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The Chosen People

REACHING JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



*three
holy days*



The Autumn Festivals

The Autumn Feasts

Holy Days Fulfilled in Messiah

Dear friend in the Messiah,
Shalom from Golders Green! Thank you for taking a moment to open this newsletter. No doubt you are busy as regular life resumes after the summer.

Our ministry to the Jewish people has had a great summer. Internationally, our short-term ministry teams had wonderful opportunities to share the good news of Messiah with hundreds of Jewish people in New York City and in Israel. We held our once-in-a-decade international staff conference and had more than 200 members of the Chosen People Ministries family join us in Israel for a time of training, retreat and fellowship. It was a life-changing experience for many.

In America, we also opened our Brooklyn Messianic Centre in rented facilities and moved into our newly-purchased Messianic Centre in Boynton Beach, Florida. In addition, our Charles Feinberg Centre for Messianic Jewish Studies added half a dozen future workers among the Jewish people to its ranks.



Daniel Nessim

Here in the UK, we are in full swing with our autumn programmes and meetings. We are also praising the Lord that we have a few excellent applicants who desire to work with our ministry in reaching the Jewish people with the Gospel here.

During the next few weeks we will observe three major festivals, in which even many of the most secular Jewish people will participate.

These holidays invite us to celebrate God's faithfulness and to sombrely reflect upon our failings as individuals and as a people. The Autumn Festivals also offer something more, as each holiday clearly points to Jesus (Yeshua) the Messiah.

We need your prayers as we conduct services and evangelistic outreaches, pointing our people to the One who died and rose for their sin.

New Beginnings

Rosh Hashanah, also known as the Feast of Trumpets, is described in Leviticus 23:23-25. For centuries it has marked the beginning of the civil year of the Jewish calendar. It is most memorably begun by the sounding of the shofar (ram's horn) in the synagogue service. The shofar blast is, among other things, a call to repentance, for Jewish tradition teaches that the Lord judges humanity on Rosh Hashanah.

Rosh Hashanah is celebrated with the eating of apples and honey, symbolic of the hope of a sweet year to come. Tradition holds that on Rosh Hashanah, God writes the destiny of each person for the coming year in the Book of Life. Each Jewish person is invited to meditate upon his or her own sins, seek forgiveness and make amends in the ten 'Days of Awe' that precede the Day of Atonement.

Rosh Hashanah also has a Messianic message in the blowing of the ram's horn. Jewish tradition tells us that this is a reminder of the Binding of Isaac, when Abraham demonstrated his absolute faith in God by his willingness to sacrifice his son—a vivid illustration of Messiah's sacrifice in almost the same spot centuries later. It is also a long-held Jewish tradition that the sound of the shofar will herald the coming of the Messiah and the resurrection of the dead.

1. Atonement – In Messiah Our High Priest

There is no more sombre day in the Jewish year than the Day of Atonement. Coming at the end of the ten 'Days of Awe' following Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32) is also part of Israel's Holy Days. It is described in Leviticus 16 as the day that the High Priest offered a blood sacrifice each year so that the children of Israel could continue as God's people, despite their sins and transgressions:

So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel,

and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel (Leviticus 16:16-17).

Again, we find a Messianic connection and fulfilment in Yeshua. In John 17, sometimes called the 'High Priestly Prayer', our Messiah, acting as our High Priest, prays for Himself, His immediate family of disciples and for the people of God. Instead of making an offering that must be repeated year after year, as the writer of the book of Hebrews stresses (Hebrews 7:26-27), Messiah offers His own body to be pierced for our transgressions, once and for all.

2. Sukkot – A Gathering of Messiah's Harvest

Five days after the Day of Atonement comes Sukkot—the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-43). 'Tabernacles' refers to the temporary dwellings that the Jewish people were commanded to inhabit during this holiday. Sukkot is also called the 'Season of our Rejoicing'—and for good reason! Sukkot, like many Jewish feasts, has different levels of meaning.

The first is agricultural, as 'tabernacles' remind us of how the farm labourers in ancient days lived as they worked to bring in the harvest. The second level of meaning is historical, as the holiday commemorates the forty years during which the children of Israel wandered in the desert, living in temporary shelters, while God too had a 'tabernacle' built for them to worship Him while He dwelt with them.

Yet another meaning, however, is fulfilled in Messiah, for there is a wonderful connection between Yeshua the Messiah and the Feast of Tabernacles. It is the Kingdom promise associated with Sukkot. The prophet Zechariah proclaims, *'And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles'* (Zechariah 14:16).

Understanding the Messianic connection of Jesus to the Feast of Tabernacles even helps us grasp something of the mystery of His Incarnation—*'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth'* (John 1:14).

The word 'dwelt' here in the Greek means 'tabernacled'. When He became flesh, Yeshua inhabited the temporary shelter of an earthly body, knowing He would soon be required to leave it. Why did He do it?

The Feast of Trumpets marks the beginning of the civil year of the Jewish calendar.

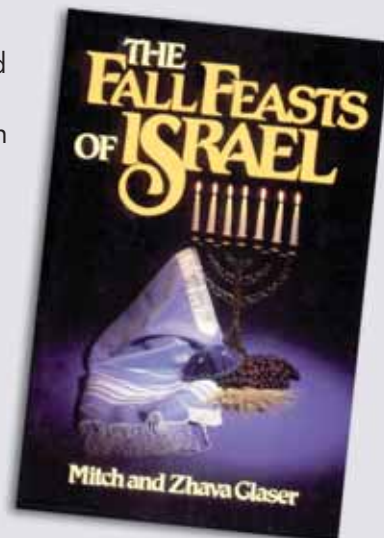
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The Chosen People Ministries Jewish Art Calendar is filled with Messianic prophecies and fascinating insights into the Jewish holidays. As the months unfold, your sense of wonder will be renewed as you reflect upon the beauty of the Land and the promises of God that are given through it—promises that are indeed fulfilled in the Messiah He has sent. This is the perfect gift to give your Jewish friend. Order one for your own home, too, and experience the beauty of Israel throughout the year. The Jewish calendar year 5769 begins in September 2008 and goes through August 2009. An additional page displays September through December, 2009.

Jewish Art Calendar
£8 plus £2 P&P

The Fall Feasts of Israel will help you understand three of Israel's most significant festivals: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. A complete examination of each feast includes a look at its biblical institution, its celebration in the time of our Messiah, and its observance by Jewish people today. The book is by Dr. Mitch Glaser, Chosen People Ministries' international president, and his wife, Zhava.



The Fall Feasts of Israel
£10 plus £2 P&P

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www.chosenpeople.org.uk

Two Decisions for Messiah in Israel

We praise the Lord for two separate decisions for Messiah in Israel. Both are the fruit of the labour of Chosen People Ministries' faithful staff members in the Land. The first came about when Mike V. and a team of about a dozen believers spent some time evangelising on the beaches. Many people, both Jews and Arabs, seemed open to listening to God's truth, and one young woman prayed to receive the Lord. In another setting, Brian S. reported that a Jewish man in his 70s from Baghdad, Iraq, received the Lord during Brian's weekly time of serving at a soup kitchen in Tel Aviv.



So that we might find a home in Him—not a temporary shelter in the wilderness, but an eternal home in a Kingdom that abides forever.

3. The Autumn Feasts: Blueprint for Restoration

Sacrifice, atonement and joyful ingathering—this is the path along which the Autumn Feasts of Israel move. As a Messianic Jew, I am grateful to God that He has allowed me to discover that Jesus, Yeshua, is the fulfilment of the Festivals—He is my atonement and joy, and in Him I have a new beginning and a new life.

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As Paul writes, we are 'a new creation' in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). This verse means so much during this season of the year!

Thank you for your prayers, financial support and love for the Jewish people and for Chosen People Ministries. The Jewish greeting during this season is profound—we say to one another: 'May your name be inscribed in the Book of Life'. How I pray my people find out that this is possible today! It is comforting to know that through faith in Jesus, Yeshua the Messiah, we have been inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life—forever!

On behalf of our staff around the world—Happy New Year!

Your brother,

Daniel

Daniel

**Portions of this article are reprinted from 'Rosh Hashanah: A Trumpet Call for God's People' by Olivier Melnick.*

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