

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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November 2018

GREAT *is*
thy
faithfulness

MORNING BY MORNING
NEW MERCIES I SEE

all i have needed
thy hand hath provided

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS LORD UNTO ME

FROM THE PRESIDENT



GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

God is faithful to Israel and to us

Shalom in His grace,

I know you would agree with me that God is faithful! The hymn writer had it right when he wrote, *“Great is Thy faithfulness, oh God my Father. There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not... great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me.”*

Faithfulness is not something God does: Faithfulness is an essential part of His character—it is His nature!

We celebrated Israel’s 70th anniversary this year (2018), and next year, beginning in January 2019, we are going to celebrate the 125th year of Chosen People Ministries (which means we are much older than the modern State of Israel!). There have been trials and challenges along the way for Israel and for us, but we are both here today because God is eternally faithful.

The prophet Jeremiah assured the Jewish people that, although they would go through hard seasons and at times come close to destruction, God would preserve them for all time!

“Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the Lord of hosts is His name: ‘If this fixed order departs from before Me,’ declares the Lord, ‘then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever’” (Jeremiah 31:35-36).

One of my favorite passages in the Bible is the verse that inspired the hymn writer to pen the majestic hymn mentioned above.

*The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; **great is Your faithfulness.** “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.”* (Lamentations 3:22-24)



The prophet Jeremiah, who was disheartened to witness his beloved city of Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonians, most likely wrote the book of Lamentations. Life can be hard, and most of us know what it is like to be disappointed by the circumstances of life. Some of us have experienced the destruction and dismantling of our lives—just like what happened to Jerusalem. However, Jerusalem endured because of the faithfulness and promises of God! You and I are still here as well, and that is why we can smile and praise God for His everlasting faithfulness.

The timeless text of Lamentations 3 teaches us that God is faithful by nature. That means that God cannot make a promise that He cannot keep. **God cannot break His word and cannot be unfaithful.**

THE HEBREW TERMS DESCRIBING GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

There are three wonderful terms that are used in the Hebrew Bible to describe the faithfulness of God. One is the Hebrew word *“chesed”* (loving-kindness), which refers to God’s unending loyalty to the people He chose. According to Jewish tradition, the Lord went from place to place, and people to people, offering the commandments. They all declined for a variety of reasons. But when He came to the Jewish people, they said, “Yes—sounds good for a variety of reasons!” Most of them are quite humorous! However, we know that this was not the biblical story. When God wanted to bless the world, He created a miracle in Sarah’s womb, and a child (Isaac) that should not have been born, emerged.

The Jewish people are not simply the chosen people. The Jewish people are God’s especially-created people, created to be His bridge of redemption to a dark and broken world!

The next word is “*rachamim*” (compassion), which draws attention to God’s tender mercies. The word has the same root as the word for womb and implies a nurturing or motherly feeling. God’s compassion will never cease because it is His nature and covenant commitment to the Jewish people. He is loyal and never breaks a covenant. He is tender and compassionate, and finally Jeremiah says, “*For his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness*” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

The Hebrew word “*emunah*,” translated faithfulness, literally means “firmness” or “steadiness” or even “steadfastness.” Moses describes the character of God over and over again in the book of Exodus, and he mentions His faithfulness. In Deuteronomy 32:4, the Lawgiver sings, “*The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness (emunah) and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.*” Moses is an accomplished lyricist and expresses his understanding of God’s unending faithfulness in a glorious song of praise!

We see that God is faithful in bringing the Jewish people back to the land of Israel after 2,000 years of exile. In Ezekiel 36:24 we read, “*For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.*” The return of the Jewish people, and the establishment of the State of Israel seventy years ago, are further signs of God’s covenant faithfulness to His chosen people. God is faithful because He cannot be anything but—He is steadfast and firm in His commitments to the Jewish people and to each of us! And He will also keep His promise to turn the hearts of the Jewish people to Jesus the Messiah.

“For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved...” (Romans 11:25-26).

As sure as the Jewish people are back in the land, as sure as Yeshua died and rose from the grave, that’s how certain I am that one day the promise of Romans 11:25-26 will be fulfilled because **God is both a promise maker and promise keeper!**

I am looking forward to the many events we have planned to celebrate our 125th year of ministry. We are blessed with a great history because He is faithful. What began as a small seed is now in seventeen countries and dozens of cities in

North America, with more than one hundred staff members making the gospel known to the Jew first and also to the Gentile! We have a lot to celebrate! Let me tell you a few of the events we have planned:



BIBLE CONFERENCES:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Israel Today and Tomorrow / Irvine Marriott, March 29-30, with Joel Rosenberg and Chosen People Ministries staff.

MARYLAND COAST: The Glorious Future of Israel and Jewish Evangelism / Sandy Conference Ground, May 31- June 1, a family conference with something for everyone!

OUTREACH EVENTS:

Shalom NYC: July 27th - August 11th / Join a few hundred others reaching Jewish people with the gospel in New York City, home to two million Jewish people.

House of Living Waters: A new “gap year” outreach opportunity for young men who are between college

and graduate school, or about to start a career. Twelve months of living in the West Village of NYC, reaching NYU students with the gospel. (www.chosenpeople.com/houseoflivingwaters)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BIBLE CONFERENCE AT YOUR CHURCH:

Another great way to celebrate the 125th year of Chosen People Ministries is to schedule a weekend conference focused on Israel’s glorious future. For more information, please contact Eileen at ebaehr@chosenpeople.com.

Blessings, and I hope to see you involved with our 125th year activities as we celebrate God’s faithfulness to us and to His chosen people!

Your brother in the Messiah,


Mitch

P.S. Your generous support of Chosen People Ministries is needed! For your gift of \$125 or more we would be happy to send you a lovely medallion with our logo that you can display and which will remind you to pray for the salvation of the Jewish people.

Seeing God's Faithfulness in the Ordinary Life of Thomas Chisholm



THE HYMN

Many of us know the popular hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness." The chorus concludes with, "All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!" Unlike other hymns that were written under dire circumstances, like "It is Well With My Soul," which was written by Horatio Spafford after he lost his four daughters in a shipwreck¹, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" was written under humdrum circumstances.

We often look for signs of God's faithfulness, though we also often ascribe our own standards to what God's faithfulness should look like. To one it means getting a promotion, to another having the perfect marriage or family life, and to another having a wonderful house that impresses your friends. Or maybe faithfulness means a miraculous healing for you or a loved one, or freedom for a child who is struggling with addiction. While the Lord does indeed show up in many of these ways, it is not guaranteed that His faithfulness to us will appear in the exact way we would expect. Nevertheless, the Lord is always faithful to us and to His Word, which will always accomplish what He desires and never return to Him empty (Isaiah 55:11).

We do not need to be rescued from life-threatening danger or see God's miraculous provision in the direst of financial crises to truly know the faithfulness of the Lord. These are certainly blessings and dramatic illustrations of His goodness, but we should not rely on them as the only examples. God remains faithful day in and day out, even in the smallest and most mundane circumstances.

This was a lesson that the children of Israel had to learn. There were undoubtedly extraordinary examples of God's faithfulness, such as when He parted the waters during the Exodus or sent manna



GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Words by Thomas Chisholm
Music by William Runyan (1923)

PRELUDE ♩ = 99
DM7 Em A+9

Piano I

5 GM7 DM7 Esus4/A

9 Gdim/A GM7 F#m7sus4

13 Dm7/F D/F# A7(b9)+6 SWING ♩ = 148
Dm

17 Dm A7 Dm A7 Dm A7 Dm

from heaven. But God was also with them every day. His very presence was in their midst. The greatest sign of His faithfulness to Israel was His presence with them (Emmanuel—God with us), just as it is the greatest sign of His faithfulness to us. The greatest illustration of that faithfulness is His Son, Jesus.

Sometimes we get lost looking for miracles and lose sight of His everyday faithfulness. Thomas Chisholm did not lose family or friends to tragedy, nor did he champion a great cause. He was not a charismatic preacher with thousands of people flocking to his church on Sunday. Although Chisholm did serve in ministry, his poor health left him no choice but to retire after only one year. And yet, Chisholm recognized that no matter what his circumstances, God is still faithful, “morning by morning.” God is not only seen in the spectacular: “*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made...*” (Romans 1:20); but also in the mundane: “*Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them*” (Matthew 5:16). God is indeed great in His faithfulness.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE SCRIPTURES

The writer of Hebrews continues this idea when he writes, “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*” (Hebrews 11:1).

With Thanksgiving around the corner, we look at the early English settlers who hoped for something they did not see and relied on the faithfulness of God. During the previous winter, many had died of cold and hunger. Still, during the first Thanksgiving, we can imagine the pilgrims giving thanks to God in tears as they celebrated for the first time, continuing to hope. The Bible describes many people of faith: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah. “*All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they*

were strangers and exiles on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13). As much as this is a statement about the faith of these people, it is also a statement in the trust that they had in the faithfulness of God to fulfill what He promised.

The Apostle Paul had such a faith. In Philippians 4:12, he encourages the Philippians in the midst of his own trials: “*I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.*” Paul wrote these words from a jail cell, and he still trusted in the faithfulness of God.

When we see signs and wonders and dramatic examples of the Lord's faithfulness, it is easy to believe, trust, and hope. Sometimes when we hit rock bottom and lose everything (like Horatio Spafford did) we have no other place to look but up. When the dust settles from dramatic miracles or trials, when we get back into our routine, the things we hope for are not easily seen but are obscured by the cares and worries of daily life, and it becomes easy to forget that it is only by God's faithfulness that we have anything at all.

THE TRUSTWORTHY BLESSING OF GOD

There is a wonderful prayer from the Jewish prayer book that simply acknowledges that we are where we are today, wherever that happens to be, because of God's faithfulness. In English it says, “Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Who has kept us alive, and sustained us, and allowed us to reach this time (season).” This blessing, typically recited at special times and holidays, in recognition of God's faithfulness, could truly be recited *any* time, when we need a little reminder that God is with us.

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” has a similar theme and tone. While Thomas Chisholm may not have turned heads in his day, the reflections and meditations he wrote during his ordinary life outlived him and continue to encourage us even to this day, turning our eyes toward God and reminding us that God is always looking toward us. Having everyday faith in God is a sign of maturity and character—which God develops in us as He answers our prayers in His timing and the way He sees fit.

Jesus says in John 16:33, “*In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*” If we are to learn to trust Him based on His prior trustworthiness, this statement is all that we need. He *has* overcome the world, just as He promised. There is no reason to think that He will not continue to be faithful in all things.

Chisholm put it this way:

“Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above; join with all nature in manifold witness, to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.”

May you experience the joy of the Lord this Thanksgiving and have the strength to hope for that which remains unseen, rejoicing in the blessed assurance of the Lord, the author and finisher of your faith.

¹ “The American Colony in Jerusalem: Family Tragedy,” Library of Congress, accessed October 3 2018, <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/americancolony/amcolony-family.html>

Examples of Faith: The Patriarchs /Part 2/ Abraham and Sarah) — Hebrews 11:17-22



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

In this study, continuing the writer's use of the patriarchs as examples of faith, we come to a familiar portion that is very prevalent in the celebration of Feast of Trumpets, one of the fall festivals. In Hebrews 11:17, the writer opens with an amazing statement; "*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac,*" referring to Genesis 22, commonly called the *Akedah*, or Binding of Isaac. Abraham had waited twenty-five years since God's original promise to make him a great nation. Ishmael was born, and Abraham endured God's rejection of Ishmael as the son of the promise. Abraham is asked by God to take Isaac on a three-day journey to Mount Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering. What was going through Abraham's mind as he complied with God's request? It is not mentioned specifically in the original portion in Genesis 22, but the writer of Hebrews gives us that insight. He says in Hebrews 11:17-18, "*and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, In Isaac your descendants shall be called.*" Abraham, knowing that God promised to make him a great nation through Isaac, had faith that God would somehow find a way. The writer of Hebrews tells us in 11:19, "*He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead.*" Isaac, in these verses, is a type of Messiah—the parallels between Isaac and Yeshua are extraordinary.

The next three patriarchs, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, also have particular moments in their lives when their faith served as examples for us. Hebrews 11:20 says, "*By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.*" In

Genesis 27, Jacob had tricked Isaac into thinking he was Esau, his older brother. Isaac blessed Jacob with the blessing for the elder son, a blessing with predictive prophecy. Even though Isaac was tricked to bless the son he did not want to bless, and vice versa, by faith he knew that those blessings would ultimately come to pass.

Hebrews 11:21 says, "*By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.*" For more than twenty years Jacob believed that Joseph was dead. Now, after finding out that Joseph had become prime minister of Egypt and appointed by God to save and protect His people from a great plague, Jacob had the joy of pronouncing a blessing over Joseph and his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob predicted that the older would serve the younger, and though Joseph protested, Jacob, by faith, knew that this was true. As a result of his faith, Jacob even in his dying days was able to worship as he leaned on his staff.

Lastly, Hebrews 11:22 says, "*By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.*" Like his father Jacob and his grandfather Isaac, Joseph by faith made predictions of things he believed would come to pass. He knew that God had made promises to

Abraham regarding his descendants entering the Promised Land, and by faith Joseph knew that ultimately it would come to pass. And so his final words to his brothers were that they would eventually enter that promised land, and he made his brothers promise to bring his bones into that promised land, which they ultimately did.

Hebrews 11:17-22

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; ¹⁸it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called." ¹⁹He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back [c]as a type. ²⁰By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come. ²¹By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

FAITHFULNESS IN THE ISAIAH 53 CAMPAIGN

A few months ago, staff member Greg led the phone evangelism portion of our largest outreach in the United States, called **Shalom Brooklyn**. Brooklyn has about 800,000 Jewish people and Greg trained and supervised 25 volunteers who made 628 phone calls, and every phone call was directed to a non-believing Jewish person. Of the people who were reached, 57 were interested in receiving our book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*. On the last night of calling, Ron, one of the campaigners whom Greg recruited into Jewish ministry, led Sharon,* a Jewish woman, to the Lord. She had been seeking the truth and wanted to know more about God. Ron explained Isaiah 53 and God's love for her. That night she accepted Jesus into her heart as her Lord and Savior. She said a Christian friend had been talking to her about Jesus for a long time. So remember, you never know what might lead someone to the Lord. Keep sharing and God will be faithful to finish the work that He started.

FAITHFUL PRAYER YIELDS NEW MINISTRIES IN GERMANY

Our Chosen People Ministries team in Germany has been working and praying tirelessly for the last year to launch something that has been envisioned for at least fifteen years! We call it the "Messianic Jewish Theological Academy." It would be the very first Messianic Jewish school of theology in all of Europe! The vision is to equip the Messianic leaders in Europe and all those called to ministry among the Jewish people with theological and practical ministry training, as well as in-depth discipleship.



FAITHFUL TO SOFTEN HEARTS

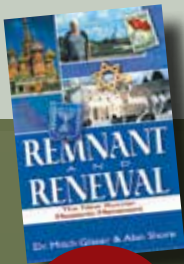
Staff member Robin, who serves in Israel, and some of the other Israel staff took twenty-five Holocaust survivors to Scandinavia during Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. There is something so special about having time together away from home, sharing life and laughter that allows for going deeper. Together they did some touring, lots of singing and games, and our staff shared the gospel. Robin has known these Holocaust survivors for many years. They have heard about Jesus and they participate in banquets and other events in Israel. Some of the people on the trip used to roll their eyes when anyone spoke of Jesus, but at this Rosh Hashanah service, they hung on every word that was shared. Robin had tears in her eyes as another staff member shared a compelling message of Jesus' love for them. It was clear many were moved. Robin also had the opportunity to share her testimony with the group, as did a Holocaust survivor who came to believe in Jesus. Robin says, "Thank you for your prayers that make it possible to be part of sharing the Messiah with these dear people. Please pray they come to know Jesus in a personal way. There are three people in the group here who have come to faith in the last few years, and they can't

stop sharing the joy God has brought into their lives."

FAITHFUL TO OPEN DOORS

Growing up in a liberal-traditional Jewish community, our staff member, Ari, was actively involved in Jewish youth groups and summer camps. At age 25, he accepted Yeshua (Jesus) as his Messiah. Unfortunately, most of his Jewish friends did not want to interact with him anymore because of his decision. About eight years ago, Ari attended a local Jewish holiday gathering and reconnected with Matt,* an old friend who is now the rabbi of a nearby synagogue. Matt had been previously reluctant to talk about Yeshua, but he was grateful when Ari reached out and supported him when his daughter was struggling with cancer. Ari also rejoiced with him when she recovered. Recently, Matt's mother passed away and he was sincerely thankful when Ari visited. They began to talk more comfortably together about God and spiritual matters. At the *shiva*, Ari saw about ten of his old friends from Jewish summer camp, including some who have been hostile toward him because of Yeshua. They were surprised, yet happy to see him there. A few of them were genuinely interested and had questions about his faith!

**names changed*



MESSIANIC RESOURCES

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Who are the Jewish people of the former Soviet Union and what is their relationship to the Gospel? **Remnant and Renewal: The New Russian Messianic Movement** tells the story of the Russian-speaking Jewish people and those who have sought to bring the Gospel to them with testimonies compiled by Dr. Mitch Glaser and Alan Shore.

SPECIAL 3-BOOK SET

Deepen your love for God's chosen people with these three books. **The People, the Land, and the Future of Israel** walks through the role of Israel and the Jewish people—both now and in the future—as seen in the Bible. It includes links to short videos by the authors. **Messiah in the Passover** is a reference book for Passover—its history, biblical references, and rabbinic traditions. It also includes a *Messianic Family Haggadah* (Passover guidebook) as well as recipes and children's lessons. This book will give you a deeper appreciation for the Passover celebration within the Jewish community and enable you to share the message of the Lamb of God through the Passover with your Jewish friends. **Israel, the Church, and the Middle East** is an objective and interdisciplinary treatment of the middle east conflict which is both irenic and respectful in tone. It explores the wider effects of the conflict, such as the growing antipathy within the church toward the evangelization of the Jewish people.



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You can tell them about Messiah!

Bless the Chosen People by giving a year-end gift

Make a final year-end contribution to Chosen People Ministries—and you will help multitudes of Jewish people to hear the truth about their Messiah, Yeshua, and probably receive an excellent tax benefit. Some strategic options for giving before December 31, 2018, to qualify for a tax-benefit this year:

1. If you are 70½ years of age or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 as a distribution from your IRA and not add a penny to your taxable income—and this also counts as part of your required minimum distribution. This benefit has now been made permanent by Congress.
2. If you have a Donor Advised Fund, this is a great time to have the joy of distributing grants from your fund and share the truth of Messiah with Jewish people who desperately need to know Him.
3. When you donate appreciated assets you have held for a year or more, you receive a charitable giving deduction for the fair market value of the asset, and perhaps avoid capital gains tax, too.

For more information on these or other options that build your legacy through Chosen People Ministries, contact Cindy Forbes today at 212-223-2252 or cforbes@chosenpeople.com.

Thank you!

Shalom

July 27 through August 11, 2019

NEW YORK

For more information, visit chosenpeople.com/shalomnewyork

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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