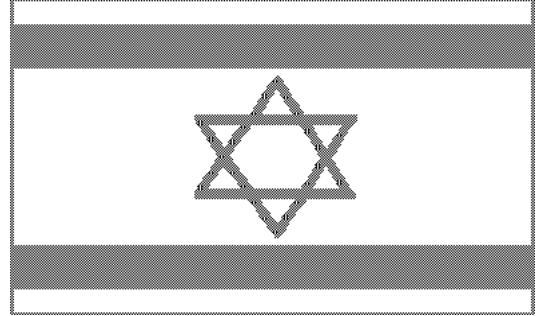


יום העצמאות

Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day

For many years the Jewish people were scattered over all the world with no place to call their own. One could travel the globe and be assured that somewhere there were people of Jewish descent. Things began to change in 1917 when the land now known as Israel was mandated as a British protectorate by the



League of Nations under the Balfour Declaration. From 1917 to 1948 the land of Israel was under British control. On May 13, 1948 the British pulled out of the land and on the very next day, May 14, 1948 the Jewish people moved in and occupied their land after many years of wandering. On May 15, the Arabs attacked and the fighting over control of the land goes on until today with the Palestinian Liberation Organization being the most organized threat. In 1948 there were 650,000 Jews living in the land and by 1952 the population had doubled. The rebuilding of the state of Israel is a fulfillment of G-d's promise to Abram that G-d would give him a land that would be his forever.

Through the years G-d has brought more and more Jewish people back to the land. On Iyar 5 of every year we celebrate *Yom Ha-Atzma-ut* or Israeli Independence Day, to thank G-d for preserving the land and for bringing His people back in large numbers. Independence Day should remind Messianics that the land is owned by G-d, and that He gave it to Israel His firstborn as their inheritance. It should also remind us of G-d's faithfulness to keep His covenant promise—what He has said He will do, He will do. On this day we should lift up prayers of thanksgiving for what G-d has done and also for the future protection of those living in Israel today. Appropriate actions for Independence Day are displaying a Jewish flag, putting flowers on a soldier's grave, or sponsoring a person who wants to return to the land.