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**MESSIANIC
JEWISH STUDIES**

CHARLES L. FEINBERG CENTER

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of
Messianic
Jewish
Studies*

Volume 3
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Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies

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The Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies

Core Values

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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Contributors

Presenters

Yaakov **a**riel

Dr. Yaakov Ariel is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Chicago, where he completed a doctoral degree on Christian Messianic groups and their relation to Jews and Zionism. His research focuses on Protestant Christianity and its attitudes towards the Jewish people; on Jewish-Christian relations in the modern era; and on the Jewish reaction to modernity and post-modernity. His second book, *Evangelizing the Chosen People*, was awarded the Albert C. Outler prize by the American Society of Church History. Dr. Ariel is a professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mitch **G**laser

Dr. Mitch Glaser has served as president of Chosen People Ministries since 1997. He is an alumnus of Northeastern Bible College, the Talbot School of Theology and earned a Ph.D. in



Intercultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Intercultural Studies. His dissertation explored the history of the Messianic Jewish movement in Continental Europe during first half of the twentieth century. Dr. Glaser is recognized as an expert on the role of Messianic ministries during the Holocaust period. He is the co-author of *The Fall Feasts of Israel* with his wife, and co-editor of *To the Jew First, The Gospel According to Isaiah 53*, and *The People, The Land, and The Future of Israel*, published by Kregel Publications. Dr. Glaser's book *Isaiah 53 Explained*, is now in fourteen languages with over 200,000 copies in print. He has written many articles for a variety of periodicals and has taught at leading schools such as Talbot School of Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Glaser lives in Brooklyn which he whimsically describes as the true Holy Land.

Motti Inbari

Dr. Moti Inbari is an associate professor of religion at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Dr. Inbari's research focuses primarily on Jewish fundamentalism, mostly in Israel, but also in the United States and Europe. He is the author of three books: *Jewish Fundamentalism and the Temple Mount* (2009), *Messianic Religious Zionism Confronts Israeli Territorial Compromises* (2012), and *Jewish Radical Ultra-Orthodoxy Confronts Modernity, Zionism, and Women's Equality* (2016). Dr. Inbari earned his PhD at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry—currently part of the Department of Modern Jewish History—at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has also served as a fellow at the University of Florida and at the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University.



Mendi Keren

Dr. Mendi Keren is a researcher of Hungarian Orthodoxy and of contemporary ultra-Orthodox society in the State of Israel. His field of interest lies in the history of Jewish Orthodoxy; Yiddish literature and press; Haredi society in Israel and the United States; the Old Yishuv of Jerusalem; Jewish folklore; and Jewish and rabbinic genealogy.

Alan Shore

Dr. Alan Shore has pursued a multi-faceted vocation for over 40 years that includes service in ministry and education. From 1991-95, he was adjunct instructor in Biblical studies at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia. He holds an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA (1991) and a Ph.D. in Modern Jewish History and Culture from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA (2016), with an emphasis on Yiddish language and literature and Jewish-Christian relations in America. Since 1998, he has served on the staff of Chosen People Ministries in a number of roles including staff writer and National Ministries Representative. He is presently Special Assistant to Dr. Glaser.

Reviewers

Brian Crawford

Brian Crawford holds a D.Min. (ABD) in Engaging Mind and Culture from Talbot School of Theology and an M.Div. from the Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies. He is the Project Director for Chosen People Answers, a Messianic Apologetics ministry. He is currently writing a major defense of Jesus' incarnation while considering objections from Maimonidean and Kabbalistic theological systems. Brian, his wife Liz, and his three children live in Brooklyn, NY.



Richard h. flashMan

Dr. Rich Flashman is a seasoned pastoral leader and currently serves as the Chaplain, Director of Field Education, and 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. Rich was raised in a Jewish family in Newton, Massachusetts, and came to faith soon after college. Rich was searching for answers and one of his peers shared the Gospel with him and challenged him to read the Hebrew prophets. After reading Isaiah 53, Rich could not deny that Jesus was the Messiah and accepted Him as his Lord and Savior. Soon after, God called Rich to full time ministry. After earning a Master of Divinity and Master of Theology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Rich, with his wife, Michelle, and their three boys, went on to pastor two EFCA churches in Connecticut for twenty-seven years. During that time Rich earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian Leadership at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Rich currently leads the only English-speaking Messianic congregation in Brooklyn along with two other missionaries. Additionally, Rich leads the southern Connecticut branch of Chosen People Ministries.

Gregory haGG

Dr. Gregory Hagg is a Professor of Bible Exposition at Talbot School of Theology, and serves as Program Director and a professor in the Charles L. Feinberg Center, for Messianic Jewish Studies, which offers an accredited Master of Divinity in Messianic Jewish Studies through Biola University. This program, which is designed to provide excellent biblical and theological training for those who are reaching out to the Jewish people, is a partnership between Biola University’s Talbot School of Theology and Chosen People Ministries. Gregg earned a Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Master



of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy from New York University. He is a member of the Evangelical Theological Society, and he also serves as a Vice President of Chosen People Ministries. He and his wife, Linda, have two sons and six grandchildren.

SiMon Lissak

Simon Lissak is a Messianic Jew and student at Oak Hill Theological College in the UK and the Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies in Brooklyn, NY. He also leads the work of Chosen People Ministries in the UK with a specialization in the Ultra-Orthodox community in Stamford Hill. Simon is committed to partnering closely with pastors and local churches located in Jewish neighborhoods across the UK. Simon is married to Maxime and they have two teenage sons, Felix, 16 and Jacob 13.

daniel nessiM

Dr. Daniel Nessim holds a Ph.D. in Theology and Religion from the University of Exeter for his work on first century Christian Judaism and *The Didache*, and a M.A. from Regent College. He is the leader of Kehillath Tsion, in Vancouver BC, Seattle Director for Chosen People Ministries, and past Executive Director of Chosen People Ministries in the United Kingdom. Daniel and his wife Deborah live in Snohomish, Washington.

Robert Walter

Mr. Bobby Walter serves as the Brooklyn Branch Director of Chosen People Ministries in Brooklyn, New York. He also co-leads Beth Sar Shalom Brooklyn Messianic Congregation with two other missionaries, and he serves as an Adjunct Instructor of New Testament Greek at the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies—a partnership between Biola

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University's Talbot School of Theology and Chosen People Ministries. He earned a degree in Ministry from Palm Beach Atlantic University and a Master of Divinity from Talbot School of Theology through the Feinberg Center. Although neither Robert nor his wife, Joanna, is Jewish, God laid a heavy burden on their hearts to share Jesus with the Jewish people. They reside in Brooklyn with their two young children.



Introduction

Alan M. Shore

As many of both sides of the border have discovered, interfaith dialogue between Jews and Christians is a frustrating and often fruitless exercise. How more so is *intra*-faith dialogue between Jew and Jew, especially since one of the saddest codas to any Jewish discussion is often, “I’m sorry to say I agree with you.” For then, what more is there to argue about?

Normal conversation between Messianic Jewish believers and other Jews is particularly difficult because emotions tend to run high. For some time, Jewish believers have asked, is there a more neutral space where Jews of various viewpoints can work toward constructively adding to one another’s knowledge and perspective?

It turns out that there is, in the environment of a shared love of scholarship. In the past ten years, Messianic and non-Messianic scholars have met together on numerous occasions on topics of shared interest, in an atmosphere of friendliness and mutual respect. This issue of *The Journal of Messianic Jewish*



Studies (JMJS), sponsored by the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies, consists of articles collected from such a conference held at the Feinberg Center entitled, “The Life and Times of Leopold Cohn,” which took place on December 4-6, 2019.

2019 was a milestone year for Chosen People Ministries, for it marked the 125th anniversary of the founding of the mission by Leopold Cohn in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn in 1894. Chosen People Ministries marked the occasion with conferences throughout the year in North Carolina, California, Wisconsin, Maryland and a gala banquet in Brooklyn. The idea to organize a conference to explore various facets of the history of the Mission came almost as an afterthought. Ironically, it was put forth by an outside source, Dr. Mendi Keren. Dr. Keren, whose work you will encounter later in the pages of this journal, is one of a number of non-Messianic Jewish scholars with whom Dr. Glaser and others on staff have cultivated cordial and collegial relationships.

This conference takes place in the context of a relatively newly aroused academic interest in the history of Jewish evangelism and missions to the Jews. It is quite natural that Chosen People Ministries, formerly the American Board of Missions to the Jews (ABMJ), should play a prominent role in this field, being one of the oldest and most influential organizations that is on the scene today. As well, the remarkable fact that the work was presided over for almost sixty years by the father-son combination of Leopold and Joseph Hoffman Cohn adds additional interest from the standpoint of contrasting personality and leadership style in the organization’s development. As I hope you will find, each of the contributors found different and fascinating aspects of the Mission’s history and, in some cases, offered differing perspectives as well.

My thanks to Dr. Glaser, who served as Executive Editor,

and especially to Dr. Gregory Hagg, whose prior experience and close involvement as Managing Editor proved to be invaluable. Brian Crawford and Robert Walter, both faculty members of the Feinberg Center, served as Assistant Editors and other faculty members including Dr. Rich Flashman also reviewed the papers. Typesetting and Design were by Dr. P. H. Brazier. As always, we acknowledge of many others who remain nameless. We could not have done without their efforts.

Dr. Alan M. Shore
General Editor



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Leopold Cohn



Rose Cohn