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WHAT'S A NICE JEWISH BOY LIKE YOU DOING IN THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH?

Bob Friedman tells what happened when a nice Jewish boy was confronted with heavy words from Isaiah, Daniel, Micah, and even Matthew. A native Californian, Bob "floated from day to day" through San Diego State College, Europe and Israel before his newspaper sent him to "check out the nut who's chained himself to a cross or something." Bob reports his reactions: "Those disciples, or whatever you want to call them, and all their people, depended on the Old Testament. . . . As my curiosity grew, so did my fear of the Jewish God." Friedman recounts his search for life's meaning.

Price \$1.65



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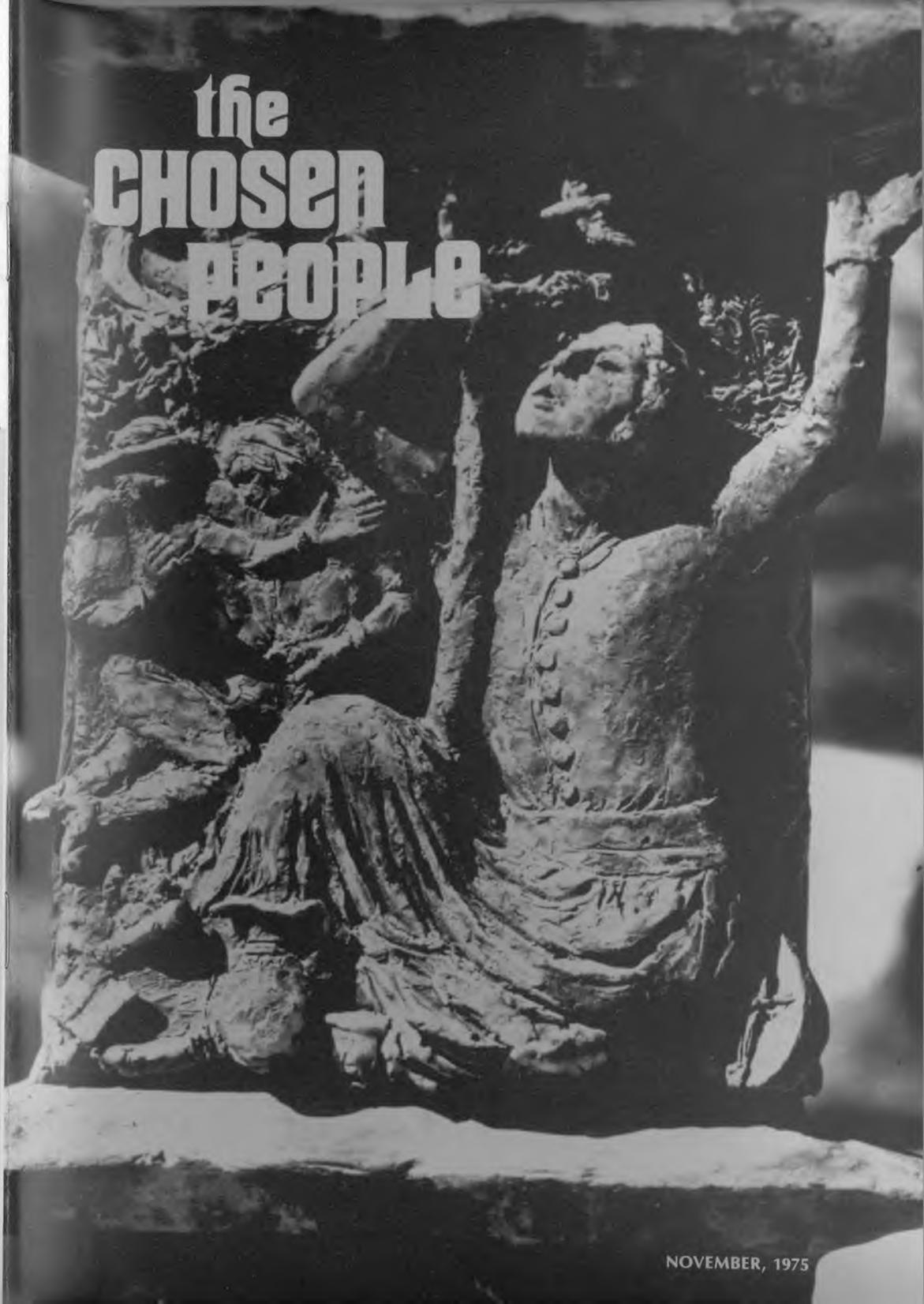
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the CHOSEN PEOPLE

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Beloved Friends:

At last I am a coupon clipper! When I was a kid in Brooklyn things were tough in our home. My mother raised three scrapping youngsters by scrubbing floors. "Waste not, want not" was more than a motto; it was our way of life. If a man owned a \$100,000 bond at 6% interest, every three months he could "clip a coupon" worth \$1,500. Why work if you can clip coupons? Coupon clipping became a goal for us. Some of the boys succeeded; of those who did, a few jumped out of windows in the 1929 stock-market crash. Others have continued to clip coupons. I never attained the goal.

But, at last, I am really a coupon clipper. Every Monday my mail box is stuffed with ads from competing supermarkets. I never realized how much I can save by spending more! Each ad baits the hook with pages of coupons to lure me into the stores. I take these coupons seriously. If I can buy a loaf of bread for thirty cents and a coupon, why should I pay fifty-five cents?

There have been many startling changes in recent months. Suddenly the price of a loaf of bread has become very important to countless Americans who until now have taken our standard of living for granted. I wonder how our workers with growing families can make both ends meet; but I also realize that tough as things are here, there are other areas of the world where the price of bread is not just important, it is vital. At least here there's plenty of bread available.

This month we will be celebrating our Bicentennial Thanksgiving Day. Somehow, I feel that it would be more suitable to hold a Thanksgiving fast instead of a Thanksgiving feast. I will eat my turkey (stuffed with thirty-five cent bread), but I expect to match its cost with a gift to an agency that does relief work in needy areas. Christians in the United States should do their best to make sure that the Parable of the Rich Fool does not become the Great American Tragedy.

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God [Luke 12:16-21].

. . . The first point noted is that accumulated wealth breeds anxiety rather than satisfaction. The man is embarrassed by his abundance. The trouble of knowing how to keep it is as great as the labour of acquiring it, and the enjoyment of it is still in the future. Many a rich man is more worried about his securities than he was in making his money. There are so many 'bags with holes' that he is at his

THE CHASIDIM

Throughout the Middle Ages Judaism remained a strong religion binding the Jews together, but it also developed into a dead orthodoxy without any outward manifestation of joy.

In rebellion to this dead orthodoxy, a rabbi named the *Baal Shem Tov* (Master of the Good Name) came preaching that Judaism should manifest itself in outward ecstatic joy. And so the Chasidic movement began. It combines a strict adherence to the Law of Moses and Jewish Rabbinical law. This requires many hours of study each day by each Chasid.

On the other hand, in their religious services there is outward expression of joy and happiness.

In the cover photo, a Chasid is meditating while in the background on the left the others are seen dancing for joy of the Law.



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wits' end for investments and the first thing he looks at in the morning's paper is the share list, the sight of which often spoils his breakfast.

The next point is the selfish and arrogant sense of possession, as betrayed by the repetition of 'my' - my fruits, my barns, my corn, and my goods. He has no thought of God, nor of his own stewardship. He recognizes no claim on his wealth. If he had looked a little beyond himself, he would have seen many places where he could have bestowed his fruits. Were there no poor at his gates? He had better have poured some riches into the laps of these than have built a new barn. Corn laid up would breed weevils; dispersed, it would bring blessings.

Again, this type of covetous man is a fool because he reckons on 'many years.' The goods may last, but will he? He can make sure that they will suffice for a long time, but he cannot make sure of the long time. Again, he blunders tragically in his estimate of the power of worldly goods to satisfy. 'Eat, drink,' might be said to his body, but to say it to his soul, and to fancy that these pleasures of sense would put it at ease, is the fatal error which gnaws like a worm at the root of every worldly life.

Alexander Maclaren, *Expositions of Holy Scripture*, Luke, pp. 340, 341.

The context of this parable is very instructive. There is a big difference between social concern and a social gospel. Every Christian should have concern for all but he knows that there is only one gospel:

... how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures [1 Cor. 15:3, 4].

We must continually realize this as we share the love of God with all men everywhere.

Our Lord had been teaching about confessing Him before all men, the divine help which would be given,

and the blessed reward. There was one of the company who could only think of one thing "speak to my brother that he divide the inheritance with me" (vs. 13). Our Lord's answer was abrupt and pertinent, "Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?" There are many who take Jesus to be foremost a "judge and divider." They see in Him mainly a social and economic reformer, but they fail to see His deepest work and their own greatest need. It was to one such person our Lord directed His parable.

Let us clip our coupons carefully. As we thank God for His abundant supply for all of our needs, let us share all of these riches with those who hunger. Men hunger not only for bread — hunger of the body; but also for the Bread of God — hunger of the soul. Our Lord was born in Bethlehem, the "house of bread." Shepherds found Him "lying in a manger." A manger has one purpose: it holds food. By God's grace, let us share our Bread with the hungering multitudes.

Faithfully yours in His service.



TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR SURANOWITZ

My life has consisted of seeking love. I have travelled down the paths of selfishness, crime, and constant self-pity because of early rejection. Through the years men have told me this is a cruel world. I never wanted to listen, but in time the elements have hardened me towards others. I still crave for people to be honest and real, but in this world man worships money and has forsaken God. I also was one who neither knew nor cared about God and eventually loved money. Yet, I knew I lacked something.

For almost two years I have been receiving letters from my brother about God. When I was released from prison and set free by the judge, I called home and told my family the good news. My brother said that he knew this would happen because he was praying for me. What this really meant I did not know.

My brother's letters kept coming. I asked him for a Bible and he mailed one he had bought for me. I read about Jesus, but did not understand. I was Jewish, so who was Jesus? I did not ask for help. But these letters I received were real and beautiful. Many months later, when I was bogged down in a small legal business and dealing with some drugs on the side, my brother came to visit me. He talked to me about my life, about God and the Bible. I loved

him but thought at the beginning that he needed help. He lived with me five weeks and then he moved to another city. I was left with a Bible and the desire to read it, and also a changing attitude toward my life.

I knew I could no longer go my way. God was guiding me and I knew it was Him. Days later I visited my brother. He and two friends prayed that I would receive Jesus and that He would forgive me for my sins. I believed, but it seemed not all real. Weeks later I moved to that town not knowing what I would do, only that I would read the Word of God every day. Soon after, the Holy Spirit gave to me the joy and praise of God, and I knew that I could tell others how Jesus saves by giving His life for us. I thank God that He loves me and died for my sins so I could have eternal life. Now I have meaning and desire in life and in my walk with Jesus. I know that my soul is safe with Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son.

I am a Jew and Christ has become real to me as my Messiah. He is the One the prophets spoke of, to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles. It is my duty and joy to speak to the lost sheep of Israel when given opportunity. Jesus said that salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22) but only recently have I truly understood. I thank God that I know Whom I worship.

FROM THE FIELD

WE GIVE THANKS

THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL BRINGS A RESPONSE

The ABMJ's publication, THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL, which is published monthly and sent out to Jewish friends, often has a book offer. Sometimes we don't hear of the results of these. (If you would like to send this to your Jewish friends, it is available for 50¢ a year per subscription through our bookroom.)

Helen responded to the SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL ad for a free New Testament to Jewish readers. Our New Jersey headquarters had sent her the New Testament and sent me the letter for follow-up. Evidently, Helen's letter got misplaced in one of my large piles of paperwork (as sometimes happens) and I was not able to respond immediately. When I did call Helen on the phone, she was glad to hear from us. She agreed to take our Isaiah correspondence course, of four lessons. We told Helen we would send her the first lesson and received her lesson back almost immediately with a brief memo. I would like to quote some of that memo:



**REV. DANIEL RIGNEY
MISSIONARY-IN-CHARGE
BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON D.C.**

"Many thanks for the calendar, lesson and pamphlet. (We had also enclosed a tract to her.) May I have another pamphlet to explain further why I, as a Jew, can also be a Christian? Possibly you can mail it with the next lesson."

We are maintaining a steady witness with Helen and trust that you will remember her in prayer as she completes the Isaiah Course that she might realize who the suffering servant of Isaiah 53 is.

I would also like to challenge you to encourage your Jewish friends to take the Isaiah Course or to subscribe to THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL. ☞

TO THE LORD

We have much to be rejoicing in here in Peoria. God has provided a facility for our meetings - a storefront on Main Street across from Bradley University. We have been able to establish two classes at the Center, and the Lord is sending Jewish people in from the area.

A young Jewish man from the community came in recently. He was attracted by our sign. He came as we were about to begin our Bible study. He had many questions and we geared the study to answer these. We showed him many prophecies from the Old Testament; and Isaiah 53 seemed to have a great impact on him. He had never read this chapter before and when he did, he saw Jesus as the suffering Messiah! He asked, "Why did it have to be Jesus who would return again and not some other Messiah?"

I read from Zechariah 12:10 and the truth gripped his mind and heart. He puzzled over the need for a personal commitment to Jesus as Savior and Lord, so we studied together John chapter 3. He took a great deal of literature when he left and promised, "I'll be back." He left his address and telephone. He even indicated he would welcome a visit to discuss spiritual matters. He is a college student in another state and lives in our area with his parents when not in school. He has a brother, a Chasidic Jew, living in Brooklyn, N.Y. Pray with us for him and his family.

Our church meetings are growing and the Lord has brought a musically



**REV. LAWRENCE CARUVANA
MISSIONARY-IN-CHARGE
PEORIA BRANCH**

talented family to us and they are involved in our church meetings. They sing and play many musical instruments and have learned some Hebrew songs. Bill, the oldest boy attends a Christian college in Arkansas. He was there in a park playing one of the Hebrew songs we use in our programs, "Hineni Mah Tov . ." (Behold how good . . . Psm. 133:1). As he strummed and sang, a young boy came up to him and said, "I know that song." Thus began a discussion, and the boy brought Bill to see his mother. She said that they were the only Jewish family in town and did not have a synagogue to attend. Bill witnessed to her from the Old Testament, pointing out how Jesus fulfills the prophecies of Messiah. She said, "I have never heard that. I want to study the Bible for myself."

We praise God for this opportunity Bill had of sharing the reality of Jesus and for the great way God has used this talented family in so many exciting ways. ☞

ACTIVE WITNESSING FOR THE MESSIAH

A Jewish brother who was saved a few years ago and is living a victorious life for the Messiah had called us a day before our campus appearance. He proposed that we meet with a Jewish lady from the east who was visiting with her daughter here in Boulder. Not only had the daughter recovered from a sickness, she had found a new faith, a new way of life. The mother was fascinated by the idea of a Jewish girl finding Jesus as her Messiah, how it had happened, and the background. I agreed to meet mother and daughter.

We were taken to a fashionable restaurant. Hardly was food set before us and the questions came. First, "What does Jewishness have to do with Christianity?" Second, "How did her daughter come to know Jesus as her Messiah?" Third, "How can Jews believe in Jesus and still remain Jewish?" The fact that the young man (who was also invited along with us) was Jewish and he did not deny it,



REV. ELIEZER URBACH
MISSIONARY-IN-CHARGE
DENVER BRANCH

impressed the mother. We had a wonderful time sharing Christ.

Another instance of God's gracious leading recently was at one of Bill Gothard's Seminars. As I walked around in the audience, someone touched my shoulder. I turned and saw a bearded young man. "I want to see you and talk to you. I have many questions to ask!" He had called me the day before and now someone had pointed me out to him at the Seminar.

We met for lunch the next day. The young man, Gordon, told me he was engaged to a Christian girl who had been "saved" recently. He could see a great change in her life. He asked, "How can a Jew still be Jewish and believe in Jesus as the Messiah?"

He told me that as a young boy in an Orthodox home the very mention of the name "Jesus" brought bad reactions. Now after a few months he is reading the New Testament and is able to pronounce the name of Jesus. I explained that we don't stop being Jews when we accept Jesus. In fact, we become completed Jews. I confronted him with the claims of Messiah on his life and asked him what kept him from accepting Jesus as his Messiah. I asked, "If you should die tonight, would you know for sure you would go to heaven?" His answer was negative.

I asked, "Would you like to know how you could be sure?" He answered, "Yes," and there at the lunch table, he bowed his head and asked the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to forgive his sin and for Jesus to come into his life. Pray for Gordon to grow in the knowledge of his Messiah, even the Lord Jesus Christ.



WHERE HE LEADS

ME

I WILL FOLLOW



MRS. TRUDY SHERBURNE, MISSIONARY
LOS ANGELES BRANCH

I am continually amazed as to how God orders our steps and arranges encounters. Sometimes in Jewish work we become discouraged by the unresponsiveness of people to God's Word. However, when God leads us into situations as in the following ones, I can only say, "Praise God, I'll willingly heed His call to be used in His service."

Awhile back, Sandy Wingate and I needed to have our photographs taken so we picked a studio from the phone book. The owner "happened" to be an Israeli. We were able to discuss Jesus with him at length and gave him a tract.

Another time I took a lady to a park where I met a Polish Jew, Mr. R. I was able to testify of my faith in the Messiah, give him a tract, and obtain his address and phone number. A couple of weeks later I called him. He wasn't at home, but his wife said to come to the house anyway. Louis Lapidés and I went to the house and found the wife extremely open and desirous to discern whether she

should believe in Jesus. We had a very good discussion about the things of the Lord Jesus Christ. I anticipate further contact with her as she requested.

At another park I met an elderly Jewish lady who told me that her father was a Rabbi, but she has rejected Judaism. I sat listening without knowing what to say to her until she said that she knows one of these days she will have to meet her Maker and is desirous of having peace with Him. What better opening could I have for sharing how one can be assured of a right relationship with God through Jesus our Messiah?

On still another occasion, I unknowingly sat in front of a Jewish couple on the airplane. They invited me to sit with them. I learned they live around the corner from me and I was able to give the wife my testimony.

Since God ordained these encounters, I am confident He will respond to your prayers for each of these people.



REV. BEN ALPERT AND FAMILY

THE CHICAGO REPORT

BY MRS. BONNIE ALPERT

From all appearances, the sixty-hundred block of Chicago's North Kedzie Avenue is no different from any other residential street. The street itself is undergoing construction changes; but other than that, children ride bikes, play on the sidewalks, and parents go about their daily tasks. However, the building that houses the Midwestern District Headquarters of ABMJ hasn't been quite so normal during the last year.

Ben and I and our son Michael arrived in Chicago a year ago to begin our work in the Jewish community and after living in Missouri, moving to Chicago was a traumatic experience. We arrived not many hours after Ben's graduation from Baptist Bible College. We didn't know anyone in Chicago, or even how to get to the Mission; but, because we knew that God wanted us here, we were determined to make the necessary adjustments and face whatever was to come.

Early Ministry

Our first encounter with the people of the Mission came by means of a Ladies' Auxiliary meeting. The ladies greeted us with open arms and we shared a pot-luck dinner, followed by a time of singing and testimonies. We knew that we had a lot to accomplish in Chicago, but that these ladies were behind us with prayer and that our almighty Savior was directing our steps.

During our first month Ben was able to make a very valuable contact at the Israeli Embassy. Ben was allowed to see the Consulate General for five minutes. He was also able to talk with the Consulate's press secretary for over an hour, during which time he was able to share the plan of salvation. At the close of the meeting, our Mission was listed as a Messianic Jewish organization that was friendly to Israel, and we were put on the mailing list.

Not long after our arrival in Chicago, one of our Thursday night classes was interrupted by a telephone bomb threat. The caller said that the bomb was to go off in thirty minutes. While the police searched the building, we continued our meeting in the parking lot. I'm sure the bomb threat was meant to discourage us, but instead it turned out to be a victory for the Lord. The people who were in the parking lot attracted curious neighbors who otherwise would never attend a meeting.

At the end of our first summer, God sent us a young man who had been working in two other branches of the Mission. Michael Rydelnik, from Brooklyn, N.Y. has a testimony that really thrilled our hearts.

Michael Rydelnik's Testimony

My mother became a believer before World War II. When the war was over she married a non-believing Jewish man. After a few years my father forbade her to have any Christian fellowship, and didn't allow her to tell her children of her faith. We were raised in the Orthodox Jewish traditions, attending synagogue, Jewish school, and observing the age-old customs. I developed a strong Jewish pride which delayed my coming to the Messiah. Several years ago my brother came to the Messiah without knowing of my mother's beliefs. My father blamed her for my brother's conversion and threatened to leave her if she didn't renounce her faith. When she wouldn't do this, he divorced her, freeing her to share her faith in Jesus with us. I became very hostile towards Jesus, yet the Old Testament prophecies plagued me because they pointed to Jesus. My mother attended the Mission in Coney Island where Miss Hilda Koser is missionary-in-charge. While picking up my mother at a Bible study there, Miss Koser heard that I needed a job. When she offered me a job, I accepted not caring where

the money came from. I started work arranging Miss Koser's library, and we began to have long talks together about Jesus. The Holy Spirit then showed me that a Jew can believe in Jesus. One Sunday, after seeing a movie about Israel (*His Land*) I gave my life to Him. He transformed my life, gave me purpose and peace of mind. Now I only want to share the Good News of Jesus with the Jewish people.

Michael is doing an excellent job in fulfilling his calling. Along with classmates from Moody Bible Institute there have been over 10,000 tracts passed out to the people of Chicago. The first time they went out there were four professions of faith made as a result of the tracts. Satan retaliated: the Mission was stoned causing minor damage, but we realized anew that Chicago was in desperate need of the Gospel. As a result of our tract ministry, since January, ten people have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Messiah.



Other Ministries

Andrea Howard, from Oklahoma and a student at Moody Bible Institute, has been a real asset to the ministry during this past year. She worked in the office helping to keep things running smoothly and she leads the singing and sings solos and duets in the Thursday night class. Both she and Michael worked in our camp for Jewish young people during the summer.

Probably one of the greatest highlights in our ministry this past year has been Passover. We had opportunity to share the beautiful story of the Passover with hundreds of people and to show how Jesus is clearly portrayed throughout the entire ceremony. Through the Passover demonstration, and other opportunities that we had to share our ministry, such as church services, etc. the Lord blessed with about forty souls during our first year.

The outreach of the ministry is ever-increasing, especially since the Volunteer Missionary Program was instituted. Five families in com-



munities where there are sizeable Jewish populations have volunteered their homes for this outreach. The purpose is to teach Gentile Christians to effectively witness to and reach Jewish people for Christ. The volunteer missionaries are deeply dedicated and the Lord is blessing their lives. We have seen many souls won to the Lord through these outreaches.

One of the April highlights was speaking at the Wisconsin Baptist Bible Fellowship Youth Meeting. It was held at Wyldewood Baptist Church where Howard Nelson is pastor and Randy King, Youth Director. It was our privilege to present Jewish Missions to 200 young people. Praise the Lord!

Wedding bells rang here in June for a young Hebrew Christian couple and Ben officiated at the service. The wedding was beautiful and it was a tremendous witness to those who attended. Ben and the bride and groom wrote the ceremony which clearly showed Jesus as the Messiah.

For weeks we had been praying for help for the office and the Lord sent us a young lady who is a recent graduate from Baptist Bible College. She is Beverly Milligan, and Bev has already made herself a useful part of our ministry. Please pray that God will bless her in a special way as she works with us to reach the Jews of Chicago for Jesus.

Danny and Coleen Miller from Missouri, are a young couple who have been doing visitation with us. Danny lived in Illinois for thirteen years and is somewhat familiar with the Chicago area. They spend their day going door-to-door talking with people and witnessing. They pass out tracts at the local shopping malls and on the beaches and talk with people. They have had very interesting experiences with Jewish people in Chicago.



A WARNING FROM THOSE WE LOVE

People slam doors in their faces and become very angry, but they have been able to get into good discussions about the Lord. One highlight of the summer was Danny's conversation with a young rabbinical student. Danny was talking to the student's father when the young man pushed his father out of the way saying, "I can handle this." The discussion with the young man became heated as he took all his arguments from the Talmud while Danny used the Old Testament. The young man said that they had studied about people like Danny in college, and that Danny would burn in hell for trying to change people's beliefs. He refused to believe the Old Testament prophecies that Danny informed him of, saying that they were not true. He told Danny that he was going to look at the prophecies for himself, and we are praying that he will do exactly that. The encounter has given Danny a greater zeal to learn more about the beliefs of the Jewish people and the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Persecution

According to our plans, July was to have been a month of vacation, but instead it turned into one of trial: Sunday, July 20th, our building was fire-bombed!

I awoke about 4 a.m. and smelled smoke. I got up and walked about ten feet from our bedroom door and the smoke became so thick that I couldn't see. I ran back into our room, woke up Ben, (I never saw him get up so fast!) grabbed Michael, and headed down the back stairs. The smell of gas and smoke was almost unbearable by the time we reached the back door, but we knew that we had to get out. Ben called the fire department while I unlocked the back door and went outside. I never knew such fear in my life, not knowing where the fire was, or how bad it was; but yet I was able to praise God that we were still alive. As I reached the front of the house I was greeted by flames and a large can of flammable liquid. Ben was able to put out most of the fire with an extinguisher before the fire



to smash our living room window. Numerous police and fire officials have been in and out of the Mission because so much has happened in the past weeks. They cannot understand why we are trying so hard to share Jesus with the Jewish community. We have had the opportunity to share the Gospel with a lot of people because it is impossible to explain what we are, or what we are trying to do without explaining the plan of salvation.

We have learned in the last year, not only about Jewish missions, but also what it means to be totally committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our experiences are now merely stepping stones to what we hope will be an even more exciting year for Jesus our Messiah, and we do need your continued prayers.

Other Testimonies

MB, a young Jewish Christian girl who attends our Thursday night class, gives her testimony as follows: "My father was very ill, and at one time he was even pronounced dead. I was very concerned about him and began praying seeking to find out if Jesus was really the Son of God. During this time I had many Christian friends who were not only praying for my father, but that God would open my eyes to the truth. My mother also became ill and had to be hospitalized. At that time the Lord allowed me to meet a Christian couple who explained the plan of salvation. They invited me to attend a class at the Mission. There Michael Rydelnik explained more fully just what salvation was, and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.

A woman from an Orthodox Jewish background shared, "I've been coming to the Mission for a long time and I accepted Jesus as my Messiah. I know that I am a Christian, but best of all I'm still a Jew." 

department arrived. The firemen told us that we were lucky to have gotten out of the house alive. They went on to explain that in most fires, where wooden doors such as ours are involved, the occupants of the buildings are usually overcome with smoke before the fire ever gets really bad.

After the fire trucks left and the arson squad finished their tests, we attempted to clean up and get things back to normal as much as possible. Because the front door was completely burned away, we have the front entrance boarded up. We spent the entire afternoon answering questions for detectives who were busily trying to find a reason for the fire.

That night we were visited again. This time red spray paint was used to spell out, "Let my people alone," across the front of our building and parking lot signs. Two days later our front office window was smashed and shortly after that, someone attempted

SHE KNEW THE GOD OF ISRAEL

BY REV. CHARLES EISENBERG
MISSIONARY-IN-CHARGE

Mrs. Rose S, a Jewish lady who lived in a middle-class Jewish community, had been confined to her home for several months with an incurable disease. The Christian lady who cared for Mrs. S knew of us and one day she called our Center and spoke with me about this Jewish woman. She said that Mrs. S had been exposed to Christian Science, but that she neither believed in Judaism as a way of life nor in Christian Science.

The Christian lady introduced me to Mrs. S over the telephone, and I talked to her for fifteen minutes. I sensed that the Holy Spirit was speaking to her and that she knew she needed the Lord. I asked her if there was any reason why she couldn't receive Jesus as her Messiah. She said, "I can't think of any," so I asked her if she would like to pray with me and to realize that she was speaking to God. She consented. In our prayer we thanked God for sending Yeshua to pay the penalty for our sins by shedding His blood, and she invited Jesus into her life while on the telephone. (We know that God is not limited by geography!)

After our prayer, Mrs. S seemed to be somewhat relieved. I assured her that God loved her and wanted her to know more about Himself. I asked her if she had the Scriptures in both Old and New Testaments. She said that she did not, so about three days later I went with my family to her home to take her a Bible. We met her family and the very first question her husband asked was, "What is a Hebrew Christian?" We were there for an hour answering questions concerning Jesus of Nazareth.

Mrs. S was taken to a hospital in Manhattan a few weeks later, and I went to see her. When I entered her room, she was unconscious. But, I prayed and the Lord answered the prayer and she became semi-conscious. She opened her eyes, and I asked, "Do you remember when you prayed that prayer and received Jesus as your Messiah?" She could not speak in an audible voice, but she moved her lips to say, "Yes." A few days later she passed away; but, praise God, she had come to know the God of Israel, and we expect to see her in heaven with the Lord. 

SHARING THE WORD



Questions and Answers



By HENRY J. HEYDT, Th.D.

QUESTION: What about astrology? What is the Jewish position on it?

ANSWER: A study of the heavens, as it is known today under the science of astronomy, is not forbidden in the Scriptures (Ps. 8:3) and they have a great deal to say about the heavenly bodies. However, to use the stars for divination, to be a horoscopist of the sky (the Hebrew of Isa. 47:13), is forbidden. Israel was to be a holy people unto the Lord (Dt. 7:6) to be directed by His word and not the stars. The very Psalm that tells us that He numbers and names the stars stresses three times the fact that He uses His word (Ps. 147:15, 18, 19). For this reason all forms of divination are forbidden in the giving of the law, Dt. 18:9-14. The Keil-Delitzsch Commentary states on this section: "Moses groups together all the words which the language contained for the different modes of exploring the future and discovering the will of God, for the purpose of forbidding every description of soothsaying, and places the prohibition of Moloch-worship at the head, to show the inward connection between soothsaying and idolatry . . ." See also Isa. 47:12-15; Jer. 10:2; and the contrasts set forth in Dan. 1:20; 2:2,10,27; 4:7; 5:7,11,15.

Stephen points out in his defence recorded in Acts 7 that when Israel made the calf and sacrificed to it God gave them up to the idolatry of the astrologers and quotes from Amos to underscore his point (Acts 7:41-43). For other references to Israel's Sabatism see Dt. 17:3; 2 K. 17:16; 21:3; 2 Chron. 33:3,5; Jer. 8:2 and 19:13. Jewish belief in the influence of the stars upon the fate of men and

nations was very prevalent during the Talmudic period and during the Middle Ages the Jews were considered by the occidental world as masters of the art, regarding it as a true science. Maimonides opposed it, though unsuccessfully, as being forbidden in Scripture and leading to idolatry.

Modern Judaism rejects astrology and the popular greeting, *mazzal tov*, (or *mazol tov*), "good luck," is never used in the sense of its astrological origin. Abraham Heller states in his *Vocabulary of Jewish Life* on the word *Mazzal*: "The term is originally derived from the Hebrew word meaning constellation, planet; i.e., man's destiny is dependent upon the planets according to the month and day of one's birth. Such astrological concepts are foreign to the basic principles of Judaism, which maintains that all we are and all we have is due to God's rule in the universe."

QUESTION: Can you give me a summary of the events which led up to the six-day war in Palestine?

ANSWER: 1897, the Zionist organization was formed.

1917, Great Britain issued the Balfour Declaration pledging the development of Palestine as a National Home for the Jews.

1922, the 52-member League of Nations gave Great Britain the mandate of Palestine.

1924, the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate were ratified by the United States and Great Britain with the signing of a treaty requiring the assent of the United States to any modification of the Mandate.

1939, in violation of this and contrary to the Balfour Declaration, Great Britain issued the White Paper nullifying the Mandate and closing the doors of Palestine to the Jews. (As a result, hundreds of thousands of Jews were left in central Europe and became the victims of the Hitler purge.)

1944, both the Democratic and Republican parties included in their platforms a pledge to support the opening of Palestine to the Jews.

1947, November 29, the United Nations adopted a plan to partition Palestine with a small section, including Jerusalem and Bethlehem, to be an international zone.

1948, May 14, a Jewish Republic was proclaimed at Tel Aviv.

1967, May 18, the United Nations forces were asked by Egypt to withdraw, and on May 22 Egypt blockaded the Gulf of Aqaba. (The Port of Elath handled almost 90% of Israel's vital oil supply.) Egypt moved 80,000 troops into the Gaza strip with Russian built missiles and rockets and 900 tanks pointing at Israel. On the north were 40,000 Syrian and 5,000 Iraqi soldiers. On the east there were 40,000 Jordanian troops and Saudi Arabia ordered 20,000 men into Jordan.

1967, June 5, Israel attacked Egypt and by Wednesday, June 7, victory was achieved.



THE BASIS OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

By ARNOLD G. FRUCHTENBAUM, Editor

(Continued from October issue)

II. The Basis of the Second Coming of Christ

Having said all this what then is the basis of the second coming of Christ? To discover this we will need to look at three general passages and then we shall look at two specific ones.

The first general passage is found in Leviticus 26:39-42:

And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them. And they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, in the trespass which they trespassed against me, and also that, because they walked contrary to me, I also walked contrary unto them, and brought them into the land of their enemies: if then their uncircumcised heart be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity; then will I remember my covenant with Jacob; and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember: and I will remember the land.

In Leviticus 26 Moses predicts how, because of disobedience to God's revealed will, the Jews will be scattered all over the world. Then in verse 39 he begins to change the picture to that that is not God's final purpose with His people. But rather, in verse 42, He intends to give them all the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant. But before they can begin to enjoy these blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant during the Messianic Age, it is all conditioned on verse 40 which means that they must confess their iniquity. A thing to notice is that the word *iniquity* is in the singular and it has the definite article before it. In other words, there



is one specific iniquity which Israel must confess before she can begin to enjoy all the benefits of the Abrahamic Covenant.

The second general passage is found in Jeremiah 3:11-18:

And Jehovah said unto me, Backsliding Israel hath showed herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, return thou backsliding Israel, saith Jehovah; I will not look in anger upon you; For I am merciful, saith Jehovah. I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against Jehovah thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith Jehovah. Return, O backsliding children, saith Jehovah; for I am a husband unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds according to my heart, who shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. And it shall come to pass, when ye are multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith Jehovah, they shall say no more, The ark of the Covenant of Jehovah; neither shall it come to mind; neither shall they remember it; neither shall they miss it; neither shall it be made any more. At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of Jehovah; and

all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of Jehovah, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north, to the land that I gave for an inheritance unto your fathers.

In verse 14 God begins to describe to Israel the blessings which He has in store for them in the Millennial Age. It will be a time of tremendous blessing and restoration for the Jewish people when the Kingdom is established by their Messiah. But before they can enjoy the blessings of the Millennial Kingdom, all these blessings are conditional upon verse 13 where they must acknowledge or confess a specific iniquity which they committed against Jehovah their God.

The third general passage is found in the book of Zechariah. Zechariah chapters 12, 13, and 14 must be studied as a unit for they really go together as one chapter. In chapter 13 of Zechariah we read of the cleansing of Israel of their sin and in chapter 14 we read about the Second Coming of Christ. But the cleansing of Israel followed by the Second Coming of Christ is all conditional on Zechariah 12:10:

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look unto me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born.

Before Israel will receive the cleansing of her sin and before Christ will return to establish His kingdom they must first look unto the **One whom they have pierced**. The Hebrew word here is the word *el* which does not mean **upon** which would have required the Hebrew word *al*. But it means **unto**. There is no need to see Jesus first and look **upon** Him. In this verse they must merely **look unto** the One they have pierced. Once they do

this then and only then will they receive their cleansing and begin to enjoy the blessings of the Messianic Age.

Now let us look at the two specific passages. The first is found in Hosea 5. The one who is doing the speaking in chapter 5 of Hosea is God Himself and God is still doing the speaking when we come to verse 15:

I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me earnestly.

There are certain presuppositions to be understood behind this verse. First of all, before anyone can go back to a place he must first leave it. In this passage God says that He is going to go back to His place. God's place is Heaven. In this passage we are told that God is going to go back to His place which is Heaven itself. Before God can go back to Heaven He must first leave it. The question is, when did God ever leave Heaven? God left Heaven in the Incarnation in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. So God left Heaven at the Incarnation and now because of an offense committed against Him He goes back to Heaven. This Jesus did at the Ascension from the Mount of Olives. The verse further states that He will not come back to the earth until this offense that caused Him to go back to Heaven is acknowledged or confessed. What is that Jewish national offense committed against the person of Christ? It is not, as so many people seem to think, that the Jews killed Christ. The actual killing of Christ was done by Gentile rather than by Jewish hands. He was condemned by a Gentile judge. But this is all irrelevant for regardless of Jewish acceptance or Jewish rejection, Christ had to die to become the sacrifice for sins. There was no way out of the fact that Christ had to die. The death of Christ is not the actual national offense of Israel. **The national offense of Israel was in the**

rejection of His Messiahship. In this verse, only when this offense is acknowledged and confessed, will Christ return to the earth.

The second specific passage is found in Matthew 23. We have already looked at this passage and we saw how in this chapter Christ denounces the Scribes and Pharisees, the Jewish leadership in that day. He is still speaking to them when we come to verses 37-39:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killeth the prophets, and stoneth them that are sent unto her! How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Speaking to the Jewish leadership Christ re-iterates His original desire

to gather them if they would only accept Him. Because of their rejection of His Messiahship, in place of being gathered they are going to be scattered. Their house, the Jewish Temple, will be left desolate and will be destroyed with nothing remaining. Then He says that they will not see Him again until they say **Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord** which is a Messianic greeting.

So Jesus will not come back to the earth until the Jews and the Jewish leaders ask Him to come back.

This then is the basis of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will not come back until the Jewish leaders ask Him to come back.

The circumstances by which this will happen will be discussed in the concluding article next month.

(To be concluded.)

ROBERT'S EXPERIENCE

BY GARTH MICHAELS
PART-TIME WORKER
DENVER BRANCH

When Bob first wandered past the Messianic Fellowship book table in the University, he made several curious remarks mingled with a few questions. We gave him selected literature to read on the Jewish Messiah. After this first encounter, we did not see him again for several weeks. Then one day, he dropped by again with more questions. This time we agreed upon a lunch meeting when we could cover questions which remained as obstacles in his acceptance of the Messiah. When the time arrived for our meeting, Bob was not to be found.

To my great surprise, he returned again to the book table several weeks later and apologized for missing our lunch appointment. He suggested we set up another time to meet and promised to show up, and this time he kept his promise. We had a

wonderful time of questions and answers (over matzoh-ball soup) and he prayed and accepted Jesus as his Messiah! I'll never forget the look on his face when he said, "But, the rabbis never taught me this in Hebrew school. All they told me was that Jesus was a somewhat kooky guy who tried to start his own religion. They never showed us Isaiah 53 or Psalm 22 or any of the other prophecies in the Old Testament which Jesus fulfilled."

We are rejoicing for our new brother, Bob. Please pray for his growth as he moves to Los Angeles. May God use him greatly to reach many of his Jewish brethren for the Savior. Continue in prayer for the book table ministries in Denver, that God would bring many more into His forever family. 

LET THEM HEAR

A dear, God-honoring couple two years ago moved to their own home in a warm, southern state. A few years previously, before the husband had retired, they had purchased a lot near their northern home city intending to build a retirement cottage. However, circumstances of health caused a change in their retirement plans. They continued to hold and pay taxes on the lot even after they moved south.

They have continued to mature in grace during these years and the full impact of Matthew 6:19-21 brought them to realize they should no longer keep that property. Rather than leave it as a bequest under their will, as they first intended, they decided to deed it over to help advance God's work now. By doing so while they lived, they not only removed its value from their probated estate, but also obtained a substantial income tax deduction. Furthermore, they had the personal satisfaction of knowing that the proceeds from the sale of the lot would be used immediately.

As we approach year-end 1975, wise tax planning suggests the importance of completing our current year's gifts now so as to take advantage of tax benefits available under the Internal Revenue Code.

Perhaps YOU have a lot, or a building, or a home, or bonds or stocks, or some other asset which no longer has utility for you. Perhaps YOU too should consider making such an estate transfer now. If this matter is of interest, please write to Dr. Daniel Fuchs at our headquarters' office. **by Mr. Wesley J. A. Jones, Director of Stewardship**

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