

# THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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# AFGHANISTAN AND THE STORY OF PURIM

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# SPECIAL REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN



Dear praying friends,

The withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan last year brought conflicts to the surface that surprised most of us! We thought we had made more progress in our relationship with the Afghan people, but to our disappointment, we had not. Tribalism, radical Islam, and anti-Western sympathies were boiling below the surface of this nation of almost forty million people. The Taliban was waiting patiently for the United States to leave to make their next move and take over the country, which is similar to what happened in Iran some years previously. We once again learned not to underestimate the power of radical Islam over its adherents. Indeed, the only force powerful enough to break the hold of fierce Islamist belief and nationalism is the gospel.

Americans realized this disturbing reality for the first time in 2001 when four hijacked planes undertook a deadly mission to terrorize our country. Last fall, we honored the heroes and the fallen at our Chosen People Ministries-sponsored event in New York City, **9/11 and the New Middle East**. I hope you will take some time to view the conference, which is available on our website, [911theconference.com](http://911theconference.com).

## Afghanistan in the Bible

People often ask me if the United States appears in the end times. I do not see any special mention of our nation in biblical prophecy. However, some of the more general statements about the absence of godliness in the last days and the events Jesus predicted in the Olivet Discourse apply to all people—especially the moral and spiritual decline intensifying as we approach the Second Coming. I am sorry to say we see this in our own country. One would have to don blinders not to see how our world is once again embracing the lifestyles prevalent during the days of Noah, which God’s judgment ultimately submerged.

We can also ask this same question about Afghanistan. Is this nation mentioned in the Bible, and what does the future hold for

Afghanistan according to the Scriptures? Regarding this topic, we have more to say than we do about our own country, as Afghanistan is mentioned most intriguingly in the Bible and is part of a critical story describing Israel’s survival.

Afghanistan was part of the Persian Empire from the sixth century to the fourth century BC, although the Bible does not use the proper name for the modern nation. However, you can quickly identify the geographic region when you understand the geography and alignment of countries in the ancient world.

For example, Daniel’s vision in Daniel 2:31–45 predicts the Babylonian and Medo-Persian domination of Israel, ultimately giving way to Greece and Rome—a prophecy detailed in chapters two, ten, and eleven. Eventually, all these powerful ancient kingdoms who were hostile to the Jewish people, along with one future pagan nation, will be crushed by the stone cut without hands as Daniel predicted:

*In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy. (Daniel 2:44–45)*

Ultimately, all human governments, including Persia and Afghanistan, are temporary and will fall in weakness and humility at the feet of the One and only true Creator and King!

## Afghanistan and the Persian Empire

This month, we are thinking quite a bit about Persia as we observe the Jewish

### A TIMELINE FOR JEWISH PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN

<b>586 BC</b> Judah's captivity in Babylon	<b>538 BC</b> Cyrus of Persia decrees return of the Jews	<b>521 BC</b> Darius I becomes king of Persia	<b>474 BC</b> Haman's decree to kill all the Jews	<b>1080</b> 40,000 Jews living in Afghanistan	<b>1180</b> 80,000 Jews living in Afghanistan	<b>1222</b> Mongol invasion devastated the Afghan Jewish Community	<b>1839</b> Persian Jews fled Iran and settled in Afghanistan	<b>1870</b> Pogroms against Jews in Afghanistan	<b>1880</b> Britain and the bounda Afg
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holiday of Purim that was initiated in the book of Esther. Most Bible students know that the Persian Empire played a significant role in the history of Israel and appears many times in the Hebrew Scriptures. Persia is mentioned 240 times in the Bible. The great Persian kings, including Cyrus, Darius, and Ahasuerus (Artaxerxes), are identified many times as well.<sup>1</sup>



Map of the Persian Empire at its height under Darius I when the Jewish nation was in captivity, with an overlay of modern day Afghanistan and Israel (Wikipedia).

However, what is not usually known is that the area comprising modern Afghanistan was part of the Persian Empire for centuries during a critical period of the biblical story. Though Iran and Afghanistan are two distinct and unique modern nations, a few remaining historical ties still unite both countries. For example, the Persian dialect of Dari is one of Afghanistan’s official languages. Also, many Afghan people speak Farsi and celebrate the Persian New Year.

### The Achaemenid Persian Empire (550–330 BC)

The period when the region encompassing modern Afghanistan was part of the great Persian Empire spanned two hundred years—from the ascension of Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) in 550 BC until Alexander the Great conquered Persia in 330 BC. After Alexander’s death, the conquered kingdoms of the Macedonian leader were divided into four sections.

Most ancient historians would agree with this statement by the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art regarding the scope of Alexander’s Empire: “The Achaemenid Persian empire was the largest that the ancient world had seen, extending from Anatolia and Egypt across western Asia to northern India and Central Asia.”<sup>2</sup>

Cyrus, the “anointed ruler,” created a vast empire including Israel and Afghanistan. The prophet Isaiah predicted his rise to power almost 150 years before he became king: “Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him and to loose the loins of kings; to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut” (Isa 45:1).

Cyrus the Great played a critical role in restoring Jerusalem as Jeremiah predicted (Jer 25:11, 29:10), and Daniel confirmed (Dan 9:24–27). He gave Zerubbabel permission to return from exile and rebuild the Temple (2 Chronicles 36:20–23; Ezra 1:1–11; Isaiah 44:28; 45:1–7). This move was consistent with Cyrus’ view on ruling disparate cultures with varying religious beliefs. He allowed diversity, unlike other ancient rulers. The Lord used Cyrus’ philosophy of inclusion and cultural expression for the good of the Israelites, whom the Babylonians had conquered. The

Babylonians also destroyed the Temple, took many Israelites into exile, and forced them to adopt Babylonian religious practices, as the book of Daniel describes.

Esther might be the most significant book of the Bible written during this period of the great Persian Empire.

In Esther 1:1, the author details the geographic expanse of Ahasuerus’ kingdom. “Now it took place in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces.”

Ahasuerus was mentioned in Ezra 4:6 because he ruled during this period, “Now in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.” The context is that Israel’s local enemies were trying to stop the rebuilding of the Temple and were antagonizing Israel’s rebuilders from the reign of Cyrus until the reign of Darius (Ezra 4:4–5).

From the boundaries mentioned in Esther, the identification of Ahasuerus (thought to be Xerxes, 485–465 BC), and the extent of his kingdom, the events of the book of Esther took place during the reign of this Persian king. Therefore, the nation of modern Afghanistan was a part of the extended Persian Empire.

So, when we think about biblical Afghanistan, we should consider that whatever we read of Persia is also true of what is now Afghanistan. Unlike Isaiah’s specific prophecies regarding Assyria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Babylon (modern Iraq), Arabia, Edom, Philistia, the city of Damascus, and other identifiable nations or geographic areas, whatever the Bible tells us about Persia should include the country Afghanistan.

As a result, we learn quite a bit about the future of Persia and Afghanistan.

### Lessons for Today for Afghanistan

As we know from the text, Haman tried to destroy the Jewish people and failed! As a result, the Jewish people were allowed to punish their enemies in Susa, the capital, and throughout the provinces of Persia, which would have included lands that are part of today’s modern Afghanistan.

Esther chapter nine mentions the results of Haman’s failure: “Thus the Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying; and they did what they pleased to those who hated them” (Esth 9:5). Additionally, the Jewish people killed 75,000 of their enemies throughout the provinces: “Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king’s provinces assembled, to defend their lives and rid themselves of their enemies, and kill

<b>1900-1901</b>	<b>August 19, 1919</b>	<b>1927</b>	<b>1933</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2021</b>
Russia establish provinces of modern Afghanistan	Treaty of Rawalpindi (Afghan Independence Day)	Jewish population was about 5,000	Jews banished from all but 3 cities and forced to pay special taxes	Ban on Jewish emigration lifted/most leave Afghanistan	Jewish population was about 300	Soviet invasion/ more Jews emigrate	Jewish population in Afghanistan was 10	Last Jew leaves Afghanistan

75,000 of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder” (Esth 9:16).

By God’s grace, the Jewish people and the promises of God remained alive because the Lord Himself intervened to save His people. As promised in the Abrahamic Covenant, those who cursed the Jewish people were cursed. The entire book of Esther should be viewed as the unfolding of God’s covenant with Abraham and His promises to bless those who bless Israel and to curse those who curse her. His plan to bless the world through the Jewish people was far from over at the time of Esther. The Bible was still to be completed, the Messiah was to come, and the future repentance of Israel that would initiate the Second Coming were all ahead. Therefore, no one could have destroyed the Jewish people (Zechariah 12:10; Matthew 23:37–39; Romans 11:25ff.).

## 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 worldwide. We understand that all forms of Islamic extremism seek the destruction of Israel. Indeed, almost every manifestation of Islam opposes the existence of the modern State of Israel, though various brands of Islam express this antipathy in different ways. Some are more violent than others. We see Hezbollah and Hamas nestled on the very borders of Israel, perched and ready to attack when they are able. This everyday threat is difficult for Israel and the Jewish people. In these instances, the threat to the Jewish people is more than a person—a modern-day Haman—it is in the ideology, nationalism, and religious fervor of many throughout the Middle East.

We hope and pray that the new Afghanistan will not tolerate terrorism against the West and Israel the way they have in the past. Indeed, those who perpetrated the events of 9/11 twenty years ago found safe harbor in Afghanistan.

According to an article that the website Breaking Defense published in the wake of the American withdrawal from Afghanistan:

*Israeli officials are nervously watching the situation in Afghanistan, believing that the collapse of the government over the weekend will enable Al-Qaida to renew its efforts to perform terror attacks against both American and Israeli targets around the world. Defense sources here say that the feeling among the Taliban and Al-Qaida is that after defeating the US in Afghanistan, the “gate is wide open” to launch terror attacks from inside Afghanistan. One source added that the US should get ready [for] Al-Qaida [to] attempt to perform terror acts against American “interests” in the very near future. “There is no doubt that Al-Qaida will take advantage of the situation in Afghanistan to recruit more people and plan terror attacks” one of the sources said . . . “The situation is bad, very bad,” [Mordechai Kedar, a senior Israeli analyst on Islamic issues] said, adding that while Iran and the Taliban are not allies, certain Islamic groups in both countries may find common ground in targeting non-Islamic nations.<sup>3</sup>*

The rise of global antisemitism has begun to permeate our society and is often subtly wrapped in the guise of anti-Israelism. We see this virulent form of anti-Jewish behavior growing more prevalent on our campuses today. Unfortunately, an anti-Israel position is usually wed to an anti-Jewish sentiment in today’s world.

As followers of Jesus the Jewish Messiah, we should be sympathetic to the Jewish cause. Historically, most faithful Christians have been pro-Israel and pro-Jewish without being anti-*anyone* else. But today, the *winds of change* are in the air. Therefore, re-reading what the Bible says about Israel and the Jewish people is essential. Unfortunately, we see a growing disinterest in Israel within the church today that concerns us.

## God Is Faithful to His Promises

The promises in Jeremiah 31:35–38 rest upon the foundational passage in Genesis in which God promised Abram that He would bless those who bless the Jewish people and curse those who curse the Jewish people and that through them He would bring blessings to the entire earth (Gen 12:3). God created the Jewish people to be a bridge of blessings and revelation to the nations.

The Lord will not allow anyone to destroy His chosen people—the Jewish people. He promised that the land of Israel would belong to the descendants of Jacob, and we can expect God to keep His promises and bring “curses” upon those that seek the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people.

## The Future of Afghanistan

Afghanistan’s future is in the hands of new leadership. We know that individuals and nations who mistreat the Jewish people are touching the apple of God’s eye. Unfortunately, there is a price to pay for this behavior. Attacks against Israel and the Jewish people will one day be met with God’s judgment. The book of Esther and the price Haman and his followers paid stand as witnesses through the ages of God’s desire to protect His chosen people.

Modern-day Iran has been hostile to modern Israel—we hope and pray that the new Afghanistan will not follow suit. Perhaps the example of Cyrus will inspire the leaders of both Iran and Afghanistan to cherish the freedom of religion once again and establish policies that show respect for the vast differences among their citizenry. It would be an excellent beginning for peace that we know only a relationship with the Prince of Peace, Jesus, can fully satisfy! Until then, we follow the words of the Prince of Peace, who said, “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God*” (Matthew 5:9).

Peace begins with prayer! It now appears that the *new Middle East* will not be as friendly to the nation of Israel as we previously hoped, as it is still only a minority of Arab nations that have joined in the Abraham Accords. Therefore, we must pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6) and for God’s *shalom* to reign in Afghanistan, Iran, and throughout the new Middle East. Let us also pray for our troops and their families, the Afghan people who are suffering under the Taliban, and the nation of Israel.

Yours in our Messiah,

  
Mitch

1 Our Daily Bread, “Iran in the Bible: The Forgotten Story,” January 24, 2020, documentary, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mURWJfSp87k>. This excellent video on the biblical history of Persia is worth viewing.

2 Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, “The Achaemenid Persian Empire (550-330 BC),” October 2004, under “Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History,” [https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/acha/hd\\_acha.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/acha/hd_acha.htm) [accessed August 30, 2021].

3 Arie Egozi, “Israel Braces for Renewed Terrorism Coming from Taliban-Led Afghanistan,” Breaking Defense, August 16, 2021, under “Global,” <https://breakingdefense.com/2021/08/israel-braces-for-renewed-terrorism-coming-from-taliban-led-afghanistan/> [accessed August 30, 2021].

# THE LAST JEW OF AFGHANISTAN

by Efraim Goldstein, DMin

After twenty years of conflict, US forces pulled out of Afghanistan amidst much turmoil and criticism. The debates and discussions that preceded the American withdrawal continued even after the last planes left Kabul in August 2021. Regardless of how the American public and world opinion view the impact the United States had in Afghanistan, the past twenty years will be just a footnote in the history of that beleaguered land. Still, many soldiers, humanitarian workers, and missionaries claim, “The last twenty years gave the Afghans opportunities for education, personal growth, and faith that they never had previously.”

One devoted American soldier who did three tours of duty in Afghanistan said, “It was worth it for those whose lives were significantly improved for twenty years.”

“At the gateway between Asia and Europe, this land was conquered by Darius I of Babylonia circa 500 BC, and Alexander the Great of Macedonia in 329 BC.”<sup>4</sup> Throughout the centuries, one empire after another conquered this land and then abruptly left. Along with the invasions came refugees, merchants, and stragglers. Many of these travelers made Afghanistan their home while the others just passed through.

Among the peoples who settled in Afghanistan were Jewish sojourners from Persia. According to some sources, the Jewish population reached as high as 40,000–80,000 people between AD 1000 and AD 1100. Many of these Jews settled in the Afghan cities of Herut and Kabul.<sup>5</sup>

There is evidence of Jewish commercial activity on the Silk Road that runs from the Far East through the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Many of the Persian Jews were fleeing the invading Muslims and the forced conversions of the seventh and eighth centuries. At the time, Afghanistan seemed to be a haven of safety with opportunities for commerce. There are actual records attesting to a Jewish presence in Afghanistan dating back to the tenth century AD.<sup>6</sup>

By the eighth century, the Muslim conquerors began to establish their authority in Afghanistan. Within a relatively short time span of 160 years, Islam was established in Afghanistan.<sup>7</sup> Basically, as long as Afghanistan has been a Muslim nation, a Jewish community has been present.

The ability of the diaspora Jewish community to exist and even thrive in Muslim countries was not unique. Over the centuries and throughout the Muslim world, Jewish people maintained their identities and practices as Jews. There is a resilience and determination that Jews in the Diaspora have demonstrated over the centuries.

Being able to evade the wrath and scorn of the local Islamic rulers was the key. The role of the Jewish people in these societies was possible because they were among those granted the status of *dhimmis*, a “protected” minority. As *dhimmis*, the Jews were declared second-class citizens and were able to maintain their place in society as artisans, tradesmen, and merchants.<sup>8</sup>

There were periods of time when the Jewish communities would face fierce opposition from a tyrannical ruler and religious per-

secution. There were forced conversions to Islam, but many of these Jewish converts maintained aspects of Jewish culture and even Jewish names. According to the Jewish Virtual Library, “Dozens of Pashtun names and customs sound Jewish, from the Pashtun tribe names of Asheri and Naftali to the Pashtun custom of a wedding *chuppah* and the circumcising of the sons on the eighth day after birth.”<sup>9</sup>

With the advent of European colonialism into Afghanistan, the nature of society began to change. Some of the Jewish communities began to relocate to other regions. Then, in 1948, with the establishment of the State of Israel, most of the Jewish people left Afghanistan and other Muslim-dominated countries. However, there were handfuls of Jewish people who were deeply entrenched and refused to leave Afghanistan. Their roots in Afghanistan were deep, and they adapted to the changes in society. This pattern of individuals staying in place and refusing to leave was also evident in Iran, Iraq, Egypt, and Morocco.

In Afghanistan, the last Jewish person to leave was Zebulon Simentov, who emigrated with twenty-nine of his neighbors. This remnant of Jews in Kabul typified the lifestyle and commitment of diaspora Jews to their homeland. So much of their culture and way of life was inseparable from who they were. They were not merely Jews in a foreign land—they were Afghans who were Jewish.

They had remained and only left Kabul with the last remnants of American forces in September 2021. Zebulon Simentov had to be convinced to leave by Moti Kahana, an Israeli-American businessman. Kahana organized the evacuation with the assistance of the United States and its allies.<sup>10</sup>

Last September, Zebulon Simentov and the other Jews who left with him experienced their first high holidays in another land, thus ending more than a millennia of Jewish life in Afghanistan. While this might be just another footnote in Afghanistan’s history, it concludes a significant chapter in the Jewish book of survival.

Once again, we see another example of God’s faithfulness to His chosen people throughout the ages!



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In September 2021, Zebulon Simentov was the last Jew to leave Afghanistan.

4 “A Historical Timeline of Afghanistan,” PBS NewsHour, last modified May 4, 2011, accessed September 29, 2021, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/asia-jan-june11-timeline-afghanistan>.

5 Aaron Feigenbaum, “The Jewish History of Afghanistan,” Aish.Com, accessed September 29, 2021, <https://www.aish.com/jw/s/The-Jewish-History-of-Afghanistan.html>.

6 Feigenbaum, “The Jewish History of Afghanistan.”

7 Arezou Azad, “The Beginnings of Islam in Afghanistan: Conquest, Acculturation, and Islamization,” in *Afghanistan’s Islam: From Conversion to the Taliban*, ed. Nile Green (Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2017), 42.

8 Laurence I. Loeb, “Jews of Iran,” Encyclopedia.Com, accessed September 29, 2021, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/jews-iran>.

9 Alden Oreck, “Afghanistan Virtual Jewish History Tour,” Jewish Virtual Library, accessed September 29, 2021, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/afghanistan-virtual-jewish-history-tour>.

10 “Afghanistan’s Last Jew Leaves After Taliban Takeover,” *Haaretz*, September 8, 2021, accessed September 29, 2021, <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/asia-and-australia/afghanistan-s-last-jew-leaves-after-taliban-takeover-1.10191647>.

## MICAH: The Sin of the False Prophets

In our previous study, we looked at how the prophet Micah announces woe upon the people of Judah, a promise of severe consequences for their sin. In response to his faithful preaching of God's word to the people, Micah hears the false prophets telling the people what they want to hear (Mic 2:6). The people of Judah chose to believe that there would be no consequences for their sinful behavior, which was contrary to what Micah was prophesying. Like ostriches with their heads buried in the sand, they foolishly questioned whether God could ever be angry with His people or that God would ever do such things. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that a father often shows his love for his children by disciplining them (Heb 13:5–6).

In Micah 2:7, the prophet warns his audience that the false prophets were inaccurately telling them that God would be patient with them. They believed that judgment was not God's way of dealing with them: *"Is it being said, O house of Jacob: 'Is the Spirit of the Lord impatient? Are these His doings?'"* The false prophets felt that it was inconsistent to say that the Lord would allow His people to experience disaster since He had committed Himself to them. So instead, they offered a completely positive message, focused on what they believed the people wanted to hear from their prophets. They failed to remind the people that God had also promised to punish them in the Torah (Deuteronomy 28) if they departed from His covenant.

In the latter half of the same verse (Mic 2:7), Micah affirms that God would indeed bless those who do right: *"Do not My words do good to the one walking uprightly?"* The people should not blame the continuing disgrace of the nation on Micah and his fellow prophets' prophecies. The Scriptures teach that God provides blessing when His people obey Him and discipline when they disobey. Micah's prophecies were not responsible for Israel's dire situation; instead, as Micah has already elaborated, it stemmed from the people's disobedience.

Micah 2:8 insinuates that the false prophets treat their fellow Israelites as their enemies because they fail to warn Israel of coming judgment: *"Recently My people have arisen as an enemy."* In the latter part of 2:8, Micah lists more sins practiced by the wealthy in Judah, adding to what he had already spoken of earlier in chapter two. They had taken the clothing of their fellow Israelites as payment for their debts, something the Torah strictly forbids (Exodus 22:26). Disgracefully, they did this to "unsuspecting" travelers passing through their land and to soldiers who had recently "returned from war."

Micah continues in 2:9 with his indictment against the people: *"The women of My people you evict, each*

*one from her pleasant house. From her children you take My splendor forever."* The wealthy Israelites had separated families by exacting payment from the dependent widows of Israel, and they could no longer afford to live in their own houses. Their conduct also affected the children because they would ultimately have to live out their lives in a foreign land as exiles.

Lastly, in 2:10–11, Micah commands these rich oppressors and false prophets to depart from the land: *"Arise and go, for this is no place of rest because of the uncleanness that brings on destruction, a painful destruction."* These false prophets were wrong to be at rest in Israel when it had become an unclean and defiled place because of the people's sinfulness.

Micah laments the Israelites' eagerness to receive the words of the false prophets—to the point that if one of them promised free-flowing alcohol, they would follow him! These false prophets who preached greater affluence and prosperity had a receptive audience, while in contrast, Micah's message of repentance from sin was widely unpopular with the people.



Ancient olive press



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# MINISTRY NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE



## ISRAELI BAKER ASKS FOR PRAYER

Recently, one of our missionaries in Israel walked into a bakery where she immediately saw a young man who worked in the shop stumbling around with blood dripping from his face! She knew the man since she had shared bits and pieces about God's love and Yeshua with him in the past. He had hit his head on a marble counter quite hard and was alone. He could not even focus his eyes. Our staff member stayed with him while a doctor and family members were contacted. As the doctor tended to him, our missionary watched the shop for him. Then, the shop employee was taken to the hospital. The next day, our staff member popped into the bakery to see how he was. He was back at work, though still dizzy and in some pain. He had a concussion. In past conversations on God and religion, he would never say anything but simply smile. On this day, however, he said, *"So I think God had you stop in to help me. I might have passed out and laid here alone. Thanks for staying with me. I'm not sure what or if I believe, but I would like you to pray for me because I know you do have some connection up there."* Please pray this will be the beginning of much deeper spiritual conversations with this man and that he would see that Yeshua loves and wants to have that connection with him, too!

## JEWISH MAN ASSISTS IN A CRISIS AND HEARS THE GOSPEL

In the middle of the cold winter weeks, our missionary's car was vandalized. A Jewish friend asked her son to give our staff member a ride. While riding together, the young Jewish man had many questions, and our staff member answered all his questions about eternity, sin, and the meaning of life. Truly, all things "work together for the good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28). Our missionary thanked the Lord for the damage to the car—otherwise, she would not have been able to meet and share the gospel with this young Jewish man! Pray for him to find salvation—he is not far!

But this is not the end of the story. The damage to the car was assessed as complex and expensive. Our missionary sent a prayer request to friends and family. In the end, a friend who is a professional mechanic fixed the car within a few days. He was able to get the parts for a reasonable price and did all the work for FREE! Praise the Lord!

## JEWISH WOMAN ACCEPTS THE LORD AT A MESSIANIC CONGREGATION

After a recent service at a messianic congregation, the Lord spoke to our staff member's heart about a not-yet-believing Jewish lady who attends the congregation regularly. There have been several conversations with her in the past, but this day seemed very different. No one was aware how special it would be. Our staff member spoke with this lady about some pressing issues. He then asked her if she believed in Yeshua. She hesitantly answered, "Yes." Since she did not seem to be sure of her answer, after some more discussion, he asked her if she would consider accepting Yeshua. She responded, "Yes," with joy on her face and in her heart. After a short prayer, the perfect *shalom* of Yeshua filled their hearts as they rejoiced together! What an amazing Sabbath it was!

## PRAYER REUNITES TWO JEWISH FRIENDS AFTER FORTY YEARS

One of our missionaries reconnected with an old Jewish friend after *forty years!*

After coming to faith back in 1976, one of our staff members became burdened for three of her close Jewish friends from junior high and high school with whom she had lost touch before becoming a believer. Despite advances in technology, she had not been able to find them, but she has prayed for them unceasingly over the years.

Several weeks ago, one of those friends found our missionary's number and left her a voicemail saying she had been searching for her for forty years and asked to please call her back.

Her message brought tears of thankfulness to God because our staff member had recently sought the Lord on this friend's behalf, asking Him to protect her wherever she was and even *to send someone to tell her about Yeshua*. She had not expected the someone to be her! What a clear answer to prayer! Our missionary prayed and called her friend back right away.

They connected as though the years had not intervened. After joyfully reminiscing for an hour, the friend asked what our staff member had been up to all these years. She told her about the monumental change that had taken place in her life so many years ago, faith in Messiah, and her work with Chosen People Ministries. The friend listened, not arguing or judging, and reiterating how thrilled she was to reconnect. The two high school friends now stay closely in touch. Pray for them as our staff member helps her friend also get in touch with the Lord!

# Get Ready for Passover!

Our Passover set from Israel has a Seder plate, matzah tosh, kiddush cup, *Messianic Haggadah* and a Leader's Manual. The matzah tosh (matzah cover) is a pouch with three compartments—each holds a piece of unleavened bread (matzah), a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature. The Seder plate helps tell the story of the exodus and points to our Messiah. The kiddush cup symbolizes the blood of the sacrificed Passover lamb, or the Lamb of God. It is filled four times during the Passover meal as the story of God's redeeming work among His people Israel is told. Each item can also be purchased individually.

*Passover Seder Set (5 Pieces)* • **PRICE: \$78.95<sup>US</sup>**

*How to Prepare for a Passover Dinner* includes directions, helpful hints, and suggested menus, as it shows the reader step-by-step how to set up and cook a full Passover Seder dinner.

*How to Prepare for a Passover Dinner* • **PRICE: \$6.95<sup>US</sup>**



*The Gospel in the Passover* is a condensed version of *Messiah in the Passover* written for those who want to explore the traditions of the Passover and deepen their understanding of the links between Passover, the Last Supper, and Communion.

*The Gospel in the Passover* • **PRICE: \$14.95<sup>US</sup>**

Order using the enclosed card or call 1-888-2-YESHUA in the US.

For more resources, visit us online at [store.chosenpeople.com](http://store.chosenpeople.com).

## Create Your Estate Plan Today

Your vital partnership with Chosen People Ministries results in blessings for Jewish people around the world. You are helping to:

- Share the good news of Messiah
- Prepare the next generation of leaders for Jewish ministry
- Advocate for Israel and against antisemitism
- Provide for needy Jewish people, including elderly Holocaust survivors
- And so much more!

Your legacy gifts, established through an Estate Plan, build upon this historic foundation, and will have an eternal impact for God's chosen people.

### Benefits of an Estate Plan . . .

- The confidence of knowing your wishes are clearly expressed through your will
- The joy of the Lord in sharing the material blessings He has provided for you
- The pleasure of knowing that the funds you leave will be used to reach Jewish people with the gospel

When you include Chosen People Ministries, Inc. in your will, you can either establish a bequest of a certain amount or a percentage of your after-tax estate. Simply provide your attorney instructions, our formal name, and our tax ID #: 13-1659171.

## BUILD A LEGACY OF ETERNAL IMPACT!

For answers to your questions regarding your estate planning, contact Cindy Forbes at 212-223-2252, ext. 1208 or [cforbes@chosenpeople.com](mailto:cforbes@chosenpeople.com) today!

# THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.

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