

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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



• LEOPOLD COHN •
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# THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN

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## Salutation

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

*Dearly Beloved Friends:—*

At this time when the most important memories of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are thronging our thoughts and minds, we direct our earnest prayer to God for you dear friends as well as for the entire Church of Christ. We most sincerely pray and strongly desire for a new quickening, a new life in the Church of Christ. He is the fountain of life, the natural, spiritual and eternal life. He declared by His resurrection the workings of His mighty power, and therefore He alone can and will quicken us and cause us that we should walk in newness of life if we only pray to and trust Him.

## A DISCREPANCY

It is fitting just now to turn our attention to another phase of the Easter celebration. It is an incident in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ on the last evening of His earthly life, an incident which eventuated into the cross and resurrection. We refer to the last passover observance by our Lord. The following is an inquiry concerning the subject. It was thought that this query would be of great interest to our dear friends and therefore we place it on this page.

## QUESTION

Why did our Lord celebrate the Passover on the day before He was crucified, while the Jews kept the Passover the day He died?

—MRS. H. B. S.

## ANSWER

This question on the Passover has caused perplexity among learned students of the Bible in the past. The question is whether our Lord ate of the Jewish Passover with His disciples the night before His crucifixion. Now according to all the Gospels it was Thursday when the Lord commanded His disciples to prepare the passover and on that very evening (Thursday evening) He partook of what was to all appearances the regular passover. Now the day following was Friday. We read of the Jewish leaders of that time that they refused to enter the judgment hall lest they should thereby be defiled and made unfit to eat the Passover. John 18:28. This at first appears to involve a contradictory statement for if the Jews ate their Passover on Friday which they counted the 14th day of Nisan when according to the command of God the Passover had to be offered, then we cannot understand how the Lord with His disciples partook of the Passover on the evening before which was the 13th day of Nisan. Many opinions have been advanced to explain this apparent discrepancy. Some think that the Lord Jesus did not eat the Passover but a supper in preparation for it. But this, as well as the other opinions, is far from being satisfactory. We do not find recorded anywhere in the history of our Lord Jesus Christ that He ever brought a sacrifice but this one, the Passover Lamb, in which He symbolically offered Himself up. How then shall we understand this?

## THE JEWISH CALENDAR

First of all we have to inform ourselves of the fact that there was uncertainty in the method of computing the beginning of the Jewish months. The Jewish calendar was fixed by the patriarch Hillel 2. This occurred about 350 A. D. In order to determine the dates of their feasts they had to undergo a good many difficulties. They had to hold a Conference of the Sanhedrin who appointed a committee to watch for the new moon. This committee had to be approved by the Sanhedrin as reliable and faithful men. This committee of two or three had to go out on the hills and watch for the appearance of the new moon. Upon their observation they hurried with their report to the Sanhedrin. They in turn naturally would accept the testimony of these two or three witnesses whom they had approved as truthful men. The report was then made by the Sanhedrin that the new moon appeared that night and at that hour, therefore they calculated and appointed the day for the 14th of Nisan. And likewise it was done in the case of all the other feasts. Then in order to inform all the surrounding towns and villages, messengers were immediately sent through all the land to make it known. This way of calculating sometimes caused uncertainty about setting the date for the feast of the Passover or any other feast. There were cases which brought confusion and divisions with regard to computing the days of the months' beginnings by witnessing the first appearance of the moon. Here is a case which the Talmud discusses. If after the two or three witnesses appointed by the Sanhedrin reported the time they had seen the appearance of the new moon and if after the council sent messengers to proclaim the day of observing the Passover there came two other witnesses who testified that they had seen the first appearance of the new moon a day earlier than the others, there would be many Jews following those new witnesses because of their greater confidence in them than in those accepted by the Council. The Sanhedrin naturally would be reluctant to receive an outside testimony, and consequently they would again decree their feasts according to the first order, though it proved to be a doubtful calculation.

Now this was the case at the time of our Lord. He certainly knew better than the Jewish leaders and would not submit to a wrong calculation. Therefore He followed the true appearance of the moon testified to by witnesses in whom He as well as many others had sufficient confidence. Therefore the Lord Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples a day earlier, while the rulers and their followers adhered strictly to their erroneous calculation.

That there were other pious Jews who observed the Passover the same day, because they could not trust the appointed witnesses of the Sanhedrin council, is evident from the inspired testimony of Matthew, Mark and Luke. In Matt. 26:18 we are told that the Lord Jesus appointed a particular place for the disciples upon their inquiry. "Tell him 'I will keep the passover at thy house' said the Lord." Why exactly at that house? Because there the owner himself kept the Passover that evening. No Jew following the Sanhedrin would have allowed the Lord to keep the Passover in his house the day before he himself was to observe it. But the Lord knew who was there so He directed them especially to that house.

Thus we see how wonderfully true the Word of God is.

Sincerely your servant,

LEOPOLD COHN.

## INCIDENTS IN THE WORK

## Our Ministry in Chicago

By A. E. PRIESTLY

"Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it." Colossians 4:17.

Paul, at a timely moment, wrote these words of loving exhortation to Archippus, his fellow-soldier, who was in the midst of most trying conditions. We who are living in times of stress may well take these words of Paul to our own hearts and apply them to our lives.

Everyone has a ministry to fulfil. We are stewards with an unmistakable duty. We may fulfil it or neglect it. The ministry of Archippus was God-given. Helping in the care of the "flock" at Colosse. The ministry of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE is God-given, helping in the care of "the lost sheep of the House of Israel." Your prayers and gifts have made possible the work in Chicago. In this little article you will see, in a measure, some of the fruit that has come because you have fulfilled your "ministry."

Prayer is primary in all of God's work and tract distribution needs to be well watered with the fervent intercession of the saints. Over forty thousand copies of *The Shepherd of Israel* have been given out within the last year amongst the sons of Israel in Chicago. This work is done in the quietness of the early morning. The tracts are placed in the homes and do a very fruitful though silent work. The only people met with on these mornings are aged Hebrews who, with their "Talis" (Prayer Shawl) under their arm, are going to the Synagogue to pray. This work is "not in vain in the Lord."

Another part of the ministry is that of personal work, that hand to hand contact which yields such rich returns. Mr. F. with whom I have been dealing for a long time, a man who reads

his Bible regularly, wears his "Talis" day and night and prays every day for the Messiah to come, is an Orthodox Jew, who, when I called on him for the first time, would hardly speak to me. Today his attitude is so changed that if I do not go to see him he is really concerned about my welfare. His wife and he have so opened to the teachings of the New Testament that we can freely and frankly discuss the claims of Christ as the Messiah of Israel. A few days ago he said to me, "I pray to God to forgive my sins and I hope they are forgiven; but I cannot tell." As I tell him of the assurance I have regarding my sins being washed away, there comes into his eyes a wistful and longing look. Yes, he wants peace and that is why he takes the literature. Once his heart receives the Lord Jesus that hungry look will be gone from his eyes. Prayer is the lever which will accomplish this.

One day I met a boy Morris S., whose raven black hair, finely chiseled features and dark eyes stamped him as a son of Abraham. I talked to him and found that he had heard of Christ before. "Are you right with God?" I asked him, "I am not," he replied. We continued talking and after a while went out for a walk. Upon our return I impressed the necessity of being rightly related to God. I said, "Do you really want to go to heaven?" "Yes," he answered. We talked over the way of salvation and when I put the question to him, "Will you take Christ as your Saviour?" his reply was, "Yes." Upon the floor by his bedside we knelt and after the gospel had been gone over again I asked him did he understand what he had to do to have forgiveness of sin. His answer was an answer to many of your prayers, "Yes," and he there and then confessed his sins to God. Do you think God heard him? Shortly after that, while I was with him, we met a friend of mine and



I introduced Morris S. When we had said a few words Morris spoke out and told my friend, "I have taken Christ as my Saviour." Just a babe in the Lord. Ministry in prayer will help in making the Lord Jesus more real to him.

This ministry of ours includes responsibility. We have to "Take heed to the ministry . . . that thou fulfil it." Responsibility—for you—for me. Israel is standing at the cross-roads. Ours is the work of pointing them to Christ. Your part is perhaps to give—fulfil your ministry; perhaps to pray—fulfil your ministry. In the day you set yourself to do this the words of the prophet Haggai will be true in your life, "From this day will I bless you." "From this day!" Perhaps you never have had the joy of helping Israel before. Why not from this day? Then not only will the result be that you will fulfil a God-given ministry but that you will also experience from this day God's "Will I bless you." Not a question but a glorious fact. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." Psalms 122:6.

### Helping the Helpless

By MISS A. E. SUSSDORFF

How often I have wished the subscribers to THE CHOSEN PEOPLE could visit with me and witness the joy and gratitude of the dear ones who receive the gifts of garments for themselves and their children especially the wonderful baby garments you have sent us to pass on. One family of eight or nine children were covering themselves with their coats at night to keep warm and I was able to give them some warm bed quilts; how the mother thanked and blessed me. Again and again I must say, "I am only the messenger; our dear Christian friends send in all these lovely things to give you." And the financial aid we have been able to give through your gen-

erosity has been a great blessing during this depression. One Thursday afternoon a dear mother of six children was standing outside the Mission, with her baby; she was in great distress, and seemingly ashamed to come in and ask for more help, as we had helped her before. I asked her how she was getting on. "Pretty fair." But I could tell it was anything but fair and so I handed her five dollars which one of our friends had given me to give to some one who really needed it. She cried, "Thank God! I had but one dollar, and how I was going to feed eight people with one dollar until next Monday, when my husband gets paid, I did not know. But I prayed this morning, 'Oh God, show me the way, send help somehow.' And here it is." Her husband is employed three days a week.

We have many wonderful answers to prayers related by the mothers during our Mothers' Class Bible Hour on Wednesday afternoons. One mother testified, "My husband was out of employment eight months. We prayed to Christ and my little girl of six years told her father, who is not a believer, 'Daddy, I'll pray for you to get work.' My husband did get some work to do, and not only that, but my daughter's salary was raised three dollars. Think of it," this mother said, "in this depression! Doesn't God answer prayers?"

Another dear young woman told how her little girl of one year was very ill, and her physician said he had done all that was humanly possible. "So I prayed to Jesus, and I am here to tell you mothers that my baby is perfectly well!" This prayer was a test, she said, to convince her that Jesus is really her Messiah; she had been to the Mothers' Class only once before, "but" she said, "I was so impressed, I could not forget what I heard."

Another mother told how one morning she awakened about five o'clock

with a great fear in her heart, and she wondered what the cause could be. So she got up and knelt by her bed and prayed that if trouble or danger was to come to her boy or herself that God would care and protect them. So she went back to bed and fell asleep. "When I went to the building where I work (she does cleaning and scrubbing there) the janitor told me that the closet where I keep all the soap and materials I must use in my work, was on fire. He told me. 'Be careful, you have enemies, your closet was set afire.'" It had become known that she is a believer in Jesus, and goes to the Mission. So before she called God answered, and sent this man to put out the fire. If the fire had been allowed to get head-way it would have brought great loss to her employer, and her employment would have ceased.

Mrs. S. told how her little girl of six years, awoke the other night about two A. M. and cried that she wanted to get in her sister's bed. She has never asked to do that before but finally she, received permission from her mother. A few minutes after she made the change, a heavy glass door fell on the child's bed cutting the pillow. Had the child been there she would have been hurt. This child's mother is a believer in Christ and told the Class how wonderful it is to trust in our blessed Messiah who cares for our children and watches over them.

Another mother, Mrs. B., told how she had an opportunity to testify for Jesus.

Her husband applied to the Unemployment Bureau, for work, and an investigator came to her home. She told him how ill she had been and that her husband had been out of employment. After hearing all about her troubles, he said, "My, my! what a lot of trouble you are in; aren't you disgusted with your life?" "Oh, no indeed, I believe in Jesus Christ and He keeps me happy. True, I get into hard

places, but He helps me get out of every difficulty."

Mrs. M. told how her little boy was very ill during a night, and the doctor did not come. "So I got my Bible," she said, "and read many portions, and then cried to the greatest doctor in all the world. I had to go to the bath room to read and pray so my husband would not see me, and when I went to my boy's bed to see how he was, the awful fever was broken, his temperature was normal."

Do not these experiences prove that these Mothers are growing in grace and coming to know the Lord in a real personal way? Do pray that they may continue to be witnesses for Him in their homes and among their friends.

### Opportunities in Philadelphia

By HARRY J. BURGEN

"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters." Isaiah 32:20.

Since the opening of our reading rooms some years ago, many Jews and Gentiles have heard the Word of Life there. Some of these have come to know the Son of God as their Saviour.

During these years hundreds of Jews have come to our weekly Gospel meetings to hear the "Good News" proclaimed, or have come to read and discuss the things of the Lord. Many, too, have come just for the material aid which we were glad to give. Some have come for help in solving problems or to get assistance in sore trials. We are endeavoring to help all who come, remembering His Word, "Be not weary in well doing," also, "Do good unto all men especially unto those who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:9, 10.

Along with any aid or advice, however, that we give, we are continually reminding and exhorting our visitors that they are not to seek and labor only for the "meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto

everlasting life" which the Son of God gives unto us. Deut. 8:3, John 6:27. Thus we witness for Christ and warn all to flee from the wrath to come.

To many a wandering, lonely, young man, Jews especially, our reading room has been a refuge, a shelter from the storm.

Among the number who thus came was Rueben S., a young Jewish lad from New York City. Having reached the age of sixteen he thought he was old enough to see the world. He managed to gather together fifty dollars. Contrary to the will of his parents he left home and went to Florida. Shortly after reaching his destination he, like the prodigal son, "having spent all began to be in want." He too, "when he came to himself" decided to return home. With great difficulty he made his way north getting "lifts" as far as Philadelphia. Having been in Philadelphia but a few hours he, in a most providential way found himself at the door of our reading room. As he paused to glance at the literature in the window I came out to speak to him. I saw before me a very pitiful sight. He looked miserably weary, shabby and hungry.

On being told that he was welcome he entered. This gave us a blessed opportunity of speaking of Christ to him and befriending him. Having learned that his name was Rueben, I told him its meaning, "See a Son." "It will be a blessed hour in your life," I continued, "when you in faith see the Son as your own personal Savior."

One could easily recognize that his mind was chiefly occupied with one thought, that was how to reach home. So after he received immediate relief and his bus fare, he left us. Before leaving he accepted a New Testament. He had never read one nor had he ever heard the truth as it is in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many people that we have helped in just such ways, have been like the nine lepers in Luke 17: 12—19. They go on their way and we hear nothing more of them. But we are thankful and bless the Lord that Rueben proved to be like the tenth leper. He appreciated the kindness shown him in the name of the Lord Jesus. Shortly after he reached home the following note came.

My Friend:—

I arrived safely last night and was glad to get back, so was everybody.

I want to thank you again for what you have done for me, and I appreciate it very much. My mother thanks you, too. She says it was a fine thing to do for a perfect stranger.

Sincerely,

Rueben S.

Since then we have been following up Rueben with correspondence and *The Shepherd of Israel*. He knows the address of our Mission in Brooklyn. I trust that he may soon find his way to the meetings there.

Our heart's desire and prayer for Rueben is that he may see the Son as his own personal Savior, as his Lord, and as his God.

#### Experiences On The Way

By PHILIP ENGLANDER

As I was passing through a Jewish business section the other day, in his store I noticed the owner whom I knew well. I started to enter but he came out to meet me explaining later that the other Jews in the store might suspect that we had something in common or even that he, Mr. N., was a believer in Christ, which would be a great disadvantage to his business. However I found that it was a great advantage to talk with him outside, for many passersby overheard our con-

versation and some even stopped to listen.

Mr. N. found Christianity a total failure. Even his Rabbi had said so in a sermon and he then brought up the oft repeated ideas that Christian people wish to employ "Christians only" and hotel keepers advertise summer resorts "For Christians only." Before long I convinced him that such people were not *real* Christians for Christians often prefer to employ a Jew because Christ was a Jew.

This introduced another old objection. "Why do the so-called Christians claim that the Jews crucified Christ when in reality the Roman soldiers were the actual perpetrators of the crime?" I quoted Isa. 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed" showing how it was sin that was at the root of the deed and this was committed by Jew and Gentile alike.

During the conversation several received invitations to our meetings and all because Mr. N. came outside the store to meet me.

\* \* \* \*

In our dispensary one day I noticed a very poor Jew who greatly appealed to me. I started a conversation with him and found that he had been converted several years ago and was then so happy in the Lord. But as soon as he married an unbelieving Jewess she led him astray. He became a backslider, his wife left him and now he is in misery, alone in the world, hated by his Jewish relatives because of his faith in Christ and neglected by Christians because of his backsliding. While he made this open confession he cried bitterly as a man without any hope whatsoever. He asked me to do him one favor, to give him from our drug room one dose of poison to end his life.

But instead of that I brought Christ anew to his heart. At the beginning he thought that there was no hope for him but I showed him the Lord's patience and loving kindness with the apostle Peter who denied Christ thrice, and assured him that the Lord would be gracious and forgiving to him too. How happy he was for this assurance. We both knelt in prayer when again many tears of repentance were shed.

After he was treated by the doctor I ministered to his physical needs and he went away rejoicing and promising to remain faithful to Him who gave His life for him.

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I called on the G. family where the daughter is a lawyer. In addressing the court, presided over by a Christian Judge, she often quotes from the New Testament so as to win her case. Her father fears that by so doing she may some day believe in all those quotations. Later I discussed with them the claims of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Sonship of God. Mr. G. could not receive the idea that God had an especial Son; he believed we all were sons and children of God. Deut. 14:1. He became very restless and excited so I asked him to interpret Prov. 30:4 "What is His name and what is His Son's name, if thou knowest?" I also read Ps. 2:7. "The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee" and Dan. 3:25 and he was completely overwhelmed and silenced by the testimony of Scripture. Since there was no Bible in the house they made notes of the passages in order to look them up in a Bible in a Jewish book-store.

May God help them to find the Lord Jesus Christ, the Truth.



## JEWISH NOTES

According to the latest Census the total number of Jews in Palestine is 175,000, while the number of Moslems is 759,952. At the time of the world war there were only about 20,000 Jews in Palestine, so the increase in the Jewish population has been more rapid than that in any other country in the world.

\* \* \* \*

The Zionist situation in Palestine is not as favorable as was expected by the leaders. There is continual opposition by the Arabic element. They still insist upon their priority rights with regard to their nationalism saying they were the original inhabitants. They regard the Jewish immigration as an invasion. It is now rumored that a Jewish-Arabic Round Table Conference is proposed by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem to settle the terms upon which the Jews and Arabs can co-operate. The Conference would be called under the chairmanship of a neutral person acceptable to both parties and also to the British Government. This plan recommends that Palestine should be divided into administrative areas with a view to concentrating Jewish interests in one administrative unit to be called the National Home of the Jews. There the Jews should be given full autonomy with regard to their internal affairs. This project must be considered and approved by the members of the British pro-Arab committee before it can be effected. There are two great difficulties to be settled between the two nationalities. First, the Jewish immigration which the Arabs want stopped, while the Zionists are most anxious to keep on increasing it so that they can form a real national home in Palestine. The second difficulty is the Wailing Wall to which the Arabs claim legal ownership yet to the Jews that spot is the

most sacred piece of ground of all the promised land. It seems that this question about the Wailing Wall will never be settled until the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ will be seen standing on the Mount of Olives which "shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley." Zech. 14:4.

\* \* \* \*

The new President of the Zionists, Nahum Sokolow, has been visiting American Jewry for the last two months. He was received with much honor, not only by the Zionists, but also by governors and mayors of various cities in the United States. He addressed large audiences and appealed for funds for the Zionist work in Palestine. In his appeal there was an undertone of great distress. He begged his audiences to have pity on the Jews who have landed in Palestine and are unsuccessful because of lack of funds. He exclaimed, "Please do not allow this movement in Palestine to be ruined."

\* \* \* \*

Reports have been published in the Jewish papers in reference to Russia. They tell of terrible tortures that Soviet officials are inflicting upon Jews. They take whole communities of Jews, 100 or more families, arresting them in those awful prisons and torturing them until they give them all the money they have. In cases where the victims have no money they are ordered to write letters to their relatives in America asking for money to be sent to them. We know of a woman in Brooklyn to whom a sister in Russia wrote urging her to send her money. Then later on she received another letter explaining to her why she needed the money, that she and her husband had been tortured beyond description. But so many Jews who had rejoiced over the revolution

and the new regime of Sovietism, being sure that there would be no more Jewish persecutions in Russia, refuse to believe these reports. Now the Jewish poet, Mr. Bialick who has made an extensive tour through Europe has returned to Jerusalem and confirmed these rumors. He said that it is true beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Soviets are torturing tens of thousands of Jews in Russia in a worse manner than the Spanish Inquisition. Letters signed by Bialick and by the Jewish Mayor of Tel Aviv, the only 100% Jewish town in the world, were addressed to Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and to other leading Jews of America. It is expected therefore that the Jewish people all over the world will strongly protest against the atrocities in Soviet land.

\* \* \* \*

The entire community of the city of Monastir, Yugoslavia, numbering 650 Jewish families, is going to emigrate to Palestine. The Zionist organization of the town has collected \$35,000 for that purpose.

The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem is accused by the Arabs of Hebron of having misappropriated some tens of thousands of dollars which they have been saving for the last nine years to be used for charity. It will be interesting to hear the outcome of the trial which is to take place on the 22nd of March. The case will be tried in the highest Mussulman Council.

\* \* \* \*

A real riot occurred when Mr. Norman Bentwitz, Ex-Attorney General of Palestine delivered his first lecture in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Sixteen were arrested and some were seriously wounded. Mr. Bentwitz was appointed Professor of International Law. He published an article in one of the Jewish papers in Jerusalem pointing out the necessity of introducing English as the educational language for practical instructions. This set the hot-headed Jewish students afire and no sooner did Mr. Bentwitz start his lecture than they began to whistle and shout saying "Go deliver lectures to the Mufti"! They also threw offensive bombs at him. Soon a riot broke out and the police arrested the rioters, a good many of whom went away wounded. So fanatic have those students become that they do not want any other language than Hebrew.

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM  
JANUARY 1st to JANUARY 31st, 1932

Covering Receipt Numbers 62,151 to 63,284 Inclusive

|                                               |             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| For General Fund .....                        | \$8,492.98  |
| For Relief of the Poor .....                  | 357.60      |
| For Literature Fund (Bibles and Tracts) ..... | 222.34      |
| "The Chosen People" (Subscriptions) .....     | 383.30      |
| Dispensary Income Account .....               | 77.30       |
| For "The Shepherd of Israel" .....            | 162.44      |
| For Hewes Street Account .....                | 75.00       |
| For Plaza Branch Account .....                | 100.00      |
| For Philadelphia Branch .....                 | 34.50       |
| For Pittsburgh Branch .....                   | 114.00      |
| For Detroit Branch .....                      | 71.50       |
| For Work Among the Children .....             | 162.85      |
| For Work in Europe .....                      | 55.60       |
| Total for all Purposes .....                  | \$10,309.41 |

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question. In Rev. 6:2 how are you led to believe the rider of the white horse is Christ or Antichrist?

—H. N.

Answer. The description, white and the crown and bow fully identify the rider as the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the same as the rider on the white horse in Rev. 19:11. First, the white color signifies purity and righteousness which always attaches to Christ. "In righteousness does He make war." Rev. 19:11. When He is reaping the harvest He sits upon a white cloud. Rev. 14:14. At the end of the millenium He sits upon a white throne. Rev. 20:11. The crown too that was given Him makes Him to be the same as the One who "sat upon the white cloud" "having on His head a golden crown." The "bow" is found to be connected with God's dealing with men. Hab. 3:9.

\* \* \* \*

Question. Would you please explain verses like Eccl. 9:5, Psalm 115:17, and Psalm 6:5. Some people take these verses and some similar to prove that the soul sleeps in the grave with the body until the resurrection. But it seems to me that Eccl. 12:7, 1st Kings 17:21, 22, Phil. 1:23 do not agree with that.

—MRS. P. L. B.

Answer. Those and some similar references speak of death in its earthly aspect. The dead man gives no evidences of sensation or emotion, in a visible and material way. If those first passages you refer to were taken literally with regard to the soul, there would be no hope for any reward to any of the saints, Enoch, Abraham, etc., for in Eccl. 9:5, 6 we are told "neither have they any more a reward." But all those passages refer to the body only and not to the soul. Ps. 146:4, "in that very day his thoughts perish," will give us light on the subject. It does not mean the thoughts of the righteous soul, concerning the things of God. It means man's plans, and purposes concerning earthly things, like the rich fool in Luke 12:16-20. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts," Isa. 55:7. Here the word "thoughts" cannot mean general thinking of the soul, for in that case the passage would amount to a command to stop thinking. But there is bad thinking that perishes and good soul thinking which does not perish. We must also remember that Moses was

not commissioned to teach of the life hereafter. Life and immortality were not fully revealed until the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone brought life and immortality to light. 2 Tim. 1:10. Although there are many indications in the Old Testament that the righteous do live in heaven yet those indications had not been pointed out by any of the great rabbis but the blessed Son of God showed them to us. "He is not a God of the dead, but of the living." Luke 20:38. And since the only One who brought to us hopes or fears of another world is Christ, it would not be wise to go back to the old dispensation which is almost silent on the subject.

Death is sometimes called sleep in a figurative way. It is founded on the fact that there is a striking resemblance in external inaction, insensibility to material objects, making sleep the image of death. In Luke 16:22, the Lord Jesus tells us about the rich man in hell who "lifted up his eyes, being in torment." This shows us plainly that the soul is not unconscious after death. The Lord Jesus Christ who alone is truth could not possibly assume as existing anything which does not exist.

\* \* \* \*

Question. Is not the time drawing very near "When the Kingdom will be restored to Israel"?

—MRS. W. M.

Answer. Only upon the return of their King, the Lord Jesus Christ, will it be restored. Many of God's children now believe that the time of His coming again is very near.

\* \* \* \*

Question. Is there any reference in the Bible which tells the various ages of Japheth, Shem and Ham? Or were they triplets?

—C. H.

Answer. No, the Scriptures do not tell.

\* \* \* \*

Question 1. Zech. 11:14. "Then I cut asunder mine other staff even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel." When and how was it broken?

Question 2. Zech. 12:7. "The Lord also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah." Who is the house of David and who the inhabitants of Jerusalem? When will this be fulfilled?

—C. V.

Answer 1. It is a prophecy of the destruction of the second temple, which was, as it were, the cement and bond of brotherhood between Judah and those Israelites that joined the Jews upon their return from Babylon. See Ezra 2:70, 7:28. Upon the destruction of the temple came the dispersion, and there was no more such fellowship.

Answer 2. This refers to the time when the Lord Jesus will return and save the Jews from the awful persecution under Antichrist. He will save first those poor Jews who will be found outside of the city, in tents, and in misery. We do not now know their identity, but when the Lord will be manifested, the house of David, and the tribes will be made known.

\* \* \* \*

Question 1. To what place does Peter refer in 1 Peter 3:5?

Question 2. Is this the year 5692 in the Jewish Calendar?

—REV. E. L. H.

Answer 1. Verse 6 explains this. Sara called her husband Lord, thereby acknowledging his superiority over her.

Answer 2. Yes.

\* \* \* \*

Question. Can you tell me when the next year of Jubilee will occur or have the Jews lost track of it?

—MRS. A. A. T.

Answer. They have lost the exact reckoning of the Jubilee. In Talmud Ab. Zorah 9b. there are various dates given for the year of Jubilee. Some of the later rabbis, in the twelfth century figured from the time of Ezra. The succeeding rabbis following those figures concluded that the year 1889 was to be observed by the Jewish colonists in Palestine as the year of Jubilee, by refraining from performing agricultural operations on their fields. The leaders of Zionism, however, fearing that cessation of plowing and sowing might jeopardize their existence claimed that the law is now obsolete.

\* \* \* \*

Question. Will those who live wickedly see the Lord when He comes and will they see the righteous ascend up to meet the Lord? If not, what is the Scripture for that view?

—S. H. V.

Answer. "Every eye shall see Him." Rev. 1:7. We are told in Rev. 11:11-12,

that the people will see and behold when the two witnesses will ascend, but nothing of this kind is revealed to us with regard to the wicked seeing the translation of the saints. The way it is described, 1 Cor. 15:52, suggests that people will not see the ascension of the saints because of its suddenness.

\* \* \* \*

Question 1. Do you think a child of 7 or 8 or even ten should take the Lord's supper?

Question 2. What does it mean when it says "many are called but few are chosen?" Does it mean only a few will be saved?

Question 3. Is the book of Acts for today or is it only for the Jews?

Question 4. Do you believe once saved, always saved?

Question 5. So many are talking of some great things that are going to happen in 1934. Will that be the end of the Gentiles?

—MRS. H. S.

Answer 1. Yes, if he understands 1 Cor. 11:27-30.

Answer 2. There are but few chosen Christians in comparison with the many that are only called Christians.

Answer 3. The book of Acts is very important for today. There we have the testimony of eye witnesses of the ascension, the promised return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, revealing and exalting the Son of God, the story of Cornelius, and the conversion of Paul and his wonderful work.

Answer 4. Yes. The fact that some apostatize shows that they were never saved; in reality as they come, so they go from Him. Hos. 11:2-6.

Answer 5. The end of the times of the Gentiles, with regard to their corrupt government, will take place when the Lord returns, personally occupying the throne of His earthly father David. Rev. 19:17-21; 20:1-6. We believe the time of His coming is very near, but we must not set dates.

\* \* \* \*

Question. Are the Jewish Rabbis of today Levites?

—MRS. V. M. S.

Answer. No. Any Jew measuring up to the required rabbinical standard of learning may become a rabbi.



Question 1. *Would you kindly enlighten us on the following scripture verse, Lev. 14:7 in the English King James' version. "And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field." In Swedish the words "and he shall pronounce him clean" are left out altogether. Which is the correct in the original?*

Question 2. *In Mark 16:17 we read, "They shall speak with new tongues." But we are told that in the original Greek it reads "They shall speak in tongues." Which is correct?*

—MRS. N.

Answer 1. "And shall pronounce him clean" is in the original.

Answer 2. The original is correct. In Acts 2:4, we read "Other tongues," but not new tongues.

\* \* \* \*

Question. *Will you please explain Jere. 33:17-18. It seems that NOW there is NONE of David's seed as KING nor any LEVITE offering sacrifice.*

—H. A.

Answer. The original allows the following reading: "There shall not be cut off to David a man entitled to sit on the throne of the house of Israel." God promised the Messiah to come from David and He will certainly return and occupy that throne. The case of the priesthood and Levites is the same. While they are not engaged in actual service they are in existence, not cut off, being ready to resume their work. The expression "cut off" is used in Daniel 9:26, "shall Messiah be cut off." But here we have the assurance that when the promise in verses 15, 16, concerning His return to rule, shall be fulfilled, He shall be the everlasting King and there shall no more be "cut off."

\* \* \* \*

Question. *Sometime if you have the space, I would like to have you discuss the question of the saints entering heaven immediately after death. What Bible proofs do you find? The Seventh Day Adventists deny this and say that no one enters heaven until the resurrection.*

—T. J. M.

Answer. See answer to question by Mrs. P. L. B. above.

\* \* \* \*

Question. *Wish to ask you the meaning of the 2300 days in Daniel 8:14, of*

*the 1290 days in Daniel 12:11, and the 1335 days in Daniel 12:12 and when did each period begin?*

—C. R. G.

Answer. Daniel 8:14, was historically fulfilled. It refers to the awful persecution of the Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes, from 171 B. C. to 165 B. C., lasting about 2300 days, when the great hero, Judas Maccabaeus cleansed the temple. Dan. 12:11, refers to the great tribulation under Antichrist, the duration of which will be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years, 1260 days. To this are added 30 days, the time needed to bring some events to pass. A full end must be made of the armies that come against Jerusalem and the judgments of the nations must be meted out. Dan. 12:12, speaks of the culmination of all those occurrences which will take another 45 days and the great blessing will then surely come.

\* \* \* \*

Question. *What is meant by being born of water in John 3:5? If baptism is meant how could the thief see the kingdom of God and would we not be justified by works if water baptism is meant?*

—MRS. C. G. S.

Answer. The Holy Spirit in His work of cleansing, purifying and regenerating is compared to water. "By the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost," Titus 3:5. You must be born again of the Spirit which is working like water. In the same sense we understand Matt. 3:11, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." It means as with fire. In John 7:38-39 and Isa. 44:3 the word of God is also compared to water. "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." John 15:3. And again "That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." Eph. 5:26. Also, "Being born again . . . by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Pet. 1:23. There is also reference to the baptism by water which the Pharisees opposed, not because baptism saves anybody but because the baptism signifies, death to sin, newness of life and regeneration by the Spirit and His word. Rom. 6. You must be born again of the Spirit, whose regenerating work should be signified by the washing of water as the visible sign of that work. This has no direct connection with John 19:34.

## THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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