

# The Messianic Jewish Art Calendar



The Chosen People Ministries Messianic Jewish Art Calendar is filled with Messianic prophecies and breathtaking traditional Jewish art. This is the perfect gift to give your Jewish friend. Order one for your own home, too, and experience the beauty of the Jewish holidays throughout the year. This 16-month calendar goes from September 2005 through December 2006.

calendar #5005 • £8.00

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pray for many more such friends, and for the Gospel to make a significant impact in this city.

Part of our emphasis at Chosen People Ministries is ministering in a culturally responsible manner. Our goal is not only to assure Jewish people that they will still be Jewish after they put their faith in Yeshua, but to actually support their Jewishness and to help them grow in their faith as Jewish believers in Jesus. We believe this is the role of all Gospel workers—no matter the ethnicity of their target group—and we are praying for God to send us additional labourers with a specifically Jewish sensitivity. Historically, Jewish believers in Jesus have greatly blessed the Body of Messiah, bringing their rich heritage to bear in the life of the church community and often taking on leadership roles.

The Scriptures tell us that the day the people of Israel accept their Messiah, it will be like “life from the dead” for the world as a whole. What a privilege to have this hope that some day our work will bear fruit in such a magnificent way, when our Messiah reveals Himself once again.

As you pray for us and the Jewish people, and as you support our ministry, you are co-labourers with us. May your part also result in eternal fruit.

Yours in our Messiah,

Daniel



## The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

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Visit us on the web at [www.chosenpeople.co.uk](http://www.chosenpeople.co.uk)

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UK Director, Daniel Nessim

Dear friend of the Jewish people,  
Greetings from Golders Green.

This is the first issue of our newsletter, *The Chosen People*, that is specific to our ministry in the United Kingdom. I trust that it will help you to stay in touch with our efforts to reach the Jewish people with the Gospel.

Our ministry is a combination of witnessing to people one-to-one, hosting outdoor outreaches, serving in a local congregation, and speaking in churches to raise awareness of the need Jewish people have for the Gospel. There is much more to do as well, and we find ourselves crying out for more labourers in this big harvest field.

With what some might consider *chutzpah* (cheek), my wife, Debi, and I have located our ministry in England's most significant Jewish community, where about one quarter of the residents are Jewish. Due to its mix of Orthodox and secular Jewish people, as well as Israelis, the neighbourhood of Golders Green is highly visible to the Jewish community. It is proper that in this mix, Jews who believe that Jesus (we say *Yeshua* in Hebrew) is the Messiah also be present as a witness. We constantly look for opportunities to share our faith with our neighbours here, be they Jewish or Gentile.

The last month or two have seen us settling into a good work routine. We are beginning to speak more often in area churches. We are developing friendships and, as I write, Debi is out visiting a new believer. As we reach out to people, we find these “contacts” quickly become our personal friends. We

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# The Chosen People

Volume I, Issue 1 October 2005

## Prayer & Praise from Around the World

### ☆ **New Messianic Center in Berlin**

Chosen People Ministries in Germany has purchased a building for staff and outreach ministry in Berlin, funded almost entirely by German Christians. As one of our staff workers in Germany says, “It is really a wonder in our eyes. Just think: God has given the Jewish people a Messianic Center in Berlin, the city in which the decision was made to kill all the Jewish people in Europe (the ‘Final Solution’). It is like a ‘city on a hill, that cannot be hidden’ and we believe it will be a light in the world. We can only praise our God and stand in awe before Him.”

### ☆ **“Who Are These Messianic Jews?”**

A Jewish woman was walking through the neighborhood in Buenos Aires where Ricardo Chemi, Director of Chosen People Ministries' work in South America, leads a Messianic congregation. Noticing the sign in front of the congregation's worship centre, she paused to wonder, “Who are these Messianic Jews?” She returned for the Friday night service and requested a talk with Ricardo, asking many questions about Yeshua (Jesus)—questions that needed “Jewish answers.” During their conversation she found comfort and understanding in the Gospel, leading her that evening to accept Jesus the Messiah. Please pray for her as she explores and grows in her new faith, especially since her father is a prominent figure in the nation's Orthodox Jewish community.

# The High Holy Days



Happy New Year! *Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish New Year) falls on October 4th this year, initiating ten days of reflection and

introspection that culminate on *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement). Often referred to as the High Holy Days, these festivals are the spiritual centre of the Jewish calendar, the time during which God assesses each person's deeds and determines whether to write their names in the Book of Life for the coming year.

Without a doubt, this is the most significant time of year for the Jewish community. More Jewish people will hear the Gospel and be open to the message of Jesus during the next few weeks than at any other time of the year. Traditionally, Jewish people are more open to the Good News during this season because of its central themes of atonement and sacrifice.

Most Jewish people know little about the Biblical origins of these festivals. This is unfortunate, as a careful study of relevant passages reveals a profound connection between the Old Testament sacrificial system and the atoning death of Yeshua the Messiah.

## The Sacrificial System in Scripture

Though the presence of sacrifices in the Old Testament is a given for most Christians, the typical Jewish person has thought about it very little. It is totally outside of their experience as Jews. After all, the modern-day synagogue bears little resemblance to the ancient Temple: rabbis have replaced priests as the spiritual leaders of the community, and prayers are offered by the people in lieu of sacrifices. In fact, most Jewish people today think of the sacrificial system as barbaric, and are glad the Jewish religion no longer requires the sacrifice of animals.

Scripturally, *Yom Kippur* was celebrated with a variety of animal and grain offerings, the most important of which was a male goat, given as a sin offering. Today, though, most Jewish people observe the High Holy Days without recognizing this particular heritage or its significance.

## The Heart of the Sacrificial System

The Hebrew terms used in Scripture paint a vivid picture of God's heart and intentions in creating the sacrificial system. The more you understand the original language and purpose of these sacrifices, the better equipped you will be as you communicate God's path for forgiveness to your Jewish friends.

The term generally translated as "sacrifice" is *korban* (קָרְבָּן). *Korban*, however, really comes from the Hebrew word *karav* (קָרַב), which means "to draw near." In other words, the emphasis of the term "sacrifice" is not the killing of an animal or even the shedding of the animal's blood, but of drawing near to God. This becomes quite clear from Leviticus 10:3, which says, "By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified." This does not minimize the importance of shedding sacrificial blood, but helps us to understand its purpose: to draw a man or woman close to God.

Several different sacrifices are noted in Leviticus, and each one is described by a unique Hebrew term. From *Shalom* (peace) to *Chet* (sin) and *Nedevah* (freewill), these Hebrew descriptors make clear the purpose of each sacrifice, and the reason for their institution.

Moreover, these terms all speak to one critical issue—that man through his sin

is separated from God and that the Lord Himself has provided a way of return.

## Sacrifice and Redemption

The only way to return to God is outlined in the sacrificial system and fulfilled in the offering of Jesus the Messiah on the altar of Calvary. The blood of the sacrifice (Leviticus 17:11) makes atonement for our souls and establishes peace between God and those who receive the gift of life through His Son. Only after atonement has been made can people draw near to God. When that happens, Jews and Gentiles alike are able to experience intimate fellowship with God, peace, purity, rest, the new ability for our prayers to rise up to His presence, and so much more!

With the coming of the Messiah, the mystery of God's forgiveness, once shrouded in shadows, was fully revealed through His Son. Each of the sacrifices

described here in some way points to Jesus—Yeshua—Who is the fulfillment of all the Law and Prophets. He Himself is our atonement, the One whom God sent to draw us to Himself.

God set the sacrificial system in place as a temporary measure and as a prophetic pointer to the atoning sacrifice offered by Messiah Himself. He is our great High Priest, Who not only offers the sacrifice, but is Himself the sinless offering.

This is God's will, as Hebrews 10:10 tells us, "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

As we approach the Day of Atonement, may each of us find our gratitude to Jesus the Messiah renewed in light of His atoning sacrifice which saves each person who accepts it. And may those of our Jewish brothers and sisters who have yet to know Him personally, discover the value of His sacrifice in their own lives.

Sacrifice	Hebrew Word	Meaning	Description
Trespass Offering	<i>Asham</i> אָשָׁם	Guilt	For someone who becomes aware of a sin committed unintentionally.
Burnt Offering	<i>Olah</i> עֹלָה	To rise up	Named for the smoke that rises up from the offering.
Sin Offering	<i>Chet</i> חַטָּא	Sin or to purify	Offered as an atonement for sin.
Peace Offering	<i>Shalom</i> שָׁלוֹם	Peace	Symbolizes the desire for peace with God. Also called the Fellowship Offering.
Grain Offering	<i>Minchah</i> מִנְחָה	To cause to rest	An offering of flour, frankincense and oil.
Sacrifice of Thanksgiving	<i>Todah</i> תּוֹדָה	Thanksgiving	Offered in gratitude to God for His good gifts.
Voluntary or Freewill Offering	<i>Nedevah</i> נִדְבָה	To give freely	Given only because the giver wants to donate to the Lord.
Consecration or Ordination Offering	<i>Miluim</i> מִלּוּאִים	Completeness or to be full	Represents giving someone or something over to God's service.

