

# The Chosen People



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**The Saint in the Next Cell**

# From the President

NOVEMBER 1980



## The Chosen People

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**T**he International Monetary Fund recently published its report on the world's economic outlook. It predicted a longer recession in the United States than what was expected. It also predicted a sharp slump in the growth of world trade, accompanied by increased inflation and slow expansion in world production. It predicted that the output of goods and services in the U.S. would decline by 3.5% in the first quarter of 1981. This would make the present recession the second steepest since World War II.

The world economic outlook is grim. Increased inflation and lower gross national products are combining to bring the world economies to a virtual standstill. This comes at a time of increasing tensions in the Middle East and of declining moral values around the world. It comes at a time when humanism and humanistic values have swept through our educational system and religious institutions.

The fact that these world conditions are now coming together all at once is significant in the light of Biblical prophecy. It focuses our attention on the fact that Jesus is coming soon. It also makes us aware that both Jew and gentile are blinded and bound by this present satanic world system. Only through Christ Jesus can one be set free.

In this issue of *The Chosen People* you will read about great saints of God who have been set free—Jewish and gentile believers who have found victory in the midst of adversity.

The Bible tells us that we, as believers, can live a victorious Christian life. We should rejoice in the Lord, regardless of the circumstance, regardless of the problem and regardless of the temptation. According to Philippians 4:6,7, we should approach every situation of life, good and bad, through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, realizing that God has placed a garrison, or His guard, about our hearts and minds.

We are told that we have a double-line of defense. In Ephesians, chapter 6, we are told that we have the armor of God. In Philippians, chapter 4, we are told that we have God's own garrison, His own hand of protection, about our lives.

This is a tremendous truth—a truth which your missionaries have experienced as they daily proclaim the Good News of salvation to Jewish people throughout the world.

In these ominous and uncertain days, how we praise God for the great victory He has given us through our Messiah, the Lord Jesus.

HAROLD A. SEVENER

# Hateful Hearts in the City of Brotherly Love

**W**ell, they got us. Last Tuesday night they spray painted the Mission. Black, ugly graffiti over the walls, windows and front door. The "artists" must not have been proud of their masterpiece, since the work was unsigned.

Too bad. . . since my reaction is one of thankfulness. I wish I could express my appreciation to the vandals who went to such great trouble and expense just to minister to us.

But I'd better explain what I mean. Sitting behind the receptionist's desk, I can watch the people as they walk past our building, shaking their heads in disgust, shame and pity. They are naturally disgusted with the ugliness and they are ashamed when they realize who did it and why. Only this kind of highly visible vandalism can make the Jewish community actually feel sorry for us, a Jewish mission.

Oh, I'm not overjoyed at the thought of having to buy a gallon of paint and working for several hours to clean up the mess. But I am thankful for the reminder. Sometimes we forget how sensitive Jewish people are to anti-Semitism and the way that some of them believe that we are anti-Semitic. Being reminded of their sensitivity, we are encouraged to be especially tender and loving in our presentation of truth.

We're also reminded that we are having an impact on our community. Several Jewish children have found salvation here recently. . . and we thought nobody noticed!

It's also a reminder of how insecure a religious person is without faith in the Messiah. A person who is secure in his beliefs can allow for debate, but there is no security without Jesus. Our

by REV. MITCHEL S. TRIESTMAN, Missionary, Philadelphia

very existence threatens them, so they retaliate with vandalism.

The actual results of the vandalism have been very positive. However, there is one possible negative response for which we covet the prayers of our Chosen People family. We rent our building and our landlord may give our lease some serious consideration because of the continued vandalism

the property suffers due to our presence here. Of course, we are not overly concerned because we know that God will provide. While others might mean to do us evil, God will use it for our good.

So if, by any chance, our "artist" friends happen to come across this issue, I just want to say "Thank you" and "Shalom in Messiah Jesus"! □



# Finding God's Purpose in Persecution

**G**od frequently uses persecution to thwart the enemy. This is a comforting truth, but He often also turns the tables on Satan and uses his acts for God's purpose.

Stephen was dead. It looked as if the infant church would be destroyed in its cradle. Luke wrote of those dark days: "...at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem" (Acts 8:1). This simple statement introduces an epoch in the history of the Christian church.

The church's antagonists were confident they'd be able to stamp out the infant church. After all, they had Saul of Tarsus on their side. "As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3).

Truly it seemed the church was doomed to an early death. But neither the chief priests nor Saul took into consideration that God was with the church. And in Acts 8:4 we read how God turned persecution into success: "Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."

That's the way God works. It has always been the purpose of God to offer His salvation to all men everywhere. At the Tower of Babel man failed, but God still pursued His purpose. He finally chose a single family, Abram's, to whom He gave His gracious promises so that eventually the whole world would have the opportunity of receiving His grace. The purpose of the Abrahamic Covenant was that "...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son" (Gal. 4:4). A few years later, the nation which had grown from Abram's family believed that His Son was an imposter. Hadn't He been crucified? Didn't the Scriptures call Him cursed, "...for he that is hanged is accursed of God" (Deut. 21:23)? But still there were a



steadily growing group of demonstrators who held open-air meetings on the Temple grounds who insisted that He was the Messiah. The rulers had tried arresting and flogging some of their leaders but the more they beat them, the more the believers multiplied.

**A**nd when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ. And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a mur-

muring of the Grecians against the Hebrews" (Acts 5:40-6:1).

As a result of these murmurings the apostles delegated some of their responsibilities to a group of seven

# Persecution



by DR. DANIEL FUCHS

potential leaders, who were trained to lead by serving the widows in the growing church. One of the most promising of these trainees was a man named Stephen "a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost." The young church flourished and when finally "a great number of priests were obedient to the faith" some of the religious leaders trumped up charges against Stephen and condemned him to death by stoning. They probably led him to Calvary where a few years before his Lord had been crucified and they stoned him.

"Remember, that in all probability Stephen died on Calvary. It was the ordinary place of execution."

Alexander Maclaren, *Exposition of Holy Scriptures*, Vol. 8, p. 228.

"And Saul was consenting unto his death" (Acts 8:1). It was "at this time there was a great persecution against the church." The better rendering is "on that day"—on the day that Stephen was stoned, the day when Saul consented to his death, that persecution broke out not against just the leaders,

but against the members of the church themselves. Satan fomented a violent attack seeking to destroy the young church, but the "gates of hell" could not prevail—all that Satan accomplished was to fulfill the Scriptures!

Earlier, I said that it has always been the purpose of God to offer salvation to all men everywhere. If Satan hadn't persecuted the church it would have remained a Jewish sect. But the Abrahamic Covenant is clear "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

In the commission of our Lord, His disciples were given the goals—"all the world" to "every creature". Our Lord's commission in Acts is actually an outline, a table of contents of the book.

"But ye shall receive power, after

that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).



"Both in Jerusalem"—there the church began as told in Acts 1-7. "And in all Judea and Samaria" (Acts 8-12). "Unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 13 - until now). But notice that it was at the "great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem" that they were scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria" (Acts 8:1) and "...they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Alexander Maclaren says,

*"The violent hand of the persecutor acted as the scattering hand of the sower. It flung the seeds broadcast, and wherever they fell they sprouted. These fugitives were not officials, nor were they commissioned by the Apostles to preach. Without any special command or position, they followed the instincts of believing hearts, and, as they carried their faith with them, they spoke of it wherever they found themselves. A Christian will be impelled to speak of Christ if his personal hold of Him is vital. He should need no ecclesiastical authoriza-*

*tion for that. It is not every believer's duty to get into a pulpit, but it is his duty to 'preach Christ.' The scattering of the disciples was meant by men to put out the fire, but, by Christ, to spread it. A volcanic explosion flings burning matter over a wide area."*

*Ibid*, pp. 237,238.

"And unto the uttermost part of the earth." I like to think of those seven who were chosen to serve tables "as the first training class in the "College of the Apostles." The early church made good choices but there was one they did not choose. Who would ever dream that God's chosen vessel to bring the Gospel to the "uttermost part of the earth" would be the same one who consented to Stephen's death and who made "havoc with the church"?

**T**hose early Jewish Christians suffered at the hands of Saul. They knew Satan was strong but they knew the One who had "all power." One day "Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord" went to Damascus to arrest the believers. On the Damascus road Saul met his Lord. He was "a chosen vessel" who brought the Good News of God's redeeming love before the gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel, so that in Abraham's seed, "all families of the earth" are given the privilege of knowing the Lord.

The impetus for fulfilling the "great commission" was given by "the great persecution against the church." Yes, God always has a purpose in suffering and persecution. What seemed at first to be the destruction of the church in its cradle turned out to be its very life. This same principle is equally true in each of our lives.

This truth is also evident in the history of your mission. Our greatest effectiveness has frequently been the direct result of the actions of those who choose to be our enemies. This issue of *The Chosen People* has several up-to-date illustrations of this truth. Satan still opposes—God disposes. □

The sound of the telephone shattered the silence of my bedroom. I groped my way through the dark, looking for the light switch, and then I saw the time—3:00 in the morning. “Not again,” I groaned. “Oh Lord, not again!”

My heart was pounding uncontrollably as I lifted the receiver. Perhaps, I hoped, this would be a different type of phone call. But the man’s voice at the other end proved that this call was going to be no different. . .

“I know your schedule,” he said. “I know when you go to work and how late you come home. You’d better be watching out for me!” Click.

Anyone who has ever received a crank phone call in the middle of the night knows how terrifying the experience can be. But when you’re a missionary to the Jewish people, deep down in your heart you suspect that the caller means business.

Knowing that God has His watchful eyes upon you does provide relief. . . but not immediately. The instant the phone starts to ring the heart begins to pound and you start hoping a legitimate caller is at the other end. But who would be calling at 3:00 a.m. except a crank caller?

It all started with a phone call I received at a slightly more reasonable hour—11:15 p.m. The man said, “Someone gave me your name and number and told me that you could tell me about Jesus.”

We talked for more than an hour, and he said he was interested in coming to a Bible class. Friday night came but this man didn’t. Instead, I started receiving phone calls in the middle of the night:

“This is Hitler calling. You thought he was dead, didn’t you? Well, he isn’t!”

This was no child’s prank—the caller had a heavy European accent, and he sounded mentally disturbed. If

he had my telephone number, I had no doubt that he had my address as well. What might a man like this do?

The phone calls continued to come, some at home and others at the Hollis branch of ABMJ. Answering a call one day at the mission, I was totally unprepared when the caller said, “I’d like to speak to the undertaker.”

“You must have the wrong number,” I said.

“Oh no I don’t,” he protested. “I have the right number. You take Jewish souls and kill them!”

Most of the time, however, all I heard after picking up the receiver was the sound of heavy breathing. Some nights the calls would come every 5-10 minutes.

One day the caller changed his tactics. No longer content with his harassing calls, he started placing calls to the mission threatening to blow up the building.

So far the threats have not been carried out.

When I went to Israel for two weeks, the woman who shares my apartment said there were no crank calls. The day I returned the phone calls started again. This man certainly did know my schedule.

While I was touring the land of Israel, the caller must have been frustrated by not being able to harass me, so he turned his “talents” to making long-distance calls and charging them to my home number. My telephone bill for that month showed \$150.00 in toll calls to places where I knew no one. Because of this I had no other choice but to have my telephone number changed. Needless to say, I now have an unlisted number.

Just before my number was changed I received another late-night phone call. A man said, “Hello, this is the police. . .” But before he could go on I hung up. A few moments later the same man called again. “This is the police. . .” he said, but I wouldn’t listen to another obscene or threatening phone call. I simply left the receiver

# Dial

off the hook all night.

The next morning, when I put the receiver back, the phone rang. The same voice came over the phone, this time more urgently. “Please don’t hang up. This is the police calling!” He went on to tell me that the mission had been broken into during the night and they had been trying to reach me by telephone all night. Several emotions immediately swept through my mind. Concern, that the mission had been broken into. Relief, that this was not another crank call. But most of all I was struck by the humor of the situation. I would never knowingly hang up on the police. . . and here I had done this very thing not once but twice!

The police told me that a burglar had broken into the mission, setting off an alarm at the building and at police headquarters. When the police searched the building they found a man hiding in the attic with his loot. Nothing had been stolen, nothing had been broken. Truly the Lord had provided protection.

But hadn’t the Lord been protecting me all along. . . throughout this ordeal with the crank caller? Suddenly I realized that the Lord had been close to me each time I was startled out of sleep. Yes, my sleep had been disturbed, but I hadn’t really begun to experience the trials that Paul went through. And yet Paul wrote to Timothy, “But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Tim. 4:5).

*Endure afflictions*—I had to remember that they would certainly come. . . be ready for them. *Do the work of an evangelist*—if I ever again received a crank phone call perhaps I could use it as an opportunity to witness of the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Eleanor Bullock has served the Lord with ABMJ for 35 years. She currently serves in the Hollis section of Queens, N.Y.*

# "T" for Terror

Who had been making the phone calls? A man came in to the mission with a list of names of missionaries working in Jewish evangelism. He

obtained the list from an anti-missionary group that is highly organized and active in hindering and harassing. There, near the top of the list, was my name and telephone number.

by ELEANOR BULLOCK, Missionary, Long Island

I don't know who made the calls, but I must remember the words of our Lord who said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Mt. 5:44).

It seems to me He said this especially to comfort those of us who have received terrifying phone calls in the night. □



# THE SAINT IN

**S**ome of God's greatest saints knew the familiar sound of rattling chains and slamming cell doors. They were convicts. The outcasts of society.

But dark dungeons and musty cells couldn't dampen their spirits. While others uttered curses and pain-filled groans, their prayers and songs filled the night testifying of hearts set free.

Perhaps Corrie ten Boom is the best known of the modern saints to have served time in a cell. Her life story is told in a beautiful and moving book entitled "A Prisoner and Yet." It tells of her suffering, her trials and the triumph of her faith, as she and her sister were thrown into the concentration camps of Europe during World War II.

A number of years ago, my wife, Grace, and I had the privilege of meeting Corrie ten Boom in Israel. We were staying together in the same home in Jerusalem. During the evenings she would sit with us and share her experiences in the concentration camps. Tears would well up in our eyes as she told of the unjust persecution and the hatred that she and her family suffered because of their love for the Jewish people and the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

She told of how the ten Boom family was able to protect and save Jewish children, mothers and fathers. And she related how, ultimately, she and her family were taken prisoners, along with the Jewish people, and placed in a concentration camp.

But as she spoke and reassured us of God's blessing, despite every circumstance of life, and as she praised the Lord for His faithfulness to her, we knew that she was never a prisoner. She might have been held behind barbed wire, iron gates and cement walls, but her faith kept her free. In reality, we knew that those who held her captive were the *real* prisoners. They were the ones in bondage. They were the ones chained and fettered by prejudice, hate and sin. Corrie ten

Boom had found the truth of God's Word, that tells us that those who the Son sets free, are free indeed (cf. Jn. 8:36).

As I think back on Corrie ten Boom and on her sufferings because of her great love for God and the Jewish people, I am reminded of the heroes of the faith who suffered great trials, persecution and imprisonment, all because they stood steadfastly for God. I think of those who truly lived by faith, those, indeed, of whom the world was not worthy, who had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, more-over of bonds and imprisonment (cf. Heb. 11:36,38).


**I** think of Joseph, son of Jacob, whose name literally means "may God add." Joseph knew what it was to know the additional blessings of God through suffering, through the trials and through imprisonment. His brothers sold him into slavery. Once in Egypt, he found favor with Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. When he remained faithful to his God and refused the attention of Potiphar's wife, he was cast into prison where he remained for many years.

How meaningful are the words of Scripture. In Genesis 39:21 we read, "But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

God always rewards faith. Faith praises God in every circumstance of life, both good and bad. We could say of Joseph, he was a prisoner—and yet in his imprisonment he was more blessed, more free, than those who had imprisoned him.

Then there was Micaiah (cf. 1 Ki. 22:24-40; 2 Chr. 18:26-34). Micaiah's very name is a testimony. It means "who is like Jehovah?" He was the true prophet of God living in Samaria, around 900 B.C., when Ahab was king of Israel and Jehoshaphat was king of Judah.

Ahab convinced Jehoshaphat to



make an alliance with him against the king of Syria by using the testimony of 400 false prophets. They assured Jehoshaphat of victory. However, Jehoshaphat did not trust these false prophets and asked for another prophet. The only one left was Micaiah. In 1 Kings 22:8 we read, "And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth



# THE NEXT CELL

by HAROLD A. SEVENER



Micaiah, because, even though Ahab tried to disguise himself, the words of Micaiah's prophecy came true when King Ahab was killed by a stray arrow.

Micaiah was a prisoner, and yet the very ones who placed him in the dungeon were themselves imprisoned, caught in the alliance which they had made, trapped by their own sin and degradation. They never knew what it was to be free.

Then there was the seer, Hanani, whose name literally means "gracious" (cf. 2 Chr. 16:7-10). He was a seer, or a prophet, during Asa's reign. Hanani, being true to his name and true to his faith in God, rebuked the king of Judah. King Asa had relied upon the king of Syria, rather than upon the Lord, the God of Israel. In verse 10 of 2 Chronicles, chapter 16, we read, "Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing..."

While we do not know what happened to Hanani after that, I am confident that the man whose name was "gracious" experienced God's graciousness as he faithfully remained true to Him. We *do* know, however, what happened to Asa. Shortly thereafter he was killed. Hanani may have been in prison, but Asa, the king of Judah, was the real prisoner.

Then there was Jeremiah, one of the greatest of Old Testament prophets. Literally, his name means "Jehovah exalts." During the reign of Zedekiah, Jeremiah was accused of treason because he prophesied that Judah would be defeated by Babylon. He was put into prison and then he was finally placed in the vilest of dungeons (cf. Jer. 32:2; 33:1; 37:15-21).

Sinking into the muck and mire of that dungeon, I can almost hear Jeremiah singing the song of David, "I waited patiently for the Lord and he inclined unto me and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established

my goings" (Ps. 40:1,2). Those whom God exalts can never be brought low. Jeremiah was a prisoner, and yet Zedekiah, a short time later, was blinded and carried away in chains to Babylon.

In the New Testament, we see John the Baptist whose name literally means "Jehovah has been gracious." Because of his forthright testimony and his demand for righteous living, Herod threw him in prison (cf. Mt. 4:12; 11:2; 14:3).

John had denounced the adulterous relationship between Herodias and King Herod, and the king wouldn't stand for it. John remained true to his God and his faith and suffered a martyr's death. He may have been physically imprisoned and treacherously murdered, but his soul was set free. History records that Herod and Herodias were banished to Spain, where they remained shackled by their sin, in bondage to the god of this age.

We could speak of the apostles, of James, of Peter (cf. Acts 5:18; 12:2,3), of Paul and Silas (cf. Acts 16:22,23), of Aristarchus (cf. Col. 4:10); of Andronicus and Junia (cf. Rom. 16:7), who, likewise, suffered persecution and were imprisoned simply because they trusted God. They were willing to take a stand. They were willing to demonstrate the fact that God's love, God's truth and God's righteousness cannot be put in chains or shut up behind the walls of prisons. Those whom the Son sets free are free indeed.

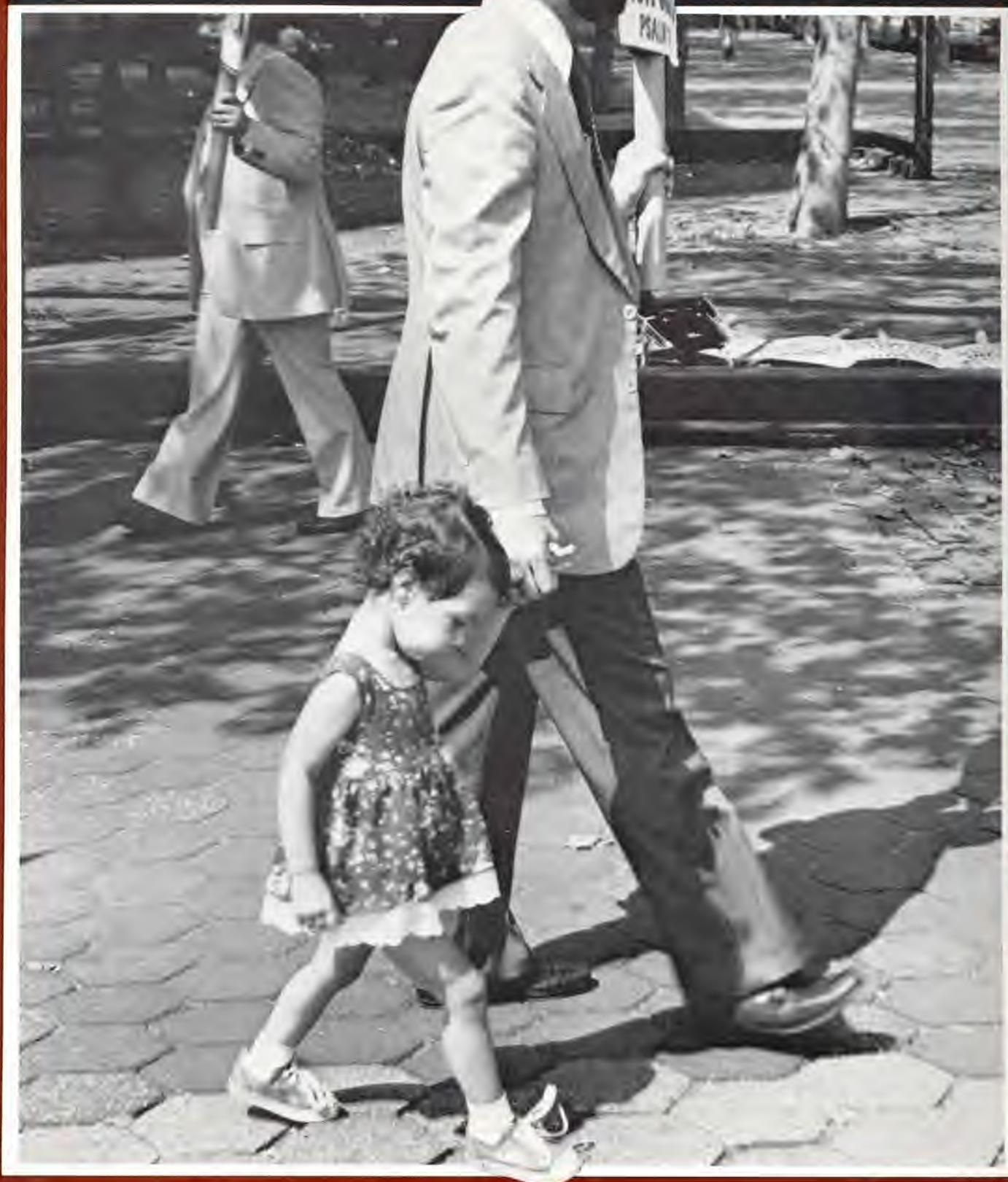
This is the glorious truth of the Gospel. This is the Good News that we proclaim to Jew and gentile alike. It's not *where* you are that imprisons—it's *what* you are. Through faith in the Lord Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, one becomes a new creation. He is set free from the bondage of this world's system. He is set free from Satan's deceptive kingdom. He is set free from the slavery of sin. Praise God—he is set free! □

not prophesy good concerning me, but evil."

The prophet Micaiah stood true to his name, the one who is like Jehovah. He told the king the truth despite the consequences. After Micaiah told the king the truth, the enraged king commanded, "...Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace" (1 Ki. 22:27).

We do not know what happened to

**A Man ...**



# Who Wouldn't Sit Still for Lies

When Steve Schlissel noticed the news item on page 13 of *The Jewish Press*, his eyes grew wide in amazement. "Unbelievable!" he thought as he raced to show the item to his fellow missionaries.

"Brighton Synagogue Becomes Missionary 'Synagogue'" was the headline over the item which badly misrepresented the mission branch. Steve immediately started planning his "counter-attack."

As Steve explains it, "In order to counter this article we prepared a two-page response called 'Unbelievable!' in which we set forth the truth about Beth Sar Shalom, our ministry here, and the truth about the Messiah."

Steve and his fellow workers distributed more than 1,000 copies of the flyer by mail and door-to-door. A free New Testament was offered to those who promised to read it. Because of the high concentration of Hebrew-speaking and Russian-speaking Jews in the area, people were given a choice of a New Testament in English, Hebrew or Russian.

While continuing their usual missionary activities, they expectantly checked each day's mail for the response. But as the weeks went by—without a single response—the Brooklyn missionaries started wondering if their work had been in vain.

One day a letter came postmarked from Texas. No, this couldn't possibly be a response to the flyer. But it was! A man was requesting a New Testament because of the "Unbelievable" flyer. Now this really *was* unbelievable!

The man wrote that his sister, who lives in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, had received one of the flyers and forwarded it to him because she thought he might be interested.

So the mission sent him a New Testament and forwarded his name and address to our ABMJ missionaries in Texas for a follow-up visit. At last report, the man is reading his New Testament and "enjoying it."

"Although this Jewish man is in his 80's," Steve said, "as long as there is life there's hope that he will turn to the Messiah for salvation. Pray for him."

Are the Brooklyn-area missionaries

upset that there was just this one response? Not at all. They know that missionary work is not a numbers game. It is hard work, and God has called them to be faithful. He will take care of the results.

At the very least, many Jewish people in Brooklyn now have "the other side of the story" to think about. And thanks to *The Jewish Press*, many are reading about Jesus and Jews who love Him for the very first time! □

## The Real Good News for a Jewish Newspaper

*What follows is a condensation of the "Unbelievable!" flyer that gave the residents of Brooklyn a point-by-point rebuttal of the article printed in The Jewish Press.*

**THE JEWISH PRESS:** "Residents of the Brighton Beach area have told THE JEWISH PRESS that what was formerly a synagogue and yeshiva is now a missionary ministry. A sign went up over the door that read 'Bais Sara Shalom Messianic Congregation.'"

**BETH SAR SHALOM:** "We have been a congregation in Brooklyn for over 40 years. Formerly located in Coney Island, we are now located in Brighton Beach.

"Our name is *not* Bais Sara Shalom. Our name is Beth Sar Shalom Messianic Congregation. Beth Sar Shalom means House of the Prince of Peace (see Isaiah 9:6). The Brooklyn congregation is one of many Beth Sar Shalom fellowships located throughout the United States, Canada and the world. Our purpose is to share the good news about Jesus with our Jewish brothers and sisters, and to provide a place of fellowship for those who have found the certainty of eternal life in the Messiah."

**TJP:** "A resident of the area... was told that it was a place where Jews could learn about Christians."

**BSS:** "We are *not* a place where Jews can learn about Christians. We *are* a place where Jews can learn about Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. Christians were not 'wounded for our transgressions' or 'bruised for our iniquities' but Yeshua the Messiah was. We are here to ask all Jews to re-examine their views concerning the greatest Jew who ever lived."

**TJP:** "We were told services were conducted on the inside by a 'rabbi.'"

**BSS:** "Our Rosh Hashanah service was *not* conducted by someone claiming to be a rabbi. The service was conducted by the Director of Beth Sar Shalom. However, a former Lubavitch *rabbi* who now recognizes that Yeshua truly is the Messiah *was* present."

**TJP:** "A number of recent Russian immigrants who know very little of the missionary efforts to win over Jews, did attend the 'services.'"

**BSS:** "There were no Russian immigrants at the service—not one. But there are currently several immigrants attending our meetings. Additionally, we now provide services for Russian immigrants, including clothing relief, job placement, apartment searching and English language courses."

**TJP:** "Efforts to contact the operators of the mission failed, since no one was there during the week who would answer a phone."

**BSS:** "There *was* someone at the building during the week to answer phone calls and questions. The truth is that no one tried to contact us. If they did, we would have rejoiced at the opportunity to speak with them. We would also rejoice at the opportunity to speak with you. Call us at 743-5955. Or stop by and visit us."

"It should be obvious that the article in *The Jewish Press* horribly misrepresents the facts concerning Beth Sar Shalom. The facts concerning the Messiah have also been horribly misrepresented. And it's possible that what you believe is not true. Would you like some *good* news that is reliable?"

"You owe it to yourself to know the truth. Call us today. GOOD NEWS—FOR ONCE, FOR ALL, FOR REAL."

*When a lie is presented as the truth Steve Schlissel doesn't sit still. Sometimes he marches in protest as in this photo. At other times he passes out literature. One way or the other he'll proclaim the truth.*

# Love...After a



**Y**our missionary in Denver—*Eliezer Urbach—always seems to have a smile on his face. You'd never guess his life had been filled with hardship, persecution, hunger, imprisonment and escapes. You'd never guess that his entire family was killed by the Nazis. Here is the story of a man who found...love, after a lifetime of hate.*

With nothing else to look at but the filthy walls of my prison cell, I reflected on my life and the circumstances that had brought me here.

I was born in 1921 in Skoczow, Poland, and received a traditional education by attending Talmud Torah classes. At the age of 13 I was Bar Mitzvahed at the local synagogue where my father presided, but by the time I reached 16 I stopped saying prayers and attending synagogue. I

found radical socialist ideas much more satisfying than Judaism.

At the outbreak of World War II the Nazis captured my hometown the first day of Blitzkrieg in Poland. My family operated an inn where we had already been suffering persecution and humiliation at the hands of those who came to our place of business. In a single day our family business was gone.

As an 18-year-old, my Jewishness didn't mean much to me. Communism seemed to offer me a more respectable identity. However, the war now made survival my primary concern, so with two gentile friends I fled for my life. But our escape was aborted. We returned home to find the Nazis had stripped my family of everything. The Jews of Skoczow were now destitute and had to work at hard labor without pay. My father told me to get out

# Lifetime of Hate

The Testimony of ELIEZER URBACH



one else to turn to but God.

My prayer was answered through a doctor who put me to work in the prison pharmacy. My health started to improve, and I was released after serving 18 months of my sentence.

But freedom only meant wandering, hiding, hunger and a constant battle for survival. Once again I began to look for God's leading and became conscious of His providential care. Somehow, His hand seemed to be on my life.

**L**enlisted in the Russian army and was sent to the front lines. Eighty percent of the soldiers in my division were killed in the first battle, and I thanked God for sparing my life once again.

Upon leaving the Russian army, I returned to Poland... only to find that my entire family had been killed by the Nazis. Total despair led me into activities which again resulted in imprisonment, beatings and threats to my life. But it was the Lord's gracious will to deliver me.

Palestine became the land of my hope. Arriving in Haifa in 1946, I walked into the midst of riots, bombings and curfews as the State of Israel was about to be born. Here I met and married Sarah, and I once again found myself in military service, this time in the Israeli army.

By 1954, tired of shooting, fighting and killing—and in search of personal peace—we and our two children went to Brazil. Life in Brazil proved intolerably hard for us, but it was in Brazil that the Lord revealed Himself to me. A friend gave me a Bible and took me to his church where I met a number of believers. The love which flowed out of these people captured my heart and mind, and I felt that they really knew the God to whom they prayed with such devotion! Not realizing how the decision would affect my life, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

When we returned to Israel in 1956, I arrived quite ill from malaria which I

had contracted while working in the Brazilian jungle. It was in Israel where my love for the Lord became strong, thanks to the love and patient understanding of other believers.

**B**ut life in Israel was hard, and believers were not free to live openly in the faith. For five years we prayed for a way to go to the United States so we could be free to worship our Messiah. Finally the door opened for us to emigrate to Canada. The Lord then convinced me that I should become a missionary to my Jewish brethren, and He provided the means for me to attend Toronto Bible College.

In September of 1967 I came to New York to take a special training course given by ABMJ. After completing the course, I served with ABMJ in New York City for nearly four years. Then, in 1971 I was sent to Denver where I am serving the Lord with all my heart and thanking Him for such a privilege.

As a missionary to the Jews, I'm still subject to a certain amount of persecution and hatred. But the Lord I serve said, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you" (Lk. 6:27). With this kind of unconditional love in mind, I've been able to forgive not only those who mistreat me now... but also the enemies from my past. Yes, even the Nazis.

---

*You can help us keep Eliezer Urbach and other missionaries like him on the field by supporting us with your gifts and prayers.*

*Please find enclosed my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help you support ABMJ's testimony to all Jews everywhere.*

Send to: ABMJ, BOX 2000,  
ORANGEBURG, NEW YORK 10962

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while I could, giving me his blessing. I never saw him again.

Thus began a long, perilous journey full of hardships, persecutions, hunger, imprisonments and escapes which ended in Russia. There, my younger brother and I were arrested and sent to a labor camp at Asino. The two of us were crammed into a railroad car with other Jewish refugees for the 24-day-long trip. Many died enroute.

**S**ix weeks later we were moved to another labor camp in Siberia. Privation, sickness and the extreme cold took a terrible toll of lives. My brother and I tried to escape, but we were caught and given a two-year prison sentence.

Sitting there in the cell, I was quickly brought out of my reflection with the news that my 19-year-old brother had died. Conditions in the prison were so bad, I began to pray that I too wouldn't die. Now alone in the world, sick, desperate and demoralized, I had no

# Questions and Answers

by DR. HENRY J. HEYDT

**QUESTION:** How does the fact that the Jews rejected Christ relate to the persecution they have received since that time?

**ANSWER:** Perhaps we should distinguish between persecution and chastening. Satanic hatred of the chosen people is behind much of the suffering which has been inflicted upon them ever since the calling out of Abraham. It is not to be denied that he has used the crucifixion of Christ to foster anti-Semitism. In this he has accomplished a two-fold purpose: the venting of his hatred upon the people of God, and casting aspersion upon the name of the very One Who came to bless them, thus blinding their eyes to the Messianic redemption.

None of this is to be confused with the matter of God's chastening. It is important at this point to study the Scriptures regarding the blessing and the curse, especially Dt. 4:23-40; chapter 28, and Josh. 23:14-16. God foretold that He would chasten with the rod of men and with the stripes of the children of men but would not utterly remove His loving kindness (2 Sam. 7:14; Ps. 89:30-37). For the prophetic utterances relating to this, see Isa. 26:16; 48:10; Jer. 30:1-9; Ezek. 22:13-22; Hos. 3:4-5; chapters 5 and 6, and Zech. 12:9-13:9.

There is one very specific prophecy which calls for our attention. This is found in Dt. 18:15-19 concerning the Prophet like unto Moses. Regarding him the Lord said, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."

So important was this prophecy considered by the sages of the Talmud that they wrote:

Come and hear: *Unto him ye shall hearken, even if he tells you, 'Transgress any of all the commandments of the Torah' as in the case, for instance, of Elijah on Mount Carmel, obey him in every respect in accordance with the needs of the hour! (Yebamoth, 90b).*

For the relation of this prophecy to the Lord Jesus Christ, see Mt. 17:5; Jn. 7:16; 17:8; Acts 3:22-23 and Heb. 12:24-26. In view of these Scriptures, what more needs to be said? Let every true child of Abraham ask, "If indeed we have rejected the Messiah, what else can we expect but chastening until we have rectified our mistake?"

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**"Satanic hatred of the chosen people is behind much of the suffering which has been inflicted upon them ever since the calling out of Abraham. It is not to be denied that he has used the crucifixion of Christ to foster anti-Semitism."**

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**QUESTION:** It is my understanding that the judgment of the nations follows the great tribulation; that those who receive the mark of the beast are condemned and those who do not receive the mark of the beast are martyred. If this is correct, from where do the sheep come, the ones who are told to stand at our Lord's right hand?

**ANSWER:** Although there will be multitudes martyred during the tribulation, it is not said that all who refuse the mark of the beast will be killed. They will not be able to buy or sell (Rev. 13:17). No doubt this will result in death for many, but not necessarily for all. The preview given in chapter 7 would seem to indicate this. The multitude that came out of the great tribulation were told that they would neither hunger nor thirst any more

(Rev. 7:16), a direct reference to their experience during this time.

However, it is also the case that those who will be martyred during this period will be resurrected and reign with Christ. This is expressly stated in Rev. 20:4.

**QUESTION:** To what do the ten days of tribulation in Rev. 2:10 refer?

**ANSWER:** Whatever the reference implies, it refers to the period of the church in Smyrna and not to those of the other churches, nor yet to the time of Jacob's trouble.

Historically, this was the time of the persecution of the Church by the Romans which ended with the edict of Constantine. It has, therefore, been a popular explanation to relate the ten days to the ten persecutions under Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Severus, Maximum, Decius, Valerian, Aurelian, and Diocletian.

Some refer the ten days to the last of these under Diocletian which lasted for ten years. Those under Domitian and Decius are also said to have extended for ten years.

Another theory is that the ten days simply signify a time of limited persecution.

Along this line is the theory that ten, in Bible symbology, indicates a complete testing or a trial to the limit. Jacob's wages were changed ten times (Gen. 31:7,41). The plagues of Egypt were ten. Job was reproached ten times. (Job 19:3) Daniel requested that he and his companions be proved ten days (Dan. 1:12).

As in Est. 3:13 a one-day persecution of the Jews was ordered, so here, according to some, a literal ten-day period of persecution is ordained for the church at Smyrna. Perhaps this is both the simplest and safest interpretation to follow.

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*Dr. Henry Heydt has served for many years with the ABMJ. He is the author of the CHOSEN PEOPLE QUESTION BOX II.*



## An "Air Mail" Letter from Donna Jean



As many of you know, I don't like to fly. In fact, I often dread each flight. But God knows how to turn fear into victory when we allow Him to work (2 Tim. 1:7). So now I have an airplane ministry, sharing Christian books and tracts on every flight. As a result, I have pen pals all over the U.S. including some who have found the Lord through this "riding with Jesus."

Surely I can say, "When I ride with God, I always reach my destination."

Look for Donna Jean Wood at the following destinations: Nov. 9, First Presbyterian Church, Alhambra, Ca.; Nov. 16, Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Ca.; Nov. 20, Desert Highlands Baptist Church, Palmdale, Ca.; Nov. 23, Pico First Baptist Church, Pico Rivera, Ca. □

### Broke. . . But Rich in the Lord

Adversity and trials come to every true child of God. A letter we received recently illustrates this well:

"Brothers, I am writing to say that I have begun to listen to your radio program and am learning a lot from it. I am 21 years old and recently got laid off from my job. I wish I had an offering to send you, but I'm broke. I just wanted to tell you that your ministry is a special one since it is preparing the world for these end times. Lord bless you!"

While we can't provide a job to this dear listener, we're glad that our Bible-based teachings are helping this friend.

If you live in the following areas, you too can hear THE CHOSEN PEOPLE NEWS HOUR on the fol-

lowing stations and at the following times: Denver, Co., KPOF, 910, 11:15 a.m.; Dallas, Tx., KVTT, 91.7 FM, 6:00 a.m.; Lincoln, Ne., KBHL, 95 FM, 10:00 a.m.; Philadelphia, Pa., WYIS, 690, 10:30 a.m.; Portland, Or., KPDQ, 93.7 FM, 11:45 a.m.; San Antonio, Tx., KMFM, 96.1 FM, 9:00 a.m.; Tampa, Fl., WINQ, 1010, 7:00 a.m.; Zarephath, NJ/NYC, WAWZ, 99.1 FM, 11:45 a.m. Daily, Monday through Friday.

### Q What precisely does the Bible mean by "steward"?

A According to the New Testament, the word "steward" is most often used to translate the Greek word *oikonomos*. The same word is used to translate the Hebrew counterpart found four times in the Old Testament. The word

literally refers to a reliable person to whom the head of the house has entrusted the management of his affairs and the custody of the household assets.

Modern interpretation more broadly applies the role of the steward to the use of time and talents as well as money. Just as in Bible times, everything we "own" must be recognized as really belonging to the "head of the house"—the Lord Jesus.

Because of this, when the time for our role as stewards comes to an end, we should be sure we have a plan for the disposition of our assets according to His will.

For more information on how we can help you be a good *oikonomos*, please write to The President, ABMJ, P.O. Box 2000, Orangeburg, N.Y. 10962.

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