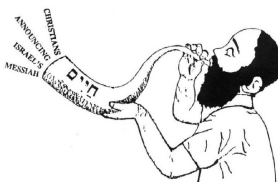


# CHAIM TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, "Christians Announcing Israel's Messiah"

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## The Resurrection and the Jewish People

The first followers of Jesus, or Yeshua as he was known by his countrymen, were Jewish. They celebrated the resurrection of Jesus according to the Jewish calendar at Passover when he was crucified and rose again. Centuries later, a different calendar was used.

Sadly, some Jewish people avoid considering Yeshua. But shouldn't the Jewish community be more than a little proud of a man who changed the world through three brief years of ministry in Israel? Listen, a rabbi whose teachings have caused millions of Gentiles to turn from idolatry to worship the God of Israel isn't somebody to be ashamed of— Yeshua can't be ignored! Did Jesus really rise from the dead — or was the whole thing some bobbe-myseh (grandmother's tale) cooked up to deceive the masses? Can we trust the historical accounts of those early Jewish disciples?

### ANCIENT JEWISH PROPHECY

The resurrection of a suffering Messiah goes back to the Jewish prophet Isaiah, 700+ years before Jesus. This great prophet of the Hebrew Bible wrote of one who would die as a sacrificial lamb to provide payment for our sins and rise again. The Talmud quotes Isaiah 53 in reference to the Messiah, as do other ancient rabbinic commentaries. Even the great rabbi Maimonides wrote that Isaiah 53 refers to Messiah! Some rabbis have claimed Isaiah 53 refers to the sufferings of Israel. But that figure suffers willingly, dies as an atonement, and rises again. The description simply doesn't fit Israel.

### JEWISH EYE WITNESSES

A number of years ago I heard the great Orthodox Jewish scholar Pinchas Lapid lecture and had the pleasure of being invited back after the meeting to have some wine and cheese with the rabbi, his wife, and a couple of professors at the University of Pennsylvania. In a book published a few years earlier (*The*

*Resurrection of Jesus — A Jewish Perspective*) Lapid had written: "The resurrection of Jesus on that Easter Sunday and his appearances in the following days were purely Jewish faith experiences. Not one Gentile saw him after Good Friday. Everything that the Gentile church heard about the resurrection came only from Jewish sources because he appeared after Easter Sunday as the Risen One exclusively to Jews...I accept the resurrection of Easter Sunday not as an invention of the community of disciples, but as a historical fact." This Orthodox Rabbi as a scholar had to admit the accuracy of the accounts of the Jewish writers who reported the resurrection was seen by more than "500 of the brothers at the same time," most of whom were still living when the gospel accounts were written (1 Cor. 15:1-7).

Is it plausible that the same Jewish men who brought us some of the highest moral teaching the world has ever known were liars perpetrating a fraud? Lapid wrote: "Is it possible for deceivers or self-deceived to establish a faith that conquers half the world? In other words, can swindlers let themselves be tortured and persecuted in the name of an illusion — up to a joyful martyrdom?"

Could Jesus have merely passed out and gone into a coma, later to revive? Hardly. The Roman soldiers who crucified Jesus were expert executioners. They knew when their victims were dead.

We can conclude only one thing. Jesus really rose again from the dead, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. First century Jewish eyewitnesses wrote down what they saw, and we have an accurate record of their accounts. Jesus must have been who he claimed to be since he backed it up by rising from the dead. Hallelujah! We can proclaim with great confidence that he is risen indeed! —FK

# CHAIM MINISTRY UPDATES

From Director Fred Klett

Passover season has come, and we will be doing several Passover Seders in the area. These are always great times to encourage believers and provide a venue for sharing Messiah. Please pray for these events.

Recently I had to refile our Federal 990 Non-Profit reporting form because they changed the regulations. Thank God we are not being charged any fines! Of course there is also payroll and W-2 reporting every January. Overseeing the "business end" of our ministry is not my favorite activity, but it has to be done.

In the coming months in addition to preaching at Rock of Israel PCA, working on plans for the Summer Campaign, keeping up with contacts (I found out my atheist friend who professed faith after many years of witness is in an alcohol rehab program. Pray for him), internet work, reporting to churches, etc., I have started writing a small book on apologetics. The working title is **Seven Reasons I Believe**. The purpose is to provide a basis for faith from philosophy, history, prophecy, biblical unity, science, archeology, and the continued existence of the Jewish people. It will be something I can give out to people I know personally as well as making it available for others to use. Needless to say, I will not be able to deal with any of these areas comprehensively! My plan is to write a brief summary of each of these areas, in a simple form easily accesable to all, and I'll provide a bibliography for each of these areas. Of course it will also contain a clear gospel presentation. Please pray I can get this done while keeping up with other responsibilities and activities!.

## ROCK OF ISRAEL PCA

Our congregational plant is plugging on. Recently we had a program for Purim, a holiday based on the Book of Esther. **Co-church planter Vitaly Kalinovsky** had met several Christians at his citizenship swearing in (congrats Vitaly!) who visited us for the event. They had never been exposed to this Jewish holiday. It was a good opportunity to educate Christians as to the culture and holidays of their Jewish friends.

We continue to see spiritual growth in our old friend Israel who came to faith two years ago. He is in his 80s, comes out when he can, and we give him a ride home. Pray for his family and friends who aren't happy about his faith, but Messiah has him in his hand!

Vitaly, my wife Jean, and Rick's wife Linda continue with teaching English to immigrants by plugging in to the GROW program sponsored by several churches in our area. Pray for the many opportunities to share Messiah.

## OUR MISSIONARY RICK ANDERSON REPORTS

Recently, I spoke to an Orthodox Jewish young man (wearing a skullcap) who took a Gospel tract and dialogued with me. He told me that Jesus could not be the Messiah because he did not fit the prophetic description found in the Hebrew Scriptures. I countered with: "Have you read Isaiah 53?" He said "Of course." "And Psalm 22? Where it says 'They pierced my hands and my feet. They part my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing?'" "Of course," he answered. "What about Daniel Chapter 9, which prophesies the exact TIME of the Messiah's life?" "Yes," he said. " ... and the Gemara [a section of the Talmud] says that Jesus couldn't be him." I then said. "And Isaiah 53 ... you say it couldn't be Jesus. Fair enough. Then who IS portrayed here?" "Not Jesus," he said. "Then WHO?" I asked. He answered: "Jesus was a man of peace and love, while the Jewish Messiah is a man of war and conquest." I responded: "Have you read the Book of Revelation, where Jesus is portrayed on a white horse leading the armies of heaven in a war of vengeance on those who know not God?" (Rev. 19). He hesitated, then walked away, but with the tract STILL in his HAND. Keep him in your prayers!

## JULY 4 WEEK CAMPAIGN! COME JOIN US!

**We are planning to do street evangelism during Independence Week festivities. If you would like to take part, please contact the CHAIM office.**



**Volunteers have joined us in evangelism over the years. Here is a team from a while back. Maybe you will be a part of this year's team?**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT!**

### CHAIM Staff Members:

Rev. Fred Klett, Executive Director  
Rev. Rick Anderson, Senior Missionary  
Rev. Vitaly Kalinovsky, Russian Ministry