Exodus, Robert sensed it was a good time to make the clear connections between the Passover and what God has accomplished for us through Jesus. Robert writes, “The time was right so I asked David, ‘Do you believe this is true of Jesus?’” When David answered yes, Robert led him in a prayer to receive the Lord then and there. They continue to meet together and Robert says, “What began as evangelism has become discipleship. Please pray for David’s growth in the Lord!”

**names changed*

KID'S CAMPS



Attending camp is one of the most formative experiences a young person can have. Camp activities will assist our children in forming a well-rounded Messianic identity that will carry them to young adulthood, and beyond. Activities will include worship, boating, archery, swimming, sports, hiking, campfire and group games. For kids ages 8-16.



Palomar Mountain, CA
July 26-31, 2015

Call Mike Cohen at
(818) 521-6700 or email
mcohen@chosenpeople.com



Honeybrook, PA
July 5-12, 2015

For more information
visit our website:
www.campkeshar.net

SHALOM BROOKLYN

Shalom Brooklyn is a whirlwind of in-depth training, engaging evangelism, and Jewish cultural excursions in New York City. Two sessions are available: August 8-15 and August 15-22.



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

2015 President's
Israel Tour

OCT 26 - NOV 5

Tour the land of Israel and visit the Jerusalem Messianic Center with Chosen People Ministries President, Dr. Mitch Glaser, and Dr. Rich Freeman, Vice President of Church Ministries and Conferences. Enjoy a spiritual journey through the Holy Land designed to draw you closer to Yeshua and to the Jewish people!

For more information contact Dr. Rich Freeman at rffreeman@chosenpeople.com or call 561-737-1431.

MESSIANIC
RESOURCES



The ISIS Crisis

ISIS-a name that inspires fear, a group that is gaining momentum. Horrors unheard of are plaguing the Middle East, and ISIS may be responsible for the worst among them. And yet there is so much we don't know about ISIS. In *The ISIS Crisis*, authors Charles Dyer and Mark Tobey answer these questions and more.

Drawing from history, current events, and biblical prophecy, they guide readers through the matrix of conflicts in the Middle East. Then they explore the role of ISIS in all of these matters. Finally, they encourage Christians to look to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

3163 \$13.95us

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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)

