

The Chosen People



March 2016
Volume XXII, Issue 2

A NEW HAMAN HAS RISEN

**So they hanged Haman on
the gallows which he had
prepared for Mordecai . . .**

ESTHER 7:10

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A NEW HAMAN HAS RISEN

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom in the great name of our Messiah!

One of my favorite Jewish holidays has always been Purim—the biblical Feast of Esther (Est. 9:22). The holiday is observed on the 14th day of the Hebrew month *Adar*, which corresponds to our solar calendar date this year on March 24. The celebrations last for a full day, but remember, the Jewish day begins the night before and concludes at sunset; therefore the Festival begins on the evening of March 23.

There are many reasons why I enjoy Purim (a Hebrew word which means “lots”). But perhaps the foremost reason why I love Purim is because I am Jewish and if the evil Haman had succeeded, I would never have been born! On Purim we celebrate the survival of the Jewish people, usually against great odds and far more powerful enemies.

We Are Still Here!

In fact, this pattern of deliverance is such an important part of the Jewish story. As my good friend Dr. Michael Rydelnik, who teaches at Moody Bible Institute, humorously summarizes: “They tried to kill us, we won and so—we ate!” On Purim we celebrate by eating special baked goods called *hamantaschen*—sometimes referred to as “Haman’s hat” or “Haman’s ears”! These are wonderful pastries with various types of fruit and poppy seeds enfolded into a very buttery and delicious cookie.

The Scroll of Esther

The main event of the Purim celebration is the reading of the Book

of Esther, called in Hebrew, the *Megillot Esther*, the Scroll of Esther; and oftentimes a play based upon the story is used to entertain and educate both children and adults alike. Jewish people are at their most creative in putting on these plays and use different themes each year to keep the story interesting. I am sure there will be plenty of Purim plays with a Star Wars theme this year! The plays are supposed to be fun and are not viewed as irreverent as they do tell the great story of God’s deliverance of the Jewish people from the hateful hands of Haman.

Second Purim

There is also a phenomenon in Jewish history called the *second Purim*. These events are not widely known, but perhaps you can already understand why Jewish people created them. A second Purim refers to an instance, aside from what was recorded in the Book of Esther, when the Jewish people were saved from imminent destruction.

The enlightening description of second Purim on the website Jewishgen.org concludes,

In a few fortunate cases, the danger (facing the Jewish community) was suddenly removed, or the dreaded law was inexplicably abrogated. Then, that community would commemorate each anniversary of the happy change by observing a “Second Purim,” a festival, which mimicked the original Purim, which marks the deliverance of the Jews of Persia from the evil machinations of Haman. Historians have listed some 90 “second Purim” anniversaries observed by various Jewish families and communities, beginning with the early Middle Ages.¹

There were even times throughout Jewish history when the enemies of Israel selected Purim as the day they would attack the Jewish people. There was an instance during the Holocaust period when Purim became a day of slaughter for a local Jewish community.

It seems that both the Jewish people and enemies of Israel understood the symbolic value of the story of Esther.

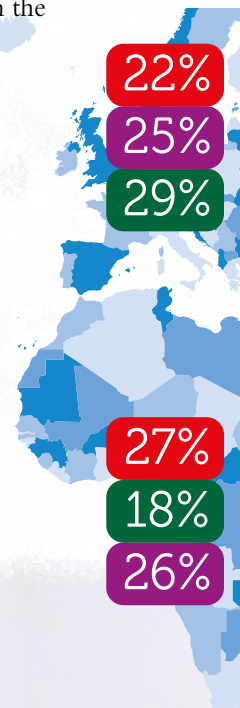
New Hamans Arise in Every Generation

There are new Hamans on the world scene today seeking the destruction of the Jewish people. Israel is under attack and antisemitism is on the rise. We understand that ISIS and all forms of Islamic extremism seek the destruction of Israel. In fact, the existence of the modern state of Israel is actually opposed by almost every manifestation of Islam—though various brands of Islam exercise this antipathy in different ways. Some are more violent than others.

The rise of global antisemitism has begun to permeate our society and is often subtly wrapped in the guise of an anti-Israel position. We see this virulent form of anti-Jewish behavior actively engaged on our college campuses today.

Unfortunately, this anti-Israel spirit can easily cross boundaries and align itself with an anti-Jewish position, even flowing into the lives and ministries of good Christians and churches seeking to bring the Gospel and comfort to those viewed as suffering injustice.

1 <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Piotrkow/pit237.html>



Let's face it—there is a lot of propaganda and noise bombarding our culture through the media. It is hard for everyday sincere people to distinguish between what is true and what is false.

As followers of Jesus the Jewish Messiah for all, and as those who believe the Bible, composed by primarily Jewish authors, we should be sympathetic to the Jewish cause. Historically, most true Christians have been pro-Israel and pro-Jewish without being anti *anyone else...* but today *winds of change* are in the air and therefore it is important to reread what the Bible says about Israel and the Jewish people. Unfortunately, we see a growing anti-Israel movement within the church today that also shows the telltale signs of an historic anti-Jewish position as well.

God Is Faithful to His Promises

As followers of Jesus the Messiah we understand that God still has His hand on the Jewish people! This is why we have a long history of second Purims, where we celebrate God's faithfulness to the Jewish people.

May I summarize the remarkable promises penned in Jeremiah 31:35-37?

The Jewish people will not be destroyed until they fulfill all God intended them to do. God is not yet finished with His chosen people (Rom. 11:29).

The above rests upon the foundational passage in the book of Genesis when God promised Abram that He would bless those who bless the

Jewish people and curse those who curse them. We also see in this passage that God promised to bring blessings to the entire world (Gen. 12:3) specifically through the Jewish people. God created the Jewish people to be a bridge of blessings and revelation to the nations.

These truths of Scripture are clear to me and are a great foundation for our understanding of God's plan and purposes for the Jewish people!

Happy Purim! I pray the Lord will guide us as we try to understand our times, stay true to the teachings of the Scriptures and remain faithful to our Messiah, Deliverer and Lord!

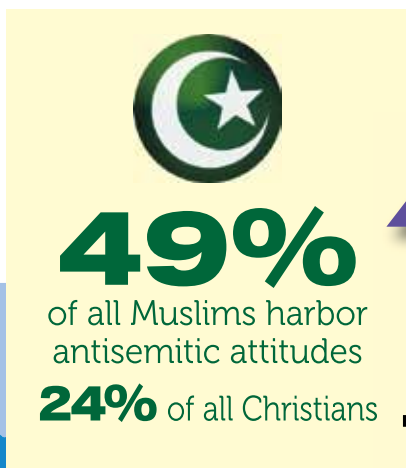
In Him,

Mitch
Mitch

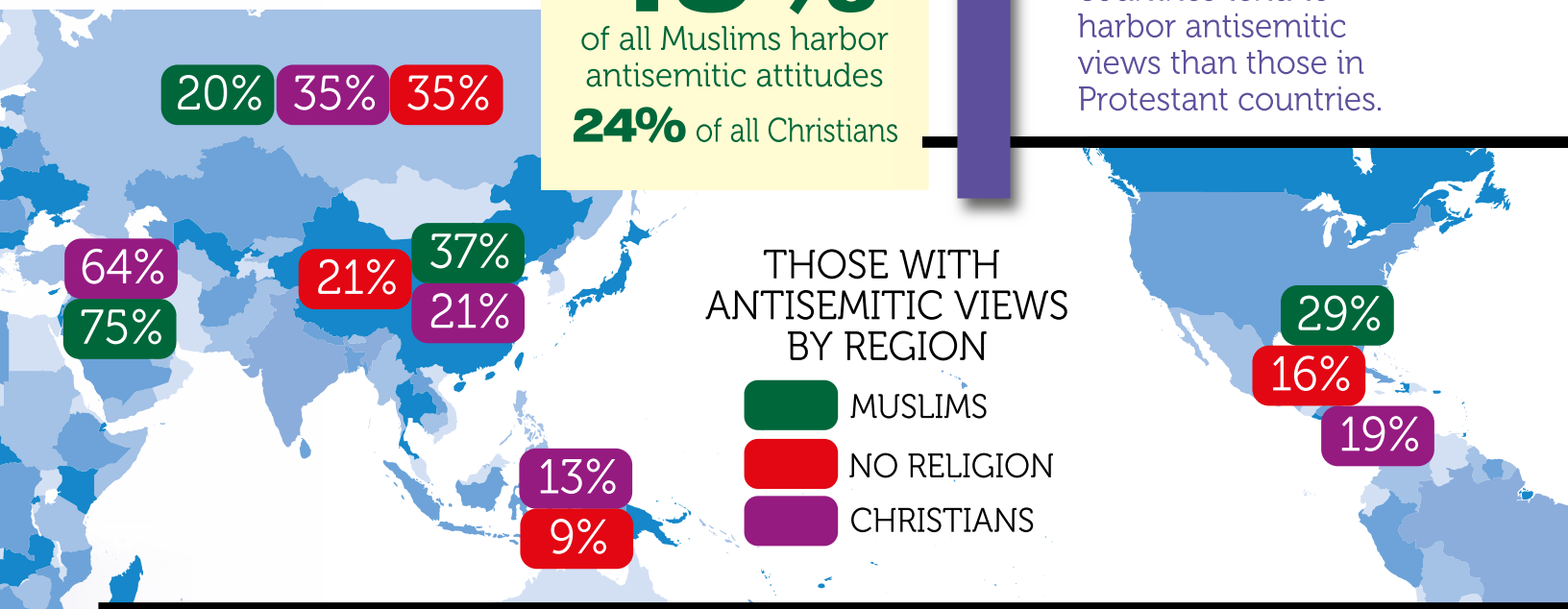


Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

ANTISEMITISM AROUND THE WORLD



More people in Eastern Orthodox and Catholic countries tend to harbor antisemitic views than those in Protestant countries.



THOSE WITH ANTISEMITIC VIEWS BY REGION

- MUSLIMS
- NO RELIGION
- CHRISTIANS

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)
Jewish anti-Zionist group



Neturei Karta (NK)
Ultra-Orthodox anti-Zionist group

U.S. **world**

Statistics are from <http://global100.adl.org>.

A NEW HAMAN IS RISING

Antisemitism is not new. For as long as there have been Jewish people, there have been those committed to their destruction. From the early pages of the Bible, to Haman's genocidal aspirations, to the gas chambers of the Holocaust, there has been an effort by God's enemies to destroy His chosen people.

On August 12, 2015, the Councillor on Human Rights, Nelly Shiloh, spoke at the UN and stated that "Antisemitism is not a relic from the past, but an ever-present reality for Jews in many places. We must take action now to eradicate the plague of Jew-hatred from our future."¹

Unfortunately, not only is antisemitism present in our current world, there are new Hamans continually rising and coming from all directions.

The Muslim world is rife with antisemitism and anti-Judaic sentiments. Jewish people are considered descendants of apes and pigs. Leaders of the Palestinians incite youth to stab, run over, and attack Jewish people. The Jerusalem Post reported: "Anti-Semitic cartoons, television series and debased fantasies—including the blood libel—are so ubiquitous as to merit little comment. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is openly sold and widely read. Religious and political leaders regularly invoke the basest anti-Semitic stereotypes."² Muslim religious leaders often preach of the day when Israel is destroyed and Jewish people are murdered. This hatred has also been exported to Europe where attacks and even murder of Jewish people by Muslims is becoming the "new normal."

Sadly, within the Jewish world itself there are extremists that hinder the peace process with the Palestinians. More destructive is that these extremists' efforts cause great harm to their own people. There are two branches of this extremism: religious and secular. However, both oppose Israel for ideological purposes and work hand in hand with those who are dedicated to Israel's destruction. The religionists see the "secular" state playing God, while the secular "non-Zionist Jews" oppose Zionism because they falsely believe that Zionism oppresses the Palestinian people. While the complete opposite is true, for them the narrative of Hamas is just too convincing.

The most heartbreaking form of antisemitism is that which comes from the Christian world—a rise in what can only be called "super replacement" theology. This presupposes that God is finished with the Jewish people, literally "replacing" the Jewish people with a "new people," the Church. This distortion of God's promises to the nation of Israel has led many Christians to embrace the narrative of those who are dedicated to Israel's destruction.

The Bible paints a completely different present and future for the Jewish people and the Land of Israel. Deuteronomy 30:1-6 states that Israel would experience dispersion because of disobedience but would also be saved as a nation and experience restoration to its land. Likewise, Ezekiel 36-37 promises the future salvation and restoration of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland. Jeremiah 31:35-37 explicitly promises the perpetuity of the Jewish people as a nation. Finally, the New Testament affirms these promises in Romans 9-11; Matthew 19:28 (apostles rule over the 12 tribes of Israel); Matthew 23:27-39 (Israel will accept the Messiah); and Acts 3:19-21 (restoration is preached to the leaders of Israel).

1 <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/AntiSemitism/Pages/Rise-of-Global-Genocidal-Antisemitism-12-Aug-2015.aspx>

2 <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Anti-Semitism-is-a-Muslim-problem-415035>



Q: What does the word Purim mean?

A: The word Purim literally means "lots." The holiday is named Purim because it looks back to a time in Jewish history when the "lot was cast" and the fate of the Jewish nation literally hung in the balance.

Q: What is the historical background to Purim?

A: The events associated with Purim are recorded in the Book of Esther (c. 450 BC). During the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes), king of Persia, many Jews lived comfortably throughout the Persian Empire, having been exiled from Judea approximately 65 years earlier by the Babylonians.

However, an evil government official named Haman rose to power and insisted that his subjects bow down to him as a public act of worship. The book of Esther tells us that the only person who refused to bow down to Haman was a servant of King Ahasuerus, a Jewish man named Mordecai, who had previously foiled a plot against the king and saved his life (Est. 2:21-23).

"When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath" (Est. 3:5). Then Haman cast a lot (*pur* in Hebrew) to set a date for the annihilation of all Jewish people living in the Persian Empire (Est. 3:13).

Q: Who was Esther?

A: By a divine coincidence, it just so happened that a Jewish woman named Esther, who was actually the niece of Mordecai, had been chosen by King Ahasuerus from among all the virgins of the land to be the Queen of Persia.

When Mordecai discovered Haman's plot to destroy the Jewish people, he appealed to Esther to plead the case of the Jewish people in the presence of the king, telling her that she had been promoted in the kingdom for "such a time as this" (Est. 4:13-14). Although Esther was in a position of prominence in the Persian Empire, still

Cookie Recipe

- 2/3 cup margarine or butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1. Cream the shortening with sugar. Add egg and continue creaming until smooth.
2. Add the vanilla. Stir in the sifted flour, baking powder, and salt until a ball of dough is formed (a good food processor is excellent for this).
3. Chill for two to three hours or overnight.
4. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
5. Taking 1/4 of the dough, roll out on a lightly

- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 1/2-3 cups sifted unbleached all-purpose flour
- Dash of salt

- floured board to a thickness of 1/8 inch. Cut into 2-inch circles. With your finger, put water around the rim of the circle. Fill with 1 teaspoon of desired filling and fold into three-cornered cookies (press two sides together, and then fold the third side over and press ends together.)
6. Bake on a well-greased cookie sheet 10-16 minutes, until the tops are golden.

Traditional Poppy-Seed Filling

- 1 pound sugar
- 4 ounces raisins
- 2 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Rind and juice of 1 lemon
- Rind and juice of 1 orange
- 1 pound poppy seeds

1. Combine the sugar and water and simmer while stirring over low heat.
2. Grind the poppy seeds in a food processor or blender. Add to sugar mixture.
3. Add the egg whites, vanilla, lemon and orange rinds and juices, rum, raisins, figs, cinnamon.

- 2 tablespoons rum, or rum extract
- 2 ounces figs, chopped
- Cinnamon to taste
- 2 cups apricot or raspberry jam
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup water

Simmer over low heat for about five minutes. Add the jam and butter, and continue simmering until the butter is melted and all the ingredients are combined.

Use as is, or put in the refrigerator for a few minutes until the filling becomes a bit firmer.

Hamantaschen



Joan Nathan, *The Jewish Holiday Kitchen: 250 Recipes from Around the World to Make Your Celebrations Special* (New York: Schocken Books, 1988), 226-227.

anyone who approached the inner court of the king without direct permission would be put to death. In preparation for her decision, Esther told Mordecai to have all the Jews in the region fast for three days.

Q: How does the story end?

A: On the third day of the fast, at the risk of her own life, Esther put on her royal robes and entered the inner court of the king's palace. When the king saw her, he extended his golden scepter. This was a sign that he was accepting her into his presence and would not have her put to death. Esther then requested of the king that he hold a banquet and invite Haman to be present.

Later that night, the king could not sleep. He resorted to reading the historical chronicles of Persia and discovered that Mordecai had never been honored for saving his life.

At the banquet Esther told the king of Haman's plot to destroy the Jewish people. The king then ordered that Haman be hanged on the very gallows that he had originally built for Mordecai and issued a decree effectively preserving the Jewish people from annihilation.

Q: How is Purim celebrated today?

A. Purim is commonly celebrated today with one day of fasting, followed by a day of rejoicing. Other Purim

traditions include reading the scroll of Esther at home and in synagogue, dressing up in costumes, giving gifts to the poor, and eating traditional Jewish cookies called "hamantaschen."

Q: Is there a prophetic significance to Purim?

A. Purim reminds us of the spirit of antisemitism that has sought to annihilate the Jewish people for thousands of years, and ultimately of God's divine providence in preserving His chosen people.



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.

HEBREWS: CHAPTER 1

I. GOD IS THE GOD OF COMMUNICATION - HEBREWS 1:1-10

God has always communicated with His creation. In the ancient world He spoke in various ways, but particularly through the Hebrew prophets. In these “last days” God is speaking through His Son, the Jewish Messiah (Heb. 1:1-2). The text emphasizes the diverse ways God communicates, rather than the numerous eras.

Specifically, God spoke to “*the fathers*,” that is the Jewish ancestors. God addressed the Old Testament saints in diverse ways. At Sinai, God addressed Moses through thunder and lightning. He spoke with the “*voice of a trumpet*.” At Horeb, God addressed Elijah in “a still small voice.” He revealed Himself to Ezekiel through visions and to Daniel in dreams. To Jacob, He was an angelic visitor. Although in each circumstance it was the God of Israel who spoke, He communicated through various media.

In these “last days,” God is speaking through His Son, the Jewish Messiah. It is not merely one utterance, but many messages given at various times (Heb. 1:2). It was “*by the prophets*” God communicated. The Jewish prophets were messengers of God, governed by the Holy Spirit in communicating the divine message, either by the written or spoken word.

Holy messengers of God spoke according to the way the Holy Spirit prompted (2 Pet. 1:21).

In times past, the Old Testament prophets delivered God’s messages “unto the fathers” (Heb. 1:1). Who were these fathers? The fathers were the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and included generation after generation of the nation of Israel, culminating in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.

But now, God has spoken His last Word “in” or “by” His Son. The Son is the rightful “heir” of all things (Heb. 1:2). This term describes one who is the possessor, or sovereign Lord. As the Incarnate Son, Jesus the Son of Man has been appointed the heir and owner of all God’s Creation.

God’s Son has been made head of a new people. Because of what He did in leaving heaven’s glory and becoming obedient unto the death at the cross for sin, God has highly exalted Him. At the sound of His Name, every knee shall bow (Phil. 2:9-11).

II. GOD IS THE GOD OF CULMINATION - HEBREWS 1:11-14

Although God did not design the original creation for destruction, the writer reminds us it will perish (Heb. 1:11). However, the Eternal Son enjoys equality with the Father and

will remain forever (Heb. 1:8). “*They shall perish, but Thou remainest...*” (Heb. 1:11). The words of Hebrews 1:11-12 illustrate the eternal and changeless divine nature of the Messiah. This chapter demonstrates the vast contrast between all the created angels and the uncreated Messiah Jesus. The angels are beings created by God, but the Messiah existed from eternity past. In fact, God designed the angels to worship the Messianic King (Heb. 1:6), whom the Father refers to as both God and Creator (Heb. 1:8-9).

III. CONCLUSION

Hebrews 1 emphasizes the supremacy of the Messiah. He is unique in His teaching, nature and work (Heb. 1:2-3). Messiah is superior to the angels who worship Him (Heb. 1:6). The Son has ascended to the very throne of God at the Father’s right hand, the place of special honor. Jesus, the Son, who was humiliated on earth (Heb. 12:3) is now exalted and enthroned in heaven. Thus, this first chapter of Hebrews contains a powerful explanation on both the person and work of the Messiah Jesus. He alone is the Creator and sustainer who “upholds all things by the word of His power” (Heb. 1:3).

NEWS BRIEFS

THE WITNESS OF JEWISH PEOPLE

An Israeli optometrist in California is hearing the Gospel and doesn't even know it. One of our congregational leaders went for a check-up and found out that his optometrist has many Messianic Jewish patients. He was not hostile towards them and was aware of what they believe. Larry, the congregational leader, had the opportunity to tell him that even though Messianic Jews believe Yeshua is the Messiah, they still observe Jewish customs, culture, and holidays such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, Purim, and Passover. As they talked, Larry told him that his search came through the predicted Messianic prophecies in the Bible that speak of the coming of the Messiah. Please pray for this Jewish Israeli eye doctor.

DRAWN TO THE MESSIAH

When one of our staff members met with Bob* last week, after not meeting with him for some time, Bob was drawn once again toward the person of Jesus. Bob sees how Jesus is the only hope for healing, not only in his life, but for a broken and hurting world. He knows he needs to make a decision, but he wants to study more, and finds himself continually distracted by things that are more "urgent". They talked about the reality of Satan (something that he believes) and how Satan will use circumstances to distract him from what is truly important. Continue to pray for clarity and courage for Bob.

RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ISRAELIS RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

In the Russian culture most important conversations happen around the table, and this was the case when Eugene, a staff member in Israel, was sharing (not for the first time) with a couple and their son the Gospel of our Messiah. He sensed a prodding from the Spirit to ask the couple directly if they were ready to accept Jesus as their Messiah. They were silent for a moment as they thought about everything that had been shared with them over the months, and then quickly said, "Yes!"

STANDING WITH ISRAEL IN DIFFICULT TIMES AND SHARING JESUS

The rise of antisemitism is a real cause for concern, especially on American college campuses. Our staff member, Doug, shares the following story from an evangelistic trip to a college campus: "It is a joy to stand up for Israel on campus and share the Gospel at the same time! This was especially true during my last visit to a campus. One large man was standing at the main gate of

the school and chanting antisemitic remarks. A student stopped by our campus literature table to tell us that many students at the college are firmly against Israel. However, there was also good news given to us: an Israeli professor stopped by the table to say: 'Keep up the important work!' and took a copy of a booklet on Isaiah 53!"



ISRAEL TRIP GIVES OPPORTUNITY TO MINISTER TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

A highlight of a recent trip to Israel was an afternoon of ministry with Holocaust survivors. We try to include benevolence and ministry events in our trips, and so our group sponsored a luncheon at the Jerusalem Messianic Center and the interaction with survivors was amazing. As the group shared a meal they got to know each other. They sang and played games together. Then the team visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. Some of these precious souls have become believers. Others were seeking to understand what would cause people who had never met them to come so far and want to share a meal with them. A number of people had an opportunity to share their testimonies, some about their life and faith. The leader of the trip took this opportunity to explain why some Christians love Israel and the Jewish people and care to come to Israel and help, even in turbulent times.

*names changed

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Reap a harvest of benefits

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1. You can have the joy of knowing you're making a difference for eternity,
2. You can provide for your family, even after you die, *and*
3. You can leave a legacy of love for God's chosen people.

This allows you to bless surviving family members and continue with your ministry priority of sharing the Messiah with Jewish people everywhere.

We invite you to leave a legacy of evangelism for your children and grandchildren, and for ages to come, in this simple but profoundly important way.

And experience the blessing of God as you bless Israel!

ISRAEL'S GLORIOUS FUTURE

ACCORDING TO THE PROPHET ISAIAH

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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 \$15.95us

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