



THE
CHOSEN
PEOPLE

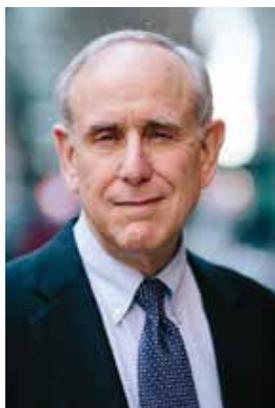
125
YEARS

Volume XXV, Issue 5
June 2019

THE IMPORTANCE OF JEWISH EVANGELISM
NOW MORE THAN EVER

THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR JEWISH EVANGELISM | EVANGELISM IN BROOKLYN | HEBREWS BIBLE STUDY

FROM THE PRESIDENT



THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR JEWISH EVANGELISM

Chosen People Ministries exists to pray for, evangelize, disciple, and serve the Jewish community everywhere, and help fellow believers do the same.

Dear friend in Messiah,

I hope that you are enjoying the beginning of your summer. The weather in New York City is beautiful! Our New York staff is working hard to prepare for 125 staff and volunteer evangelists who will be joining us for one of the most significant outreach campaigns ever conducted by Your Mission to the Jewish People—*Shalom New York*.

We will focus our efforts this summer on the greater New York area, which is home to more than two million Jewish people. New York has the largest concentration of Jewish people in the world, which is why I sometimes call it “Israel West”! This is why we have our International Headquarters in Manhattan and our training and seminary program in Brooklyn. It is also why we will take the last week of July and first week of August to passionately share the gospel with the Jewish people of New York City.

Your prayers for our preparation will be deeply appreciated. We have already initiated our digital media campaign, offering our evangelistic book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*, and the opportunity to sign a petition against antisemitism. We will be reaching folks in the New York area through intensified Facebook and YouTube ads, as well as promoting the more than eighty testimonies of Messianic Jews on our website, ifoundshalom.com.

Also, because we are developing such a great love and burden for the ultra-Orthodox Jewish people in this area, we are advertising the Yiddish version of the *Jesus* film (thanks to the generosity of Cru, formerly Campus Crusade for Christ). In a previous experiment, hundreds of Yiddish-speaking Jewish people watched a ten-minute portion of the video, where they clearly heard the gospel of our Lord Jesus in their very own language.

It is our plan to have our volunteers who are coming to New York City for this outreach

follow up with the Jewish people with whom we have made contact through these digital media campaigns.

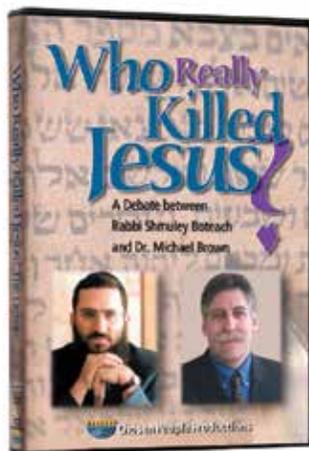
We are excited and looking forward to this time of preparation for our on-the-ground campaign, which will take place in parks, on the beaches, and in other public places. Staff and volunteers will be reaching out to Jewish people through book tables in Jewish areas, by handing out gospel tracts on the streets, as well as performing skits and music.

Two Major Outreach Events

We are planning two major events for which I ask your prayers. First, we will conduct a seminar called “The Value of the Old Testament Scriptures for 21st-Century Life.” We believe this will be of interest to both the Jewish and Christian communities. We have two great speakers: a professor from Kings College in New York City and another from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago. On Thursday night, August 8, 2019, we have scheduled a major debate in Manhattan between Dr. Michael Brown, a Messianic Jewish apologist, and Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, a well-known Orthodox rabbi.

We are going all out this summer, and what better way to celebrate our 125th anniversary than to reaffirm what Chosen People Ministries has been all about for more than a century! Our mission statement says it all: “Chosen People Ministries exists to pray for, evangelize, disciple, and serve the Jewish community everywhere, and help fellow believers do the same.”

Your brothers and sisters who serve with Chosen People Ministries in more than twenty cities in the United States and in sixteen other countries around the globe believe that Jewish evangelism is a special mandate from God. It can only be accomplished when men and women who love the Messiah work together for the salvation of God’s chosen people.



Chosen People Ministries hosted a debate with Rabbi Boteach and Dr. Brown in 2004

It is my hope that we are on the same page biblically, and that this will encourage your financial support of our efforts this summer. We hope that you will be motivated to share our ministry with friends from your Bible study, church, or congregation, as well. Perhaps they can also engage with Your Mission to the Jewish People in support of this great effort in New York City this summer.

Romans 1:16

So what does the Bible teach about Jewish evangelism? Clearly, one of the foundational passages, which we have explained before, is found in Romans 1:16. The Apostle Paul writes, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*”

This passage is easily understood, but not as easily applied. I am sure that Paul did not expect the Roman Christians to evangelize the Jewish people in their area first, and then once they were done, to begin working among the Gentiles. It is not a sequential mandate but rather a priority of heart Paul had in mind. Sharing the gospel with the Jewish people should be viewed as a priority, which he links to the second coming of Jesus. In effect, the apostle is telling us that we can all have a small part in bringing about the Lord’s return by sharing the gospel with the Jewish people. When God’s chosen people respond positively to Jesus, repent, and return to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by accepting the One who was pierced (Zechariah 12:10), then Jesus will return and establish His Messianic kingdom.

That is quite a plan! It motivates me to share the gospel with the Jewish people.

What about those of you who do not live in an area like I do, where you can easily walk out of the door and begin sharing the gospel with Jewish people? I think the message is clear that the priority is one of the heart, so that if you cannot share the gospel with Jewish people where you are, you can do everything you can to help those who are able to fulfill this mandate. So when you pray for us and support our ministry, it helps you fulfill the mandate in Romans 1:16. And further, Paul writes in Romans 11:11, “*I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.*”

The apostle teaches that Gentiles have a critical role in reaching Jewish people. Non-Jewish believers in Jesus are called to reach Jewish people for the Messiah with their faith, love, and transformed lives—which make Jewish people jealous—and also when possible through their proclamation. One of the reasons I am so excited about Shalom New York is because we will have Gentile believers from all across the United States and around the world joining us in New York City from July 27 through August 10 for the outreach! This will give many believers who are not usually able to share Jesus with Jewish people a great opportunity to reach God’s chosen people with the message of Jesus.

Romans 9–11

Another key portion of the book of Romans that reiterates this message is in chapters 9–11. I have already mentioned the teaching in Romans 11:25–29, which presents the connection between the second coming of Jesus and the end-time repentance of the Jewish people. It also reveals the need for Gentile believers to make Jewish people jealous with the gospel (Romans 11:11). But what will motivate us to do this on a very practical level? Let me share two more passages from Romans 9 and 10 that further develop the basis for Jewish evangelism in the Scriptures.

Paul speaks about his broken heart for the Jewish people in Romans 9:1–3:

I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh....

How could we possibly relate to the above verses when we have so little in common with Paul—a Messianic Jew himself who was willing to step into hell so that a Jewish person might enter heaven? When I think of a burden for the lost, especially for the Jewish people, this is the passage I have in mind that motivates me to give my life in service to the Lord for the sake of my Jewish people. This passage has been the very bedrock of Chosen People Ministries for the last 125 years.

Additionally, in Romans 10:1, Paul speaks about the desperate prayer from the depth of his heart: “*Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.*”

May I ask you to join the global staff and families involved with Chosen People Ministries by praying for the salvation of the Jewish people? Pray especially that Jewish people will come to know Jesus as their Messiah this summer as 125 evangelists share the good news with Jewish people from every walk of life. During Shalom New York, we will meet secular and religious Jewish people, as well as many from the former Soviet Union, Israeli expats, and students. We will also witness to many others who need to find the Lord!

Thank you so much for your faithfulness to the Jewish people and to Chosen People Ministries. We could not do the work God has called us to do without your partnership.

Blessings to you, and have a great summer! Please remember to pray for us as we reach out to this incredible number of Jewish people living in the greater New York area next month.

Your brother in the Messiah,



Mitch

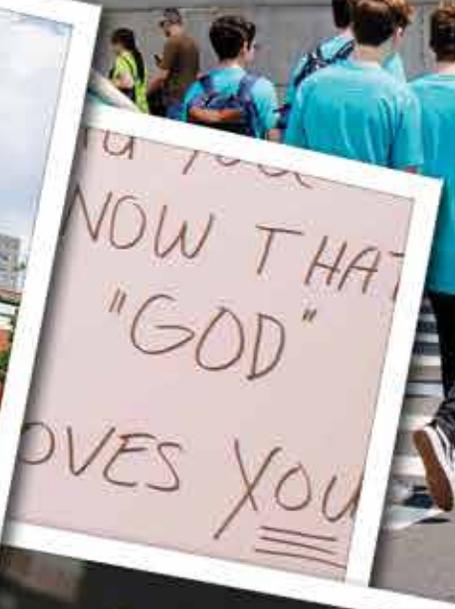


EVANGELISM IN BROOKLYN

Here are some key takeaways about Jewish evangelism from the writings of Paul in the Book of Romans, chapters 9–11.

Based upon these three chapters:

1. There is no way of salvation, for either Jew or Gentile, outside of accepting Jesus the Messiah. (Romans 10:1–4)
2. God will save a remnant of Jewish people in every age who will be faithful to His Word (Romans 11:5). The number of Jewish followers of God and of His Messiah will always be in the minority until the very end of the age.
3. God gave the Jewish people special revelation and advantage through His Torah, and therefore the Jewish people have a greater ability to know the truth of God and to faithfully follow the Old Testament Scriptures as a result. This should lead a sincere and faithful Jewish person to the feet of Jesus. (Romans 2:17–3:1)
4. Judgment for the Jewish people is on the basis of special revelation and a failure to live according to God's Word. (Romans 10:18–21)



- 5. The believing Gentiles have a critical role in Jewish evangelism. (Romans 11:11-15)
- 6. The turning of the Jewish people to Jesus is connected to His return. (Romans 11:25-26)
- 7. The future for Israel is bright, as God will keep His promises to Abraham and save His people, establish His kingdom in the land of promise, and reveal the Messiah to Israel. (Romans 11:28-29)





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.

Hebrews 12:4-11

OUR FATHER'S DISCIPLINE

Our previous Bible study ended with an admonition to the Jewish believers who were struggling with persecution: to consider all that Yeshua went through in order that they would “*not grow weary and lose heart.*” In Hebrew 12:4, the writer continues this thought by reminding them that regardless of how difficult things have become, “*You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.*” In spite of the challenges they were facing, those who were persecuting them were not yet torturing or killing them for their faith. Jesus died on that Roman cross, but these Hebrew believers had not yet faced death.

Now, in 12:5–6, the writer of Hebrews reminds them of the exhortation in Proverbs 3 regarding how to respond to persecution: as a discipline of the Lord. By quoting Proverbs 3:11–12, the writer asks these believers who are experiencing persecution to view their afflictions as evidence of their Heavenly Father’s love for them. Rather than “regarding lightly” His discipline or being discouraged when persecution comes, they should instead see it in a positive way and welcome it as assurance that they are the sons of God, “*For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.*”

It is very important to understand the difference between punishment and discipline. Punishment is a consequence for doing evil. God never punishes His children for their iniquities because all punishment for sin was carried by Jesus the Messiah on the cross. “*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 8:1).

So, if one is a true believer in Jesus, a child of God, they should never fear punishment from Him. Discipline, on the other hand, has the goal of training. It is intended to be an instructive device by which a child will be moved to conform to the standards of his father. It is the responsibility

of earthly fathers who love their children to discipline them, so God, as our Heavenly Father who loves us, disciplines us, His children.

The absence of any discipline would indicate that we are not sons of God, but in fact, “*illegitimate children.*” In the Roman world in which the Book of Hebrews was written, an illegitimate son had no rights of inheritance. Ishmael is the primary Old Testament example of an illegitimate child. He was the true child of Abraham. Yet because he was illegitimate—the son of Hagar not Sarah—he did not receive the ultimate inheritance that Isaac, the legitimate child, did. Ishmael certainly received some blessings because he was Abraham’s son, but he did not receive what would be the full inheritance that Isaac received. Considering that a main component of the Book of Hebrews is warning Jewish believers not to depart from the faith and go back to the Judaism of their day, those who are “illegitimate children” are those who eventually do fall into apostasy.

Beginning in Hebrews 12:9, the writer compares the discipline of earthly fathers and our Heavenly Father. He writes, “*Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them.*” A normal response to the discipline of our earthly father is to respect him because he is faithful to his responsibilities. The comparison of the two fathers makes the application obvious: “*Shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?*” With all their human frailties, our earthly fathers are respected when they discipline us. Our Heavenly Father, the Father of spirits “*disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.*” This should result in our desiring to be subject to Him. His discipline “*for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful,*” and results in those trained by it yielding “*the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*” Our Heavenly Father disciplines us so that we may mature and bear much fruit for the Lord and His kingdom.

HEBREWS 12:5-11 NASB

⁵...[This] exhortation ...is addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov[ed] by Him; ⁶ For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines,....”

¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Be as a Jew to the Jew

Recently, our Israel director, Michael, was with some friends from Chicago to discuss opportunities for new projects. They were eating breakfast at a local coffee shop and noticed a religious man sitting next to them. Suddenly, one of the Christian friends asked, looking at the religious man, "What constitutes a good standing with God from the viewpoint of a religious Jew?" Not even thinking twice, Michael redirected his question to the Orthodox man, and they were all absolutely amazed with his answers. First of all, he began his answer from a survey of Calvin and Luther's position on predestination and how it is different from that of Aquinas and Aristotle. Then he went straight to Augustine and compared him to the great religious Jewish thinker Rambam. Finally, he paraphrased the famous passage from the Scriptures that man should live by faith alone! They were absolutely shocked and then he asked the Christian guests, "After you have seen that I am very familiar with Christian writers, can you in turn tell me that you are familiar with Judaism?" Needless to say, they could not say yes. "So," he concluded, "is it not Paul who advised you to be as a Jew to the Jew?" God gave us a very good lesson that day! The religious people in Israel make up 25 percent of the population! Lately, we at Chosen People Ministries—Israel are working towards evangelism among Orthodox Jews, and it is impossible to do this without going deeper in understanding the life of these dear people!

Reaching Israelis Along the Path

Staff member Stephen writes, "The training we did in Nepal was definitely a unique opportunity!" Stephen was aware that the staff would train the guesthouse workers, but little did they know that their audience would also include a farmer, a mountain bike shop owner, a local pastor, and several others. Israelis regularly rent bikes from the mountain bike shop, and the pastor has conversations with Israelis in Kathmandu all the time. Israelis also love to volunteer on local farms. Stephen is confident that God will use each of these people in their current positions to reach Israelis. In addition to the training, one couple asked Stephen to show them how they could invite Israelis into their home to celebrate the Sabbath. Usually when Israelis are invited into a non-Jewish person's home to celebrate something Jewish, their first and most natural question is "Why are you doing this?" Israelis are definitely surprised when they hear the host say, "I am grateful for you because everything I have that is valuable to me came through the Jewish people: the Scriptures, the knowledge of God, and the Messiah Jesus." What an amazing way for non-Jewish believers to make Jewish people jealous for the Messiah of Israel! (Romans 11:11)

"STAND STILL!"

Joseph Hoffman Cohn, Editor

A young Jewish lady recently arrived from Palestine asked us what we were doing for Palestine. I told her that we were praying for the Holy Land. The young lady replied that we ought to do something about the problem. I reminded her that when our forefathers came to the Red Sea and their enemies were behind them, the message came to them, "Fear not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." This Jewess told us of the fighting in that land, and we told her that the Lord Himself would restore our people to the land, in His own time and way. Our meetings here have also been amazingly well attended. Recently we had our monthly fellowship meeting of Christian Jews. I wish you could hear these born again Jews sing the hymns and give words of personal testimony.

The Chosen People

Passover Seder Leads Jewish Woman to Faith

The Lord had staff member Dennis in the right place at the right time. He writes, "On the Wednesday before Passover and Easter, I led a Passover Seder in Maryland. Attending was a young Jewish woman who had been best friends with the pastor's daughter since 4th grade. Lately, she had been asking the pastor questions about faith and when he invited her to the seder, she accepted.

Well, God gave me just the right words to say that night and at the end of the evening, as I asked if anyone wanted to paint the blood of the Passover Lamb on the entrance way to their heart. She accepted the Lord and His precious gift of life and came to faith.

The following Sunday, Easter Sunday, she was baptized at that church, and I had the blessing of attending!

God is so very good!"



ISRAEL'S *Glorious Future*

W I S C O N S I N

October 11-13, 2019

Lake Lawn Resort / Delavan, Wisconsin

Plan to attend our **Midwest Messianic retreat** and celebrate our anniversary. Our speakers include Dr. Walter Kaiser, President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Old Testament and Ethics at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Dr. Mitch Glaser, President of Chosen People Ministries, and Rev. John Bell, former pastor of Grace Pointe Church in Naperville and Plainfield, Illinois.

Register online at

chosenpeople.com/igfmidwest



125 YEARS

HERITAGE TOUR AND GALA November 13-15 • NEW YORK CITY

Please plan to join us on the heritage tour as we explore Jewish sites in New York City with a special focus on places that are especially meaningful to the history of Chosen People Ministries. Visit chosenpeople.com/heritagetour for more information.

We are now taking reservations for our 125th-anniversary celebration banquet at the Prospect Hall in Brooklyn. We will have a very special speaker who we will announce later, along with music, worship, and testimonies by the Chosen People Ministries staff. For more information, or to register, please visit chosenpeople.com/125banquet.



How to share the message of Messiah with Jewish people — *and receive a great tax advantage, too!*

Your partnership with Chosen People Ministries today can help multitudes of Jewish people to hear the truth about their Messiah, Yeshua...and you can also receive a tax advantage because of your generosity. Some options for effective and tax-wise giving:

1. If you are 70-1/2 years of age or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 as a distribution from your IRA this year and not add a penny to your taxable income — and this also counts as part of your required minimum distribution.
2. When you donate appreciated assets, like stocks or property that you have held for a year or more, you receive a charitable giving deduction for the fair market value of the asset, and often avoid capital gains tax, too.

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

Do you have questions about the meaning of life and spirituality? Maybe it is time to go right to the source and rethink your relationship with the Creator? *Isaiah 53 Explained* makes the story of the Bible understandable, practically and simply explaining how you can have a soul-satisfying relationship with God and revealing the surprising key that makes this relationship possible.

Isaiah 53 Explained.....\$12.95

For many people, an outreach to Jewish friends and neighbors is undertaken with trepidation and uncertainty born out of ignorance and misinformation. It's our hope that this manual will help you to erase those misunderstandings and guide those who really desire to reach Jewish people with the message of salvation. The blessings that await you as you share your faith with your Jewish friends will return to you a hundred fold.

How to Introduce Your Jewish Friends to the Messiah.....\$9.95

SPECIAL! Buy both books for only \$15.00



MESSIANIC RESOURCES

For phone orders call 800-333-4936 in the U.S. For more resources, visit us online at chosenpeople.com/store.

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

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