

December, 2007 / Kislev-Tevet, 5768

Volume Number: 3, Issue Number: 2



The Chosen People

REACHING JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Shalom from Golders Green,
What a pleasure it is to serve the Living God, who sent His Son to dwell among us. Putting aside all his Majesty, He chose to become not only like us as humans, but particularly like those of us who are Jews. There is no doubt that after his birth he was not only circumcised and dedicated to the Lord according to Jewish tradition, but that he lived all aspects of his life according to the ways of his people. Why? So that he might communicate to us, at our level, all that we need to know to have a relationship with the Father.

So it is that the birth of Yeshua is not only a major event in itself, but is the start of a whole new model of bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people. To reach the people of our day with the Good News, as Yeshua did the people of his day, is our ambition. We aim to be like him!

It just so happens that the people we are trying to reach are the same people he taught two thousand years ago. Just as he walked among our people then, and lived according to our people's customs, so do we. Just as he taught in ways that first century Israeli Jews would have understood, so we seek to teach in relevant and comprehensible ways.

This is part of the reasoning that underlies the establishment of Beth Sar Shalom (House of the Prince of Peace) in London. Beth Sar Shalom is a congregation meeting every Sabbath evening, for Jewish people, whether or not they believe in Yeshua as the Messiah. It is not a congregation for those who just love Jewish things, or the Jewish people, but specifically for Jewish people, and those who are specifically called by God to serve them. At present, our numbers range from four to twenty on a Friday night. We feel this is a great start for a young group.



UK Director
Daniel Nessim

Our desire to be like the Master also affects other ways in which we bring the Good News to the Jewish people. He valued people, and spent time with them, so much so that He was called a friend of sinners! That's a label that we would gladly carry for the sake of our people who do not yet recognize their Messiah in the man from Galilee.

During December, Jewish people are more likely to hear positive things about Yeshua. The more we are like Him—the man, not the baby—the more we will be able to win and make disciples for Him. Please pray for us as we reach out to the Jewish people this holiday season!

Your friend,

Daniel

Daniel Nessim

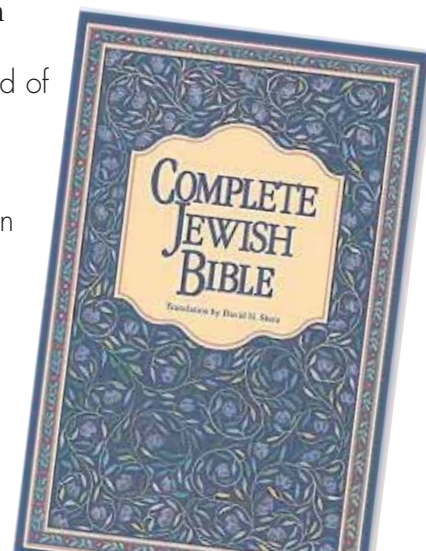
Complete Jewish Bible

Dr. David H. Stern

Presenting the Word of God as a unified Jewish book, the Complete Jewish Bible is a translation for Jews and non-Jews alike. It connects Jews with the Jewishness of the Messiah, and non-Jews with their Jewish roots. Names and key terms are returned to their original Hebrew and presented in easy-to-understand

transliterations, enabling the reader to say them the way Yeshua (Jesus) did! Also for the first time the information needed for the synagogue readings from the Torah and the Prophets is completely integrated with similar use of the B'rit Hadashah.

For readers familiar with the *Jewish New Testament*, the *Complete Jewish Bible* is a welcome sight! 1697 pages.



Order the Complete
Jewish Bible for only £23
plus £2 Postage and Packing

For more Messianic Jewish products, visit us online at

www.chosenpeople.org.uk



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

Chosen People Ministries UK Board of Directors: Mr. Tim Bath • Mrs. Yvonne Bath • Dr. Mitch Glaser • Rev. Kenneth Jefferson • Mr. Daniel Nessim • Rev. Keith Page • Dr. John Pretlove, Chair • Mr. Peter Pretlove, Treasurer • Rev. Caroline Hewlett (advisor) • Mrs. Elizabeth Hockenhull (advisor)

Serving in: Argentina • Australia • Canada • France • Germany • Great Britain • Hong Kong • Israel • Mexico • Russia • Ukraine • United States

The Chosen People UK Edition newsletter is published bimonthly by Chosen People Ministries. To receive a copy, write to: Chosen People Ministries, PO Box 47871, Golders Green, LONDON NW11 1AL. For more information call us at 020 8455 7911 or write to us at info@chosenpeople.org.uk. Senior Editor: Zhava Glaser; Design: Lois Gable.

©2007 Chosen People Ministries (UK) Registered Charity No. 1095644, a company limited by guarantee in England No. 4611406. Printed in the United Kingdom. VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.CHOSENPEOPLE.ORG.UK.

Hanukkah: The Eight-Day Party in Praise of God

O Hanukkah, O Hanukkah

A festival of joy

A holiday, a jolly day

For every girl and boy

Spin the whirling dreidls

All week long

Eat the sizzling latkes

Sing a happy song

Hanukkah! Even the most sophisticated, secular Jewish person cannot help feeling merry when Hanukkah rolls around. Who wouldn't? It's a celebration that combines the unique blend of history and faith that has sustained the Jewish people throughout the centuries. On top of that, it's simply a ripping good story of an underdog standing up to a bully and teaching him a lesson.

Taking a Stand for Jewish Faith

The bully in question was Antiochus IV—a descendant of Seleucus, Alexander the Great's general, who ruled over the region that included Israel. Antiochus IV was a vicious and brutal despot, who forbade the Jewish people from practising their faith. He also desecrated the Temple by carrying out pagan sacrifices there.

The underdog was, of course, the Jewish people, led by the priestly family of Mattathias. His son, Judas, earned the nickname Maccabee—the Hammer—for he pounded the larger, better-trained and better-armed armies of Antiochus IV until they were soundly beaten. The recapture of Jerusalem and the rededication of the Temple in 164 BC was the triumphant moment that gave birth to Hanukkah—the Feast of Dedication.

As legend tells us, a single cruse of holy oil burned in the Temple for eight days until more could be procured. Each of the eight nights of Hanukkah, a candle is added until all eight candles of the *hanukkiah* (candleholder), plus the *shamash* (servant candle), burn brightly in the windows of Jewish homes throughout the world.

Celebrating Hanukkah

Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. Like most Jewish holidays, it has its own special activities and foods. One of the most popular activities is spinning the *dreydl*, a tradition that originated in Germany. The *dreydl* is like a top with four sides. Each side has a Hebrew letter and together these letters form the initials of the

Hanukkah proclamation, "A Great Miracle Happened Here" (or "There," if you are outside of Israel).

You can spin the top and play for matchsticks—or else gold coins! Well, not really gold, perhaps, but chocolate coins covered in gold foil. You can't spend them in the shops, but they certainly taste nice! Another tasty Hanukkah treat is *latkes*—fried potato pancakes. Eat them with apple sauce or sour cream. Either way, they're delicious!

The Hanukkah candles remind us that the eternal light of God pierces through every darkness. They also point us toward Yeshua the Messiah, who said, "*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life*" (John 8:12). If we accept Him, His light will burn brightly in us, making us beacons of His love, power and peace in this troubled world.

Hanukkah or Christmas?

Contrary to what we often hear, Hanukkah is not "the Jewish Christmas," although the Jewish lunar calendar sometimes causes Hanukkah to overlap with the Christmas celebration. There is, however, a beautiful connection between the festivals. For if the Maccabees had lost the battle, the Syrian Greeks would have so completely Hellenized the Jewish people that the Jewish community would have lost its identity and ceased to exist.

However, because of the stubborn refusal of the Maccabees to bow the knee, and their subsequent victory over the vastly superior fighting force of Antiochus, the Jewish people survived. What was the result? In less than two hundred years, Yeshua the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. If Antiochus had destroyed the integrity of the Jewish community as he hoped, what would have become of the Jewish family into which the Messiah was to be born?

In other words, *without Hanukkah, there would be no Christmas*—not in the true sense of the Messiah being born of a Jewish virgin! That is the deep and profound connection between the holidays. This connection speaks of a faithful and all-powerful God who loved us so much that He orchestrated the events of history so that, at the right moment in time, Yeshua, the Redeemer of the world, would be born to a Jewish family in Israel.

And so, with Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, we praise the Lord:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David . . ." (Luke 1:69)

FRIDAY 28, MARCH –
TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2008

PRICE £1299



ISRAEL

Land of the Bible



An unforgettable, life-enriching experience!

“Jerusalem... my chief joy” Psalm 137:6



For bookings or more details
please contact
Polly Zabari
Archtoours Limited
1, Danes Court Cottages
Leatherhead Road
Oxshott, Surrey KT22 0HQ
Tel : 01372 843678
Mob : 07971 169639
Archtoours.UK@tesco.net
(IATA: 9121239 ABTA: F3691)



Bringing the Gospel from “The Ends of the Earth” to Jerusalem

We know that the Great Commission commands Jesus’ followers to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. But who would have guessed how far some people would travel to bring the Gospel to Israel? Mark Lam, Chosen People Ministries’ newly-appointed Hong Kong director, organized a team of about a dozen Hong Kong residents, led by Gordon Law, who flew to Israel for a short-term mission. Please pray that the seeds which were planted during their stay will bear fruit, and that our staff will be able to follow up with the people that the team met during their stay.



Borough Park Symposium

Last month marked a watershed moment in the Messianic movement as almost seventy Messianic leaders and observers from around the world gathered in New York City for the “Borough Park Symposium,” which Chosen People Ministries helped organize. This symposium, named after the Orthodox community in Brooklyn where preliminary discussions were held, tackled such subjects as how the Good News relates to the Jewish people, salvation and the Jewish people, and strategies for developing cooperation among various Jewish missions and Messianic congregations. Pray that there will be much fruit from this symposium among the Jewish people.

BOROUGH PARK SYMPOSIUM



October 2007

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
נִרְדָּגְלִי דְבַרְךָ וְאוֹר לְנִתְיָבוֹתֵי
(Psalm 119:105)