

# The Chosen People



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## PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

INSIDE: The Psalms of Ascent • U.S. Presidents and Israel: 1948 to Today • The Superior Priesthood of Yeshua: Hebrews 5:1-10





Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom in His peace. This is an important time for us in the United States of America as we choose our next president. Of course, I am writing to you before the election and so I have no idea at this stage who won! I know that whoever wins the election will find their work blessed by God when they base their decisions and policies on the principles of God's Word.

As a Messianic Jew and leader of one of the oldest Jewish missions in the world, one of my deepest concerns regarding the election is that whoever our nation chooses will be favorable towards the nation of Israel. This is one of the reasons why I have decided to issue a call to prayer for all of us, so that our national and church leadership will seek the face of the Jewish Messiah for the good of His chosen people.

In Psalm 122:6, we are actually commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. It is my hope that we will take this mandate for prayer seriously.

Please share this with your family, Bible study groups and local congregations. The more we pray the greater we will experience God's blessing upon our country.

### The Psalms of Ascent

Psalm 122 is considered one of the Psalms of Ascent and King David is usually recognized as the author of this beautiful piece of divinely inspired poetry.

This grouping of Psalms includes Psalms 120-133. Thematically this section of Psalms begins with repentance and concludes with the Psalmist extolling the virtues of community. We all know the well-known beginning of the last Psalm in this group, "How good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity."

Traditionally, it is understood that these Pilgrim Psalms were sung by the children of Israel as they climbed the craggy and dangerous paths towards Mount Zion to celebrate the three

*Aliyah* ("to go up") Festivals: Passover, *Shavuot* (Weeks or Pentecost) and Tabernacles.

### Psalm 122:6

In looking over various Bible studies on the Psalms of Ascent, especially Psalm 121, one begins to notice a pattern that strikes at the heart of everyday biblical interpretation. Most commentaries or Bible studies on the Psalms identify the major theme of these Psalms as worship. Certainly there is much in the text about worship, as in verse 1, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord." And then again in verse 4, "...to give thanks to the name of the Lord," which could specifically refer to the offering of thanksgiving sacrifices at the Temple and not simply to singing songs of thanksgiving.

However, a more literal reading of the Psalm would bring you to the conclusion that the real focus is the actual destination of the pilgrims—

Jerusalem. The great theme of the Psalm, if this is taken literally, and it should be, is Jerusalem! This is the home of the Temple where sacrifice and all other forms of worship took place.

We should take the Bible and this Psalm as literally as possible and enjoy the blessings of God's Word as we obey what He actually said and not the meanings we attach to it. The words of Scripture are sometimes difficult to follow, but we should ask God to fill us with His Spirit so that we can obey Scripture - resisting the temptation to de-literalize the words of the holy text.

With this as our context, let's take a further look at the Psalm.

### The First Five Verses

There is so much to learn from the first five verses of Psalm 122. They set the scene by describing a pilgrimage, whereby members of the tribes of Israel would travel to Jerusalem to worship the Lord—again, probably on one of the three great Aliyah Festivals. The term to “give thanks” may very well refer to the thanksgiving offerings outlined in Deuteronomy 16:16-17,

*Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.*

Then, in verses 3-5, reference is made to the tight knit construction of the city, thrones of judgment referring to the courts, thrones of David, referring to the role of the Davidic kings, leading to the appeal for prayer in verse six.

### A Focus On Verse Six

The Psalmist instructs the pilgrims to, *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.”*

The Psalmist calls upon the people of God to pray for the peace of

Jerusalem. The very name *Jerusalem* includes this hope for peace. The term “salem” comes from the Hebrew word *shalom*—peace, wholeness and completeness.

When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem we are praying for the cessation of temporal hostilities (such as terror and missile attacks, the enmity that exists between Israelis and Palestinians), but most of all for the return of the Messiah. Our hope is for the personal peace of those who live in the Holy Land!

### A Comparison Between Psalm 122:6 and Genesis 12:3

The blessing attached to this call to prayer is important and harkens back to the Abrahamic Covenant where God promised blessings to those who bless Israel and the Jewish people as outlined in Genesis 12:3. As the Lord told Abram,

*And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*

God promised to bless those who bless the Jewish people. The reward for blessing Israel is to be blessed! However, the blessings God had in mind are not primarily materialistic. The promises and blessings that come to us when we obey God come in many shapes and forms and should not be limited to the things of this world. When we are in a right relationship with Him and obedient to His Word, then the blessings we receive will be myriad!

Psalm 122 parallels the Abrahamic Covenant as David promises that those who pray for the peace of Jerusalem will “prosper.” It is curious that the promise is for those who “love Jerusalem” and therefore we understand that the aforementioned prayers are motivated by love for God's holy city, as the Psalmist writes, “May they prosper who love you.”

The root of the Hebrew term used for “prosper” is *shalah*, which can easily

be translated as “put at ease” or to “quiet.” The prosperity described is therefore a quality of soul and life. This enables those who love Jerusalem to enjoy a similar personal peace as enjoyed by God's chosen city.

If we bless Israel then we are participating in the unfolding of God's promises to the Jewish people, which directly impacts the Gentiles. One of the ways we can bless Israel and the Jewish people is to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. When we do, we will receive what money can never buy—His presence in our lives, which is the very source of both *shalom* and *shalah*!

### Thank You For Praying

Thank you so much for praying for the peace of Jerusalem—that the Prince of Peace might reign in the hearts of individuals in the land of Israel and across the globe and experience the abundant life that the Messiah promised so many years ago (John 10:10).

Please remember to pray for the work of Chosen People Ministries in Israel, especially our new center in the heart of greater Tel Aviv. I cannot tell you how excited I am about this outreach as we will be in the midst of hundreds of thousands of more secular Israeli families who would literally have no other witness for the Lord.

We are especially grateful for your support as well, as we could not continue this work without your sacrificial generosity. Would you consider giving a special gift this month to help us bring the message of the Prince of Peace to God's chosen people?

Thanks for caring.

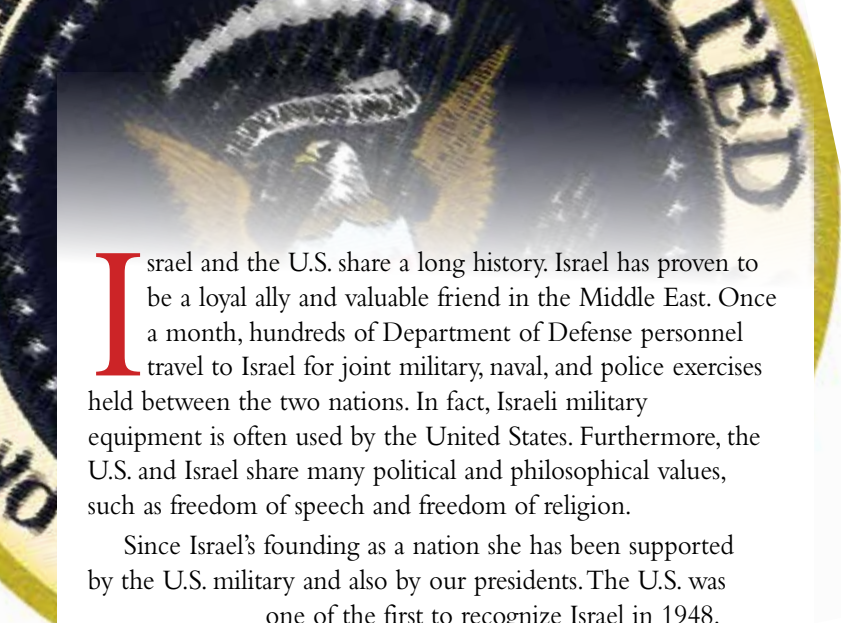
Your brother in the Messiah,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President



Israel and the U.S. share a long history. Israel has proven to be a loyal ally and valuable friend in the Middle East. Once a month, hundreds of Department of Defense personnel travel to Israel for joint military, naval, and police exercises held between the two nations. In fact, Israeli military equipment is often used by the United States. Furthermore, the U.S. and Israel share many political and philosophical values, such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

Since Israel's founding as a nation she has been supported by the U.S. military and also by our presidents. The U.S. was one of the first to recognize Israel in 1948.



**President Truman** proudly stated:

*"I believe it has a glorious future before it - not just another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization."*<sup>1</sup>

Even as early as 1922, the U.S. Government foresaw the re-establishment of Israel. In House Resolution 322 On the Establishment, it is stated in the preamble:

*Palestine of today, the land we know as Palestine, was peopled by the Jews from the dawn of history until the Roman era. It is the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people.*<sup>2</sup>

Presidential Administrations that followed shared this sentiment:

**Dwight D. Eisenhower,**

*"The people of Israel, like those of the United States, are imbued with a religious faith and a sense of moral values."*<sup>3</sup>



Although, it is true that the Eisenhower administration did minimize relations with Israel, it was committed to the survival of Israel as a nation. Some have said that while saying little, Eisenhower did a lot for U.S.-Israel relations. In fact many trace the emergence of America's interest in the Arab-Israel conflict to this era.<sup>4</sup>



**John Kennedy,**

*"Let us make it clear that we will never turn our backs on our steadfast friends in Israel, whose adherence to the democratic way must be admired by all friends of freedom."*<sup>5</sup>

It was under the Kennedy Administration that Israel was able to purchase Hawk anti-aircraft missiles in 1962. The telegram from the Department of State expressing U.S. willingness to sell the Hawk missile system to Israel reads in part,

*"...[in view of the] build-up of offensive air and missile capability in the area we are obliged to respond sympathetically to Israel's request for short-range, purely defensive ground-to-air interceptor missiles."*<sup>6</sup>



**Gerald Ford,**

*"A strong Israel is essential to a stable peace in the Middle East. Our commitment to Israel will meet the test of American steadfastness, fairness, and resolve"*<sup>7</sup>

**Ronald Reagan,**



*"I welcome this chance to further strengthen the unbreakable ties between the United States and Israel and to assure you of our commitment to Israel's security and well-being. Israel and America may be thousands of miles apart, but we are philosophical neighbors sharing a strong commitment to democracy and the rule of law. What we hold in common are the bonds of trust and friendship, qualities that, in our eyes, make Israel a great nation. No people have fought longer, struggled harder, or sacrificed more than yours in order to survive, to grow, and to live in freedom"*<sup>8</sup>

By the end of Reagan's second term, America regularly held joint training exercises with Israel, and the two democracies began co-development of the Arrow Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missile. It was also under President Reagan's administration that, as Mitchell Bard points out,

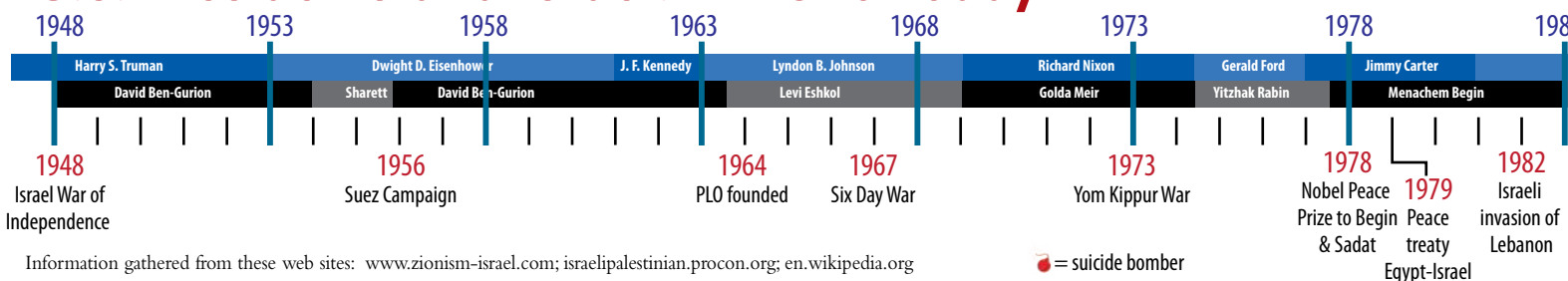
*"In 1985, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Israeli Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provided for the exchange of information and scientific, administrative and academic personnel; the education and training of manpower; conferences and symposia; and, mutually agreed upon collaborative projects addressing common problems."*<sup>9</sup>



In 2008, **George W. Bush,** in Israel, said,

*"Our two nations both faced great challenges when they were founded, and our two nations have both relied on the same principles to help us succeed. We've built strong democracies to protect the freedoms given to us by an Almighty God. We've welcomed immigrants, who have helped us thrive. We've built prosperous economies by rewarding innovation and risk-taking and trade. And we've built an enduring alliance to confront terrorists and tyrants."*<sup>10</sup>

## U.S. Presidents and Israel: 1948 to Today







It was the Carter Administration that made Israel eligible to sell military equipment to the United States. It was **President Carter's** involvement in the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt (at the Camp David Accords in 1978) that also led to the two Middle East leaders winning the Nobel Peace Prize (Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat).



Even **President Obama**, with whom the relationship has been the rockiest, said, "the bond between Israel and America is unbreakable."<sup>11</sup> As early in President Obama administration as 2010, the two governments signed an agreement to increase aviation security cooperation.

Ever since her re-birth as a nation in 1948, Israel has had America as an ally. This should not change. One analyst summed it up this way: "A study of American policy toward Israel shows that the special relationship has been gradual: from 'a moral stance' (from 1948-1951) to a 'strategic asset' (in the 1970s) to 'strategic cooperation' (in 1981). America has come to the conclusion that when Israel is strong, not only does Israel benefit, but the United States does too."<sup>12</sup>

However, recently there has been a rise in antisemitism and racial anti-Zionism. Understandably so, this has many Jewish people, Israelis, and friends of Israel worried. Will the tide of antisemitism and anti-Zionism play a role in the way our new president deals with our Israeli friends?

This is why we must pray for our leaders to make good decisions: That they view Israel correctly, and that they do not join the enemies of Israel, in thought or deed.

- 1 May 26, 1952, <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/presquote.html>
- 2 [varimail.com/asp/broadcast/ILIST/resolution322.pdf](http://varimail.com/asp/broadcast/ILIST/resolution322.pdf)
- 3 Radio Address on Situation in the Middle East, February 20, 1957, as cited by the Jewish Virtual Library
- 4 [www.danielpipes.org/610/eisenhower-and-israel-us-israeli-relations-1953-1960](http://www.danielpipes.org/610/eisenhower-and-israel-us-israeli-relations-1953-1960)
- 5 Speech at Eastern Oregon College of Education, November 9, 1959, <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/presquote.html>
- 6 [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/FRUS9\\_14\\_62.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/FRUS9_14_62.html)
- 7 [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/presquote.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/presquote.html)
- 8 Remarks at Welcoming Ceremony for PM Menachem Begin, September 9, 1981, as cited in the Jewish Virtual Library
- 9 [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/health.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/health.html)
- 10 [news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-05/14/content\\_8169390.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-05/14/content_8169390.htm)
- 11 [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/presquote.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/presquote.html)
- 12 [www.mythsandfacts.org/NOQ\\_OnlineEdition/Chapter17/unitedstatesisrael1.htm](http://www.mythsandfacts.org/NOQ_OnlineEdition/Chapter17/unitedstatesisrael1.htm)

## US BILL 322

On April 24, 2008 the 110th Congress of the United States of America recognized the founding of the modern state of Israel by passing a bill (H.Con.Res. 322), in honor of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel. It is worth reading the entire text, but the statements selected below from the text<sup>1</sup> of the bill help us to better understand the deep and abiding commitment of the U.S. to Israel.

Whereas since its establishment 60 years ago, the modern State of Israel has rebuilt a nation, forged a new and dynamic democratic society, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of war, terrorism, and unjustified diplomatic and economic boycotts against the people of Israel;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices;

Whereas the American people feel a strong affinity for the Israeli people based on common values and shared cultural heritage; and

Whereas the United States continues to regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner: Now, therefore, be it,

That Congress—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 60th anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) reaffirms its enduring support for Israel as Israel pursues peace with its neighbors;

(3) reaffirms its support for Israel's right to defend itself against threats to its security and existence;

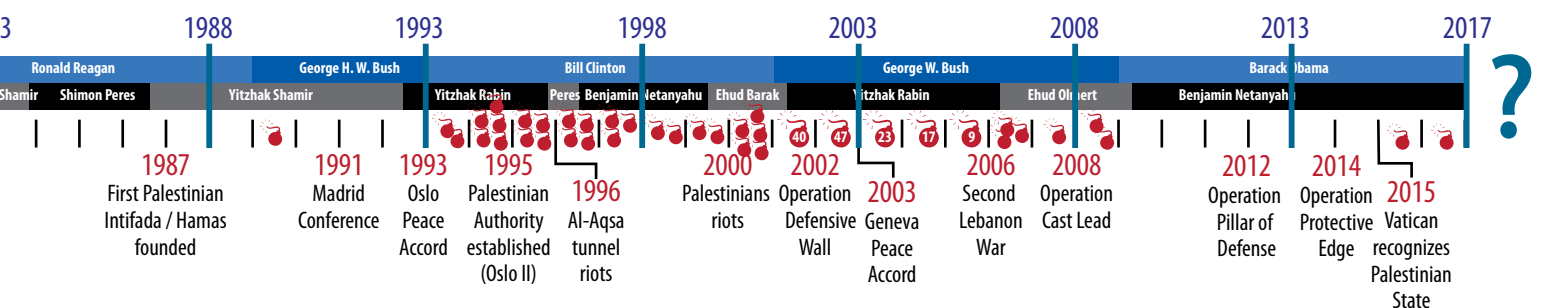
(4) commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic, democratic society in the face of terrorism, as well as hostility, ostracism, and belligerence from many of their neighbors;

(5) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past 60 years, and commits to strengthening those bonds; and

(6) extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future. <sup>2</sup>

1 [www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/110/hconres322](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/110/hconres322)

2 [www.GovTrack.us/2008.October/October 2,2016. www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/110/hconres322](http://www.GovTrack.us/2008.October/October%202,2016/www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/110/hconres322)



# SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DR. RICH FREEMAN, D.MIN.



Dr. Rich Freeman serves as the Vice President for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia.

## THE SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD OF YESHUA: PART 2 HEBREWS 5:1-10

As we transition to Chapter 5 of the book of Hebrews, looking at the superiority of the priesthood of Yeshua, in 5:1-4, the writer lays out what would be the general qualifications of the High Priest.

The High Priest is appointed to represent men in things pertaining to God, that is the presentation of gifts and sacrifices for sins. To qualify for the High Priesthood in Israel, one had to be a man.

The High Priest was to be a man of compassion, especially for those who are ignorant and going astray—the reason being that he too was prone to weakness and subject to failure.

Because of the reality of his own sinfulness, the High Priest was not only required to make offerings for the sins of the people, he was also required to make offerings for his own sins.

Finally, a man could attain the high priesthood only by divine appointment. Only those whom God chose served in this office. These people were primarily Aaron and his descendants. Eventually, the office of the High Priest became a lucrative political appointment and was corrupted.

Does Yeshua (Jesus) qualify to be a High Priest? This is where we see the

writer of Hebrews beginning to show the superiority of Yeshua's priesthood. We are reminded that the High Priest was to be a man set apart to minister on behalf of men in things relating to God. He was to present his brethren's gifts and sacrifices for sins and also sacrifices for his own sins. He was to be a man of compassion as he could sympathize with his brethren's weaknesses. But with Yeshua, note the distinction: while He was fully man, on the cross our Lord presented the sacrifice for the sins of the people, once for all. In heaven now, He offers our gifts of worship and praise to God. Since He is without sin, there was no need for Him to sacrifice for Himself. He was in perfect fellowship with the Father and needed no cleansing. Though He was without sin, He still could have superior compassion for His brethren.

In Hebrews 5:5-6, we see the divine appointment of His priesthood by God. The name *Christ* was not Yeshua's last name but rather His title, *Messiah* or *Anointed One*, emphasizing His humility and calling from God. Quoting Psalm 2:7 and Psalm 110:4, the writer of Hebrews observes that the One who declared Yeshua to be the King-Son referred to in Psalm 2, declared Him also to be a Priest forever, according to

the order of Melchizedek. In combining the text of Psalm 2:7, which had been quoted before in Hebrews 1:5, and the text of Psalm 110:4, the writer joined the two great truths about the Messiah which are at the heart of this epistle. He is indeed the Messiah King and Our Great High Priest.

In Hebrews 5:7-10 the writer reaffirms that Yeshua qualifies to be the High Priest. "In the days of His flesh," when He was here on earth in human condition, He found Himself totally dependent on the Father, having "offered up prayers and supplications," accompanied by "strong crying and tears, to the One who was able to save Him from death."

He was heard, the writer says, because of His godly fear. Though He was not saved from death He learned obedience through His suffering. It is through His suffering, death on the cross, and offering for sins that He became perfected and the author of eternal salvation to those who appropriate His death for themselves.

# NEWS BRIEFS



## THE JESUS FILM IN ISRAEL

One of our Israeli leaders, Neriya, was asked by the Jesus Film Project to help them translate their new project into the Bukharian dialect. Bukharian is a blanket term for Jewish people from Central Asia who speak Bukhori, a dialect of the Tajik language. It happens that Neriya is the only pastor who speaks Russian, English and Bukharian! And so, they chose him as the project coordinator. Please pray that God would open doors to find talented voice actors and a competent dialogue director.

## CUBA, SPORTS, AND JEWISH EVANGELISM

Did you know there were over 20,000 Jewish people in Cuba before the revolution in 1959? However, only about 1,200-1,500 remain today. Most of them escaped to the United States. This summer two of our leaders, Jeff and Rich, visited Cuba. On this trip they were able to visit two of the three remaining synagogues in Havana, bringing them humanitarian aid and making connections. Rich writes, "We were amazed by the warmth and openness of the Jewish Cuban people we met there.... Please pray for the openness of the Cuban Jewish community, and their leaders, to our friendship, and ultimately the message of the Messiah, Jesus."

## EVANGELISM IN THE CITY

Our Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies provides "on-the-job training" for those attending this wonderful and fully accredited ministry training program. They participate in book table ministries on campuses like Brooklyn College, NYU and Columbia. They also participate in Chosen People Ministries' online outreach programs by connecting with the Jewish people who respond to our Facebook ads. They also take part in a variety of ministries through our New York City congregational ministries like Beth Sar Shalom

(House of the Prince of Peace), our new Brooklyn Congregation and of course, forming relationships with our Jewish neighbors as the students live in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn.

## THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Mike Hertz, our New York Regional Director, recently had the privilege of leading Camp Keshet, a Messianic Jewish week-long summer camp. Keshet is the Hebrew word for "connection" and that is what Camp Keshet is all about; connecting youth to Jesus the Messiah, each other, and the larger believing community. We desire to assist our children in forming a well-rounded identity in the Lord that will carry them into young adulthood and beyond. We praise God for a successful week as during the last service five children prayed to receive the Lord and several more recommitted their lives to Him.

## MESSIANIC JEWISH LEADERS GATHER IN WARSAW, POLAND TO PRAY AND WORSHIP

The meeting took place in mid-September and was the largest gathering of Messianic Jewish people in Poland since the Holocaust. This is significant as Poland had 3 million Jewish people before Hitler's reign of terror. By the end of World War II, there were less than 10,000 Jewish people remaining in Poland. From September 14-17, 2016, 150-plus Russian-speaking, Messianic Jewish leaders gathered in Warsaw to worship the God of Israel. We celebrated the growth of the Messianic movement among Russian Jewish people around the globe. Representatives came from Israel, the U.S., Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Germany and other countries where Russian-speaking Jewish people live. The group gathered for prayer, worship and further training on how to lead Russian Jewish congregations that follow Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah! Join us in praising God for His goodness and faithfulness.

*You can read a longer report on the conference prepared by Dr. Mitch Glaser by visiting [chosenpeople.com/russianconference](http://chosenpeople.com/russianconference).*





# MESSIANIC RESOURCES



Announcing our newest 15-month Messianic Jewish Art Calendar! This year's theme of "The Jewish Kitchen" will fire the imagination and the taste buds! The monthly recipes were created by Mitch Forman, Vice President of U.S. Ministries for Chosen People Ministries (and former professional chef!). This calendar will help you mark the passage of the months and as you experiment with the recipes, you too will "taste and see that the Lord is good."

Our calendars make great gifts, so don't forget to order extras!

**Messianic Jewish Art Calendar • 5005 • \$13.95us**

The flickering lights of the Hanukkah menorah remind us that God is mighty to save and that Yeshua is truly the Light of the World. This item is manufactured in Israel.

**Hanukkah Menorah • 5023 • \$25.95us**



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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)