

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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JULY 2024



CHRISTIANS *STILL STAND* WITH ISRAEL

See the results of a new survey inside.

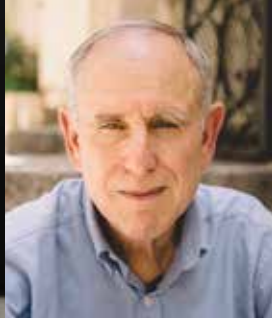


THE
EFFECTIVE
PRAYER OF A
RIGHTEOUS
MAN CAN
ACCOMPLISH
MUCH.
-JAMES 5:16B

Dear friend in the Messiah,

I am writing to you from Israel, where I was encouraging our twenty-five-plus staff members—visiting one-on-one to talk and pray with them as they serve the Lord in the midst of some really challenging conditions.

I spoke to a gathering of more than seventy-five young adults at our current rented Tel Aviv Center. My message was from the book of Acts about relying on the Lord and the power of His Spirit during very stressful times.



FROM THE
PRESIDENT,
MITCH GLASER

I was also part of a teaching team at a leadership retreat for forty young adults serving in congregational and mission leadership throughout Israel.

The summer is always a busy time for **Your Mission to the Jewish People** as we are in the midst of many evangelistic efforts and campaigns around the globe, especially in New York City and in Israel. Please take a moment to pray for our annual **Shalom New York** outreach, which takes place during the last week of July.

Also, please pray for our children's camps in both the United States and Israel. Our Israel camps this year will focus on both Russian and Ukrainian new immigrants and their families who have fled one war only to find themselves in the Holy Land experiencing another.

I found some very desperate needs in Israel because of the Israel-Hamas war, and I am praying and hoping for good fruit through our Israeli staff at this very moment.

I am particularly concerned for several groups within Israel, including evacuees, soldiers, and the hostages brutally taken on October 7.

PRAYER FOR EVACUEES

There are still thousands of evacuees unable to return to their homes because they live in border towns in both the north and south of Israel. There are thousands of families who have been living in hotel rooms for almost a year now. This living arrangement is becoming so hard, especially on their children. At the hotel where we held the leadership retreat, there we evacuees all around us, which led to some great opportunities to speak to them and try to encourage them during this very difficult moment in Israel's history!

I told many of those displaced people how American Christians are praying for them, and they greatly appreciated this news. So, please pray for these displaced Israelis all throughout the country.

PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS

Please also pray for the young people in Israel, especially those serving in the Israel Defense Forces. Remember, Israel has a mandatory draft, which begins when these teenagers graduate high school. Every day, eighteen- and nineteen-year-old Israeli boys and girls head to the military. They are young, not yet seasoned for battle, and are learning about life the hard way!

Please pray the Lord would especially keep the *believing soldiers* safe and also provide them with ways to grow spiritually and opportunities to proclaim the gospel among their fellow soldiers. I cannot tell you how many great stories I heard from our staff during my recent time in Israel as well as from some of the younger leaders who took the weekend off from battle to join us! Two brothers in the Lord are tank commanders and went back to Gaza immediately after the retreat to rejoin their fellow soldiers.

PRAYER FOR THE HOSTAGES IN GAZA

Please continue to pray for the hostages. The Israel Defense Forces have made repeated attempts to rescue the more than one hundred hostages still held in Gaza. Some continue to die in captivity, and others have been tortured and mistreated to an incredible degree. How human beings can treat one another so cruelly is not something I can even begin to understand.

We hear of repeated attempts to bring the hostages home, but for the moment, there has been only limited success. On the last day of the leadership retreat, we rejoiced to hear how four hostages were freed by the IDF in a very dangerous and costly military operation.

We need our all-powerful Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to directly intervene on behalf of those still in bondage. While in Israel, I saw signs all over the country asking for their release.

There are pictures of these young men, women, and even still some children, who are being held by merciless captors. It reminds me of the words in the Psalms,

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. Upon the willows in the midst of it we hung our harps. For there our captors demanded of us songs, and our tormentors mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion." How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget her skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy. (Psalm 137:1-6)

In Jewish tradition, the authorship of this beautiful and mournful psalm is sometimes attributed to the prophet Jeremiah—the weeping prophet. The contemporary Messianic songwriter Joshua Aaron from Israel sings a soul-filled version of this psalm, which captures the hopes of Jewish people in exile from the land of Israel and their longing to return. I am sure hearing his modern rendition of the ancient text will inspire and bless you!

I can hardly imagine what the hostages are going through and what their families are experiencing. Of course, I am writing well before you receive this so, perhaps, by God's grace, additional hostages may have been released or rescued by the time you read our newsletter. At this moment, it does not seem likely, and if they have not been released, please pray, ask your church to pray, and may the Lord **bring them home soon!**

May I make two more prayer requests?

PRAYER FOR GAZANS SUFFERING UNDER THE HEAVY HAND OF HAMAS

Please pray for the Gazans who are suffering at the hands of Hamas who constantly use their own citizens as human shields. I pray for their deliverance and for the "day after" plan for Gaza to include a more benevolent and caring government to nurture

the well-being of so many who have suffered. Pray Israelis and Gazans would find hope and peace through the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Messiah, and for the Lord to touch both groups.

PRAY AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

Finally, please pray for Jewish people around the globe who are experiencing the greatest movement of antisemitism since the Holocaust. This resurgence of the "oldest hatred" is why Your Mission to the Jewish People recently held a rally with more than 1,000 attendees in Manhattan last month. It is why we are sponsoring a conference for college students who are experiencing antisemitism on their campuses. We want to prepare these dedicated young adults to handle the opposition from fellow students and sometimes from faculty and staff to be able to stand for the Lord, Jewish people, and Israel on their campuses.

This conference, COURAGE, will be held from August 15–18 on the Moody Bible Institute campus in Chicago. We welcome registrants up to the last minute, so if you know a Jewish or non-Jewish student, or are one yourself, and fear when you go back to school you will encounter opposition because of your stand for the Lord and Jewish people, then please apply at www.chosenpeople.com/courage-conference.

We are also planning a larger conference to gather Christians of all ages and backgrounds to stand against antisemitism. This event is also at Moody Bible Institute from November 8–9. For further information, please see the back page of the newsletter.

I cannot tell you how powerful and positive it is for Christians to stand with Jewish people and against antisemitism. This creates a new environment of friendship between Jewish people and Christians, which I know will be a blessing to both communities!

A NEW SURVEY OF CHRISTIAN VIEWS ABOUT ISRAEL AND JEWISH PEOPLE

So, what do Christians think about Jewish people and the State of Israel post-October 7? We felt we needed to know, so we asked two Jewish scholars who have done some amazing surveys on this topic to let us help them do a new survey. The results of this survey are stunning, and you will find a summary of the results in the middle section of the newsletter. I believe you will be encouraged by what you read!

So, please keep reading and praying for **Your Mission to the Jewish People** during these very challenging days!

Thank you for caring and for your generous support and prayers!

Your brother,



Mitch (Romans 11:11)

¹ Joshua Aaron, "Bring Us Back (By the Rivers of Babylon) Psalm 137," music video, 4:25, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7lHsoascJY>.

MAJOR RESULTS OF THE “Christian Attitudes toward the War in Gaza in 2024” Survey

BACKGROUND TO THE SURVEY

Motti Inbari, professor of Jewish studies at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Kirill Bumin, associate dean of Boston University Metropolitan College, conducted the survey.¹ It was carried out March 8–14, 2024, and included 2,033 self-identified American Christian adults.²

Here are some of the survey’s findings by topic.

The Historical Deicide Charge

The deicide charge, an antisemitic notion claiming Jewish people are collectively responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus, is the cause of generations of antisemitism in Europe and even in the United States. It has almost no support among Christians in this survey.

THE SURVEY REPORTS:

Only 8 percent of Christian respondents agree Jewish people are to blame for Jesus’ death, while 62 percent offer a spiritual explanation—they place the blame on “the sins of humanity” or see Jesus’ death as a part of “God’s plan.”

A Growing Interest in the Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith

Many churches take trips to Israel and have a growing interest in the Jewish background of the New Testament.

THE SURVEY REPORTS:

Among respondents, 25 percent said their church celebrates Passover, and 16 percent said their church celebrates the Sabbath. Churches rarely celebrate other Jewish holidays, according to those polled.

Christian Beliefs and Practices

Among the survey respondents, there is unquestionably a greater affinity for Israel and Jewish people among American Christians who are most active in practicing their faith.

THE SURVEY REPORTS:

- 81 percent of respondents believe the Bible is the Word of God. However, the interpretation of this belief varies. While 43 percent advocate for a literal interpretation, 38 percent do not believe everything should be taken literally. This diversity of belief is evident across different Christian denominations, with most evangelicals (57 percent) leaning toward literalism, while a majority of Mainline Protestants (50 percent) and Catholics (42 percent) do not believe everything should be taken literally.
- The majority of self-identified Christians in America—56 percent—never or seldom attend church, while 28 percent attend every week.
- Evangelicals have the highest levels of church attendance (35 percent attend every week), while mainline Christians

have the lowest (20 percent attend every week). In 2018, just a little more than half of evangelicals attended church weekly.³ Today, the numbers show a drop of more than 15 percent.

Concern for Growing Antisemitism

Many Christians recognize the growth of antisemitism as a significant problem and want to stand with Jewish people against this rising tide of hatred.

THE SURVEY REPORTS:

- 87 percent of all respondents are concerned about antisemitism in America today, with only 12 percent not particularly worried by the current levels of antisemitism in the United States.
- 48 percent of respondents believe it is “definitely” antisemitic to say Israel does not have the right to exist, and another 14 percent believe such views are “to some extent” antisemitic.
- 28 percent said they do not know whether saying Israel has no right to exist is antisemitic. The remaining 10 percent believe this statement is not antisemitic.
- 78 percent of respondents have never heard of the BDS movement, while 9 percent support it and 13 percent oppose it.⁴
- 42 percent of Christians disagree entirely with claiming “all Jews” are responsible for Israeli actions in the West Bank and Gaza today. Another 23 percent express significant disagreement.
- 35 percent believe Jewish Americans are more loyal to Israel than to the United States (known as the dual loyalty antisemitic trope).
- 25 percent of respondents believe “Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust.”

University Campuses

The uproar caused by pro-Hamas rallies and encampments at major universities gives the impression these actions enjoy widespread approval. However, this is not the case among Christians who, by and large, criticize the behavior on many campuses across the United States.

THE SURVEY REPORTS:

- 43 percent of respondents believe top American universities either tolerate antisemitism “to some extent,” or tolerate antisemitism “quite a lot,” while 13 percent believe these universities do not tolerate antisemitism.
- Among those who think “top American universities” tolerate some degree of antisemitism, 74 percent believe these universities “actively promote” antisemitism.

“Israelis have a right to defend and protect their state.” The second most common argument (33 percent) is “Israel is the historic Jewish homeland.”

- 25 percent say it is “probably true” Israel committed a genocide in the recent fighting in Gaza, while 41 percent say it is “probably false,” and another 34 percent say they do not know. When asked if Israel deliberately targets Palestinian civilians, 19 percent said it is “probably true” while 51 percent said it is “probably false.”

The War in Gaza

Christians in the survey are concerned for suffering Israelis due to the horrific initiatives taken by Hamas on October 7 and the incessant rocket fire for months into noncombatant areas of the Holy Land. At the same time, Christians are also deeply concerned for Palestinians suffering at the hands of Hamas.

THE SURVEY REPORTS:

- 49 percent of respondents blame “mostly Hamas” for the current war; only 8 percent ascribe blame to “mostly Israel;” 39 percent blame to “both sides equally;” and 4 percent blame “someone else.”
- 45 percent of Christians see the Israeli response to the October 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas as “mostly justified;” 36 percent see Israeli action as “partially justified;” while 19 percent see Israel’s response as largely or “mostly unjustified.” By contrast, only 11 percent see Hamas’ attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, and its subsequent war with Israel as “mostly justified.”
- 29 percent say their church prays for Israel, while 17 percent say their church prays for the Palestinians. 5 percent say their church sends money to Israel, while 3 percent say their church sends money to the Palestinians.
- When asked to select the top reason for supporting Israel among seven potential reasons, 51 percent of the respondents select the most common argument as the

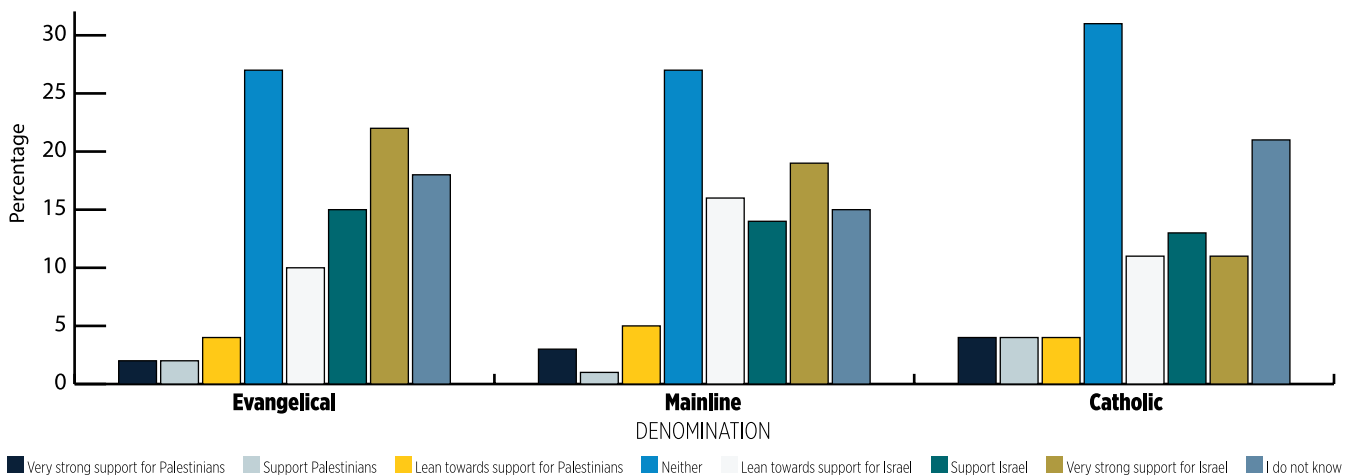
Israel Today

The concerns of Christians about the State of Israel as a political entity is slightly different than concerns about antisemitism. This debate is more controversial, and Christians are somewhat divided on the subject of modern Israel. Yet, over the years we have seen a steady attitude of support for Israel even during the current crisis when so many Western nations are vocal in their criticisms of the Jewish state.

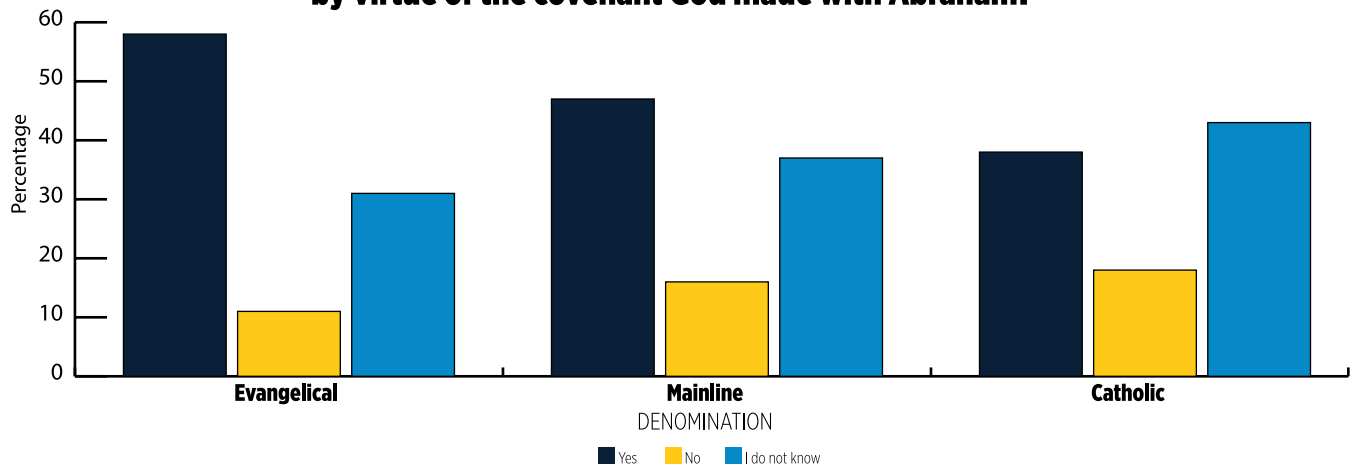
THE SURVEY REPORTS:

- Most respondents support Israel over the Palestinians in their assessments of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: 40 percent say they support Israel, while 8 percent support the Palestinians; 19 percent support neither; 13 percent support both; and 20 percent do not know who they support.
- Evangelical respondents express the highest levels of support for Israel, with 47 percent saying they either “very strongly” support Israel (23 percent), “support” Israel (13 percent), or “lean toward supporting” Israel (11 percent), while the lowest levels of support for Israel are observed among Catholics (32 percent). 42 percent of Mainline Protestants support Israel.
- 48 percent of all respondents believe God’s covenant with Jewish people remains intact today, while 39 percent say

In relation to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, where do you place your support?



Do you believe the Jewish people today have the right to the land of Israel by virtue of the covenant God made with Abraham?



they do not know, 7 percent say the covenant has ended, and 6 percent say the covenant never existed. The largest support for the belief the covenant remains intact today is among evangelicals (58 percent), while the lowest is among Catholics (38 percent). 45 percent of Mainline Protestants believe God’s covenant with Jewish people is still intact.

- 48 percent of all respondents also believe “Jewish people have the right to the land of Israel by virtue of the covenant God made with Abraham,” 37 percent say they do not know, and 15 percent disagree the Abrahamic covenant grants Jewish people the right to the land of Israel.
- Of those who support Israel’s right to the land on the basis of the Abrahamic covenant (977 respondents out of 2,033), 62 percent agree Israel’s right to the land extends to the biblical borders “from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18).

A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS

- A belief “God’s covenant with the Jewish people remains intact today” is the single biggest reason most Christians support Israel. Those who see God’s covenant with Abraham as still valid were 180 percent more favorable toward Israel than those who did not hold this belief.
- The second most influential justification for support of Israel among our respondents was a belief “Jews need a state of their own after the Holocaust.” Those who expressed this view were 122 percent more likely to strongly support Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- The third most impactful reason for support of Israel is a belief “Israel is the United States’ closest ally in an unstable region.” Such belief increases the likelihood of support for Israel by 95.3 percent.
- Age is the fourth most impactful consideration in whether Christians support Israel. The younger respondents are, as a group, less supportive of Israel, while 50–64-year-old respondents are repeatedly the most pro-Israel age group.
- 50–64-year-old respondents were unexpectedly the most supportive of Israel. Even in comparison to the 65-and-older respondents, 50–64-year-old respondents are 64.5 percent more likely to express high levels of support for Israel.
- Respondents under the age of 30 are 47 percent less likely to express strong support for Israel than 65-plus respondents.
- African-American respondents are 59.6 percent less likely to express support for Israel than respondents with other racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- A belief in a future literal kingdom with Jerusalem as the national and spiritual capital of Israel and God’s kingdom on earth increases the likelihood of strong support for Israel by 82.7 percent.
- Conservative political beliefs increase the likelihood of strong support for Israel by 27.7 percent.
- Support for the two-state solution reduces the likelihood of strong support for Israel by 20.7 percent.
- Strong concern about antisemitism in the United States increases the likelihood of strong support for Israel by 12.5 percent.

¹ The survey had a ± 2.2 margin of error.

² Majority funding for the survey was provided by Chosen People Ministries, the Alliance for the Peace of Jerusalem, and by Jewish people and Christians who seek a better understanding of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and are concerned with the rising tide of antisemitism today.

³ Motti Inbari and Kirill Bumin, *Christian Zionism in the Twenty-First Century: Evangelical Public Opinion on Israel* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2024), 30.

⁴ The BDS (boycott, divest, sanction) movement delegitimizes Israel by calling on all to boycott Israeli companies and products. BDS supporters often oppose and intimidate Israeli academics who teach at American universities.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

STAFF MEMBER ENGAGES RELIGIOUS ISRAELIS IN HEBREW

Many of our staff have learned Hebrew and regularly seek opportunities to practice, especially with not-yet-believing Jewish people, as this can lead to opportunities to present the gospel. One of our American non-Jewish staff members recently overheard three religious Israelis talking on the subway. Our staff member prayed for an opportunity to talk with them, and then jumped into the conversation—in Hebrew.

After the initial shock of being spoken to by a stranger on the subway wore off, the Israelis leaned in and peppered our staff member with questions: “You are not Israeli? Where did you learn Hebrew?” After explaining she studied Hebrew as well as Bible in Israel, she told them she was not Jewish but loves Jewish people. The Israelis paused and reflected. They asked again, “But why?” Our staff member was able to explain she is a Christian and her Savior is the Jewish Messiah from the Hebrew Scriptures. As the train pulled up to their stop, one of the Israelis asked yet again, “But you are Christian, and you care about Jewish people?”

These religious Israelis could not fathom a Christian caring about Jewish people. For centuries, many Christians have harbored contempt for Jewish people. Our staff love having these opportunities to be representatives of Jesus to Jewish people in a loving way. It always surprises those they speak with! Though there were only five minutes to chat, this staff member was able to plant seeds and show how her faith in Jesus is rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures.

CHRISTIAN HOSTS IN NEW ZEALAND BRING ISRAELI BACKPACKERS “LIVING WATER”

New Zealand is a very popular destination for traveling Israelis, and our staff in this country have been faithfully hosting many of these Israeli backpackers and expressing the love of Jesus to them. During a recent visit to one of our host families, two Israeli travelers, Leah* and Naomi,* got to hear the gospel after a series of “coincidences” involving their host family. Leah told her hosts her family’s surname was very rare

*Name changed

in Israel. “What does the name mean?” our staff member asked. After hearing the translation, our staff member was stunned, as her maiden name in Spanish had the same meaning!

A few days later, our staff member continued the conversation with these two girls who began to ask a lot of questions. Our staff member answered their questions by reading a lot of Scripture with them. Eventually, they came to the account of Jesus and the woman at the well: “*Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water’*” (John 4:10). Both Israelis expressed the desire to continue reading more of the New Testament, which by “coincidence” another Israeli traveler had given them a few days before. Please pray for Naomi and Leah to find the living water only Jesus can give!

JEWISH DOCTOR HEARS YOUNG CHRISTIAN MAN’S TESTIMONY

Our staff often get unique opportunities to speak about the Lord in unexpected situations. For example, the son of one of our staff members recently received the Male Student of the Month award at his school. The female and male students of the month are then invited to a luncheon along with the Rotary Club, school officials, and the student’s parents. This young man was asked to give a short speech at the luncheon.

Amazingly, our staff member discovered their family dentist (a not-yet-believing Jewish man) was at the lunch. In the young man’s speech, he spoke about growing up in Israel and the difficulties of the transition to the United States. He also mentioned he was a part of a local church and a member of a prayer group at school. This is something only God could have orchestrated. Our staff family was so encouraged to see their son boldly speaking about his commitment to God—including to the family’s Jewish dentist. Please pray for future opportunities to speak into the life of this dentist and others the Lord brings into our staff’s paths.

Plan to attend one or both of these upcoming conferences.

COURAGE

Oppose Antisemitism & Be Courageous for Messiah on Campus

August 15–18, 2024 | Moody Campus, Chicago, IL

The COURAGE conference seeks to equip university and college students to stand in the face of antisemitism's growing influence on campus.

The conference is open to all undergraduate or graduate students interested in opposing antisemitism, standing for Israel on their campus, showing solidarity with Jewish campus groups and Jewish friends, and bringing the gospel to Jewish people.

To apply and for more information go to www.chosenpeople.com/courage.



SUMMIT ON OPPOSING ANTISEMITISM

November 8–9, 2024 | Moody Campus, Chicago, IL

In the wake of the events following the massacre in Israel on October 7, it is imperative for us as believers to take a stand against antisemitism worldwide. Along with Bible teaching on how to handle persecution, there will be practical sessions on how to respond to opposition and maintain good security.

For more information go to www.chosenpeople.com/moodyconference

“HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! DO NOT BE TERRIFIED NOR DISMAYED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.”

—JOSHUA 1:9



MESSIANIC RESOURCES



Our new 2024–2025 Messianic Jewish Art Calendar tells the story of Jewish people in the land of Israel. From the promise given to Abraham, through exiles and returns, and then statehood—yes, even on October 7—God's hand has been evident. This

18-month calendar, follows the Jewish year 5785, includes weekly Torah readings, and notes major global holidays. A portion of every calendar sale goes to support the Tel Aviv Messianic Center.

CALENDAR • PRICE: \$15.95^{US}

From the first “Christian” persecutions of the Jews in the fourth century to the horrors of the Holocaust, from Israel-bashing in today's press to antisemitism in today's pulpits, this shocking and painful book tells the tragic story that every Christian must hear.

OUR HANDS ARE STAINED WITH BLOOD • PRICE: \$17.95^{US}



Israel, the Church, and the Middle East challenges the supersessionist drift of the modern church, showing that God retains a plan and purpose for the Jewish people while also addressing a number of the divisive issues raised by authors critical both of Israel and of those who affirm Israel's right to the land. The book explores the hermeneutics and wider effects of the conflict, such as the growing antipathy within the church toward the evangelization of the Jewish people. It provides readers with an objective and interdisciplinary treatment, which is irenic and respectful in tone.

ISRAEL, THE CHURCH AND THE MIDDLE EAST • PRICE: \$14.95^{US}



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THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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