

May 2017 / Iyyar - Sivan 5777

Volume 14 • Issue 2 • INTERNATIONAL EDITION



The Chosen People

SERVING THE JEWISH PEOPLE SINCE 1894



INSIDE:

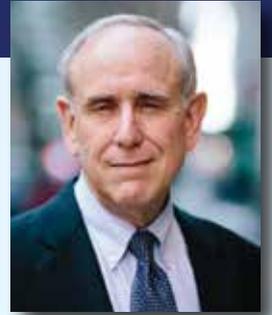
God Keeps His Promises

A History of Chosen People
Ministries in Israel

Hebrews 6 Bible Study

Reports from Fiona and Simon

THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL



Dr. Mitch Glaser
International
Director
Chosen People
Ministries

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES



Shalom in the Messiah,
I wish I had been alive on May 14, 1948!

I cannot imagine what it was like for Bible-believing Christians to see the Jewish people reestablished as a nation in the land of Israel. I would imagine that believers who heard the announcement on the radio or read about it in the newspapers probably thought about some very specific passages in the Old Testament, which promised that the Land of Israel would be the possession of the Jewish people. For example,

The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."
(Genesis 13:14-17)

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates...." (Genesis 15:18)

"I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." (Genesis 17:8)

Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name:

"If this fixed order departs From before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever."
(Jeremiah 31:35-36)

"I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD. (Ezekiel 37:14)

And there are so many others—dozens of prophecies promising the Jewish people that the Land of Israel would be their inheritance...granted to them by God alone!

The odds against these promises coming true were profound. Think about it for a moment. The Jewish people were attacked and dispersed from the land of Israel over and over again by



hostile pagan nations like Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. These nations tried to destroy the Jewish people in many different ways.

Yet, the Jewish people always had a presence in the land of Israel, but truthfully that presence was small. For centuries after the destruction of the Second Temple, Jewish people have prayed for the restoration of Zion in their Sabbath prayers. The longing to return to the land always burned within the hearts of the Jewish people.

Attempts to destroy the Jewish people did not cease with the demise of these hostile ancient nations, but continued throughout the centuries. In the medieval period in Europe, Jewish people were persecuted and exiled by "Christians" in European countries and dominated by Muslims in the Middle East. The Jewish population dwindled in Europe as Crusades, Inquisitions, and Pogroms hurt the Jewish people causing loss of life and property and demographic shifts—but it didn't decimate them. The Holocaust did though.

Nothing would compare with the attempted annihilation of the Jewish people by Hitler and his evil accomplices during the Holocaust as the God who promised to preserve the Jewish people would not allow them to be destroyed! So, in 1948, from the very ashes of the Holocaust rose an alleged new entity—the modern state of Israel, which in fact was simply the resurrection of the nation God had created earlier from the loins of Abraham and Sarah.

Beginning in 1948, the cities of Judah and Israel began to be rebuilt. The Hebrew language was reinstated as the common everyday vernacular. Jewish people from across the globe, moved by survival and persecution in Europe and the Middle East, fled to the nascent nation and though it was replete with swamps, deserts and dusty foothills, these early pioneers literally put their shoulders to the plow and broke through soil and rock to create the modern state of Israel. The immigrants came from all over the world: Europe, North Africa, North America, South Africa, South America, and from hundreds of nations where Jewish people have been displaced. But now...the Jewish people were home.

The words of the prophet Ezekiel in chapter 36 have come to life in vivid color as we have seen the resurrection of Israel with our own eyes. We know that God has fulfilled His promise, though there is more to come, because we have seen it ourselves. The prophet wrote,

"I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord God, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land."
(Ezekiel 36:23-24)

The restoration of Israel is a miracle God performed to show us that He is faithful to His promises. The return of the Jewish people to the land promised to her forefathers is in the process of being fulfilled and will one day be finalized when the Jewish people return to the true Messiah, Jesus, and recognize Him as the true King of Israel (Zechariah 12:10,

Romans 11:25ff). And as sure as the Jewish people have returned to the land—this is how sure we can be that the Jewish people will also turn to Jesus in the last days.

Once again, the prophet writes,

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God. (Ezekiel 36:25-28)

As you can see, the physical promises are just beginning and the promises of spiritual restoration are just around the corner! Now that the Jewish people are at least in part back in the land of promise, we should expect to see the next steps take place where the Lord begins to stir the hearts of the Jewish people and turns His chosen people to the Messiah Jesus.

Chosen People Ministries and Israel

Our Mission, which began in 1894, has been serving in the Holy Land since the 1930s. Our ministry in Israel has grown with the nation and continues to do so because of your faithful prayers and financial support. Thank you so much for helping us reach the nation of Israel when they were less than a couple hundred thousand Jewish people living there. Today there are almost 7,000,000 Jewish people living in the holy land and your Mission to the Jewish people is there with over 20 staff workers—mostly Israelis—reaching out to the Jewish People. Through the Jerusalem Center, our ben-evolence distribution operates in five cities within Israel. We are now at work each day telling Israelis about Jesus through our rented Center in the greater Tel Aviv area.

For many years we focused on the growing number of Russian Jewish immigrants in Israel. There was a tremendous harvest among these new immigrants and half of our staff in Israel, including our leadership team, are the fruit of this revival among Russian Jews who emigrated to Israel beginning in the late 1980s. We will continue to minister to the Russian Jewish immigrants and their families, but we have been slowly turning our attention to the millions of younger and more secular Jewish people living in Israel who are in such desperate need of the Gospel. I hope you enjoy the article about the history of our ministries in Israel. I think you'll learn a lot about how God has worked in so many powerful ways among Israelis over the last few decades!

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and on going support to Chosen People Ministries UK.



Mitch Glaser
International Director

FIONA SORBALA REPORTS

These last few weeks have been full of challenges - not least of which was a surprise call from Toivo, who works for Chosen People Ministries in Finland, asking if I could come to Latvia earlier than planned: a speaker had been unable to arrive to teach some seminars on Jewish evangelism, so I had to hop on a plane last Tuesday, arriving at midnight, and teach the following morning! But what an opportunity! Some of these young people will go on to full time ministry, and we were able to present the biblical mandate for Jewish evangelism. Hopefully they will carry this understanding with them into their future ministries. Then we ran an evangelism training seminar in a church in Riga, where we taught on how to do Jewish evangelism.

The highlight of the trip was an overnight visit to a city four hours' drive away to visit two of our Jewish believers. What joy to see how they have not only remained faithful, but one (H.) has really grown in his faith. We were able to have a Bible study with them. They were both part of a group that came from Latvia to the conference in Finland



at the beginning of March, and H. especially felt that he had learned a lot and been blessed by it. Three of our sessions were broadcast live on Finnish Christian TV, including mine on the lessons of Purim.

At our congregation's Passover celebration we had a good number of Jewish people for whom it was the first time they were able to celebrate this Feast of the Lord. And more than that, they saw how Jesus is the fulfilment of the Passover. Several of them have yet to have a personal encounter with Jesus and find him to truly be their Messiah and Saviour.

**Would you like
to have a Chosen People
Ministries representative
speak to your church or group?
Please call 0208 455 7911
or email
info@chosenpeople.org.uk.**

SIMON LISSAK WRITES

This month I am going to tell you one story... I could tell many - of the Jewish man who came to our Purim party for the first time and played the tambourine and sang songs about Jesus... or about sitting with the CEO of the JW3 in London at an "Inter Faith Seder"... or about the Jewish family that has recently come to faith and who are now doing weekly Bible studies with us - these stories all illustrate one theme: "The LORD has gone ahead of you... so trust Him". But here is the one story I want to tell you:

This spring I went to the USA to preach the Gospel and raise support for Jewish mission. When I arrived at Indianapolis Airport at 1am it was already 6am in London and I had been travelling since 11am the previous day. As I was standing by the baggage carousel wondering how I was going to get to my hosts, I fell into conversation with the woman standing next to me, who was picking up her daughter. She asked what I was doing and where I was going. I reluctantly I told her, and when I did she laughed! My hosts lived in the next street to her, and her daughter went to school with



their son! I found myself accepting a lift from her! This is a unique event in my life. Even as I think about it now it seems odd, but how often do we hear the LORD's ways are not ours! Both of us took a risk and trusted that the LORD was in this meeting.

Later I discovered that she works for a Christian company that supports hundreds of missionaries and thousands of Christian events across the state! Later that week I was invited to meet some of the staff, who told me they already support another Jewish missionary! When I asked how they met him, it turned out the company founder met him "randomly" on a flight to Sydney, Australia! That "random" encounter has now led to 30 years of Gospel partnership in Jewish mission and I am hopeful that we will see more fruit from this relationship over the coming months and years.

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (2 Thessalonians 3:5).

Thank you for your partnership with us in Jewish Gospel mission.

The beginnings of our ministry in Israel predates the establishment of the modern state in 1948.

In the 1920s, we began publishing a joint Yiddish-English monthly newspaper entitled *The Shepherd of Israel*. At the time, we were known as the Williamsburg Mission to the Jews. In 1921, we started sending 200 copies a year of *The Shepherd of Israel* to Jerusalem, to a British missionary supported by our mission—Frank Boothby. Boothby operated a small storefront called “The Gospel Gate Room” which he kept stocked with Gospel tracts, Bibles, and our newspaper. Boothby reported that the Jewish people of Jerusalem loved the Yiddish periodical and would come by the building to pick up new editions. Boothby faithfully continued in this ministry until his death in 1940. He was our first missionary in the Holy Land.

The final years of the British Mandate were tumultuous times for all in the Land. Boothby had written in 1938, “[W]hen it becomes known that Jews have turned toward Christ they are faced with bitter hatred and boycott from all Jewish sides, and the Missions have yet not found the means to sustain them or to provide jobs or work of a lasting kind.” After Boothby’s death, we appointed a Norwegian missionary, Sigournd Biorness, to continue the ministry at the Gospel Gate Room, and he often described the unique difficulties in the Land. Jewish refugees were pouring in from Europe, attempting to flee the Nazis, but there was a lack of food, employment, and shelter for the arrivals. Biorness was distraught by the needs of the refugees, as there was little his ministry could provide. Eventually the war closed most of the shipping lanes to the Land, so even Bibles were impossible to ship. After years of stagnation, Biorness resigned from the ministry in 1946, and the Gospel Gate Room went out of existence before the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Yet, the Lord would soon give new life to the work of our Mission in Israel.

In 1949, after the dust had settled from the War of Independence, our ministry, which was now known as the American Board of Missions to the Jews (ABMJ), called a new missionary to lead our work in Israel: Haim Haimoff. He began by serving 25 Jewish believing families in Jerusalem. Soon after, we called W. L. McClenahan to help Haimoff with the administrative side of the ministry. McClenahan was a Gentile believer who had lived in the land for 30 years, and it was his role to register our ministry

as a foreign corporation. In 1951, the State of Israel issued the ministry a certification, stating, “The American Board of Missions to the Jews is now registered under the laws of the State of Israel—one of the first independent missionary societies in the world to enjoy that privilege.”

This certification was a significant blessing, but like the new nation, our work was still on shaky ground. By 1953, Haimoff left the ministry and McClenahan passed away. We attempted to send short-term missionaries to Israel and keep our connections alive, but the Mission had no salaried missionaries in the Land for nearly a decade. It was complicated to send missionaries due to Israel’s immigration laws.

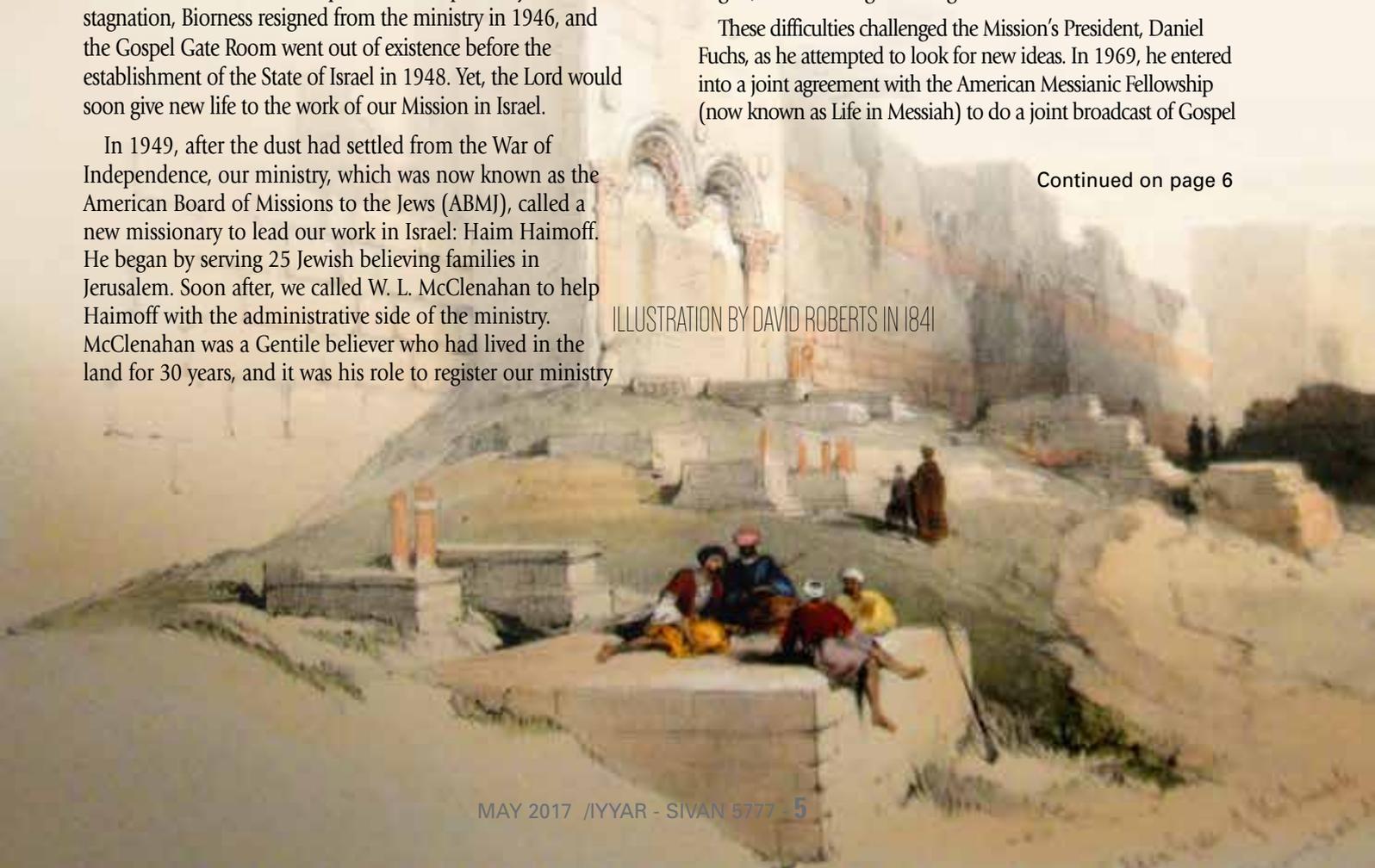
In 1962, Chosen People Ministries called Peter Gutkind, a Jewish believer, to oversee our work. Gutkind served in Haifa and taught Bible classes, distributed care packages, and passed out Gospel literature. By 1965 he enjoyed a thriving ministry in which Israelis were receiving the Lord and getting baptized. However, as the word of his ministry got out, the ire of a violent group of Orthodox activists was aroused. In August 1965, over a hundred Yeshiva Youth attacked Gutkind’s home and destroyed the contents within. Our missionary was spared physical harm and fled, but he knew that the Israeli police had purposefully taken a slow response. Our work in Haifa, just begun, was now in grave danger.

These difficulties challenged the Mission’s President, Daniel Fuchs, as he attempted to look for new ideas. In 1969, he entered into a joint agreement with the American Messianic Fellowship (now known as Life in Messiah) to do a joint broadcast of Gospel



Continued on page 6

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID ROBERTS IN 1841



radio throughout Israel. The two ministries produced a 30-minute segment, seven days a week. The partnership continued through 1973, at which point our Mission took full responsibility for the broadcast. We also partnered with Victor Smadja, a Jewish believer who had established an Israeli publishing company, Ya'netz Press, and led a congregation in Jerusalem.

Also in 1969, Jacob and Leah Goren, both Holocaust survivors, received God's call to join the ABMJ and continue their ministry to Jewish children in need. Soon after, Joseph Alkahe, who had been serving as a pastor in Tel Aviv, joined the Mission as well. The ministry was delighted to finally have a thriving ministry in the Land with multiple missionaries in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, and a daily radio program.

Gutkind retired in 1972, Jacob Goren passed away in 1981, and in that same year the ministry decided to cut ties with Alkahe for theological reasons. Leah Goren continued her ministry, but our work in Israel entered a dry season. One high point, however, was the creation of the "See Israel Through Jewish Eyes" program, which brought tour groups to Israel to experience the land and act as good-will ambassadors for the Gospel amongst the Israeli population.

By the late 1980s, our Mission, now named Chosen People Ministries, was struggling financially. Despite a hiring moratorium on new workers, the ministry saw the dire need



FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN SDEROT FROM THE JERUSALEM MESSIANIC CENTER

for ministry in Israel as winds of change were in the air. We began ministry among the thousands of Russian immigrants entering Israel and called Avner Boskey in 1987 to serve as an evangelist in the Land. Boskey established a new messianic congregation outside Tel Aviv, and Albert and Gretta ministered to the massive influx of Soviet Jews who were escaping the fall of the Soviet Union.

Two of those new Russian immigrants were Michael and Natalie Zinn. Michael was an engineer who had fled the Soviet Union to make a new life in Israel, but like other Russian Jewish immigrants, the Zinns did not know any Hebrew. They enrolled in a Hebrew language class for new immigrants, and while there, they met an American missionary couple who were also trying

to learn Hebrew. They became friends, and eventually Michael and his wife accepted Yeshua as their Messiah.

Today, Michael Zinn serves as the National Director of our work in the Holy Land. He stands on the shoulders of many previous servants of the Lord who ministered in the Land. However, the lessons of the last century in Israel have shown us that ministry cannot stand still, but must always be adapting with the times and

finding new methods to reach the lost. Our work amongst 1.4 million Russian Jews continues. Multiple congregations have been planted, benevolence work among the elderly and Holocaust survivors is thriving and work among children through camping programs continues to grow and thrive. Multiple thousands of Israelis are now touched for the Lord by our over 20 Chosen People Ministries staff in the Land.

Perhaps the capstone of our efforts in Israel was the purchase of a beautiful building in the German Colony of Jerusalem, which is called the Jerusalem Messianic Center. It houses our Israel headquarters and is used to host Bible studies and social events designed for outreach. It also has the capacity to house a dozen short-term workers.

However, we believe we are in the middle of a new move of the Spirit as ministry among younger and more secular Israelis is becoming fruitful through the use of digital media. Unlike previous decades, there are now many congregations and believers in Israel who can disciple and follow up with these younger seekers.

This is why our Greater Tel Aviv Center may be the beginning of a new page in our work in Israel. We have the space for a thriving coffee house, evangelistic meetings, and Bible studies. Who knows what the Lord will enable us to do through this space?

No matter what the future holds, we are thankful for the ways the Lord has enabled us to minister in the land of Israel, and for all of the people who diligently served the Lord there in decades past, as well as those who continue to be a witness for Yeshua in the Land today.

Watch the testimonies of Jewish believers!

I FOUND SHALOM 

ifoundshalom.com

Contact our office to receive
a **FREE I FOUND SHALOM**
booklet to pass on to your
Jewish friends and family
members – 020 8455 7911 or
info@chosenpeople.org.uk

Hebrews 6:13-20

An Encouraging Example

The writer of Hebrews concluded the last section with the exhortation to find someone whose faith should be imitated, calling them “those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” In this next section, he offers Abraham as an encouraging example of one who continued strong in faith and patience and obtained the promise. The promise to which the writer was referring was the one God gave to Abraham after he had obeyed God by offering up Isaac in Genesis 22. It was a promise God gave, by swearing by Himself, since, as the writer puts it, “He could swear to no one greater.” God swearing by Himself signifies that He binds His word to His perfect and holy character.

Quoting Genesis 22:16-17, the writer speaks of God’s promise to multiply Abraham’s descendants. God promised Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, when he and his wife, Sarah, were childless, that He would make from him a great nation. Abraham, though he was seventy-five years old, believed God to do what was impossible. He trusted God to fulfill His promise regarding his descendants by even raising Isaac from the dead should Abraham have had truly to put Isaac to death. Ultimately God’s promise to Abraham to make from him a great nation was fulfilled by the birth of Isaac some twenty-five years after the initial promise. Thirty years later Abraham was tested to see if he indeed had the faith to trust God by offering Isaac on Mount Moriah.

By this example, the writer of Hebrews was calling his readers to do what God had called Abraham to do when He instructed him to go to Mt. Moriah. They too needed to continue to believe God at His Word, as they had done in the past, even though it looked as though current circumstances seemed to be leading them to persecution and tragedy. Abraham, “having patiently waited” and remaining unwavering in his faith in God in the face of circumstances that seemingly were headed to tragedy, obtained the promise.

Beginning in Hebrews 6:16, Abraham is no longer the example, and the oath that God made to him specifically is now considered to be for the benefit of all believers generally. The promise of Genesis 22:18 clearly had Messianic aspects seen in these words: “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” Then the writer of Hebrews declared that the messianic hope was a sure promise, not only to Abraham, but also to the Gentile heirs of what was promised.

Read Hebrews 6:13-20 NASB

¹³ For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you.” ¹⁵ And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. ¹⁷ In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. ¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, ²⁰ where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

When a person wants to end a dispute, one way for them to do so is to appeal to a higher authority with an oath. As an example, some people do this by saying, “I am telling the truth so help me God.” In a similar way God used an oath to guarantee both to Abraham and by implication to all believers, “the heirs of the promise.” As noted previously, God swearing by Himself signifies that He binds His word to His perfect and holy character.

God, therefore, gave Abraham double assurance that He would indeed deliver what He had promised. First, he gave him the assurance of the promise of God for whom it is impossible to lie. Secondly, God gave Abraham assurance that specially guaranteed that particular promise with an oath. That is an encouragement to us as believers as we wait for our blessed hope, the sure return of our Messiah—the Bridegroom returning for His Bride.

Hebrews 6:19-20 provides us with another visual that illustrates our security in Him. When Jesus our Messiah ascended into heaven He took our hope of a blessed future with Him into the

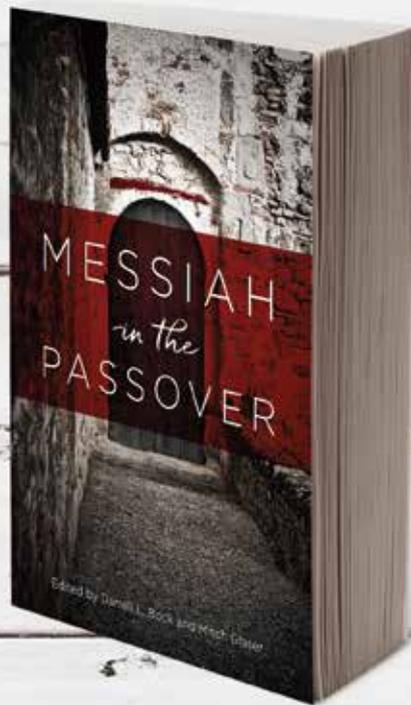
Holy of Holies in the heavenly tabernacle—an anchor for our souls. What an incredible picture. Like an anchor for a ship, it should keep us from drifting away as the difficult circumstances of life toss us about like a storm.

Dr. Rich Freeman, D. Min. serves as the Vice President for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia. Dr. Freeman works with churches throughout the country and abroad, helping to equip God’s people to share the Gospel with their Jewish neighbors, friends and co-workers and grow in their understanding of the Scriptures.



Messiah in the Passover, the newest book by Chosen People Ministries, covers a full range of topics including the biblical foundations for the Passover and the Lord's Supper, the Passover throughout Jewish and Church history, as well as how Jewish people celebrate Passover today.

The book, edited by Dr. Darrell Bock, professor of New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, and Dr. Mitch Glaser, president of Chosen People Ministries, provides all that is needed to conduct a Passover Seder in your home that glorifies the Messiah Jesus as the



Lamb of God. Also included are crafts for the children, recipes so that you can make delicious Passover foods, and great detail on how to use the Passover as an evangelistic tool in reaching your Jewish friends.

Get your copy of this amazing new reference book today!

Pre Order your book today! Delivery expected early June. Pre Order offer of £15 plus £2 postage (RRP £18 & postage)

Don't forget to visit our online shop for our many resources

shop.chosenpeople.org.uk

or contact our office on 0208 455 7911



'Like' us on Facebook at ChosenPeopleUK



'Follow' us on Twitter @ChosenPeopleUK

This summer you too can be a part of God's grand design for the Jewish People in a unique and tangible way. Choose one week this summer to join Chosen People Ministries for this short-term ministry experience in New York City which has the largest Jewish population in America.

To register or for more information, contact the CPM office in New York on 1-888-2-YESHUA or visit online at www.chosenpeople.com/shalombrooklyn



SHALOM BK

OFFERING PEACE THROUGH JESUS THE MESSIAH

Week 1 | 22-29 July OR
Week 2 | 29 July - 5 August



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 • Mrs. Elizabeth Bentley (advisor) • Dr. Mitch Glaser • Rev. Keith Page • Mr. Peter Pretlove (treasurer) • Mr Paul Refson • Dr. Calvin Smith • Mr Michael Tetzlaff

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

The Chosen People UK Edition newsletter is published bimonthly by Chosen People Ministries (UK). To receive a copy or for more information write to: Chosen People Ministries, PO Box 47871, Golders Green, LONDON, NW11 1AL, call us on 0208 455 7911, or email us at info@chosenpeople.org.uk. Design: Lois Ruedinger.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.CHOSENPEOPLE.ORG.UK

CALL US ON: 0208 455 7911

WRITE TO US AT: info@chosenpeople.org.uk

©2017 Chosen People Ministries (UK)
Registered Charity No. 1095644, a company limited by guarantee in England No. 4611406. Printed in the United Kingdom.

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