

"Jewish Confessors of the Faith"

This is a 32 page booklet, with attractive cover, containing a brief account of twelve world-famous Jewish Christians, together with their photographs and a few excerpts from historical source-books giving a brief characterization of each man and his life work. The book has been compiled by our Jewish Christian brother, Mr. Henry Einspruch, and should make a valuable addition to any library. This compilation should stop the mouths of such Rabbis who seem to take delight in oft repeating the falsehood which has been so many times exposed and exploded, "No Jews ever believe in Christ."

The booklet is beautifully printed and illustrated and would make a very fine present to give to a Jew of culture or to a Jewish Rabbi. We would like every reader of "The Chosen People" to have a copy; the price is 35c postpaid.

American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc.

27 Throop Avenue

Station A, Box 10

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Vol. XL

MARCH, 1935

No. 6

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

"He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."
Ps. 121:4.



JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN, *Editor*
Station A, Box 10
Brooklyn, N. Y.

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JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN
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MISS ELLA T. MARSTON
Associate Editor

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Vol. XL

MARCH, 1935

No. 6

Salutation

"We go to salute the Children of the King"—II Kings 10:13

My dearly beloved friends:—

The time has now come when we must concentrate our attention on the new building we are in process of erecting. It was Nehemiah who said, "Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste . . . Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me . . . And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work." Neh. 2:17, 18.

And we likewise must now let nothing hinder the completion of the task. We present on the next page, a sketch prepared by our architects, showing the facade of the building, which will be joined to our present headquarters, as a sort of L, and will give us the greatly needed room to care for the expanded work.

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY

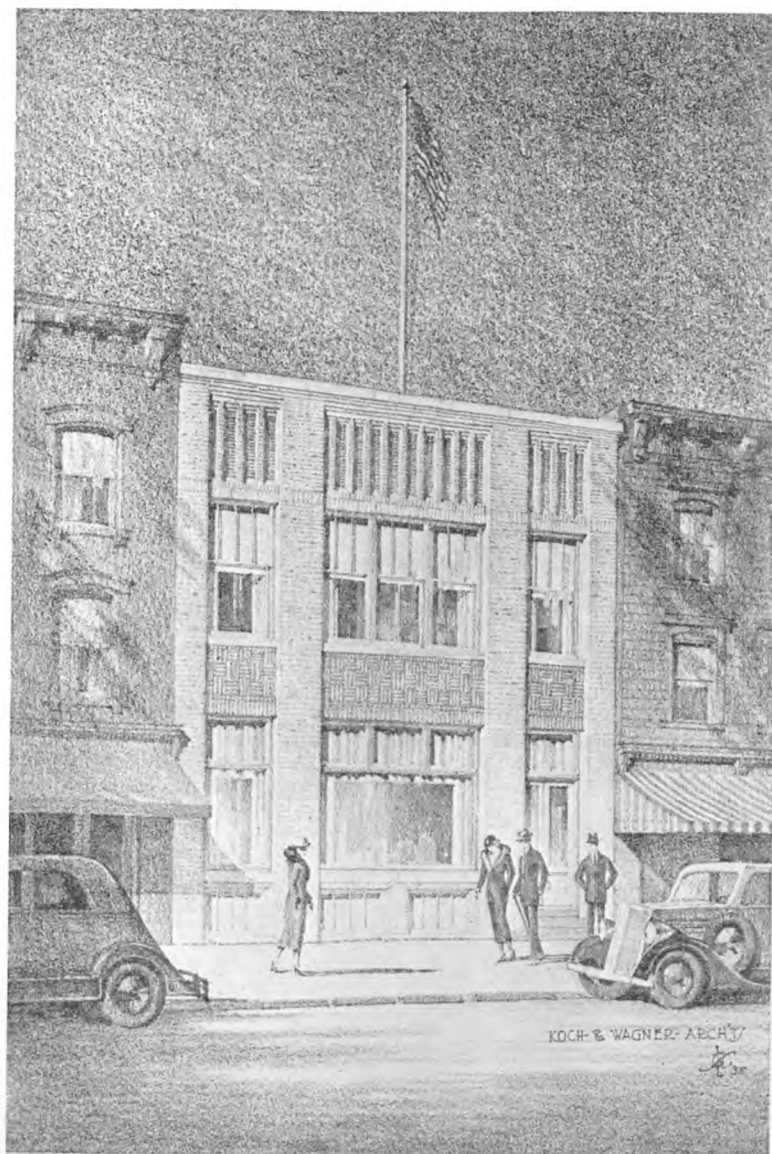
We have already agreed that the building shall be called the Marston Memorial Hall. We wish to do honor to the memory of a greatly beloved servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, Mr. Frank H. Marston. Within two years from the time this Mission was started, in 1894, more than forty years ago, Mr. Marston became identified with the work. His connection with it proved to be a life-time service to the Lord. Of his time, his money, his consecrated wisdom, he gave freely and sacrificially. When the work was buffeted in the crucible of persecution, and its enemies seemed about to overwhelm us on all sides, it was this man of God who stood on the firing line with us, with a self-abandon that said, "If the ship is to sink, I'll be the last one to leave." And it was he who used to say at our Board meetings, where, as our honored head until the day of his home-going, he presided with such grace and courtesy, "I want that whatever we do at this meeting, we shall not be ashamed to have appear on the front page of the *New York Times* tomorrow."

So, in grateful memory of such a man of God, we will dedicate the new building, thankful to God that He saw fit to enrich us with the association of such a friend and brother as was Mr. Marston.

And now as to your part: so generous has been the response to this need, that already all the money is in sight, excepting a bit less than \$5,000. The Lord has given us many unmistakable signs that we are in His will in this matter. The contracts are signed, and when this reaches you, the sound of the hammers and the saws, and the masons and the bricklayers will be in full swing. By June 15th we hope to occupy. Final payments will need to be made by August 1st. We ask therefore, that each child of God who reads these lines may continue with us in prayer until like Moses of old we shall find ourselves obliged to cry, "It is enough!" Perhaps some one may have available some larger gift, placed at your disposal unexpectedly, which the Lord would have you send just in time to lift us over the hurdle. Pray much, dear friends, and we shall surely see the arm of God made manifest to us in this hour of opportunity.

Ever faithfully yours,

JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN.



Architect's Drawing of
MARSTON MEMORIAL BUILDING'
of the
AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE JEWS,
to occupy ground of
588 BROADWAY, BROOKLYN,
and to form an "L" with our present
Headquarters Building through to Throop Avenue.

INCIDENTS IN THE WORK

"The Poor Have the Gospel Preached Unto Them"

By BERNARD SCHATKIN

The work of the American Board of Missions to the Jews, stretching into many fields, has one all-absorbing aim, viz., the carrying of the gospel of the Lord Jesus into the hearts of the people who compose the Jewish communities, in New York and elsewhere. This is no easy task. Resistance is met with on all hands. However, the Lord has blessed our work, and the many Jewish people that have come to see the Light, are a witness that our labors have not been in vain.

One of the channels of this missionary work is the visitation of Jewish homes; witnessing to Jewish individuals, men and women, of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus; and extending an invitation to all to attend our Gospel meetings. It is self-evident that this work of visitation, is an integral part of our work, the importance of which cannot be minimized.

BEING A FRIEND

There is always a wholesome atmosphere about a visit, even from friend to friend. How much more true is this, when the visitor into the Jewish home is a missionary, who comes to give much spiritually, and asks for nothing in return! Such work of visitation gives the missionary an opportunity to come into close personal contact with the people. It encourages heart-to-heart talks. How often do they lay before the missionary, when he is a visitor, their many problems! Their problems of sickness, unemployment, and kindred other problems. There is, however, always present that striking lack of spiritual life; and the necessity for making known our Lord Jesus, to the wandering sheep of Israel, is compelling.

This work of visitation constitutes a large part of my work. I rejoice to report that the Lord has blessed my humble efforts in this direction, where otherwise the Gospel might never have been heard.

Dearly beloved, the Lord is blessing the work of this old Mission to the Jews, and its workers. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for the remarkable interest shown by those Jewish men and women, young and old, who fill our auditorium to capacity, eager to sing the old hymns, listen to the Word preached by our beloved brother, Dr. Cohn, Brother Englander, and by the writer.

A CASE IN POINT

While visiting families and bringing the gospel into their homes I met a Mr. H. and his family, which consisted of Mr. H., his wife and daughter of about twelve. In my first visit to that household, I spent considerable time, becoming acquainted with them, and during my conversation, I did not omit to tell them of the salvation of our Lord. Mr. H., who is well versed in the Hebrew Scriptures and Talmud, told me that he spent many years in Russia studying the Talmud and other books held sacred by Orthodox Jews.

However, since he first came to this country, he lost all his interest in Judaism, and rarely visited the Synagogue. He became cynical and agnostic. Upon my invitation, he promised to come to our Gospel meetings, and he kept his promise.

During the following week, I called upon him again, and we had a long talk. He stated that he had never read the New Testament. I offered him a New Testament in Yiddish, but he said he was familiar with Hebrew and preferred one in that tongue. At the conclusion of our conversation, I extended an invitation to all of them, father,

mother and daughter, to come to our meetings, which they accepted.

ALL CONFESS CHRIST

Mr. H. now attends our meetings regularly. Mrs. H. is in poor health, but nevertheless comes with her daughter whenever possible. I also invited the family to our Thanksgiving dinner. They were impressed by the Christian love extended to them as well as by the testimonies of the believers at that dinner.

At that dinner, Mrs. H. accepted the Lord and testified by the uplifting of her hand. Mr. H. testified as to his acceptance of the Saviour at our meeting of Monday evening, December 31st, 1934. Mr. H. is now very anxious to study God's Word, and has asked me to arrange several evenings a week for him at a Bible School.

We heartily praise the Lord for the conversion of this Jewish family.

Dear Christian friends—pray for our work and our workers, that while we sow the seed, He will graciously give the increase. I praise the Lord for the great work being accomplished by the American Board of Missions to the Jews in carrying the Gospel in many parts of the world, and making the Lord Jesus known to our Jewish people.

Busy Days in Pittsburgh

By REV. JOHN SOLOMON

"The Lord liveth; blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God, the rock of my salvation." II Samuel 22:47. With praise and adoration to His blessed name, we lift up our voices in thanksgiving for the many opportunities afforded to us to proclaim the blessed gospel of Christ to our sinful Jewish brethren and sisters, whom we seek to win for Christ. Dear friends, it works marvelously; there is power in the gospel to save sinners, Jew and Gentile alike. How glad I am to have

been permitted to conduct 124 services, some in the streets in the Jewish neighborhood. These open air meetings proved a real blessing to Jews, as well as to Gentiles. Then again in the Mission the regular meetings Friday evening and Sunday afternoon each week have been used of God, beside the monthly prayer meetings the first Friday of each month, when dear friends unite to pray for Israel "that they might be saved." We praise His name for all the faithful ministers that have offered to come to the Mission, helping your missionaries to preach the gospel "to the Jew first." Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Evangelical, Lutheran and Wesleyan Methodist ministers have all witnessed to the Jew of the Messiahship of Jesus.

How grateful we are to all our volunteer workers, a real consecrated group of workers that love the Lord and His ancient people. These dear friends come regularly to the meetings to assist with their prayers and help. The friends that play the piano at the various services, and the friends who come from time to time to sing, are from among the best talent of Pittsburgh; they are anxious to inspire the Jewish soul to accept Christ as the Saviour of Israel and the Redeemer of the world. All these friends and helpers are on fire for God. And the gospel preached by your missionaries has moved the Jews from their seats to tell us such words as, "Mr. Solomon, I know you meant me." "Yes! I mean each one of you," is my reply. Four of our inquirers, two Jewish men, and two Jewish women openly confessed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

How we praise God for the American Board of Missions to the Jews. It is a blessing to know that we are associated in this noble cause. Your prayers and support have encouraged

us to press forward toward the prize of our high calling in Christ. Our services and activities of daily visitation and distribution of tracts and *The Shepherd of Israel* reaches a wide field all around greater Pittsburgh and other communities through your missionaries, Mr. Solomon and Brother Wago. Pray for us.

With Chicago University Students

Not many of our friends know that we have a Jewish Christian young man spending a good deal of his time in the south side of Chicago, doing colportage work among the Jews in that section. The young man, Charles Horow, is a student himself at the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and by his doing this colportage work we are able to help him towards his support. A good part of his work finds its center among the student population of the south side, for here is situated the great university of Chicago which is known as a hot-bed of unbelief in the supernatural and infallible character of the Word of God. The opportunity of reaching the Jewish students in such a university is one that certainly must not be slighted, and we are glad to hear from time to time that our Jewish Christian young man takes advantage of these opportunities. We want our friends to read a few paragraphs from a recent letter:

Another detail I want to report in this letter. At the end of last month I received from the Director of the "International House" affiliated with the Chicago University, an invitation to be the guest of the house. I received it with pleasure and replied that I would accept the invitation, believing this was planned by God Himself!

The Chicago University is known as having a large number of Jewish students—the élite of Chicago Jewry!

Most of them belong to the "International House," and who is more of an internationalist than the Jew—the everlasting wanderer? I said to myself that here is a great avenue just opened for me and that I shall have the contact and the approach to the academic and intelligent type of Jew, who ordinarily cannot be approached from the outside. This will afford a direct contact with those skeptics and philosophers. The only thing I asked from the Lord in my prayer was that He should be my guide and direct me in the right way, that they might see the light through Christ our eternal Beacon.

At the given date I was present at the "House" supplied with some "Shepherds" to distribute after bringing up the discussion of heavenly matters as I had in mind; and so it was. I do not need any introduction concerning my occupation or profession for I came to them as a foreign student who came to the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary to prepare myself for the Christian ministry. That is my identification for them to know what I do profess and what is my mission. In spite of the fact that I am a Hebrew Christian and a missionary to the Jews, I had a hearty welcome by all who were gathered in the hall, about three hundred souls. They seemed to be interested in my work vitally, and asked me to visit again.

While there, I was asked to speak about my experiences on my extensive travels prior to my coming to the United States, and I did. This seemed to be interesting, because I received again a formal invitation from the Director to a Christmas Party which I accepted with pleasure and hope to do a great deal of personal evangelism among them. May the Lord help me in my holy dedicated task for His Name's sake. Will you and your staff pray for me that I might be fruitful more than ever this coming New Year? A year of great hopes and ideals, a year for high aspirations and achievements for the Saviour of the world and Redeemer of mankind our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

SOME LETTERS YOU REALLY OUGHT TO SEE

Dear Brother Cohn:—

I must tell you a bit of a story. In my visits to our State T. B. Sanatorium I met one of the patients, a Jewess, Mrs. E. K. by name, who had recently been led to accept Christ as her Messiah and Lord, by the faithful ministry of another patient who is a member of Christ's body and under my pastoral care. A month ago I took along several copies of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE, and gave a copy of John, and a Moody magazine. I had found her very happy in Christ, and I listened with great joy to her recital of the contrast in her new life, as compared with the old.

Mrs. K. has since returned to her home, where she is resting. She sent me \$3.00 which she requested me to forward to you for the splendid work of the Mission. I can assure you it gives me great gladness to forward this sum, and especially as I know the family are poor, and the husband has had work for only part time this winter. And so another of "his own" has received Him, and is bringing forth fruit. I am sure you will take time to drop Mrs. K. a few words of greeting and comfort. She is not yet cured in body, but is a new "creation" in Christ Jesus.—(Pastor) C. F. E.

* * * *

Dear Folks:—

Had a letter yesterday saying that it was reported I was of Jewish extraction, explaining my defense of the Jews. The writer wanted me to give him the low-down as to my ancestry. As though I was once "Brookinsky"—or something, I told him I was related to a Jew through the new birth, also that I had believed a good deal of what some Jews wrote by divine inspiration.—KEITH L. BROOKS, Editor

of Prophecy, and Honorary Treasurer, American Board of Missions to the Jews.

* * * *

Dear Workers for Jesus:—

A friend passed me one copy of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE, which I just finished reading. As I was reading it I realized how I had failed to do God's will in regard to the Jew and I just had to humble myself and ask God to forgive me. Certainly I was blessed reading of the work being done by your Mission and thank God for it. I believe God touched my heart and though the contribution is very small that I can give, I hope it may be the means of bringing some lost soul to know our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. With Christian love, Your brother in Jesus,—C. J. A.

* * * *

My dear Mr. Cohn:—

First let me thank you for your beautiful mention of my beloved brother, Dr. Lincoln A. Ferris, in the April issue of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE. A sister's heart was thrilled and set singing and that heart has been aching since the Father's call last October 29th. He was the sweetest, the dearest of brothers, from babyhood I adored him, I was his darling baby sister. As you know him, I feel you can understand.

Next, by the will of Mrs. Mary E. Eldert, late of Katsbaan, N. Y., your Mission is to receive \$500.00. Again my heart is singing, for I feel the gift is just a little bit mine.

In 1932, Mrs. Eldert entered one of my Bible classes. Because of my way of presenting the Jew, a friend spoke up, "You better not say that to Mrs. Eldert, she *hates* Jews." I knew she was dear and sweet, eager to be taught, so as she left I quietly slipped a copy of "A Modern Missionary to an Ancient People" into her hand. Shortly after

she returned the book, and with tears said, "Thank you, dear, for letting me read that. I want this to go there," and slipped \$2.00 in my hand. Later, she spiritually helped many Jews and truly loved them, as her gift to you well proves. Her death was glorious and victorious, she was happy and smiling, telling those about her she would soon be with the Lord.

Well I remember when my dear Lord put the love of His dear people in my heart and stamped there, "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem." I am loyal to Dr.—— but cannot accept the teaching of his latest book. I also feel the magazine The—— is harmful to Christian, Jew and Gentile. We should sow seeds of love, not hate.

Please do not think I am trying to take any honors for Mrs. Eldert's gift to you. I am simply so happy that she has given as my heart so *long*s to. I shall try to awaken others.

May richest blessings from our Father's bountiful store be yours. Truly and sincerely, E. F. Z.

Dear Friend:—

This morning I was reading my Bible and looking up some references to verses in Acts, found in the Book of Isaiah, and among them I read these in the 62:6, 7. Somehow, I understood these verses to mean an injunction to Christians today. "Ye that make mention of the Lord, (Ask petition of God in Christ's name?) keep not silence, and give God no rest till"—Does that mean we are to pray day and night for Christ's return? For if the "day of vengeance" precedes His return and the regathering of Israel and their Kingdom blessing does not take place till after the "day of vengeance" then are we commanded to pray fervently for His return, in order that Jerusalem may become a Praise in the earth?

Are we as Christians, absorbed so much in our own work, *failing* God by not praying diligently for that restoration—and for Christ's return?

—M. W. L.

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM JANUARY 1st TO JANUARY 31st, 1935

Covering Receipt Numbers 87,367 to 88,955 Inclusive

General Fund	\$9,924.00
For Relief to the Poor	196.30
For Literature Fund (Bibles and Tracts)	174.95
"The Chosen People" (Subscriptions)	442.50
Dispensary Income Account	96.60
For "The Shepherd of Israel"	185.53
For Plaza Branch Account	84.00
For Philadelphia Branch	87.00
For Pittsburgh Branch	306.91
For Hewes Street Account	70.75
For Work Among the Children	27.50
For Work Overseas, including Relief Funds	755.53
For Students' Education Fund	52.00

Total for All Purposes.....\$12,403.57

JEWISH NOTES

Japan has recently intimated that she would welcome a settlement of 50,000 Jews, refugees from Germany, in the new Manchukuo Empire. In suggesting this possible settlement, Japan points out that excellent cultural conditions prevail. The soil is unusually rich and up to the present has been worked only by the most primitive of agricultural methods.

* * * *

We quote the following from a recent letter received from a Hebrew Christian in Germany:

"Conditions are developing in such a way that I am increasingly convinced that sooner or later all Jews will have to leave Germany. This applies equally to a good many of the so-called non-Aryans. The pertinent question which confronts these prospects for expatriation is where to go."—*International Committee News Sheets*.

* * * *

Mr. Joseph J. Fiske observes that among the "one hundred and eighty-one who had incomes of a million dollars a year during the war, the Jews may be counted on the fingers of one hand." He thinks this interferes with Hitler's theory that members of the Jewish race control the world's money and own most of it.

That theory, of course, is nonsense. There is no Jew among the richest men in the United States, who are, or were until recently, John D. Rockefeller, Andrew W. Mellon, Henry Ford, and George F. Baker. In Europe no Rothschild is any longer "the richest man," although once a Rothschild was the richest.

That means nothing. Each man working for money, Jew or Gentile, makes as much as he can, because that is the game that is being played. But whether it means that Gentiles are smarter than the Jews because they are richer is doubtful.

Einstein has no money. Spinoza, a Holland Jew of Spanish descent, one of the world's greatest thinkers, left a fairly good bedstead and a silver handled knife. That was the bulk of his "estate." Abraham Lincoln had no money, Newton had none, and Keppler depended on the kindness of Tycho Brane, another great astronomer, to save him from abject poverty. —ARTHUR BRISBANE in *New York American*.

* * * *

The American Hebrew has made an exhaustive research into the question of Communism in the United States, and particularly the extent to which it has influenced Jews, or secured Jewish following. The facts disclosed completely unmask the falsehoods of those who are busily fomenting hate against the Jews. A few of the important findings are as follows:—

1. Of the approximately 250 district and section organizers of the Communist Party, less than one-eighth are Jews.
2. In the Metropolitan area of New York, where 2,000,000 Jews reside, there are only 2,000 Jews enrolled in the Communist Party.
3. Of the Central Committee, which is the supreme ruling body of the Communist Party, composed of 29 members and 6 alternates, there are no more than four or five Jews.
4. In organizations like the International Labor Defense, Trade Unity League, International Workers, Order of Young Pioneers, Workers' Ex-Service Men's League, National Students' League, etc., the Jewish membership is under three percent.
5. In Philadelphia, having a Jewish population of 250,000, less than 100 Jews belong to the Communist Party.
6. In Pittsburgh, with 45,000 Jewish inhabitants, there are approximately 50 Jews in the Party.
7. In Chicago, which next to New York has the largest Jewish population in America (300,000), approximately 250 Jews are dues-paying members.

The stage is being rapidly set for the climax of Israel's tragedies—the great Battle of Armageddon. A writer in *The Worldwide Temple Evangelist* sums up in startling array some of the salient developments which are leading inevitably on to the thunderbolt of Jacob's Tribulation. Here are some of them:—4,000,000 peace-time soldiers are guarding the frontiers of Europe. The Red Army of Russia is on a peace-time footing of 1,300,000 men. At the first cry of war this army can be immediately increased to 7,500,000 trained men. The Dead Sea has suddenly come to life, and dredging operations are more than justifying the original dreams of those who first discovered the fabulous wealth of its chemical content. One estimate of the value, is 253 billion pounds sterling; which is a lot of money. Enough to pay off the entire debt of Great Britain, and then run her government forever free of all taxes. This Dead Sea wealth may be the exciting cause for Russia swooping down upon Palestine "to take a prey." Ezekiel 38. Communications systems, Roads, Highways, are in rapid development. Airplanes now carry mail and passengers between Egypt and Assyria, via Palestine; the largest busses in the world are used in the Cairo to Bagdad service. Railroads are being built and new ones planned. Of one such road, Mr. Keeling of the Turkish Petroleum Company, told the Royal Asian Society, "When this railway is built, Haifa will be the modern representative of Tyre and Sidon." Jerusalem is, and will be more so in the days to come, the strategic center of the world. It is this fact that will lure the future Anti-Christ to Armageddon in Palestine. Just note that the Hebrew, the Moslem, the Roman Catholic, the Greek Catholic, the Copt, the Armenian, the Maronite, the Ebionite, the Abyssin-

ian—all have a life stake in Jerusalem. For each, Jerusalem is the heart and pulse of the world. To each it is irksome for the Jew to gain greater and ever greater prestige in Palestine. Perhaps the most aggressive of those who resent Israel's progress is the Pope at Rome. He is undoubtedly anxious that Mussolini's effort to secure the Palestine Mandate from Great Britain, shall be successful. May he not have his eye on a throne in Jerusalem? After all, the Vatican is not really an empire or a throne-room to be proud of. Thus is the way being prepared for the Man of Sin to show himself.

Then, from the spiritual side, attention is focused on two significant and impressive facts: first, as to Jewish conversions; none to speak of, in Palestine itself, even though there are in Jerusalem alone some 105 missionaries, laboring under sixteen societies. But many thousands of Jews are accepting the Lord Jesus Christ in all other parts of the world, even in Nazi-cursed Germany. In Hungary alone, some 90,000 Jews have confessed Christ since the World War Armistice. Secondly, see how God has closed the door against a possible alibi for Israel, by way of another fake Messiah. Every Jew knows that only from Bethlehem can come the Messiah of Israel. Now here is an astonishing fact—not a Jew now lives in Bethlehem! 8,000 Christians, 400 Moslems, but no Jews! Thus Israel, unwittingly, has made it impossible for even a shadow of a possibility that a future Jewish Messiah shall be born there!

What does it all mean? Only this, lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh! And let no child of God be guilty of neglect of prayer for Israel in these tragic days, and of doing all in our power to make known to every Jew what is ahead for him. Do you wonder at the close place Jewish Missions have in the heart and purpose of God? The time is short. Let us pray and labor as never before.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question 1. Please explain John 15: 2-6 in the light of John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 15:2, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:6, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

Question 2. Please explain Matthew 16:19, that is, the last two clauses of this verse, Matthew 16:9, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

—M. L. G.

Answer 1. This passage has often been used as an illustration by those who think that one who has been truly born again can be lost. But notice carefully, John 15:6, "If a man abide not in me." The use of the expression, "a man" instead of the word "ye" indicates clearly enough that the reference is not to the Lord's disciples concerning whose eternal salvation there is certainly no question raised; but it refers to an outsider, "a man," who having come into the believers' group, may have made a profession, but really never was truly born again. Many there are even now in the professing church, who bear the name "Christian," but who never have really undergone the process of regeneration. One of the tests by which we may prove that professing Christians have been really united to Christ by faith, is that such ones really do bear fruit; but if they are only tied to Him by the thread of an outward profession, though they give every appearance of having branches, they will soon prove their dryness, so of course their insincerity will be made apparent.

Answer 2. This passage has been generally misunderstood, by both the Romish Church and by Protestantism as such. Reduced to its simplest elements, we have here the Lord using the form of ordination that was then religiously legal in Jewish life and custom. This mode of ordination has been handed down through Jewish

tradition from the time when Moses passed on his authority to his successor, Joshua. Thus, it became the custom through the centuries that followed that each great teacher was allowed to ordain his own pupils (Yer. Sanh. 19a). As Joshua was ordained by the hands of Moses raised upon him, so probably every pupil was ordained by the hands of his own teacher. Among the Orthodox Jews of Europe this practice of ordination is still continued to the present day, and it is common experience to hear one Jew boast, "I am the disciple of so and so," while another one boasts, "I am the disciple of so and so;" often they will enter into such a lively discussion as to the relative merits of each of their Rabbis, that they come almost to blows.

Thus, when a great Rabbi felt sure that his pupil was competent to decide religious questions, and act as a Judge, he put the pupil through the process known as "Semikuta." This ordination entitled the Rabbi to decide religious questions and to judge any criminal cases. The key was a sign of authority. "To bind and to loose" were and still are, the terms used in Talmudical and in Rabbinical literature, and they mean that the one who is thus ordained is given the power of "binding and loosing," known in the Hebrew as Isser Vehetter. The Lord's disciples were thus given the power to decide what was religiously legal and what was not, and were thus declared competent to make application to every day life the teachings that they had absorbed from the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, the Lord Jesus Christ gave his disciples what would correspond to a diploma, giving them authority to decide questions that have to do with true religion that is, touching the Kingdom of Heaven. This has nothing to do with such nonsense as Peter being the keeper of the keys of Heaven. This power or authority was used, through the Holy Spirit in such experiences as those recorded in Acts 15:2-30, or Acts 21:24. The early Christians always reached proper conclusions on such matters by following the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

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Question 1. What part, or per cent of the whole Bible is held by prophecy?

Question 2. In John 1:25, "They asked him and said unto him, Why then baptizest thou, if thou art not the Christ, neither Elijah, nor the prophet?" In verse 33, John says, "He that sent me to baptize in water, etc." According to the above it appears that it was not the custom of the Jews to baptize; but they expected to baptize or be baptized when Christ came. How did they get this baptism idea? Was it prophesied?

—A READER.

Answer 1. A very large part of the Bible is concerned with prophecy, but we are not prepared to give you any accurate percentage. This indeed would be a difficult task, if not an impossible one.

Answer 2. Baptism was always practiced in Israel. Beginning with the giving of the law on Mount Sinai, Ex. 19:10, and going all the way through the Old Testament experiences of the Jewish people, baptism has been an important means of sanctification. The washing of their clothes, the cleansing of the body by washing and bathing by complete immersion, ("Tevilah" Yeb. 46b; Mek., Bahodesh 111) these were the methods used. We understand therefore the baptism of John to have been a ceremony of purification or sanctification, which would prepare the whole nation for receiving the Messiah who was about to come. Likewise a similar baptism of the whole nation was undergone to sanctify them for the receiving of the law on Mount Sinai. Josephus, in speaking of the baptism of John the Baptist, says in Antiquities XVIII. 5, Sec. 2, "The washing would be acceptable to him, if they made use of it, not in order to the putting away of some sins, but for the purification of the body; supposing still that the soul was thoroughly purified beforehand by righteousness." The Essenes, a holiness group among the Jews, used this same measure for attaining to holiness, and the ascetic life of the Essenes was lived also by John. It is evident, therefore, that Baptism was understood even in Old Testament days, just as we understand it now in New Testament teaching, the outward symbol of an inner work.

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Question 1. Do you understand the statement in Eccles. 3:18-21, to be inspired?

Question 2. If so, will you please ex-

plain verses 19, 20 and 21. Did Solomon mean to convey the idea that man has no living conscious spirit or soul after the death mentioned?

Question 3. Please explain Psalms 37: 10 and verse 20. Also Psalm 49:14.

—Mrs R. McD.

Answers 1 and 2. The record is inspired, but the statements are not, for the book of Ecclesiastes tells us frankly that it is the reasoning of the human mind only; at the end of the book we are informed that all is vanity and that the human mind cannot comprehend God, nor can it reach God without divine revelation. Then we read, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God, and keep His commandments." God allows to be put in the Bible these reasonings of the human brain, but God does not own them as His conclusions; they are man's reasonings only. For instance, God allows to be recorded in Gen. 2, the statement by the serpent to the woman, "Ye shall not surely die," yet our own good sense tells us that this statement is not true; at the same time the Lord allowed the statement to be included in His divine Word and in that sense it is inspired. There are so-called Bible teachers of whom one Pastor Russell was a sample, who have taken such passages out of their setting and totally apart from their plain context, and twisted them into the strangest sort of doctrines, doctrines which are sacrilegious in their distortion of God's divinely revealed Truth.

Answer 3. All of these passages have to do with the life of the wicked here upon this earth. There certainly is nothing here to justify the teaching to which you refer, sometimes known as Russellism, that man is wholly mortal. It is true that in the Millennium there will be righteousness here upon the earth, but this does not imply that the wicked will not be elsewhere. Naturally, we must expect that in the day when peace will reign upon the earth, the wicked will not be here to enjoy it with the righteous. The fact that the sun is not to be seen when the moon is shining, certainly does not mean that the sun has been annihilated or has forever disappeared. It will come up again tomorrow, and at the present time while it is night, the sun is somewhere else.



Christmas Celebration in Pittsburgh Branch

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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