



The Chosen People

REACHING JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



“I see Him, but not now:
I behold Him, but not near;

a *Star*
shall come
out of Jacob;
a *Scepter* shall rise
out of Israel . . .”

Numbers 24:17

Just last night, Deborah and I accepted a ride home from central London from a very religious Jewish friend. As the lights are going up in the city, we commented on how pretty they are. He 'confessed' that he actually enjoys the festive atmosphere, and even the carols in the stores! We had to smile. All this to-do because one Jewish boy was born in Bethlehem just over two thousand years ago!

Often people ask us whether Christians really should celebrate Christmas. Others ask us why on earth Jewish believers in Yeshua (Jesus) such as us would celebrate Hanukkah! The Apostle Paul had a saying that I believe is most relevant. He instructed, 'whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God' (1 Cor. 10:31). Many more scriptures are relevant, of course, but the lesson for all of us during this 'season of lights' is to seek in all things to glorify our Lord.

Happily, both Hanukkah and Christmas are at their core a celebration of God's intervention in human affairs. Hanukkah means 'dedication.' It was 165 BC when Jewish fighters (the Maccabees) were able to liberate the Temple of Jerusalem from pagan overlords, cleanse it, and dedicate it once more to the worship of the one true God.



Daniel Nessim

One hundred and sixty years later, when Yeshua was born, Israel was truly committed to its worship of God. After all, they had thus purchased the right to worship him with their own blood. The Temple was an edifice that would have astounded the Maccabees with its magnificence. Only six miles away, Yeshua was in a shelter meant for the animals of the field. A newborn infant, He was man - but also divine.

In years to come, there would be a crucial clash. Those who revered the Temple and identified it with all that it stood for would be horrified to hear this man say that 'in this place there is one greater than the Temple' (Matthew 12:6). It would have been beyond belief to them that anyone could be greater than the Temple other than the God who was worshipped there. Was Yeshua making an audacious claim? No, He was simply informing them. The fact is, He was and is greater than the Temple ever was.

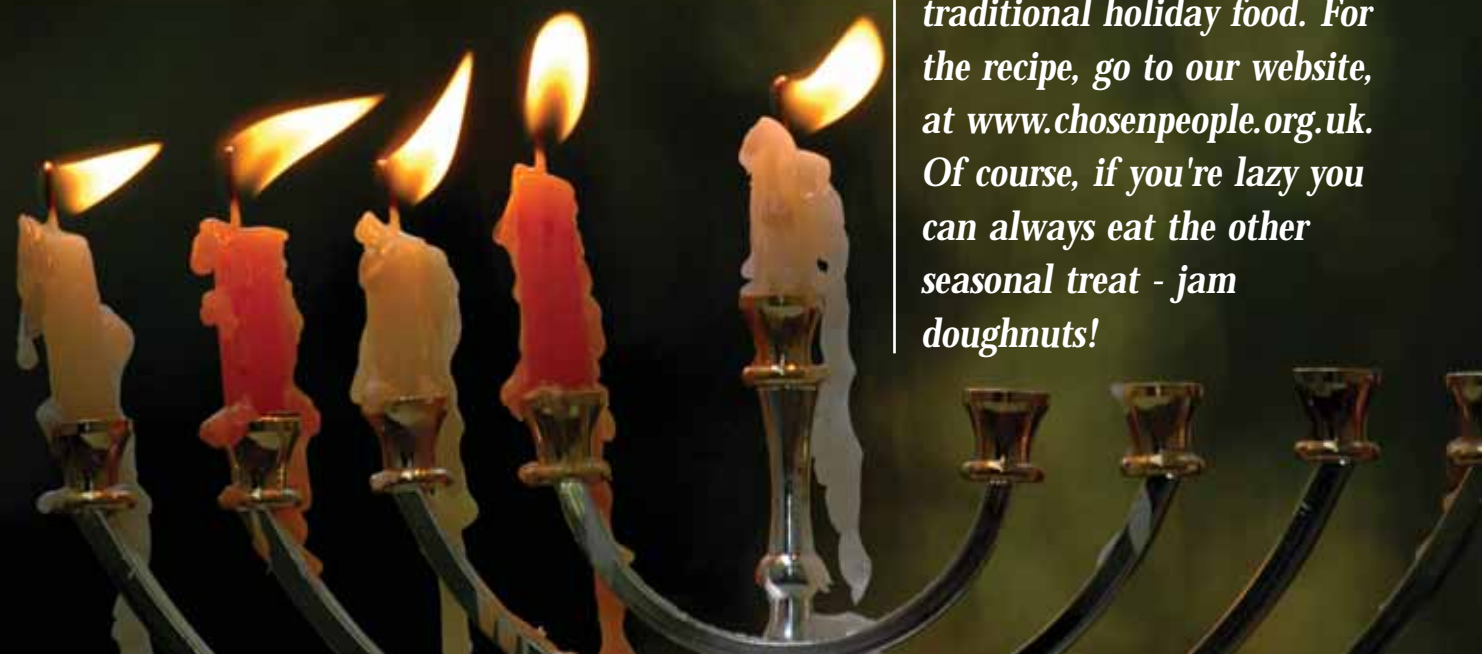
For us as Jews, the challenge is still there. Is Yeshua greater than all the weight of what we hold dear? Is He truly the Light of the World, the one by whom all our traditions will be measured? Those of us who believe He truly is one with the Father as He claimed, have no doubt.

Two thousand years ago, a light dawned. Within a year, led by the light of a star, wise men would come to worship Him. We would be wise to worship Him now. What a great reason to rejoice! The old adage is true: 'the Son of God became a son of man that the sons of men might become the children of God.'

There's nothing more special than to be a child of God. Rarely, but sometimes, people take exception to the name of our ministry, 'Chosen

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Hanukkah this year begins the evening of Sunday, 21st December, and ends at sunset on Monday 29th. For a special treat, make yourself a batch of Latkes, the traditional holiday food. For the recipe, go to our website, at www.chosenpeople.org.uk. Of course, if you're lazy you can always eat the other seasonal treat - jam doughnuts!





Yochanan and Annie

Chosen People has recently been delighted to accept the application of Yochanan and Annie from Jerusalem to work in our UK ministry. Yochanan is an Ethiopian Jew born and raised in the UK and in Trinidad, who came to faith in Jesus as a teenager

after studying the prophecies of the Old Testament. Anne-

Marie, a French Jewess who came to faith in her early 20s due to the influence of her then believing Jewish mother, immigrated to Israel in 1988 with her son Matthew to begin a life of service to the Lord. What a blessing it is to have them joining us! God willing, they will arrive with their adopted son Nathaniel early in the New Year.

Chosen People Global Ministries

The European cluster of Chosen People Ministries consists of Beth Sar Shalom in Germany, le Berger D'Israël in France, and Chosen People Ministries in the UK. We are pleased to see its continued progress. Periodically our directors - Vladimir, Guy, and Daniel (respectively) - meet to share needs, concerns and ideas, and to pray together. This January, for the first time, we expect to be joined by Kirill from Moscow as we meet in London.

Mark

Mark and Marie, who plan to leave London to work in our New York branch and the Feinberg Center (which offers a three-year Master of Divinity degree in Messianic Jewish Studies), continue to actively serve the Lord in Europe until their move becomes possible. Mark has told us of continuing growth that he has observed in the Messianic movement in Italy, where many Jewish people have become believers in Yeshua. Mark often travels to Rome to do what he can to be of help.

A Handel in Canada

On December 16th, Chosen People Ministries Toronto will sponsor a complete performance of Handel's Messiah in the auditorium of the Toronto Botanical Gardens. The entire libretto from the Messiah, consisting almost entirely of both Old and New Covenant Scripture, will be printed in the programme in English and Russian.

Daniel and Deborah

Daniel and Deborah are very pleased that the weekly fellowship that they are planting is continuing to grow, and that it is a place where both believers and non-believers are comfortable. Recently, one lady referred to them by a local pastor came, seeking to explore her Jewishness. A couple of members of the group were able to share with her extensively about their faith in Yeshua. By the end of the evening, Daniel was able to give her a free Hebrew-English New Testament. These Bibles are graciously supplied to us free of charge by the Society for Distributing Hebrew Scriptures, for this very purpose!

India

Recently we sent a team of four Chosen People pioneers to Goa, India. In Goa there are so many young Israeli tourists that even some street signs are in Hebrew!



Robynne writes,

Last night we got to share with two more young Israelis who asked good questions and opened their hearts to us. One happily took a book of Matthew in Hebrew, but the other was unsure at first about talking to us.

We met Simon, a religious Israeli who, though well versed in the Hebrew Scriptures, had travelled to Goa to become a secular Jew - to give up keeping the Law.*

Simon told us that he wanted to 'try it out' before he went back to Israel to tell his parents that he no longer planned to become a rabbi. We met him immediately at the beginning of the Sabbath, the first one he had not observed in his entire life! My heart broke for this young man-he was so lost!

Simon does not want to be 'religious' because he does not want to believe in a God who allows evil. He listened to my testimony and was willing to talk about some of the Messianic prophecies in the Bible pointing to Yeshua. He wanted to meet us again and said that he might even allow himself to read part of the Gospels!

*Pseudonym

CAN A JEWISH
PERSON
BELIEVE GOD
BECAME MAN?

by Ben Volman

Did God fulfil the promise of Immanu-el: God with Us?

Many of us who grew up in Jewish homes were told, 'It's impossible for God to become a man.' But the issue is much more profound. How does God promise to be present with His people?

Isaiah framed the promise in the name of a miraculous child yet to be born: 'Immanu-el' meaning 'God with us' (Is. 7:14). The Jewish Scriptures repeatedly show God communicating with His people in human form.

Consider Abraham, who welcomed three strangers to his tent in Mamre. The Scripture says, 'The LORD appeared to him.' These men predicted the birth of

Isaac and warned Abraham of divine judgment about to fall on Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:1).

Consider Jacob, who wrestled all night with 'a man' and called the place Peniel, 'For I have seen God face to face' (Gen. 32:30).

Consider David, who rejoiced when the prophet Nathan revealed that his descendants would occupy Israel's throne forever. Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel all affirmed that God would personally reign on David's throne for eternity.

In the light of these promises we see why Yeshua's Jewish followers said, 'we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten' (John 1:14). In Yeshua's miracles and ultimately in His resurrection, they realized that the promise of God was being fulfilled in their midst and would be fully realized when He ascends the throne of David in days to come.

People Ministries'. I like to say that there is nothing more special and crucial, to Jew and Gentile, than to be one of those God has chosen to take as His own. Through Yeshua's resurrection we all live. So through His sacrifice to become a human child, the way has been paved for all of us who can now become children of God.

Have a wonderful and blessed holiday season, and thank you for helping to bring the good news of Yeshua - once a baby in Bethlehem - to His kinsmen according to the flesh. We could not do this without you!

We have a lot of wonderful news to share with you this month, and I hope it encourages you as it does us to see what the Lord is doing.

Yours in our wonderful Messiah,

Daniel

Daniel

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MESSIANIC RESOURCES



To The Jew First
£10 plus £2 P&P

Based upon the biblical mandate to take the Gospel 'to the Jew first' (Rom. 1:16), this comprehensive resource by various evangelical scholars looks at the historical, theological and biblical context for Jewish evangelism and provides encouragement for Gentile and Jewish believers engaged in this task.

Rabbi Leopold Cohn's classic autobiographical work, *To An Ancient People*, retells the story of the trials and triumphs of the young but venerated rabbi in his native rural Hungary – and his quest for truth. Leopold's trip to the 'New World' and his indescribable joy in finding Yeshua are told in inspiring and timeless detail.



To An Ancient People
£5 plus £2 P&P

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.

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will. "I will bless those who bless you." (Genesis 12:3)