

An Historical Conflict

Randall Price, the well-known author on Middle East current events and Biblical prophecy, tackles tough questions about Israel and the Arab world. In *Fast Facts on the Middle East Conflict*, he offers a comprehensive overview of the situation and explores such issues as America's involvement and the role of the media. This book serves as a great introduction to the issue for those who are newly interested in the Middle East because of current events.



Fast Facts on the Middle East Conflict . . . £9
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continued from page 1

relationship with those who believed in His Son by pouring the Holy Spirit out upon them. Our hearts yearn for the thousands of Golders Green and other areas who have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge (Romans 10:2)—they have yet to recognise their Messiah.

We are excited about the opportunities that God has given us to speak into a number of people's lives on a one-to-one basis. In large part, it is on this basis that larger spiritual communities are built. The apostles uniformly saw the importance of bringing believers together for mutual edification and to be a corporate witness to the world. We are likewise looking forward to holding a few events this summer that will bring people, believers and unbelievers, together in a way that will proclaim and promote the Good News that Messiah has come. The Torah was given through Moses, yes. But we can also share the joyous news that grace and truth have been given through Yeshua the Messiah and Saviour of the world.

Please continue to pray for us and support us as we serve during this summer. You are strengthening our hands to do the work that God has called us to do. In this, you are co-labourers with us. May the Lord bless and keep you.

In the Name of our Glorious
Messiah,

Daniel
Daniel Nessim



The Chosen People Newsletter

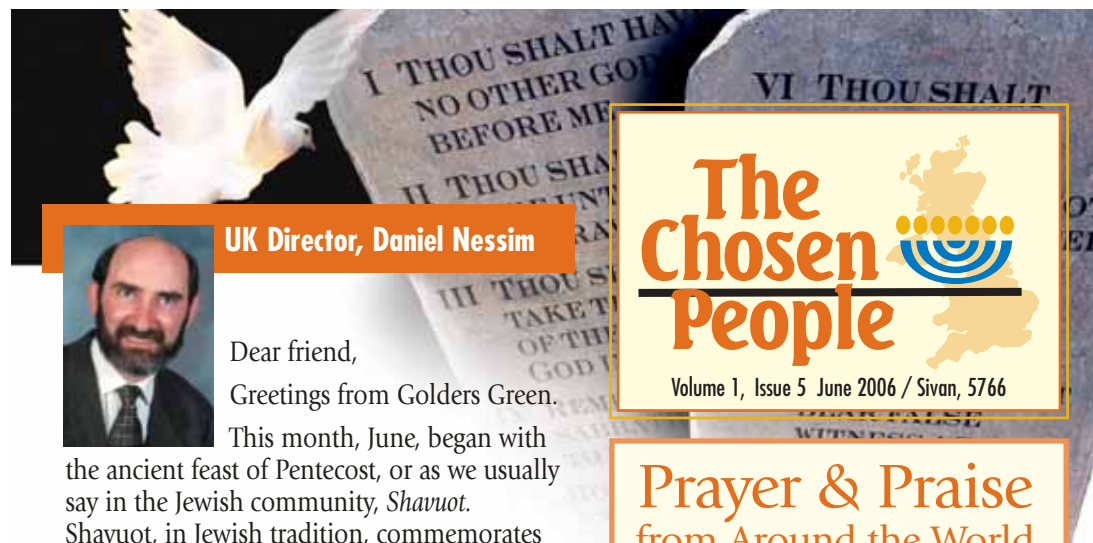
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UK Director, Daniel Nessim



Dear friend,
Greetings from Golders Green.

This month, June, began with the ancient feast of Pentecost, or as we usually say in the Jewish community, *Shavuot*. *Shavuot*, in Jewish tradition, commemorates the giving of the *Torah* (Law) to Moses and to Israel at Mt. Sinai, among other things. It is a wonderful time to remember how God redeemed the Jewish people, brought them into the wilderness, and claimed them as His own. Of course, there were some reciprocal obligations given in the *Torah*.

Many Jewish people adhere to the requirements of *Torah* to this day, to the best of their understanding. This is evident throughout Golders Green. It is observance of the Law as it has been interpreted that has been the epitome of Jewish life throughout the centuries, governing every moment of every day. Upon waking, a prayer is uttered—*Modeh ani* ("Thankful am I")—and upon lying down, another is said—*Shema Yisrael* ("Hear O Israel").

You and I know that it is commendable to pursue God with such devotion. We also know that doing so while rejecting Yeshua (Jesus) as our rightful Messiah is not pleasing to the Almighty. This *Shavuot*, we celebrated the spring harvest and the giving of the Law of God. Behind that Law stands a loving God who not only wants to see our sacrifice, but far more, our humble faith in Him and His Son.

Shavuot is a time of rejoicing in a sealed covenant. On this day, God sealed his

The Chosen People

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Prayer & Praise from Around the World

☆ **Israeli Believer Faces Possible Job Loss**
Henry N., who faithfully leads his Messianic congregation in the town of Ariel in the West Bank, requests prayer for a troubled member of his flock. Leo* was spotted reading Chosen People Ministries evangelistic magazine *My Jerusalem* at his place of work. Now Leo's boss has cut his salary and he has even threatened to fire him. Although it has not been openly said, Leo is certain that this has happened because of his faith. Leo is almost 70 years old and he needs to work to care for his wife and daughter, who are both ill. Please pray for Leo's job situation and for healing for his family members.

☆ **Congratulations to the Pikmans!**
After four years of study and hard work, Vladimir Pikman, Chosen People Ministries' Germany director, has received a Master of Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. But he is not the only scholar in the family, as his wife, Inna, also earned a Master of Arts in Bible Exegesis and Linguistics—all this while raising two daughters (ages seven and five), managing long-distance pastoral responsibilities in Germany and handling other ministry duties! Vlado writes, "It is such a great feeling to be done with four years of studies! The emotions of joy and thankfulness overflow us. We want to shout, 'Praise the Lord!' over and over again." The Pikmans depart for Germany at the end of the month, where they will resume their duties.

continued on page 4



Shavuot

The Feast of Weeks

Shavuot is a holy day of great significance, both in Scripture and within the modern day Jewish community. This wonderful festival is especially important to believers in Yeshua (Jesus) because it was the day God chose to send the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father that Yeshua spoke about in Luke 24:49.

Shavuot—which means “weeks” in Hebrew and is also called the “Feast of Weeks”—is a powerful reminder that God ordained the biblical festivals outlined in Leviticus 23 as His redemptive road map! Yeshua died on Passover, rose on First Fruits, and on the Festival of Shavuot, the Holy Spirit was sent to fill His disciples with power from “on high” to complete the Harvest!

Shavuot’s Biblical Basis

Shavuot is one of the three “convocations of the Lord” that, along with Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, constitute the “appointed times” (Leviticus 23:4) for Israel to gather in Jerusalem. As described in Leviticus 23, Passover and Shavuot are connected, as they move together on the Jewish calendar. *“On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover...seven days you must eat unleavened bread. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to*

the Lord” (Leviticus 23: 5, 6, 8, 15–17). Regardless of where Passover falls on our “modern” calendar, Shavuot is sure to follow 50 days after the second day of Passover. This fifty-day

period lends itself to another name for this feast: Pentecost.

Shavuot Traditions in Judaism

In Judaism, this period of “counting the days” from Passover until Shavuot according to the Lord’s command (Leviticus 23:15) is called “Counting the Omer.” It comes from the ancient practice of offering an omer (about two dry quarts) of barley to the Lord on the second day of Passover. Even today, blessings are recited as observant Jewish people keep track of the days between Passover and Shavuot by counting the omer.

During this period, observant Jews mourn the deaths that occurred due to a plague that spread among the Jewish people during the final armed revolt against the Romans that took place in A.D. 132-135. A number of signs of mourning are typically observed at this time. For example, no weddings or festive occasions are celebrated, and no one receives a haircut.

An exception is made for *Lag B’Omer* (the 33rd day of counting the omer). *Lag B’Omer* commemorates the death of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the supposed author of the Kabbalistic book, the *Zohar*. His death is a day of celebration, as he himself is said to have instructed. Therefore, mourning observances are suspended for this day. Thousands of the rabbi’s followers congregate at Mt. Meron, near the town of Safed in the Galilee, to observe the anniversary of his death. People are married, and the day has become a

traditional occasion for a Jewish child’s first haircut.

When Shavuot finally arrives, it is celebrated as a single day of rest in Israel (two days elsewhere). Shavuot traditions today include reading the Book of Ruth, which perhaps reminds us of the harvest, eating of dairy foods (without meat, as befits a kosher diet), and decorating the home and synagogue with harvest produce.

But Shavuot has another spiritual side, for it is also called *Hag Matan Torateinu* (Festival of the Giving of Our Torah). According to Jewish tradition, it is also the time when God revealed to Israel the gift of the Law at Mount Sinai. And here we find that, just as Moses the Deliverer connected the first Passover to the first Shavuot, Yeshua the Messiah brings the two festivals together in a new and startling way.

The Holy Spirit and Shavuot

The Gospels demonstrate how Yeshua the Messiah fulfills the prophetic promises of the Hebrew Scriptures. The drama of the Last Supper is a most vivid example, as Yeshua reveals Himself to be the true and all-sufficient Passover sacrifice.

As he opens the book of Acts, Luke concludes the Messiah’s earthly ministry by restating the Great Commission, *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and*

you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). This memorable event takes place during the Feast of Weeks, Shavuot, when once again Jewish people from throughout the known world (Acts 2:5-11) are gathered in Jerusalem, according to the Lord’s commandment.

We have seen how Shavuot commemorates the harvest and the giving of the Torah. Now, with the giving of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, a multitude of souls came to faith. Peter, who such a short time before had been paralysed with fear, now preached the Gospel with boldness and authority. What was the result of his Spirit-filled words? *“Then those who gladly received his word were baptised; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them”* (Acts 2:41). Another kind of harvest had begun—a harvest of souls for the Kingdom.

That harvest is continuing today as Jewish people and others join together in the New Covenant and the Great Commission. That covenant was proclaimed by Messiah at the Passover. Then, it was sealed through the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost—yet another example of how our sovereign Lord has taken the former things and made them more meaningful than ever before. ✨

