

# Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies

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# **Front Matter**

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# Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies

## Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies

Executive Editor ~ Mitch Glaser, PhD General Editor ~ Gregory Hagg, PhD Assistant Editor ~ Robert Walter, MDiv Assistant Editor ~ Brian Crawford, MDiv

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# The Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies

CoreValues

# Theology:

We believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, the Triune nature of God and full deity and sinless humanity of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah, salvation through faith in Yeshua alone. We also believe that God is faithful to His covenants and promises to the Jewish people and in the importance of Jewish evangelism.

#### Editorial:

Our goal is to reflect the best of Evangelical and Jewish scholarship in our articles and to demonstrate how Christianity and Judaism intersect and inform one another on a variety of scholarly and practical areas of study. Therefore, submissions to *JMJS* are to be supported by a thoughtful, biblical, and theological analysis and relevant to Messianic Jewish thought, Jewish evangelism and the interplay between Judaism and Christianity.

#### Contributions:

The editors welcome contributions from all who respect the role of the Jewish people in the plan of God and who wish to explore the inter-relatedness between faith in Yeshua the Messiah and Judaism. Submissions are welcomed that are of interest and relevance to the aims and readership of the journal.

#### **Editorial Limitations:**

Articles appearing in the journal do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors but are intended to promote a better understanding of the Messianic Jewish movement and the ways in which Evangelical Christianity relates to Jewish history, tradition, biblical scholarship and practice.

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Mitch Glaser is the seventh president of Chosen People Ministries. Glaser holds a PhD in Intercultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary and an MDiv from Talbot School of Theology. He was the co-recipient of *Christianity Today's* 2009 Award of Merit in the Apologetics/Evangelism category for the book *To the Jew First: The Case for Jewish Evangelism in Scripture and History*. Glaser has taught at leading evangelical schools and helped to initiate the Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies, a Master's level program designed to train leaders for Jewish ministries.

#### ZHAVA GLASER

Zhava Glaser serves with Chosen People Ministries and is a professor at the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies—a partnership between Biola University's Talbot School of Theology and Chosen People Ministries. Dr. Glaser teaches entry level Biblical Hebrew as a living, spoken language, as well as advanced Hebrew exegesis courses in Old Testament (Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim). She also teaches Jewish History and Jewish Ethics, and is an editor and the coauthor of *The Fall Feasts of Israel* published by Moody Press. Born in Argentina to Jewish parents, Zhava has traveled widely throughout the world. She speaks fluent Spanish, English, Portuguese, and Hebrew, and has a reading knowledge of French, Catalan, and Ladino. She earned a Master of Arts from the Fuller Theological Seminary





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Robert Walter is an Adjunct Professor of New Testament at Talbot School of Theology, teaching at the Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies. He holds an MDiv from Talbot School of Theology as a graduate of the Feinberg Center. He is also the Brooklyn Branch Director for Chosen People Ministries, and he serves as a co-leader of the Beth Sar Shalom Messianic Jewish Congregation in Brooklyn, New York.

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# Introduction

# **Gregory Hagg**

Welcome to this second volume of the *Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies*.

Passover is perhaps the best-known holiday of the Jewish people. Of course, the more Biblically (or culturally) literate one is, the more likely he knows about the Exodus from Egypt under the leadership of Moses, the crossing of the Red Sea's dry riverbed, or the festive meal that has commemorated these events for centuries.

Very few people in the non-Jewish world, however, understand the depth of the theological significance found in the Passover. This includes the Church of Jesus Christ. Speakers on the topic are pleased to see the "light bulbs" come on in the minds of those who are introduced to the connections between Passover and the Passion Week in the Gospels. So, too, are students deeply moved when they encounter John's introduction of the Lamb who takes away sin, and the Apostle Paul's use of Passover terminology that points to Jesus as the Paschal Lamb. It is a defining moment

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for believers when they grasp the imagery behind the truth that the sacrifice Lamb has been slain.

The five articles that follow are taken from the recently published book by Chosen People Ministries called *Messiah in the Passover*. The book devotes nineteen chapters to the Feast under the general headings of Biblical foundations, church history, Jewish traditions, communicating the Gospel via the Passover, and practical lessons on the celebration of Passover. It is hoped that the book will make a unique contribution to the appreciation of the history of the ancient feast and its contemporary observance among Jewish and Gentile believers.

In this volume of the *Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies* Mitch Glaser's introduction to the book, *Messiah in the Passover* is reproduced. It provides a more detailed synopsis of the book along with the rationale for studying Passover. This is a mustread article. Of particular interest is his discussion of the need for a sophisticated use of the Rabbinic sources to show the connection between the Last Supper and Jewish tradition. Much of the debate surrounding the Passover and the Lord's Table today concerns the use of the Mishnah/Talmud. Few western thinkers can fully appreciate the influence of oral tradition upon the Jewish people of the first century.

Next Robert Walter addresses the core passages in the Torah, which provide the seminal material from which the rest of the Bible draws in providing the themes of redemption. Darrell Bock applies his exceptional grasp of the Gospel of Luke to a discussion of the Passover as it appears in the Lucan account. Brian Crawford delves into the details of the Passover as it relates specifically to the Lord's Table. These articles on the Biblical foundations of Passover will challenge the reader as well as encourage and inspire.

One article is devoted to Passover controversies in the history

of the church, which will detail some of the anti-Semitic bias of the nominal church toward the Jewish people through the centuries. Finally, Zhava Glaser provides an excellent historical treatment of the Passover as it is found in Rabbinic writing, the primary source for Jewish tradition.

Rather than select chapters from the last two sections of the book for this volume of the *JMJS*, Chosen People Ministries has used those chapters to produce another book, *The Gospel in the Passover*, which focuses on how to share the Gospel through the Passover and how to celebrate the Passover as a family today. Many will use this abbreviated treatment of the Passover in learning to enjoy the feast in their homes and congregations.