

The Chosen People



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Christmas in the Millennium

From the President



DECEMBER 1980

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The cry for peace echoes throughout a war-torn world. Incredibly, there are 38 wars being fought as you read this! And international terrorism is on the increase, affecting the stability and survival of many governments around the world. In recent months we have seen an increase in the hijacking of airplanes to Cuba. We have seen the assassination of government officials and the overthrow of governments in Turkey and South America.

But one of the most disturbing actions has been the attitude of the press and of governments around the world toward the Palestine Liberation Organization. Clearly, the PLO is the most important member of the international terrorist network. In recent months Yassir Arafat and his PLO terrorists have been described as moderates and freedom fighters, fighting to restore their homeland. Government officials and the press have been playing down his anti-Israel statements and have all but denied the fact that he is crying for the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people.

What has caused this change? In a single word: petro-politics. Great financial pressure has been brought to bear upon Western society, where vast amounts of petro-dollars have been invested in the U.S. and the Western nations of the world. The full weight of this pressure was brought to bear on these nations when Israel recently voted to make a united Jerusalem its capital. Nation after nation moved their embassies from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. Some were expected, but others—like the Netherlands—capitulated even though they have stood with Israel in the past. Holland was forced to yield to the tremendous pressure of a threatened oil embargo which would have devastated its economy. Likewise, the U.S. turned its back on Israel by remaining silent and abstaining when the United Nations voted to censure Israel. In the words of Menachem Begin, we “surrendered to oil blackmail.”

The U.S. and the Western nations of the world have become like Esau, selling their birthright for a bowl of porridge. Political expediency has become the motto of the day as man searches for peace. But the Bible tells us that national peace can only be obtained as nations recognize Israel's right to exist as a nation (cf. Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 122:6-9).

Yes, the world is crying for peace, but there is no peace. Similarly, individuals are crying for peace, but there is no peace or salvation outside of the Messiah, Israel's Prince of Peace. That's why our missionaries are laboring to carry this message of peace to the Jewish people.

What sets men free from sin and provides personal peace in a world filled with turmoil? *The proclamation of the Gospel*—and thanks to your prayers and support, the Lord is enabling us to accomplish this great responsibility.

Yours for an abundant harvest,

HAROLD A. SEVENER

In Memory of Rev. Martin Klayman

Jesus Led Me All the Way

On the Sunday morning of September 7, 1980, Martin Klayman didn't get out of bed to go to church. It's not that he was lazy; the Lord was preparing him for a longer journey. On this particular Sunday morning, our Miami Beach missionary left the land of the ever-dying to join Messiah Jesus in the land of the ever-living. Thus ended a fruitful 14 years of service with the mission, a life that saw many people come to Christ. Rather than print an obituary, we thought that Martin would rather have us tell the story of how an Orthodox Jewish son of poor Russian immigrants became a child of the King. Here is Martin Klayman's testimony, given to us just four months before his departure.

Reflecting on my life, I can truly sing: "This my song thro' endless ages: Jesus led me all the way."

Music has always been a large part of my life. In fact, music was a tool that God used to draw me to Himself. I developed an ability to play many different instruments by ear. When I started studying the music of Johann Sebastian Bach (a Christian composer), something in his music touched me and spoke to me of God—the God of Whom I had read about in my Bible but did not know in a personal way.

By the time I became Bar Mitzvahed at the age of 13, I had also developed my singing ability and was singing professionally with various Jewish choirs. It seemed I was headed for a musical career. But then, just a few months before my fifteenth birthday, my mother died and my own life was radically changed.

It was during the seven days of mourning that my sister Mina dropped the bombshell on the whole family. She told how she had found the Lord

Jesus Christ and had shared her faith with Mama before she died. Mama, she said, had also become a "believer" but kept quiet because she feared the possible explosion of Papa. When Papa heard this, he literally threw all of my sister's belongings out of the house and told her to never come back home until she gave up "all this nonsense."

My two brothers and I went to synagogue every morning to recite Kaddish, or mourner's prayers for my mother. One morning a neighbor ran into the synagogue, his eyes red and swollen from weeping. His wife had died during the night, and he desired a minyan, or quorum of 10 men, to come to his home to recite the necessary prayers. My brothers and I were shocked to discover that these Orthodox and holy men refused to go with him unless they were paid for their efforts . . . so we left with this man and refused to take his money. After this experience, I went to synagogue only on the High Holy Days. I felt I could pray to God at home.

Without my knowing it, Mina was also praying to God . . . for my salvation.



In the first five years Martin Klayman served in Miami, more than 300 people came to Jesus . . . and that was just the beginning.

And this was a prayer that was soon to be answered. One evening as I rode my bicycle aimlessly along the city streets, the Lord led me to a vacant lot on which a huge tent had been erected. The circus had come to town, I thought with a tinge of excitement.

As I approached the tent, a man dressed in a white suit came up to me and said, "You're Jewish, aren't you?" When I said yes, this man—Joe Serafin, an ABMJ missionary—gave me a big hug and said, "Praise the Lord! I love the Jews! My Savior was a Jew!" His spontaneous enthusiasm overflowing with love surprised me. I had always been taught that the gentiles hated Jews.

He invited me inside, and I followed him, expecting to see a free circus. But what I heard that night touched me very deeply. I heard beautiful music. Then I heard a preacher speak about Abraham's offering of Isaac. For the first time I became aware of a loving God who sacrificed His only Son for me, much as Abraham had been willing to sacrifice Isaac. All I could do was weep and sob as my resistance to the Messiah's claim on my life faded away.

That was 45 years ago, but the thrill of my salvation is as real to me now as it was on that glorious night at the "circus."

I rejoice in the knowledge that eventually my father came to recognize Jesus as his Messiah, and I know that someday both of my parents will be together with me in the presence of our Lord and Savior.

Praise the Lord, the moment Martin always looked forward to came on Sunday, September 7, 1980, as he and his mom and dad gathered at the throne to worship the Lord. □

Ark II Proclaims Libe

When Stanley Watin drives through town, people turn their heads and stare. But when he preaches the Gospel, people bow their heads and invite Jesus into their hearts.

How many heads have been bowed? According to the last count, 53 individuals—nine of them Jewish—have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ directly as a result of the Ark II ministry. But the way God is blessing, we're sure by the time this story is printed, the number will be much higher.

When ABMJ sent Stanley and his traveling companion, Randy Jones, out to the harvest 15 months ago, we had no idea how abundantly God would bless the new mobile ministry. While 53 souls have entered God's family, the Lord alone knows how many others are now reading their Bibles to determine if Stanley speaks words of truth.

Stanley's message isn't new...but his manner of preaching is refreshingly different. His God-given sense of humor melts even the most hardened hearts of those who hear him speak. And his unique ark-on-top-of-a-bus gives him ample opportunity to preach wherever he goes. Truly, the world is Stanley's pulpit.

Driving from New York to the west coast and back, Stanley and Randy have spoken in a number of prisons, bringing a message of hope and freedom to those without either. They have driven more than 35,000 miles to preach the Gospel in more than 144 churches.

Because of the "temperamental" nature of the ark-bus, many garage mechanics have heard the Word of God. On this, her maiden voyage, Ark II has needed two new engines, one transmission overhaul, three batteries, five alternators and three tires—and Stanley is not the type of person to sit quietly while the mechanics work.

Stanley is the type of person who loves people too much to be silent

about their eternal destiny. Stanley is the type of person who unashamedly tells people, "You don't have a prayer if you don't know Jesus" and "There are just two types of people in the world—believers and make-believers."

Stanley, it seems, was born to share the Gospel. In Chicago he visited the Sears Tower observation deck. When he stepped into the crowded elevator

a good, long talk. Finally, at 6:05, there on the bumper stairs, she confessed her need of Jesus and entered the Kingdom of God. The next morning she came to the church service aglow with the joy of her new-found Lord."

The voyage across America on board Ark II has been filled with many such experiences. Stanley's face beams as he describes what happened



for the quarter-mile descent, he commented to the people, "If the cable breaks, Jesus is your only hope!" But this time someone did Stanley one better. A man in front responded, "Even if the cable doesn't break, Jesus is still your only hope!" Wouldn't you know it—Stanley had unknowingly boarded the elevator with a missionary home on furlough from the Central African Empire.

Wherever Stanley and Randy go, people take notice...and the Ark II crew quickly point them to the *true* Ark of Safety—the Lord Jesus Christ. One day while Stanley was painting the door of Ark II, a 23-year-old Jewish atheist rode by on the back of her boyfriend's motorcycle. Out of curiosity they stopped.

"I shared with her," said Stanley, "that the Ark was a type of the Lord, but she didn't even believe in God. So I thought I'd try a little good-natured sarcasm. I told her that the world must have been made by a car manufacturer and that's why the world is so defective!"

"She laughed and dropped her defenses somewhat. After that we had



erty Throughout the Land



in Phoenix, Arizona:

"A man named Ed—69 years old and confined to a wheelchair—had heard the Gospel for many years but was too proud and haughty to accept the Lord. ABMJ's representative in Phoenix, Sid Stern, had shared with him often but to no avail. On this occasion, Sid and Ed's wife prayed while I preached, shared and poured

my heart out. And this time the preaching was not in vain. The Holy Spirit just broke him down, and we all kneeled around his wheelchair as he prayed to receive Jesus. Just two weeks later Ed died in his wife's arms, praising Jesus for his salvation."

The Lord has certainly had His hand of blessing on Ark II, using it to "transport" 53 individuals from Satan's territory to the Kingdom of God. But Stanley and Randy are expecting an even greater harvest when they arrive in New York City. The millions of Jewish people in the "Big Apple" (or as Stanley would call it, the "Big Bagel") must hear the Gospel. And Stanley intends to proclaim the Gospel in a new way. He wants to produce a stage presentation of the Bible—live—from the world-famous Radio City Music Hall.

While he had hoped to raise enough money on the road to rent Radio City, the offerings and gifts weren't as bountiful as anticipated. In fact, they were barely enough to keep Ark II's thirsty gas tank satisfied.

Nevertheless, Stanley is undaunted. He knows that ABMJ can't afford the tremendous expenses involved with staging a production in New York City. But he is praying for a miracle.

So are we. □



How Stanley Found the Ark

(Ed. note: Today Stanley Watin drives across the country proclaiming that the true Ark of Safety is Messiah Jesus. But before he could direct others to the Ark, he had to climb aboard himself. Here's how it came about.)

ONE DAY I RAN INTO an old friend at the supermarket. I was really glad to see him since we used to drive cabs together. "Hey Mel," I shouted, grabbing him in a bear-hug, "you look great! What are you into lately?"

He seemed to be weighing his words carefully. But finally the truth

tumbled out, "I've accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior."

"But Mel," I protested, giving him a look of disgust, "you're Jewish!"

"Yes," he said quietly, "and so was Jesus."

I never knew that! I thought that Jesus, the man on the cross, was for the Catholics and the Protestants but not for us Jews.

A few weeks later, after studying the Bible, I bowed my head, confessed my sins and asked Jesus to come into my life. In just three weeks my initial outrage with Mel turned into a deep

love for the Jewish Messiah. I had been born again.

Ironically, I am more Jewish now than ever before because now my beliefs coincide with the only lasting truth to be found anywhere on this planet—the truth of the Word of God.

I rejoice that I can say with Job, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And although after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

Jesus is my Ark, and He will someday bring me safely to Heaven's shore.

What I Really Needed Couldn't Be Bought



Most people would never think of a nice young Jewish boy as being a crook. But that's what I was. By the time I had graduated from high school, my life was filled with gambling and stealing. Then I graduated to writing bad checks and using drugs. Somehow I had become a slave to sin.

How did it happen? I had all the advantages of a middle-class environment. My parents loved me. Being brought up in a Conservative Jewish home, I was taught high ethical and moral principles. How had I become a slave to sin? And more importantly, how did I gain my freedom?

Although Jesus was the One who



Rev. Mitch Triestman, who heads up our Philadelphia branch, has been with ABMJ since 1973. Born in Brooklyn 33 years ago, he became a Hebrew-Christian in 1969 and took over the Philadelphia branch after finishing his schooling.

eventually became my deliverer, I learned only contempt for His name while I was a child. God sent many Christians across my path during my "growing up" years, but my religious training at home nullified the testimony of these born-again believers. I was taught that gentiles believe one way and Jews another—no matter how "right" their faith appeared, Jesus simply was not for me.

At the age of 13 I became Bar Mitzvah and continued to attend religious services for a short while. But soon I became disillusioned with the Jewish rituals. There didn't seem to be much in them for me, and the emotional experiences I received weren't worth the bother. While I was still proud of my Jewish heritage, I decided I'd only observe the most important holidays.

As I drifted away from the Jewish religion, I also lost respect for authority. Up to this point, the only thing that kept me from misbehaving was the fear of punishment. But as I broke one

religious rule after another without being punished by God, I began to feel I could do anything I wanted without fear. . . just as long as I didn't get caught. And what I wanted to do was gamble.

All my life I was intrigued by gambling, and by my early high school years I was hooked. I wouldn't do *anything* without having money on it. Everything from exams at school to athletic events had some money riding on them. When I was winning, I had lots of money, friends and girls around, and we frequently celebrated my good fortune by getting drunk.

But when I was losing I felt alone and depressed. Soon I started stealing to get enough money to get into card games. At first, I only took small change from my brother's closet. I figured I would put the money back after winning, but somehow I always forgot to replace the money.

Once I started stealing, I progressed to bigger and more serious forms of crime. I broke into parked cars to steal items locked inside. I broke into homes and eventually I stole cars. I even robbed the charity collection cans in restaurants! I had certainly fallen very low. . . but I was nowhere near the bottom yet.

"I broke one religious rule after another without being punished by God, I began to feel I could do anything. . ."

In college I graduated to cashing bad checks. Then in the spring of 1966 my life of crime caught up with me. Four of my friends and I were caught cashing checks, and we were told we'd have to repay all bad checks traced to us in order to escape prosecution. Somehow we managed to come up with the money, but I was still unchanged inside.

At the end of the semester I left Southern Illinois University and entered Loop Junior College in

ght or Stolen

Chicago. I lied about the circumstances surrounding my leaving SIU, but when the truth was discovered, I was told to pick up my books and get out.

With nowhere else to turn but God, I turned in the *opposite* direction and joined the army, where I knew I could continue my life of gambling and hustling to make a quick buck. But in the army, something new was added to my life—drugs. In-between card games I experimented with marijuana and LSD.

Then I met a most unusual man. He was a Jew. . . but he was also a Christian. I'd never met anyone like him before and was intrigued by his life and his words. He shared his faith with me in a way that I just couldn't ignore. But I still didn't feel that Christ was for me.

After an early discharge from the service (because of my tour of duty in Vietnam), I started working at a department store. While there, a Christian girl was hired to work in my department, so I had plenty of opportunity to observe how a Christian acts in many different circumstances. For the first time in my life I became aware of the "abundant life" and witnessed someone who was living it.

This Christian girl started bringing me to a coffeehouse where I met several other Christians. As it turned out, it was through these Christian young people that the Spirit of God chose to work with me. After three weeks of hearing their testimonies—and hearing the inner voice of the Holy Spirit—I realized my need for salvation. . . and God saw fit to save me.

Because of my compulsive gambling, my stealing and use of drugs, I'd probably be behind bars today if it weren't for Jesus. Instead, Jesus freed me from the slavery of sin and commissioned me to bring the Gospel of freedom to my Jewish brothers.

Several years ago a popular book and song told about the joy of being "born free." But I know that we're not born free. We are free only when we are born *again*.

She Lost Her Voice and Gained an "Ear"

When Donna Jean Wood went to Canada, she left something back in the States—her voice! "I found out," she said, "that the Lord wanted me to witness to a Jewish doctor in the emergency room. He gave me penicillin and I gave him an earful of the Gospel."

Donna Jean eventually got her voice back, but friends from Canada are still sending her throat lozenges. To hear how well she has recovered, make plans to hear her at the following locations: Jan. 4, Evangelical Methodist Church, Pacoima, Ca.; Jan. 11, Church of the Nazarene, Panorama City, Ca.; Jan. 18, First Baptist Church, Redondo Beach, Ca.; Jan. 19-31, San Francisco Conference.

Something to Praise God About

In this issue of *The Chosen People* we're taking a close look at the freedom we enjoy as Americans and as members of the Body of Christ. Perhaps one listener to our radio broadcast in Lincoln, NE, put it best when he wrote: "How I praise God for straight Bible teaching—something we often take for granted in this country!" The listener went on to say that he was "starting to see the need to take a stand verbally and with actions against worldly atrocities like abortion and pornography."

We at ABMJ certainly are grateful to God for America, a country that lets us freely proclaim the Gospel in print and over the airways. Be sure to tune in to *The Chosen People News Hour* on one of the following stations: Denver, Co., KPOF, 910, 11:15 a.m.; Dallas, Tx., KVTI, 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.; Zarephath, NJ/NYC, WAWZ, 99.1 FM, 11:45 a.m. Daily, Monday through Friday.

Your Jewish Friend ... Can Find Freedom in Messiah Jesus!

Jewish people are turning to the Lord in greater numbers than at any time since the time of the Apostles! There has never been a more opportune time to present the Gospel of the Lord Jesus to all Jews everywhere.

Your prayers and gifts are essential that God might enlarge and direct this Gospel ministry, and we urge you to stand with us as we proclaim the Good News of salvation through the blood of the Lord Jesus.

Also, we want to stand with *you* by praying for your Jewish friends and providing any assistance we can. Send us this coupon today, so we can covenant together to be partners in the Lord's commission.

Send to: ABMJ, P.O. Box 2000,
Orangeburg, N.Y. 10962

- Please remember to pray for the salvation of my Jewish friend: _____
- I promise to remember ABMJ in my prayers. I also enclose \$_____ in support of ABMJ missionaries.

NAME _____


STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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When Jesus came He not only set the captives free, He also fulfilled

THE KEY TO UNDERS



At Bethlehem God became Man. This is not just a historical truth, it is one of the most sublime facts of eternity. The Baby of Bethlehem grew up. The Incarnate Christ died for our sins. The Incarnate Christ rose from the dead. The Incarnate Christ still lives. Not only that, but the Scriptures teach that our bodies will be made "like unto His glorious body." It was the human body of the Lord Jesus Christ which was raised from the dead. It is in the same body that He will appear as our eternal High Priest without sin unto salvation. We read that "...his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives..." (Zech. 14:4).

led one of the oldest and most beautiful laws of ancient Israel.

STANDING CHRISTMAS

by DR. DANIEL FUCHS

He will be recognized by the wounds on His body. It is as David's Son that He will sit on David's throne. His name is Immanuel, "God with us."

At Bethlehem God became Man. The Incarnation of our Lord is one of the most stupendous facts of history and eternity!

"For what purpose did He become Incarnate? The doctrine of the incarnation is a revelation of the purest character, and in no aspect of it is the student more dependent upon the Word of God than when seeking an answer to the present question."

Dr. Louis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology, Vol. 1, p. 355.

The Bible reveals that one of the reasons why it was necessary for God to become Man was that He might become our Kinsman-Redeemer.

When God divided the land of Israel, each family was given an inheritance. These family ties were of paramount importance. Since the Messiah was to be of the tribe of Judah, we see that the preservation of the family tie was an important aspect of fulfilled prophecy. God divided the land to the tribes and families, but normal human relations could easily result in the alienation of the property. If this condition were permitted to continue, there would be a confusion of tribes and families. In order to prevent this, God commanded that every 50 years—at the Year of Jubilee—every plot of land would revert to the family of the original possessor.

But 50 years is a long time. Sickness could prevent the working of the soil. Weather conditions, or plagues, could reduce a man to poverty. The owner would incur debts. Under the Mosaic Law, debts were a very serious problem—they had to be paid. Sometimes they could be paid by subletting the use of the land to one of another tribe. In dire cases a man could even sell himself into slavery in order to pay his debt:

him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: after that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him" (Lev. 25:47, 48).

Born in a manger, raised in a village, died on a cross. How small and insignificant our Lord's life had seemed. But like the little key that sets the captive free—He saved us from eternal bondage.

"One of his brethren may redeem him." The redeemer *must* be a kinsman.

Here we have one of the reasons for the Incarnation. There is a slavery greater than bondage to a human taskmaster—slavery to sin. Only a brother who was both willing and able could redeem that slave.

The slavery to sin needed One who is *able*—only God can redeem one in slavery to sin. Since only God can redeem from sin, and since only "one of his brethren may redeem him," it follows that to "save his people from their sins" God had to become Man to

redeem them that were under the law. . ." (Gal. 4:4, 5). How thankful we are that God became Man, that He became our Kinsman! He qualified as our Kinsman-Redeemer.

Unlike Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brethren, no brother of yours or mine sold us as slaves—we sold ourselves! We thought that we were free men. Others like the prodigal might fill their bellies with husks that the swine did eat. But not us! That would never happen! Like the Pharisees, we proclaimed that we "were never in bondage to any man" (Jn. 8:33). Never in bondage? What about Egypt, Babylon, Persia and Greece? Never in bondage? While they spoke in the Temple, it was guarded by Roman soldiers. Never in bondage? The plain teaching of the Scriptures is that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23) and "... whosoever committeth sin is the servant (Greek-*doulos*-slave) of sin" (Jn. 8:34). We thought that we were going to show the world that we were free. We had the right and intelligence to choose our own way. Nobody could ever force us to do what we didn't like. Not us! So we sold ourselves. One day we woke up to a solemn fact—we weren't free, we were slaves, slaves to our appetites, our passions, our desires. Worst of all, we had sold ourselves into bondage.

But one night at our mission in Brooklyn, I heard of Jesus who "shall save His people from their sin." I found out that He was not only our kinsman, He was our Kinsman-Redeemer. I realized that even though I had sold myself into slavery, I could find freedom through Him. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (Jn. 8:36). Thank God for our Kinsman-Redeemer!

At this joyous season, we rejoice not only for the Babe in the manger, but for Who He is—our Kinsman-Redeemer. Once we were slaves; we have found freedom in Him. How we rejoice in this truth! This is the message we share with all men everywhere. □



be our Kinsman-Redeemer. And so "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to

"And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by

Praising the God

When the most sacred day of the Jewish calendar—Yom Kippur falls on the most sacred day of the Jewish week—the Sabbath—you can be sure it's going to be a very special day.

Saturday, September 20, 1980 was just such a day. Even before the light of dawn struck the city, New York started to awaken. Lights appeared in windows as countless thousands of Jewish people throughout the city arose from their slumber to greet the day they believed would determine their eternal destiny.

Skipping breakfast, they quickly dressed in their Saturday best. The Orthodox walked to their synagogues while Conservative and Reform Jews drove to their temples. There they spent the day in prayer, pleading with God for forgiveness. They ate no food and drank no water until sundown, hoping that this "sacrifice" would be pleasing to God. They confessed their sins and spent countless hours reading from the special Prayer Book, hoping that God would hear their prayers and see them in His house of worship, and thus reward their efforts.

But sadly, for the Jews of New York—as well as Jews around the world—there would be no atonement on this Day of Atonement.

There were some Jews, however, who were rejoicing on this sunny Sabbath morning. While others searched for forgiveness, they praised God that they had found it. They were gathered in Battery Park, waiting for the ferry that would take them to Liberty Island. No synagogue awaited them on the island—only the Statue of Liberty. But that didn't matter, because they didn't need a synagogue. They had come to praise God and worship the Messiah.

These Jewish followers of Jesus were participating in one of ABMJ's most historic Yom Kippur services. It was our first Yom Kippur service on Liberty Island. In her 94-year-long vigil, the Statue of Liberty had never seen anything like it. There, huddled at her feet, more than 150 believers praised God for His love, His forgiveness and His salvation. They had found liberty not in a copper statue but in Jesus.

The choice of Liberty Island for the service was the brainchild of Steve

Schlissel, one of ABMJ's missionaries in Brooklyn. He thought it would be a graphic way to demonstrate that believers have found liberty through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Hey, what's going on here?" asked a Jewish man just before the beginning of the service. When he was told, he asked if he could stay for awhile. Like many other non-observant Jews who had planned to do some sightseeing on this most holy of Jewish holy days, he couldn't help but notice the unusual gathering there at the feet of Miss Liberty. After the service began, many others heard the familiar strains of Jewish music and came over to see what it was all about.

The Jewish man sat on a bench and heard ABMJ's Jeanne Rees sing Israel's national anthem—Hatikva. He heard the reading of the *Shema*, and he listened as Steve Schlissel read the 22nd Psalm, speaking of the Messiah's crucifixion.

Some sightseers sat on benches while others stood listening to this strange service that was both Jewish and Christian at the same time. During the two-hour service, many hundreds

The Frightful Death of the Rabbi Who Created the Modern Day of Atonement

MANY OF THE BELIEVERS who worshiped the Lord on Liberty Island fasted for the day... but not for the same reason that most Jews fast on the Day of Atonement. The believers spent the day in fasting and prayer for the salvation of their Jewish brethren.

Interestingly, the man who first taught that fasting had the power to atone for sins wasn't too sure if he believed his own doctrine at the time of his death. Upon the destruction of the Temple and the sacrificial system in 70 A.D., Rabbi Jochanan ben Zaccai proclaimed that fasting, prayer and good deeds were as good as sacrifices for obtaining God's forgiveness. But here's how the *Talmud* (Berakhoth xxviii) describes

his final hours:

"When R. Jochanan ben Zaccai was taken ill, his disciples went to visit him. As soon as he beheld them he began to weep. His disciples said unto him, 'O Light of Israel, Pillar of the Right Hand, Strong Hammer, why dost thou weep?' He answered and said unto them... 'Now when I am to be led into the presence of the King of kings, the Holy One, blessed be He, who lives, and is through all eternities, whose anger—if He is angry with me—is an eternal anger; whose fetters—if He will bind me—are everlasting fetters; and whose death—if He put me to death—is an eternal death; whom I cannot appease with words, nor bribe with

money; and not only so, but two ways open before me—the one leading to Paradise and the other to hell (Gehenna), and I do not know upon which of these two ways I shall be led, shall I not weep? "

This poor rabbi's house was built upon the sand and it came crashing down on him just before the end of his life. If someone as eminent as Rabbi ben Zaccai wasn't sure of his eternal destiny, what Jewish person today can say he knows that his sins have been forgiven?

Since there is no true forgiveness apart from the blood of the Messiah, we must tell the Jewish people about the true Atonement that is missing from the modern Day of Atonement—the Lord Jesus Christ.

That's our message at ABMJ.

of Freedom on Liberty Island

of people heard the Good News of the Messiah's atonement. They started thinking of liberty in a new way.

Dr. Alvin Baker, professor of theology at Northeastern

Bible College, told the crowd, "We should be thankful for the freedom we have in America, but political freedom is not enough. We need freedom from sin, and that's what God has given us in His Son."

He then observed that Jesus provided various kinds of freedom: freedom from the penalty and bondage of sin, freedom from God's wrath and freedom from condemnation.

The same message was presented in song by Jeanne Rees. She sang the memorable words—"The cross is my Statue of Liberty"—just before the conclusion of the service. Then, at the sound of the shofar, the service was over.

ABMJ workers started circulating through the crowd that had gathered speaking with many of the visitors and giving out pocket-sized editions of the Gospel of John. One Israeli couple in particular seemed very excited about the service and said they were going to tell their

friends about it when they returned to Israel.

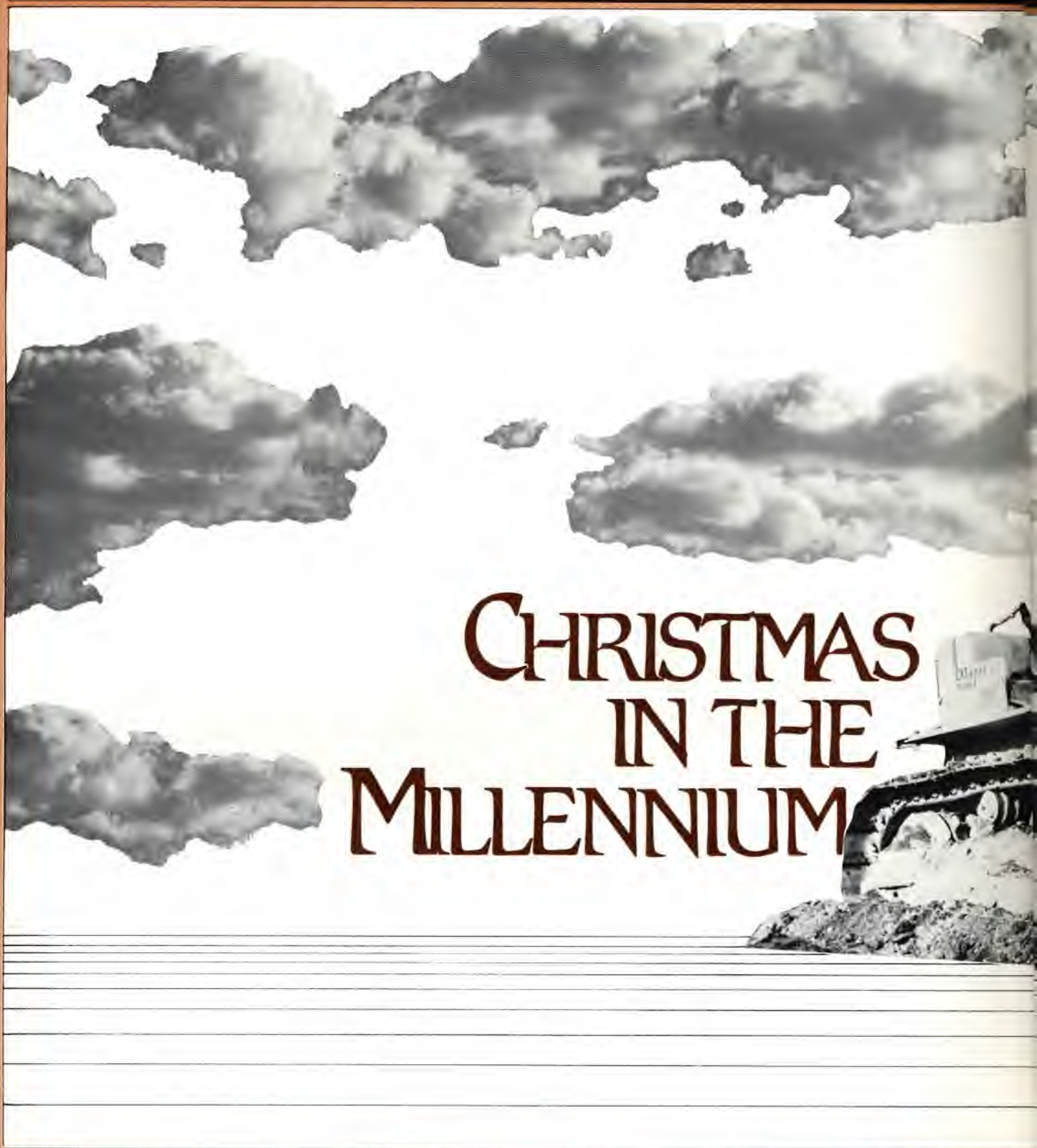
After the service, no one seemed to be in a hurry to leave the island. Some went on a tour of the statue, climbing through her hollow interior up to her crown. Others just looked up in wonder at the awesome 450,000-pound sculpture which towers more than 300 feet into the air.

Built almost a century ago by French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, the Statue of Liberty is no longer the reddish-brown polished copper of her youth. Miss Liberty has turned green with age. And her eighth-of-an-inch skin is marred by many holes, proving that the sculptor wasn't much of a prophet when he said, "If the statue is made exactly right it will stand forever."

No, only the Word of God will stand forever. And when Miss Liberty has crumbled to a heap of green dust, it will be the Lord Jesus Christ who will continue to proclaim liberty to the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." □



Is the Lord Jesus pleased with the way we observe Christmas?
Regardless of the answer, He's going to make some changes when He returns.



Christmas will never be the same in the Millennium. Rudolph, Santa Claus and Scrooge will all be gone and forgotten. But the angels' Christmas message will still ring out loud and clear—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Truth has a way of getting lost in a world enslaved by sin. While people may speak of peace on earth and good will toward men, hate and hostility only take a brief holiday. Christmas wrappers have hardly been swept away before the world returns to normal.

Wars and rumors of wars remind us of the uncertain future most men face with little or no hope of personal

peace let alone political peace. Wars now rage across this planet. And while we exchange Christian salutations of peace on earth and good will toward men, the bodies of men fill our bloody battlefields only to be remembered by a few brokenhearted family members and friends.

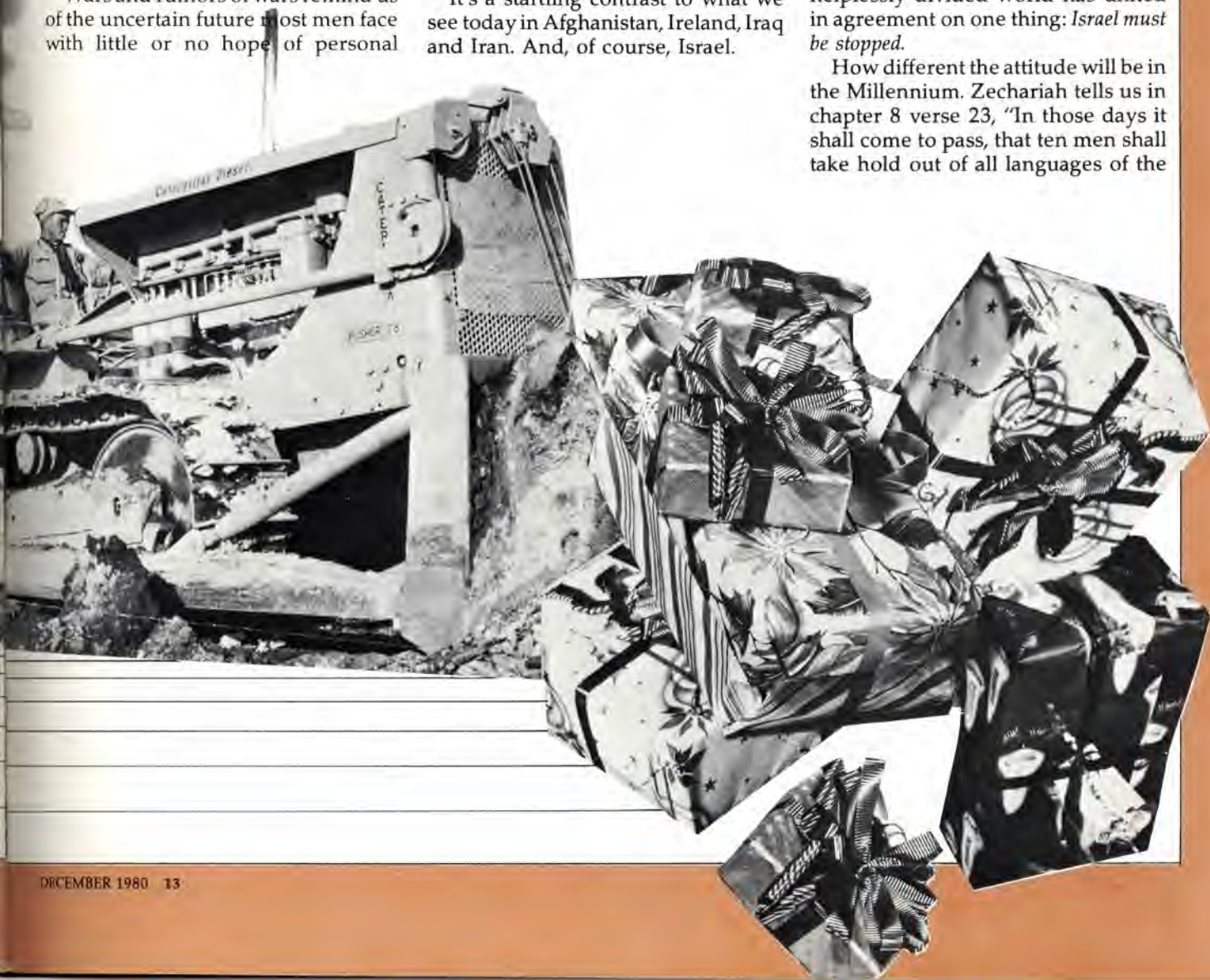
How different it will be in the Millennium! The wolf and the lamb will graze together, the young child will play with a snake and not be harmed. The leopard and the goat will dwell together and, as the prophet Isaiah writes, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isa. 11:9).

It's a startling contrast to what we see today in Afghanistan, Ireland, Iraq and Iran. And, of course, Israel.

Recent events in the Holy Land reveal that Israel is still a thorn in the flesh to the nations of the world. When Menachem Begin declared Jerusalem the capital of the tiny Jewish state, the whole world spoke out in protest. Angry Arabs howled, Western Europeans mumbled their disapproval. The communist nations pointed a finger of indignation. The third world nations voiced their objection. And the United States sat in silent anger.

God has brought the Jewish people back to their home in these last days. But as far as the world is concerned—there's still no room in the inn. A helplessly divided world has united in agreement on one thing: *Israel must be stopped.*

How different the attitude will be in the Millennium. Zechariah tells us in chapter 8 verse 23, "In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the



nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, we will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."

Why haven't we seen the reality of the angels' message come to pass? Because man is a slave to sin. Paul described the condition of man's heart in his letter to Titus. The natural estate of man, he wrote, was one of hating and being hated. Only a savior could set him free.

Thus, the message that first Christmas Eve was more than glad tidings falling from the lips of the heavenly host. It was one of the greatest prophecies ever delivered to man.

The New International Version translates Luke 2:14 in this way: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

Thus the emphasis is on the fact that real peace, God's peace, can only come to earth when men's hearts are good. This implies that there will have to be a change in the heart of man. The Bible tells us that the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (cf. Jer. 17:9).

The Bible further tells us that there is not one who doeth good, no not one (cf. Ps. 53:2, 3).

This angelic message, then, is in reality a prophetic message of hope. Through the wonderful event of the Son of God becoming the Son of Man, peace would be restored to the world. Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, men's hearts could be changed to receive God's peace.

Peace is one of the most elusive qualities of life known to man. Most people define peace as the absence of something. In fact, Webster's Dictionary defines peace in this way: 1. Freedom from war or civil strife. 2. A treaty or agreement to end war. 3. Freedom from public disturbance or disorder. Public security. Law and order. 4. Freedom from disagreement or quarrels. Harmony. Concord. 5. An undisturbed state of mind. Absence of

mental conflict. Serenity. 6. Calm, quiet, tranquility.

But this is not God's definition of peace. In the Scriptures, true peace, God's peace, is not an absence of something, but an addition. In reality, it is the balance of tension, the perfect harmony of God's creation. How meaningful are the words of Jesus when He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (Jn. 14:27).

This kind of peace can only come when one recognizes the fact that he is a sinner, without hope, eternally lost. It comes after one has seen himself as God sees him, weighed in the balance of divine justice and found wanting. Peace only comes through the acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior. By the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, the believer, for the first time, finds his life in balance. He has been restored. He now has peace.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, he is now able to make a choice. He can choose to surrender his will to God and to serve God, or he can lose that balance, that peace, as he serves self and sin. A believer who is willing to surrender his will to God, through the Holy Spirit, is able to produce the fruits of righteousness. And we find that the fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, *peace*, (cf. Gal. 5:22).

Thus, the believer experiences the reality of the angelic host's first Christmas message: Peace on earth to men of good will.

What the believer now experiences in a spiritual sense the world will experience in a physical sense when the Lord Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom.

The Bible tells us that balance will be restored to all of nature. Speaking of the animal kingdom, Isaiah says, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw



"One would think that man would naturally have peace in the Kingdom Age. But the Bible tells us that man can only have God's peace through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. This is also true in the Kingdom Age."



like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord" (cf. Isa. 65:25).

Speaking of nature, the prophet Amos says, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt" (cf. Amos 9:13).

Speaking of civil and governmental peace, the prophet Isaiah spoke of the

Questions and Answers

Lord Jesus Christ, stating, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (cf. Isa. 9:6, 7).

In the Kingdom Age there will be a total restoration of nature, of the environment and of government. The Bible further tells us that Satan will be bound during this time (cf. Rev. 20:2, 3). Just imagine—a perfect world, a perfect environment and a perfect governmental system without the temptation, deception and lying of Satan! In such a world one would think that man would have peace. But the Bible tells us that man can only have God's peace through the acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. This is also true in the Kingdom Age. Man must surrender his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah tells us that there will still be sin in the Kingdom Age, but the sinner will be "accursed" (cf. Isa. 65:20). We also know that at the close of the Kingdom Age Satan will be let loose to deceive the nations (cf. Rev. 20:7, 8). But God's Word tells us that Satan and those he deceives will be judged and ultimately cast into the lake of fire. For His faithful followers, however, God creates a new heaven and a new earth, where balance has been restored and sin can no longer break the harmony of His creation.

Then the prophetic message of the angelic host will be fulfilled: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will." This is the message of Christmas and the only message of hope for our world today.

QUESTION: Recently, I have been confronted with the question of "Lordship salvation," that is, whether or not one must knowledgeably accept by faith Jesus as Lord. Please comment.

ANSWER: The question resolves itself in this, How much New Testament doctrine must one know, understand, and accept before one can be saved? How much was required of the first believers before the New Testament was written? How much did the Old Testament believers have to accept with knowledgeable understanding?

There are not three standards for salvation. Certainly, the knowledge that one is a sinner and the need for the shedding of blood (Lev. 17:11) has always been basic. Abraham had already learned that animal sacrifice was inadequate and that God would send His only begotten Son (Gen. 22 coupled with Jn. 8:56). This the prophets understood (1 Pet. 1:11). The "glory that should follow" includes the resurrection. This, then, is the same gospel as Paul defined it in 1 Cor. 15:3, 4.

The other great truths of both Testaments are subsequently embraced as the babe in Christ grows by feeding on the milk and then the meat of the Word—the virgin birth, the deity of Christ, His absolute Lordship, His return to reign, etc.

Let this much be clear—no truly born-again child of God will deny these truths when once made aware of them. Their acceptance, thus, becomes an *evidence* of salvation. One cannot be saved and, at the same time, deny the deity of Christ (Jn. 8:24). The Lordship of Christ involves His deity, that is, the fact that He is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. This is why no one can say that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3). This is why the belief in the Lordship of Christ and the confession of that belief are listed by Paul as the evidence or confession of salvation in Romans 10:10. There are other indications of

by DR. HENRY J. HEYDT

salvation, such as following the Lord in baptism. This is the force of Mark's statement in 16:16 and why he says "he that believeth not" or, rather, as the Greek renders it, "the one disbelieving" (*ho apistesas*) shall be damned (condemned). No truly born-again believer will knowingly refuse to obey the Lord in baptism. Baptism, therefore, becomes one of the evidences to himself and to the world that he is saved, just as does his confession of the Lordship of Christ.

QUESTION: A preacher said that we can demand certain things from God. He used John 14:13-14 and claimed that the word "asked" in the Greek means "demand."

ANSWER: The Greek word for "ask" in John 14:13,14 (also 15:7,16; 16:23, 24,26) is *aiteo*. This is the regular word for ask and is translated by ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, and require. This last is 1 Corinthians 1:22, "the Jews require a sign." It may be this that caused the preacher to say what he did, but W. E. Vine is more correct when he says: "*Aiteo* more frequently suggests the attitude of a suppliant, the petition of one who is lesser in position than he to whom the petition is made; e.g., in the case of men asking something from God. . . . I agree that one who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour may come boldly before the throne of grace, but I feel that the sense here is rather that of confident assurance than the haughty attitude implied in the word "demand." We do come as sons and not beggars and cry "Abba Father," but we come in the grace of humility realizing that it is our Saviour's worth and not our own that makes available to us all the blessings of God, for He has with Him freely given us all things.

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



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