



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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God's Chosen People?

Are the Jewish people still God's chosen people? What does that mean? Has the church replaced Israel as His chosen ones? How are we as believers supposed to respond to those questions practically?

These are serious questions that need to be asked and answered. If you have a heart for the Jewish people then understanding their chosen position...what it means and what it does not mean...is crucial to understanding the need for Jewish outreach.

Let's explore the chosen position of the Jewish people.

The Jewish People Were Chosen For A Purpose

God chose the Jewish people to be His first ambassadors to the world. In Deuteronomy Chapter 7 we read that God chose the Jewish people because He wanted to. There are no other explanations. Deuteronomy 7 states, "*The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath He swore to your forefathers that He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery...*" **The Jewish people were chosen because God loved them.** And they were His "first loved" people.

The Jewish people's ambassadorship included the receiving of the law, the writing of the scriptures, and the establishment of the worship of the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **Though my people continually struggled in their position of being God's**



chosen ones, it was through the Jewish people that God chose to bring forth his truth to the pagan world. Even through slavery and bondage, through judgment and discipline, God used the Jewish people as His example to the world.

The Jewish People Are Still God's Chosen People

The apostle Paul states in Romans 11:28, "*As far as the gospel is concerned they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and His calling are irrevocable.*" Though the Jewish people have, for the most part, rejected Jesus as Messiah and though they have, for the most part, turned their back on God, they still have a special place in His heart and plan. They have not been rejected by God, cast away because of their unbelief.

It is important to understand that though they are still God's chosen people, they have failed in their initial mission, and that baton has been passed on to all of those who believe

in Jesus, both Jew and Gentile. Believers in Jesus are God's current chosen ones to bring the truth of God to an unbelieving world. Those of us who know Jesus have been given the gospel. We carry the truth of God. It is now our mission and obligation to reach the world with the message of hope, truth, and salvation, in the Messiah Jesus. **But our chosen position in no way cancels out or negates the chosen position of the Jewish people which came as a covenant from God that has not, and will not be broken.**

Being Chosen Does Not Mean Unqualified Access Into Heaven

Unfortunately there are those in the evangelical community who confuse being "chosen" with being "saved". Some say that the Jewish people have a relationship with God based upon the covenant that God made with them through Abraham. These statements cannot be further from the truth.

The Jewish community's chosen position does not mean that they have an immediate and unqualified entrance into heaven. Many think that because the Jewish people were chosen by God that they are all biblically literate and automatically have a relationship with God. No. **We are all separated from God by sin.** There is no one good not even one. In Isaiah 59:1-2 we read that our iniquities have separated us from God and that our sins have hidden His face from us.

Chosen does not equal saved. Jewish people need Jesus to go to heaven and know God just like anyone else. They need the Good News to be proclaimed to them. Jesus said, "*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no man comes*

to the Father but through Me." Peter, a Jewish disciple, proclaimed to the Jewish supreme court of his day, "There is no other name under heaven, given among men, by which we must be saved."

The message of salvation is clear. Jesus is the only way. However, rejection of Jesus by some, or most, Jewish people in no way affects their chosen position as the people through whom God brought His truth to the world.

The Jewish People Were Chosen To Bring Redemption In Messiah

Ultimately God's purposes of salvation to the world came through the Jewish people. The seed of the woman, as promised in Genesis 3, was born in a manger. When Jesus said, "Salvation is from the Jews..." (John 4:22) He was telling the Samaritan woman that it was through the Jewish people, God's first chosen ones, that the Creator of All was pleased to send salvation to the world. Right after He said those words, the Samaritan woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming." Jesus replied, "I who speak to you am He." **Redemption came to the world through the Jewish people in the person of Jesus.**

Jesus was born a Jewish man and lived a Jewish life. It was during the Jewish festival of Passover that He proclaimed Himself the Passover Lamb, Savior of the world. He was raised from the dead on the Jewish festival of First Fruits. The Holy Spirit was given to the early Jewish believers during the festival of Weeks or Shavuot (also known as Pentecost). **Through the giving of the law, the Temple worship, and the Jewish festivals, we see Jesus.**

Redemption will return to Jerusalem. One day Jesus is going to return to Jerusalem and establish His kingdom. Jesus ministered in Jerusalem, left from Jerusalem and is going to return to Jerusalem.

The Jewish people are still God's chosen people. However, it is deeply important for us to understand that they need to be reached with the message of



Jesus. We must remember that though chosen, they are separated from God apart from Jesus. Like Paul, our heart's desire is that Israel might be saved.

Please remember us as we reach out to the Jewish people, God's lost chosen ones, with His message of salvation.

Sylvia's Salvation

Casey recently received a late night call informing her that Sylvia, an elderly Jewish lady, was in the hospital. Casey had been meeting with Sylvia for several years after having been given Sylvia as a contact through our Shalom Basket outreach.

Sylvia had not accepted the Lord, but Casey had the opportunity to share with Sylvia in the hospital. Though Sylvia was not totally alert when Casey asked her if she wanted to accept Jesus Sylvia responded positively by squeezing Casey's hand and moving her eyes.

Please take the time to read Casey's moving story of Sylvia's salvation, death, and funeral, on our web site under Articles/Newsletters: Sylvia's Salvation.

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Passover Banquet
2008

Our annual Passover Banquet is being held at the Marriott in Alpharetta, GA, on Saturday evening, March 22nd. Come join us for an incredible evening of music, food, and learning about the Jewish roots of our faith.

Last year nearly 400 people joined us for one of our most exciting nights of the year. Make your reservations now!

We must have your reservations by Saturday, March 15th.

We encourage you to bring your friends and small groups as well as your Jewish friends. Please use the enclosed order form or call our office to make reservations at 770-642-4706.

You may also order tickets online at www.lightofmessiah.org.

Thank You!

Though still chosen, Jewish people, like all people, are separated from God and in need of His salvation. They need Jesus. We love our people and want to see them come to know the One who came to redeem them from bondage to sin and separation from God. We praise God for using us to bring salvation to the lost chosen ones of God.

Thank you for loving the Jewish people. Thank you for praying. Thank you for standing with us as we bring Jesus back to the Jewish community.

As always, your prayers and financial support make what we do possible.

In the service of the King,

Murray Tilles...for the staff
Light of Messiah Ministries