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The Chosen People

SERVING THE JEWISH PEOPLE SINCE 1894



THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED



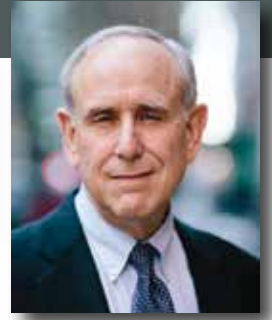
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International
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Never Again: The Holocaust Remembered

TRAGEDY
OPENS OUR EYES TO GOD'S
PRESENCE. IT IS DURING THE DIFFICULT
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AND THAT EVEN DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION CANNOT KEEP
US FROM HIM.

Dear friend,
Shalom in our Messiah, Jesus. I am so grateful for all those who have sent us messages of goodwill in honor of our 125th anniversary as a ministry. I am also very grateful for those who have given to our CPM 125th Advancement Campaign. We hope to reach our target of raising an additional \$1,250,000, which will help us with our goal of reaching 125,000 people, both Jewish and Gentile, who either need to be reached with the gospel or who want to share the good news with their Jewish friends.

We have already engaged with more than 75,000 individuals online. To be specific, we now have their names, home addresses, and e-mails for follow-up. By God's grace, two thousand of them are Israeli non-believers who we met through our Hebrew Isaiah 53 campaign.

We are expecting to meet thousands more as 125 staff and volunteers will pour out into the streets of New York City during the last week of July and first week of August for our **Shalom New York** outreach! The volunteers are subsidizing themselves, but we are providing the funds needed for our staff to come from across the globe. We will even have a team of Israelis from Israel reaching Israelis in New York City.

If it sounds exciting—it is! Our local New York missionaries, congregations, Bible studies, and disciple-makers are ready to do the follow-up with those seeking the Lord. So please pray often, give generously, and consider joining us for Shalom New York! There is still space available for you. Visit shalomnyoutreach.com for more information!

Holocaust Memorial Day

The United States Congress established May 2 as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Many of us have expanded this to the entire month of May and are holding various lectures and memorial services to commemorate this terrible moment in Jewish history.

As a Jewish person, I grew up under the dark shadow cast by the Holocaust. My grandparents were pre-Holocaust European Jewish immigrants to the United States. Like so many others, they never talked about those tragic days. They did not walk through it personally but knew a lot more than they would ever tell us. Perhaps they wanted to spare us from the horrific details of this nightmarish chapter in Jewish history. I was raised with photographs of my aunts and uncles that I would never

meet because they died in the Holocaust.

As a Messianic Jew, I wondered if my relatives who lost their lives in the midst of Nazi terror ever heard of God's grace through Jesus the Messiah—either before or during the days of the *Shoah* (Holocaust). Knowing the answer to this question became somewhat of an obsession for me over the years.

I began to wonder if there were instances of God's presence during the Holocaust. As the president of Chosen People Ministries, with access to our archives stretching back to 1894, I knew that our Mission had a significant ministry during those desperate days. I began looking through these documents to try and discover what transpired through our ministries in Europe at that time.

I was astounded by what I found. I want to share these amazing accounts of grace and mercy with you. There are so many stories of how our ministry served Jewish people during the Holocaust. Pages 6 and 7 contain some of the more poignant vignettes we compiled for you to read and reflect upon.

Chosen People Publications

The publications reflect the writings of Joseph Hoffman Cohn, the son of our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn. Joseph became the director of the Mission after the death of his father. You can purchase Leopold Cohn's autobiography, *To An Ancient People*, from our UK office (0208 455 7911) or online via our UK web shop. The reports are from before, during, and after the Holocaust and are drawn from *The Chosen People* newsletter and *The Shepherd of Israel*, an evangelistic publication.

If there was one outstanding lesson I gleaned from these stories, it was simply this—*the Lord uses tragedy to draw us to Himself*. The story of the Jewish people during the Holocaust can be compared to the Book of Job. God created and chose the Jewish people to be His light in a dark and broken world. He made promises to our forefathers that He would never allow His people to be destroyed (Jeremiah 31:31–37, Romans 11:28–29). God confirmed His Word again through the prophet Jeremiah: *"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 31:36).

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob assured us that He will be faithful to His promises.

Hitler murdered at least six million Jewish people, but never completed the job he started, as God would not...and could not...allow it!



Making the church aware of the Holocaust in 1945.

God's grace is sometimes hidden in the midst of life's greatest difficulties. Tragedy opens our eyes to His presence in ways that good times never will. It is during the difficult times that we recognize He is always present and powerful, and that even death and destruction cannot keep us from Him. This is why the Apostle Paul writes so powerfully,

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Remembering the Holocaust

It is good to remember the Holocaust and evil intent Satan has in mind for God's ancient people. The Devil still wants to destroy the Jewish people to prevent God's promises from unfolding. This should motivate us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and to remember His grace in the midst of life's difficulties.

We must never lose hope as He is still Lord and in control, even though humans and Satan himself are guiding humankind on a path to total destruction.

In reading these stories, you might very well be brought to tears. I was! I also hope you discover the Lord of all comfort who will point your heart and soul to His goodness and the salvation He brings through the death and resurrection of His only begotten Son. If we learn one thing from the cross, it is that great suffering leads to even greater glory.

God's best for Israel and for the Jewish people is still ahead, as Paul promised,

For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written.
(Romans 11:25–26)

I pray you will find the reports meaningful and that you will oppose antisemitism whenever and wherever you see it! Thanks again for your faithful prayers and generosity!

In His grace,

Mitch Glaser
International Director

Holocaust. It is a word that has the power to haunt us. For Jewish people, the Holocaust serves as a reminder of the precarious foothold the Jewish community holds in this world—and how quickly the world can turn against us.

If there is any event in history that Jewish people point to as an illustration of why they cannot believe in Jesus, it is the Holocaust. Here are some of the common Holocaust-related questions Jewish people might ask, along with some suggested responses:

Q. If there is a God, where was He during the Holocaust?

This question may be asked in two ways. The first assumes that the answer, “nowhere,” is self-evident. However, this question may also be asked in a sincere effort to reconcile the terrible mystery of God’s unfailing goodness with the horrors of human history. Where was God? Who has not, at some time, cried out as the Psalmist did, “*Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble*” (Psalm 10:1)?

God permitted the Holocaust to occur. Where was He? He was in the same position that He occupied at Calvary as Jesus suffered on the cross. God was suffering alongside those who were mercilessly killed by the enemies of the God of Israel. It is one of the most compelling characteristics of the gospel—our God suffers with us and for us.

Q. Where was the Church?

History tells us that after the early fourth century, Christianity became the preeminent faith of the Western world. The Catholic Church also became a powerful political force.

As a political power, the Church soon became immersed in the intrigues common to all-powerful institutions. Eventually, it became more concerned with wielding power and its own survival than in bearing the cross of Messiah. In many instances, it became corrupt. This corruption, combined with the entrenched antisemitism often encouraged by the Church, helped to create the environment that spawned the Holocaust. There were notable exceptions, however, such as those churches in Holland and even Germany who clearly saw the choice between good and evil and acted accordingly—often at great cost.



Q. How can the gospel be true if Christians killed six million Jews?

Christians did not perpetuate the Holocaust—the Nazis did. Many believing Christians died in the Holocaust and many risked their lives to help the Jewish people. *Yad Vashem*, the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem, has even dedicated a part of its site to commemorate non-Jewish “rescuers” who helped Jewish people avert death at the hands of the Nazis. It is true that many Christians were ambivalent or slow to act. However, it is unfair to put the full blame for the Holocaust upon Christians.

Q. What will happen to the religious Jews who died during the Holocaust?

We have saved the toughest question for last. If we say, as the Scriptures proclaim, that salvation is found only in Jesus the Messiah, our Jewish seeker will accuse us of condemning the Jewish millions not only to the ovens, but to eternal condemnation in hell. Many will ask, “Is this the act of a righteous God?”

We need not surrender the gospel message in an attempt to justify God. Jesus said, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me*” (John 14:6). No one is able to know the destiny of another, nor the lengths to which God will go to reveal Himself in the final moments of an earthly life. The Scriptures also proclaim, “*Salvation belongs to the Lord*” (Psalm 3:8). We believe that only those who consciously trust in Jesus will be saved. We simply do not know what happens in the hearts of individuals prior to their death. Only God knows!

Show them the way

There is no more terrible blight on humanity than the Holocaust. As easy as it may seem to place the blame wholly on Hitler and the German people, we know nothing is that simple. There is a far darker cause that underlies the attempted extermination of God’s chosen people. It is Satan’s wrath poured out on the canvas of human history and the sin that blights our creation.

Perhaps, for the Jewish seeker and many others, the awareness of sin can serve as the signpost pointing to something far greater—the holiness and goodness of God and the gospel that saves us: “*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts*” (Isaiah 55:9).



SIMON LISSAK WRITES

I have just returned from my third USA fundraising church tour. It is always a great encouragement to meet Americans who love Jesus and want to partner with us in the UK to reach our Jewish community. This year I was particularly excited to meet several Christians who had Jewish family! Now we will be able to work together to find new ways to make the Gospel "sticky" by helping them understand unspoken Jewish objections that often hinder evangelistic interactions.

I have been going to a conversation class with a group of Jewish people for the last nine months. At the end of a recent meeting one of the group came up to me and asked what I do. When I finally explained I was a Messianic Jew, she asked me if I used to run a Friday night meeting in Golders Green. It seems that about five years ago she was walking past and I invited her in off the street! She could not stay but she remembered me. "Hannah" has been going to churches and seems to be on a search for spiritual truth. Please pray that we would be able to have a serious talk about her Messiah soon.

This month I will be attending the Secular Society's annual conference! Don't worry - I am not losing heart! The keynote speaker is a young Jewish man called "Aaron" who was part of a large London Hassidic community, but now he has completely left that life and is a

committed atheist! We met in Bristol a few months ago and had coffee together. I really enjoyed our first meeting and I am hoping that this second meeting will be even better! Please pray that the LORD would build a strong trust between us and that I might even be able to do some light discipleship with him.

Lastly please pray fervently for four hearts of stone: Heimy, Leah, Cathy and Shirley are four Jewish people who have heard the Gospel from my lips for many years. Purim and Passover have come and gone and they are still refusing to open themselves to the Gospel. Pray for continued love and patience in our group as we face this long-term ministry!

As I watch the months pass, I see the Gospel continuing to spread and grow despite my weakness, and in the process I am learning to trust in God more deeply. That can only be good for the Jewish people that I am meeting and for all my family and friends.

All glory to Him.

We have had a really encouraging time and despite my being in hospital and very unwell we have seen the Lord at work. My testimony is that it is the Lord who sustains us and appoints the times and seasons of our lives. The words we say at Passover - "Blessed are You Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this season" - were especially real to me this year after experiencing a life-threatening illness.

The Jewish cycle of Festivals gave us a wonderful opportunity to have Jewish friends come to both our Purim and Passover celebrations, where we could show them the connection that the faith of their forefathers has to Jesus. We had some wonderful conversations and believe that seeds have been sown. The congregation's Bible study, which I normally lead, met in the coffee shop while I was in hospital, and two Jewish men who came to the Purim celebration joined them. It turned out to be an evening of answering many of their questions.

Recently I met with prayer partners for coffee and they brought with them an Israeli lady originally from Russia, who is going to an English language class that their church runs. She spoke about her background and was fascinated by the idea of Messianic Jews - of being able to be

FIONA SORBALA REPORTS



in some way both Christian and Jewish. I am praying that I will be able to introduce her to the One who makes this possible - the Messiah Himself.

I will be in Finland again this month helping with the summer outreach to Russian-speaking Holocaust survivors. Chosen People Ministries Finland works with our Israeli staff to give these precious people time away on holiday. It gives us the time to gently share the Gospel with them and to show them the love of God in the Messiah. Last year we had some wonderful opportunities to speak about the Saviour and watch as faith began to grow in one lady's heart. We want to see the Lord work in the lives of those who have suffered so much.

Please join us in praying for these areas of ministry. Your prayers and support are what enables us to continue to share the Gospel with Jewish people both here and around the world, and they are what has sustained me during an extended period of ill health.

With blessings,

I love these spring months, as they are the beginning of a new cycle in the Hebrew calendar and represent new life and redemption. In April, I celebrated the beginning of the biblical Jewish New Year in Cape Town, South Africa. I was surrounded by vineyards and fields, and the Lord reminded me that this is a season of 'new wine'. New wine is a sign of change - Jesus refers to new wine when speaking about the New Covenant and about living by the Spirit and not by the flesh (Luke 5:39). I feel an invitation to the new - it's so easy to live in the flesh and drink the 'old wine' because it tastes good and our palates are adjusted to it, but I believe there is always more God wants to do in us and through us, and that requires change, which sometimes doesn't taste good right away and is unfamiliar.



EMILY EMANUEL SHARES

I believe that God wants to use my voice in new ways, both with Jewish people and with Christians. I have had so many opportunities to speak over the last couple of months, in South Africa, California and

the UK, not only to share my testimony and encourage the church to reach out to their Jewish friends but also to be bold in speaking to Jewish people about Yeshua.

At the end of March I was in Israel and I stopped at a gallery in Jerusalem. Inside was the artist, who was an Orthodox Jew. We got talking about the Bible, as some of his art includes verses from the Torah. We both came to the conclusion that Micah 6:8 "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" is how God wants us to live. I decided to take it a step further and asked him if he had heard any of the teachings of Rabbi Yeshua (Jesus). I told him that Jesus said to love our enemies, which is to truly love mercy. We then talked about Isaiah 53 and Jesus being the Messiah. He was open and I'm praying for more opportunities like this to be led by the Spirit in boldness. I am preparing to help with two Israel trips from the UK next month. Please pray that these trips will be impactful and life-changing to everyone who comes.

With love,

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The following are excerpts from two of our publications, *The Chosen People* and *The Shepherd of Israel*, during World War II.

JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN

The Chosen People—May 1938

Dearly Beloved Friends:

Sorrows fill our own souls as we read of the calamities that have befallen the Jews in the present hour in Austria, in Germany, in Roumania, in Poland. Here is tragedy beyond the power of pen to describe. A friend in Vienna wrote us, of course very guardedly, just a glimpse of what had been going on in that terrible Nazi putsch by which Hitler suddenly seized Austria. We in America, although undergoing our own hours of depression and suffering, still know too little of what are the agonies of this harassed people. On the day of the swift sweeping down of Hitler upon Vienna, the Jewish population was panic stricken, they were caught like rats in a trap, for they had no warning of the impending disaster. Immediately, they threw together what few things they could, and then began an exodus such as perhaps took place on the night when they were delivered out of Egypt. The roadways out of Vienna were choked with Jewish men, women, and children, packs on backs, hurrying to escape from an Austria gone mad with Nazi hate for the Jew. Suddenly all frontiers were closed, and these poor Jews only found that they must return to whatever might await them. The trains were crowded with the better-class Jews, who had gathered together what possessions they could, and were rushing likewise to escape. At every frontier the trains were stopped, every Jew was dragged out, searched down to the skin, and stripped of every possession he had. The Nazis boasted that they had thus collected over twenty million marks! They then loosed these hapless Jews and told them they might go where they would!

A SHATTERED JEWRY AND A SILENT GOD

JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN

The Shepherd of Israel—June 1939

Our nation bleeds. It bleeds in Germany, it bleeds in Roumania, it bleeds in Italy, in fact it is hard to find a land under the sun where Jewish blood does not run like rivers of water. The Jews of the world are terror-stricken, and run hither and thither, and do not seem to know what to do. Rabbis keep stuffing them with false hopes, and they mislead them into blatant demands for certain "rights" as to Palestine or other places. All these tactics only make matters worse, and the Jews find themselves sinking deeper and deeper in the quick sands of world hate.

Yet, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not dead—the God of Elijah is not dead. Our fathers, the patriarchs and prophets, turned to God in time of trouble, they obeyed His word and God delivered them. Let us also turn to that God and do what He told us to do, obey His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and then having done all, in humble childlike obedience to Him, we can with the fullest confidence look to Him for deliverance. If the Word of God is true, and if Jewish history counts for anything, when that hour comes, the world will witness the most wonderful salvation that ever it has seen in six thousand years of hectic and bewildering history.

The Shepherd of Israel—July/August 1939

(The following is an excerpt from a radio broadcast by Reverend Coulson Shepherd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlantic City, New Jersey):

And now I come to the message, which I hope will be helpful to all listening, especially to you Jewish people. We are living in an age when giving offense seems to be the order of the day. The Bible says: "Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God" (1 Corinthians 10:32).

God's Word says, "Give NONE offense," and yet offense is being hurled at ALL these days, especially at the Jews.

We pity the ungodly Gentiles and the professing Christians who are giving offense to the Jews. They are disobeying God, and all who think and act contrary to God's Word and will are bound to suffer great loss. The Word of God cannot be broken. Therefore, all offenders of Israel will be cursed. Sayeth the God of Abraham, "I will curse him that curseth thee" (Genesis 12:3).

We have been showing all along in these talks that there is a vast difference between Gentiles and Christians. One thing that characterizes a Gentile is a hatred toward the Jewish people. The opposite characterizes a Christian. So whenever

you meet or hear of a person who displays hatred toward the covenant people of God, you can know that he is a Gentile and not a true Christian, no matter what his religious profession is. A true Christian is a believer and follower of the Christ of God and, like his Savior, who was a Jew, has love in his heart for those that Christ referred to as "My brethren after the flesh."

I want to impress upon you this morning that even though persecution against you on the part of Gentiles the world over is on the increase, God is working it together for the good of your nation. God is going to bring eternal good out of the world-wave of anti-Semitism that is forming into an international pogrom with the alleged purpose of driving the Jew into racial suicide. But the Gentile of Jewish hate does not know the Jew. He does not know that the Jew is an old veteran in the business of surviving persecution. From Haman's day to Hitler's, the Jew has been persecuted, but he is still here and in far greater numbers and strength than ever before. The persecution, which is now going on throughout the world, is helping to solidify Jewish hopes and aspirations, to bring to your minds the great heritage of Jewry, and, to a certain degree, to remind you Jewish people of your place in the program of God and of your place among the nations of the world.

The Chosen People—April 1943

INCIDENTS IN THE WORK

"What can we do?" Over and over again our friends are asking us frantically the above question. Many of them have been horror-struck and sickened at heart beyond their own power to describe when they have been reading of the almost unbelievable savageries to which the Jews in the Nazi-occupied lands are being subjected. "It makes my heart sick to the very core," wrote one of our friends, "and I find myself driven to my knees as I implore God to have mercy. But what else can I do? It does seem that something can be done and something should be done to stop this orgy of massacre and torture. Tell me what to do and I will do it."

And from the saddest depths of our heart we can only answer the dear child of God, this is the most important thing you can do—pray! And keep on praying, for God wants us to be importunate in our prayer to Him on Israel's behalf.

For the moment nothing material can be done; there is no possible way to get money into the hands of these miserable victims of demon hate; there is no way whereby we can rescue even one family from the clutches of Hitler's maw. But we can leave Hitler and his horde to the hands of a just God. There must be a day of reckoning for this unspeakable fury of hate and brutality.

WHEN HITLER COLLAPSES

But, there is coming a day, and it may be sooner than now looks possible, that Hitler will collapse, the Nazi regime will come to its day of reckoning, the hordes of Satanic hate will be driven into the rat holes from where they came; and in that day literally millions of pitifully helpless Jews, men, women and children, many of them perhaps stark mad with the insanity of what they have been through, these will need such an outpouring of Christian ministry and binding of wounds, that the need can hardly be measured in dollars and cents. For that day you can help us to store up the reserves we will be needing. For the sake of crystalizing the matter, let us call a new fund "Post-War Refugee Relief."

This is the answer to the question, "What can we do?" What prompted the writing of these lines was the receipt of a letter telling us that the writer was enclosing a draft for \$2,000 to be used for just such a purpose as this, to help some Jewish family who has been the victim of Nazi outrages, to bring such a family to America, if possible, to reestablish them and give them a chance to be human beings once more. This friend tells us, "If you cannot do this job immediately, at least the time will come when you can; so here is the money."

We pass this on now to our devoted and faithful friends, who are weeping with us on behalf of Israel, and who see eye-to-eye with us as we face these staggering problems. We are here to serve you and shall do all in our power to make every dollar produce one hundred cents of results for the Lord.



HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Would you like Simon, Fiona or Emily come and speak at your church or fellowship? Please contact TerryG@chosenpeople.org.uk or our office for a list of speaking topics and more info.

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