

The Chosen People

JANUARY 1981 ISSN 0164-5323

ISRAEL vs. THE WORLD

**Which side will
the U.S. take?**

From the President



JANUARY 1981

The Chosen People

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE is published monthly (except August) as a medium of information concerning the Jewish people, Israel and the work of the American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc.

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January 1981, Vol. LXXXVII No. 1,
THE CHOSEN PEOPLE (ISSN 0164-5323)
published monthly except August.
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of the publisher. Second class postage
paid at Orangeburg, N.Y. and at additional
mailing offices. \$3.00 per year, 30 cents
a copy. CREDITS: Kay Moses, 3, 12;
James Jones, 8; RNS 14.

What a marvelous blessing we've had in the last several weeks as we've opened the mail here at headquarters.

Every response we received from our special October letter reaffirmed the fact that the members of our *Chosen People* family have hearts that cry after the heart of God. How I've rejoiced to see that our people's priorities are squarely set on missions.

Once we let our special need be known, we were almost overwhelmed by the expressions of love and concern that we received from you.

One letter, in particular, exemplifies the spirit of sacrificial giving that has characterized your response. A dear sister wrote:

"As I read your letter, I wondered how I could help when I realized that I had just \$39.96 in my checking account to last until my next Social Security check arrived. Then immediately, the Holy Spirit reminded me of the \$3,000 Trust Agreement I had with you. I am past 84 years old, and in the past years God has always met my needs just at the time when most needful. Why not surrender that \$3,000 and trust Him for the future."

Another lady on Social Security telephoned from the midwest to tell us that she would be sending \$500. She wasn't sure how she was going to pay her heating bills this winter but was praying that it would be a light winter. Still another wrote to tell how she had earned \$9.00 washing clothes and how happy she was that the Lord had provided the money for her to send. This is a true example of the "widow's mite"!

All of you who have sacrificially given need no further testimony from anyone that your priorities are right. Your actions give a swift and sure testimony that you are walking with God.

We want to dedicate this issue of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE to each of you who has given and are still continuing to give so sacrificially that God's work may go on unhindered.

No issue we've ever printed would be more suitable for this purpose. It focuses squarely on the priorities of God's people.

Each of us here at the Mission trusts that this issue will be a special blessing to you as you begin thinking and praying about your priorities for 1981. May God give you a wonderful and blessed New Year.

Yours for an abundant harvest,

HAROLD A. SEVENER

GOD'S DIVINE ARITHMETIC

The late Dr. Joseph Hoffman Cohn was a man who knew his priorities. Every January he would write an article for *THE CHOSEN PEOPLE* on the text "...to the Jew first." His articles on Romans 1:16 gave ample reasons why "...to the Jew first" was not only God's priority but ABMJ's as well. Here, from the January 1927 issue of *THE CHOSEN PEOPLE*, is an article we take much pleasure in reprinting for a new generation of readers.

A handful from a handful leaves a barrelful. "Make me a little cake first," entreated Elijah of the poor widow at Zarephath. "But I only have a handful



by JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN, D.D. ABMJ President from 1937-1953

"Is it not true that the Jewish Christian testimony has so long been kept out of the Church that the Church has become paganized? How else can you explain the legions of men who are brazenly proclaiming their heathenisms from countless pulpits?"

of meal in a barrel," she had said to him. "And after that's gone, I am going to lay me down and die. How can I give you any?" Never mind, "Fear not. . .but make me a little cake *first*, and *after* that make for thee and for thy son."

She could have argued, and refused, or compromised; because, you know, our modern practice seems to be the so-called primitive law of self-preservation. But she did not argue, and she did not refuse, and she did not indulge in sophisticated reasoning. Here is the divine record:—"She went and did according to the saying of Elijah."

And look what happened:—Elijah had promised her, if she would do what he had asked her, "The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth." 1 Kings 17:11-16.

And so it was, for we read, "And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah!" In other words there entered

into the transaction a third element, invisible except to the eye of faith, the Divine arithmetic, God had put His plus sign over against the poor widow's minus barrel, and lo and behold! the addition became multiplication, and the multiplication reached infinity!

And God has always done that to any of His children who are obedient to His commands. Because what God is, even today, hungering for, is *obedience*; not money. He owns the earth, the heavens, the stars. But *obedience*, that attribute of the heart which He has so arranged can only be given Him of our free will. Now we know that God could have sent the ravens to feed Elijah; He didn't *need* the widow's few grains of flour. But He was after something infinitely more valuable than a handful of flour—He wanted a human soul's obedience. And praise God, He found it.

And then something unexpected occurred, the poor widow received an extra dividend on her investment with the Lord, for her son who had been taken sick and died was restored by



"And oh, the tragedy of it—the Church, now for nearly nineteen hundred years, deliberately refuses obedience to God's command."



God to her. So she learned that a business deal with God was a highly profitable undertaking.

We suppose our readers have already begun to suspect what we are getting at. Yes, your suspicions are correct, for this is January, the first month of the New Year, and again we want to call to your attention God's divine method for evangelizing the world—To the Jew first!

Make A Little Cake First

Do you see the striking parallel? God, through the Apostle Paul has said to the Church, "Give the Gospel to all the world, but give it to the Jew first!" You only have a little bit of it? You need it all for yourself? You have to attend to your denominational machinery first? You have your own wheels to grind? You have your "world program" to look after? Fear not! Never mind! Do what I ask you; give the Gospel "to the Jew first"—Make me a little cake first! After you have done that, there will be plenty, and more, left for you. Will you do it?

And oh, the tragedy of it—the

Church, now for nearly nineteen hundred years, deliberately refuses obedience to God's command.

Now you know God can, if He wants to, resort to supernatural means to convert the Jews right now; just as He could have fed Elijah in other ways than by means of the widow's faith. But He *doesn't* want to. He deliberately asks the Christian Church to exercise this much faith in His promise, by giving to the Jew first. And what a blessing He stands ready to pour out, if only we will be obedient! It is Divine Arithmetic ready to operate.

And what a loss has come to the Church when she has disobeyed His command! Has not the meal in the barrel truly become moldy? Do not the tidings of world apostasy startle the child of God? And is it not true that Jewish Christian testimony has so long been kept out of the Church that the very Church has become paganized? How else can you explain the legions of men who are brazenly and blatantly proclaiming their heathenisms from countless pulpits of our land? Could that have been possible in the

early days of Apostolic Christianity, when Jewish Christians were in the saddle, and when "To the Jew first" really meant something, and was literally practiced?

They Took God Literally

Oh, for a revival of early Jewish Christianity! Oh, for men and women who will cast aside world philosophies, and denominational fetishes, and turn back to the pure simplicity of primitive Christianity, when those early disciples took what God said *literally*.

Will you do it, dear reader? May we repeat, as tenderly as we know how, the invitation we have given before in these columns?—will you not try God for this year by writing, "to the Jew first," in your missionary program? Year after year each January, we have given this invitation to our readers, and year after year the response has been increasingly large; and year after year have come letters like this: "Thank you for the light on the Jew first: I want to begin the new year with a gift to the Jew first."

How about you? Won't you try it for this year? □



With the proper priorities,
every Christian can live above the trials of life.

NO REST BUT NO REGRETS EITHER

by LARRY JAFFREY
Southeast Regional Director

Oh no, Lord, not that weekend! Make it any other weekend but that one!" I had hoped to get some much-needed rest over the Memorial Day weekend. Three days of uninterrupted rest! I also knew our missionaries deserved a long weekend. . .but God had other plans.

I had just been contacted by a church in a small city in Florida that wanted three of our staff to give a three-day Jewish missions conference at three churches over the Memorial Day weekend.

I had no choice but to accept. After all, while our priority at ABMJ is to reach the Jewish people in cities of 100,000 or more, our goals have never changed—to reach all Jews everywhere with the Gospel of Christ.

"But why," I mumbled to myself, "did this conference have to be held over the three-day weekend?" I was soon to find out.

When I contacted Martin Klayman* and Mitch Triestman, asking them to join me for the conference, they both willingly accepted the invitation even though it meant being away from home over the holiday weekend.

As the conference got underway, it was soon apparent why the Lord wanted us there. Although we expected a small turnout due to the holiday, attendance was high. So was their enthusiasm—these people were really serious about Jewish evangelism!

But there was another reason why the Lord wanted us there. Glancing at the church bulletin, we noticed a typically Jewish name in a notice of thanks to those who had helped clean the church the previous week.

Was this man a Jewish believer?

"But why," I mumbled to myself, "did this conference have to be held over the Memorial Day weekend?" I needed the rest. . . but God knew I was needed elsewhere.

The pastor said he didn't know. The man with the Jewish name had started coming to the church only a couple of weeks earlier, and the pastor hadn't had the opportunity of getting to know him.

At the last meeting of the conference, the Jewish man showed up. When we discovered that he had not yet accepted Jesus as his Messiah, Mitch shared his personal testimony (see the December CHOSEN PEOPLE). To our sorrow, the man would not turn his life over to Jesus.

But after the conference was over and we returned home, I received a brief note from John Diaz, pastor of Grace Brethren Church in Okeechobee, the church where we had met the Jewish man. The note said that the young man had accepted Jesus as his Messiah and was now faithfully attending church services as a believer! "It was worth it all," he wrote, "for the salvation of this young man."

Preaching the Gospel" . . . to the Jew first" is an awesome task especially when you realize that Jewish people are scattered throughout the country and many are in little towns where there is no Hebrew-Christian witness. It would be so easy to miss someone who is open to accepting Christ. But when you are walking in the Lord's way, you have a distinct advantage—He works out the details. □

**Martin Klayman went home to be with the Lord just a few months after this conference. (See the December 1980 issue of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE.)*



"My day started with a car crash and went straight to heaven."

THE DAY I

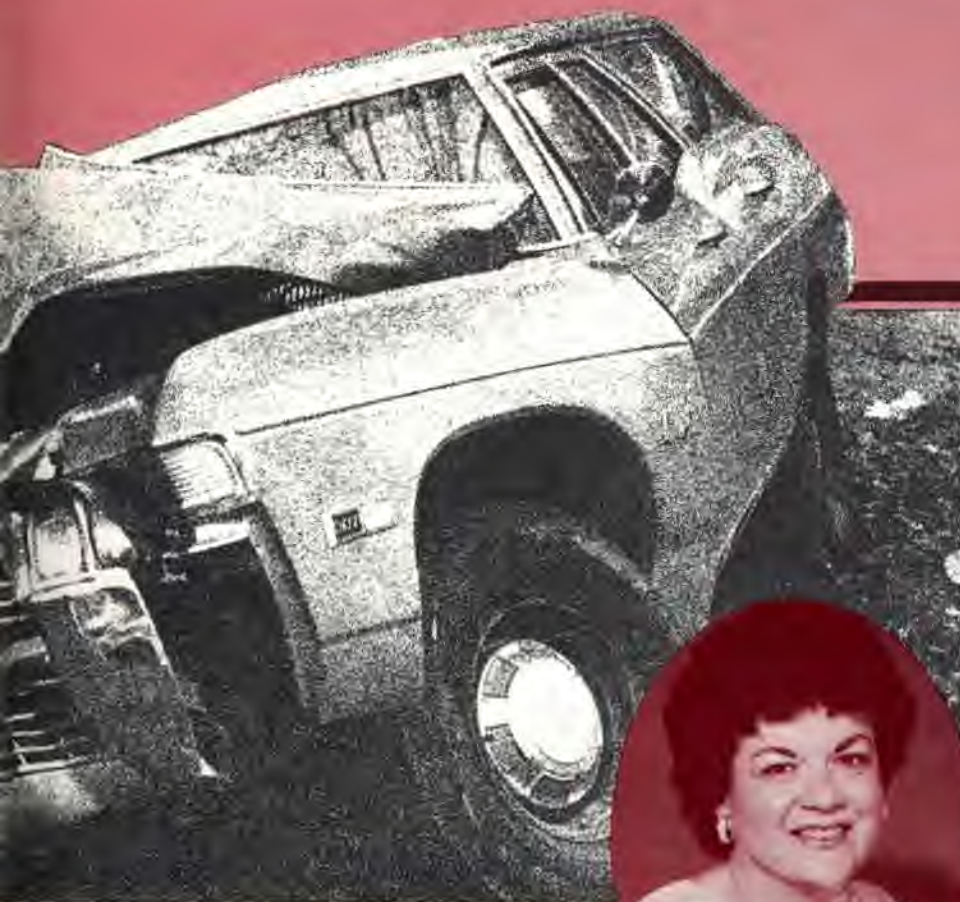
by JEANNE REES ABMJ Music Ministry

The hand of our bedside clock crept quietly toward 3 a.m. when the loud crash of a car wrapping itself around the electric utility pole suddenly jolted us awake. Bolting upright at the sound, my husband and I were out of bed in an instant and at the window to see what had happened. There, across the street, we saw the wreckage of what used to be a car. Inside there was no movement at all.

The thought that someone had been killed raced through our minds as my husband quickly got dressed and went out to investigate.

Amazingly, the young man who was driving the car wasn't hurt. Even more fortunate was the fact that no one was in the passenger's seat. From the looks of the car, a passenger would certainly have been killed.

By 5:30 a.m. the wreckage was cleared away and our street was back to normal—normal, that is, for a Sunday morning. I was too keyed-up to fall asleep, so I stayed awake in bed thinking about the concert I was



steadily downhill—truly an unforgettable day!”

FORGOT THE LORD



scheduled to perform that evening. I hoped my lack of sleep wouldn't hurt my voice. I also thought about the extra attention I was sure to receive from my husband and two children. This was not just the Lord's Day—this was also *my* day, Mother's Day!

When the children awoke and we all started getting ready to go to church, I started looking around for the Mother's Day cards and gifts I expected to receive. But they were nowhere to be found. Needing a little more sleep and a lot more attention from my family, I told myself that this was going to be a perfectly awful Mother's Day.

The drive to church was painfully unpleasant. By the time we arrived, I had worked myself up to such a pitch that I was in tears and feeling terribly sorry for myself.

After singing the special music, I ran out to the car. I didn't want to listen to the pastor's sermon—I wanted to feel sorry for myself. Sitting there in gloomy silence, wrapped in self-pity, I forgot the Lord I had sung about just a few moments earlier.

After the morning service, my husband and our two daughters got in the car and we started for home. On the way, Jim and I had a heated argument, but finally we were able to get things patched up between us.

Still, I wondered how I would be able to do the concert that evening. I had lost half-a-night's sleep and I had cried half of the morning until my throat was raw. But I knew it was too late to back out.

Driving to the church that evening, it was all I could do just to keep my eyes open. Although the Lord seemed to assure me that someone would receive Him at the concert, I didn't see how I could even sing a single song.

Jim, my accompanist Hugh Waddy and I always pray before entering a church, and I knew that I needed the Lord's help tonight like never before. "Lord," I prayed, "I'm not going to tell you how I feel. You know how I feel. I'm just going to take You up on two promises from Your Word and claim them. 'I can do all things through

Christ which strengtheneth me' and 'My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Lord, I'm wiped out. I can't do this concert tonight, but You can."

Inside we prayed again, this time with the pastor. I told him about my lack of sleep, but I was too ashamed to mention how I had put myself first and forgotten the Lord.

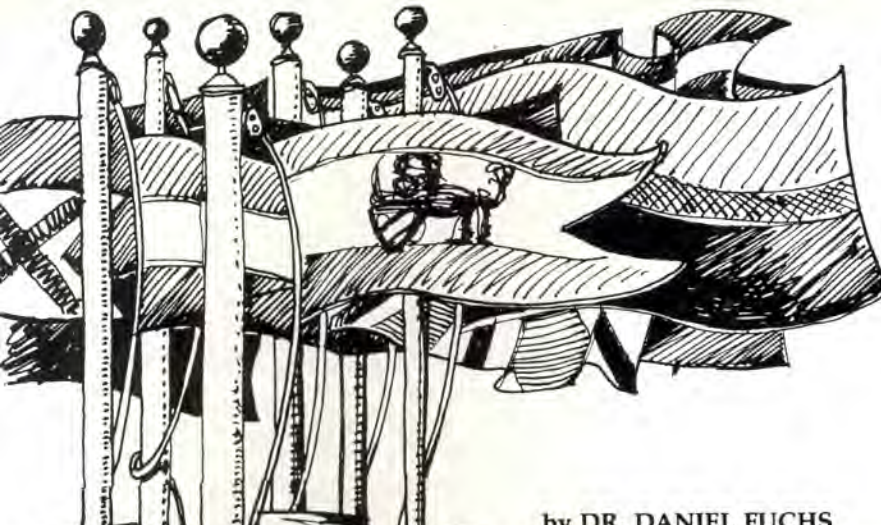
At 7:00 p.m. we went out onto the platform. I was trying to keep my eyes from closing, and I wasn't succeeding too well. When I heard my name through the "fog" that clouded my mind, I dragged myself to the pulpit, wondering how I was going to sing even the first few notes.

But as I nodded to Hugh to begin, something strange started happening to me. Suddenly I got a supernatural shot of adrenaline and I was off and running! The strength and stamina I could feel surging through my body was definitely not my own. God was supplying my need, and all I could do was silently praise Him as I gave what turned out to be one of the most powerful concerts of my life!

After the concert we all bowed in prayer, and I gave an invitation for the people to accept the Lord. I felt confident that someone would respond. . .but not a single hand went up. For an instant I started feeling sorry for myself again. But I had learned my lesson—I had to stop thinking of myself and think only of the Lord. Perhaps someone did pray to receive Jesus as his Savior and I would find out in glory. This was God's concern, not mine.

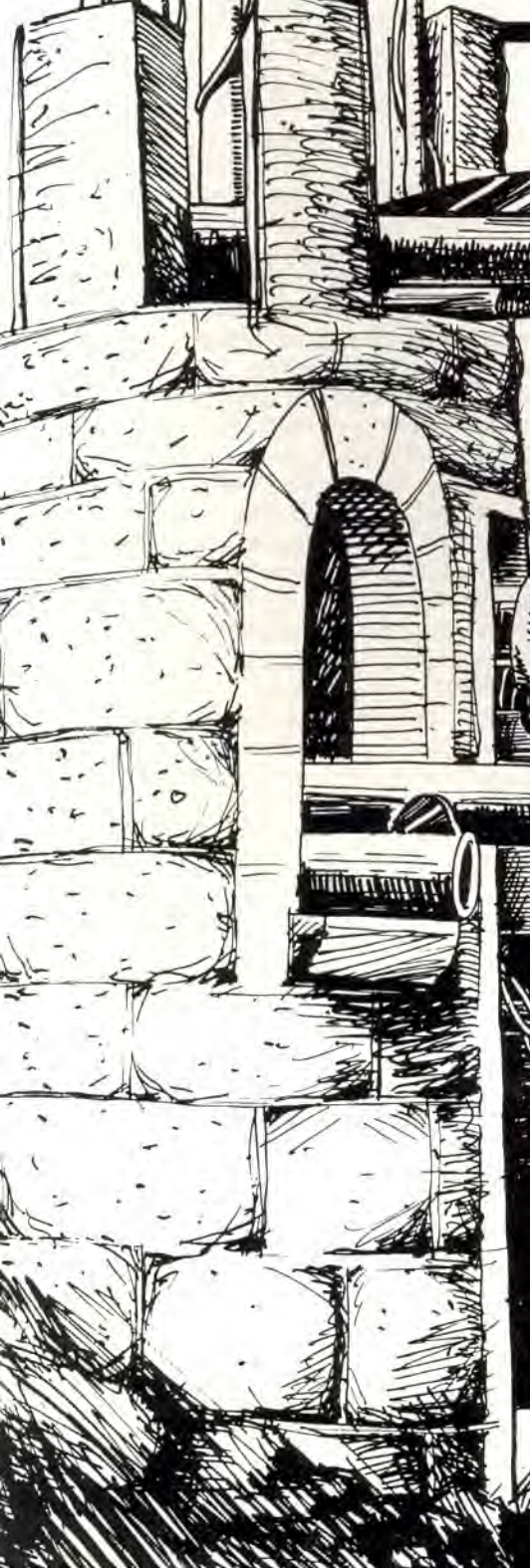
As we were about to leave, the pastor came up to us and thanked me for the concert. I quietly wondered why he was grinning from ear to ear. That's when he told me that two Jewish women had prayed to receive the Lord right after the concert!

While I had cried many tears of bitterness earlier in the day, now my eyes overflowed with tears of joy. Although I had forgotten the Lord, He was there all of the time! □



by DR. DANIEL FUCHS

The United Nations knows its priorities. It fervently preaches and practices "to the Jew first"! It is significant that the only times the nations are united is always against Israel. We can now understand Zechariah's startling prophecy: "...in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it" (Zech. 12:3). "I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people." Many years ago, after our children were born, we bought a small home with a large mortgage in the suburbs of New York City. Even though I had been brought up in the slums I always wanted to grow roses. I bought books and from them decided on just the "right spot" to plant my garden. One bright fall day I began digging up the plot. Everything was fine until my spade hit what I thought at first was a small stone. An hour later, I knew that it was a rock but I thought it was movable. Two hours later I thought it was giving way. I strained and grunted, stumbled and fell, and almost broke my leg. I found out what Zechariah meant when he said, "Jerusalem is a burdensome stone." To paraphrase it into my Brooklynesse, "Jerusalem is a tough stone to move; all who try it will get hurt, or as the NIV states, "I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves." "All who try to move it will injure themselves." These are very serious words. I wonder if the present difficulties which we as a nation face are not a direct result of our country's positive pressure against Israel, not only in the economic field but especially our actions in the United Nations Security Council. This was highlighted by our vote last March when we voted against Israel. It is true that two days after this action it was claimed to be a "mistake"—a gap in communications between Washington and New York! I personally find this statement incredible. I cannot believe it. As a citizen who loves our country and who is grateful for all of our benefits, I hope that I am wrong. However, even if I am wrong there is no





ISRAEL vs. THE WORLD: WHICH SIDE WILL THE U.S. TAKE ?

doubt that there is a growing anti-Israel feeling in both the Administration and in the State Department. "All who try to move it will injure themselves." One very significant feature of the U.N. Resolution which we voted for was removing Jerusalem from Israel's jurisdiction. The Security Council Resolution states in part:

"The Security Council, . . . Bearing in mind the specific status of Jerusalem and, in particular, the need for protection and preservation of the unique spiritual and religious dimension of the holy places in the city. . . Determines that all measures taken by Israel to change

the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, or any part thereof, have no legal validity. . ." It was

on March 1, 1980 that the United States cast its vote against Israel and Jerusalem. Seven weeks later on April 24, 1980 the President of the United States solemnly announced that what was planned to be a spectacular rescue of the U.S. hostages in Iran had miserably failed. I realize that I cannot document a cause and effect relationship between these two events but Zechariah did say, "I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all nations. All who

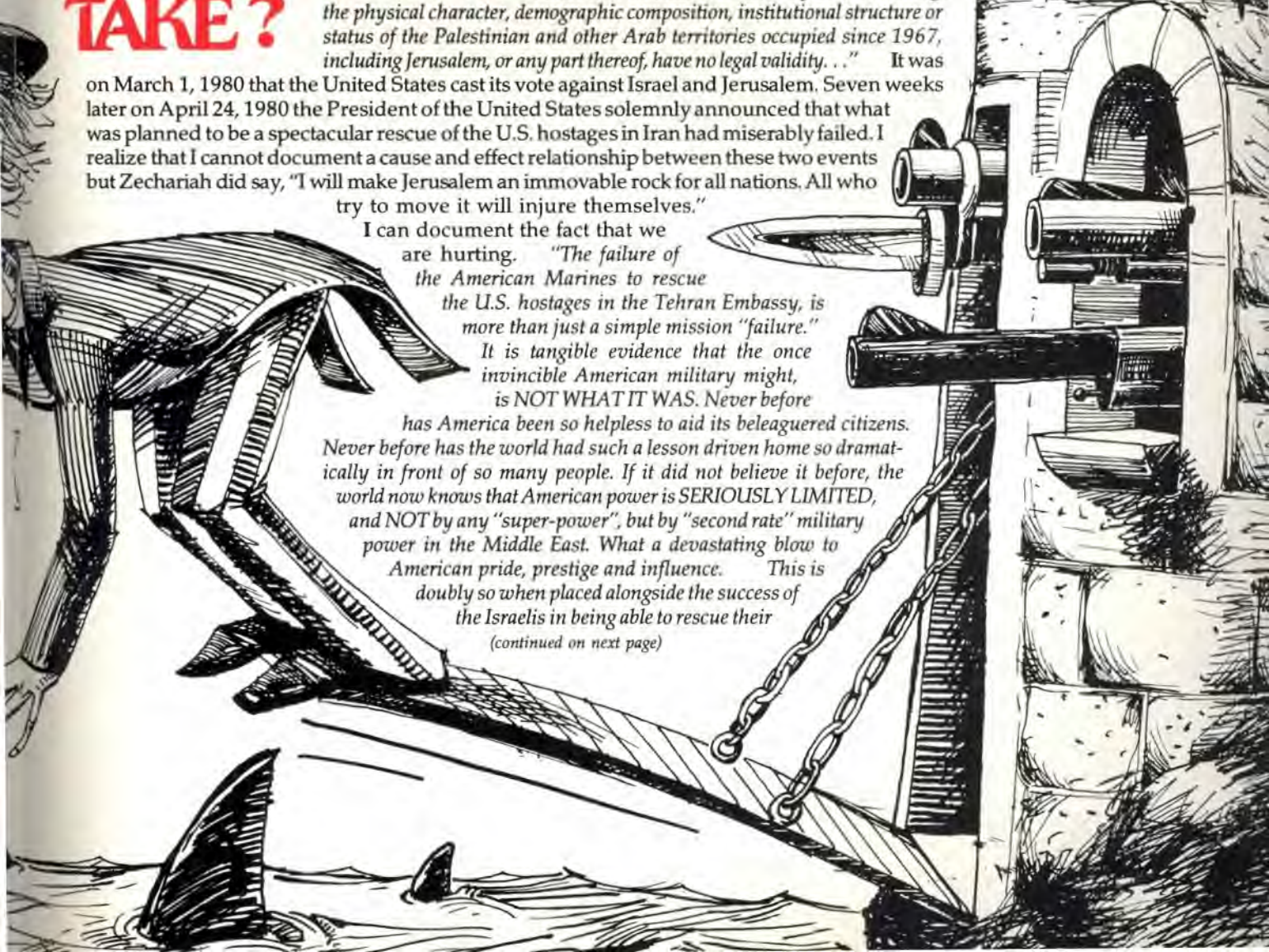
try to move it will injure themselves."

I can document the fact that we are hurting. "The failure of the American Marines to rescue the U.S. hostages in the Tehran Embassy, is more than just a simple mission "failure."

It is tangible evidence that the once invincible American military might, is NOT WHAT IT WAS. Never before

has America been so helpless to aid its beleaguered citizens. Never before has the world had such a lesson driven home so dramatically in front of so many people. If it did not believe it before, the world now knows that American power is SERIOUSLY LIMITED, and NOT by any "super-power", but by "second rate" military power in the Middle East. What a devastating blow to American pride, prestige and influence. This is doubly so when placed alongside the success of the Israelis in being able to rescue their

(continued on next page)



ISRAEL VS. THE WORLD:

citizens held in Entebbe a few years ago. Such a tiny nation, with negligible military force in comparison with the U.S., was able to successfully complete a rescue mission, whilst the U.S. was unable to get past the preliminary stages before the whole mission became a FAILURE. What is the reason for the vastly different results, which go against all forms of logical thinking? Why did one mission, mounted by a tiny nation, with minimum equipment, succeed, with only one death, whilst the other, from the richest and most technically advanced nation in the world, fail at first base with 8 fatalities?

"The simple and short answer is that God wanted one to succeed and the other to fail, and, despite all odds to the contrary, His guiding hand ensured the furtherance of HIS PURPOSE."

Present Day Events, p. 1, June 1980.

We must understand that God has given Israel some promises, and that these promises cannot be revoked. The nations of the world, under the pressure of petro-politics, are ignoring these promises. Israel is willing to stand against the whole world if it is necessary. The only question that remains is—where will the United States stand in this conflict?

In times past God has always judged the nations of the world on their treatment of the Jews. God said to Abram, "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:2,3).

There is a cause and effect relationship between God's judgment of the nations. Those nations who blessed the seed of Abraham have been blessed; those who cursed him have been cursed. It's time for our nation to abort the present collision course. □

"I Finally Quit Running"

Was I angry! I was so angry that I threw my Bible down. "Wasn't David Jewish?" I thundered at my wife. I had just finished reading Psalm 22. "What right did David have putting Jesus Christ in my Bible?" It wasn't so much a question as it was a venting of my anger.

My wife claimed that Jesus was the Messiah, and I started reading the Bible to prove her wrong. Although I had expected the Bible to be rather dull and boring, I was pleasantly surprised to find it just the opposite. I loved reading science-fiction ever since I was a boy, but I found the Bible to be much more exciting.

But then I came to Psalm 22 just as I was glorying in my great heritage and taking pride in being a part of the Jewish nation. How in the world could David have written of the crucifixion of Jesus 1000 years before He had even been born?

I knew I couldn't accept this Jesus. . . but I couldn't get Him out of my mind either. Perhaps if I stopped reading the Bible and asked no more questions—perhaps then I'd forget about Him.

Two years passed but God brought a different kind of "Bible" into my life. I met some people from my wife's church who were noticeably different than the people I worked with. These people were not ashamed to talk about Jesus and spiritual matters. Some of them even had the nerve to come to my house and talk to me about Jesus. Nice people. . . but why couldn't they leave Jesus at home when they came to see me?

I could see that they put Jesus first in their lives, but Jesus wasn't for me. My first priority was figuring out what I could do to avoid spending eternity in Hell. I knew I was headed there, but I also knew I was powerless to prevent it.

I couldn't see how Jesus would be able to help. Besides, I didn't believe there were any Jews who believed in



THE TESTIMONY OF MILT MAIMAN
VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY
HARRISBURG, PA

Him. To disprove this, my wife contacted ABMJ and arranged for Mitch Triestman to come for a visit. He showed me my need for the Messiah, from the Old Testament Scriptures. And he certainly was living proof that some Jews do believe in Jesus.

From that time on, I started going to church with my wife. After hearing a message about Jonah running away from God, I truly knew that I had been running away from God and was headed straight for Hell because I was rejecting the Messiah.

But I still fought hard against accepting Jesus. My mind was bombarded by objections and fears: What would my family say? Would I be a traitor to my people? Would I be turning away from the God of my fathers?

With Jesus beckoning me to come—and with the gates of Hell opening to receive me—I finally quit running. On June 16, 1974 I admitted I needed Jesus as my own personal Savior and Messiah.

I came to God on His terms, and God came to me with peace and assurance. I no longer feared Hell, for now I knew Heaven was my final destination. □

Hey, Steve, did you know that Chaim Potok is going to be in town today autographing copies of his books?"

No, I didn't know that, but I certainly wanted to meet him and buy a few of his books. After all, Chaim Potok is famous, a celebrity! He's the author of many bestsellers including *THE CHOSEN* and *MY NAME IS ASHER LEV*. He's considered by many to be the greatest living Jewish author. Of course I wanted to meet him. . .but even more than that, I wanted him to meet Jesus!

Slipping a copy of *DEAR RABBI* into my pocket, I hopped in the car and headed for the department store.

Once inside the store, I had no difficulty finding the book department. A line of people stretched from the

WE LOVE YOU, CHAIM POTOK, AND SO DOES JESUS!

by STEVE SCHWARTZ, Managing Editor

book department, past stationery supplies and into the camera department. The people were all there to meet the bearded man sitting at the bridge table writing his name in book after book after book.

I chose *THE CHOSEN* and wandered past several other titles before picking out the *WANDERINGS*. Then I took my place in line.

"Patience," I thought, "patience" . . . as the line slowly inched forward. When I was close enough to see his face, I knew that this was no impostor sitting there but the real, living and breathing Chaim Potok! Just one more person in front of me and then—there he was reaching for the books and asking me how I wanted him to sign them.

At first I thought of asking him to write: "To Steve Schwartz, my best friend in the whole world." But I told him to sign them in any way he liked.

While he was writing his name, I uttered a very profound statement: "I'll bet you're going to have the

world's worst case of writer's cramp by the end of the day."

"Oh no," he said, "I write all of my books like this, with just a pen."

"I prefer a typewriter," I responded. "I'm a writer too but not quite as famous as yourself."

Hearing this, he looked up at me with genuine interest and asked me what kind of material I write.

"I'm in the field of religious publishing," I said.

"Oh, so you write non-fiction," he replied.

"Well, some people think that what I write is fiction," I responded, "but I personally believe that what I write is true."

Reaching into my pocket, I gave him my copy of *DEAR RABBI* and said, "Here's something I wrote. Why don't you read it and make up your own mind?"

Looking at the cover, he quickly knew that *DEAR RABBI* presented the case for the Messiahship of Jesus. Would he give it back to me with a

look of disgust? Would he ask the manager to throw me out of the store? Or worse than that, would he tear up the booklet in front of my eyes? No, he cordially thanked me for it and promised he would read it.

While I would have liked to have stayed and talked further, the people behind me in line were growing impatient, so I thanked him and moved on.

I don't know if Chaim Potok will read *DEAR RABBI*, nor do I know what his reaction will be if he reads it. All I know is that I put first things first—that I put Jesus first—and He gave me the opportunity to share the Gospel with a man I never expected to meet.

Does God have such a priority for you too? Maybe it's to pray for this great Jewish author. Or perhaps it's to witness to a Jewish friend who needs to hear the Gospel. Possibly the Lord would have you share the Good News with a celebrity or someone you greatly admire! Who knows? □



How to Use Prophecy to

It's dangerous to say the whole world is wrong, or even a substantial majority. But every January I'm reminded of this inescapable fact when people begin talking about New Year's resolutions when they should be talking about priorities.

Someone has said that life is what happens to you when you're on your way to do something else. Sadly, for most people, this is true. A New Year's resolution, no matter how sincere it may be, will never change this fact. But setting the proper priorities for one's life can and will change it. God has given us prophecy for just this purpose.

Most people today fail to understand that Biblical prophecy is the key that unlocks the treasures of God's Word. Understanding prophecy and its practical application to our lives is essential if we are to reflect God's holiness in this world.

Paul wrote Titus, "We should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (cf. Ti. 2:12-14).

Notice Paul's emphasis. He suggests "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" will influence our lifestyle. Specifically, it will cause us to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions.

The apostle John understood this same principle of prophecy as it relates to our everyday lives. He wrote, "We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (cf. 1 Jn. 3:2,3).

Thus, prophecy has a special priority in the Word of God. It affects one's attitude toward evangelism, toward

missions, toward morality, toward sin and toward righteousness. For the believer, Biblical prophecy is a mandate for righteous and holy living and for communicating the Gospel to Jew and gentile alike. Why? Because Jesus is coming soon. This truth was inherent in the first prophecy uttered in the Word of God. Interestingly, this prophecy was addressed to Satan, in the presence of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

In effect, it was a prophetic promise of the restoration of man to God. In Genesis 3:15 we read, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

The idea of bruising on the head is one of striking or crushing, rendering the serpent harmless. Almost every ancient rabbinic scholar interprets the woman's seed as referring to the Messiah. Its fulfillment would be future to Adam and Eve's day, but, nevertheless, its present application to their lives was designed to have an immediate effect on their behavior and lifestyle.

It was the promise of God's ultimate victory over Satan that produced the fruits of righteousness in the lives of Adam and Eve. This is evidenced from the fact that when Eve had her first son she named him Cain, which in the Hebrew means "acquired." In Genesis 4:1 we read: "And Adam



by HAROLD A. SEVENER

Set Your Priorities

knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord."

Once again, most ancient rabbinic commentators believe that when Cain was born Eve believed that she had given birth to the Redeemer whom God had promised, the one who would give them victory over Satan. With this in mind, Adam and Eve evidently instilled, within both Cain and Abel, the pattern of worship and of righteousness that they should practice, based upon what God had revealed to them in the Garden of Eden.

Cain, however, chose the path of sin and unrighteousness rather than

the path of obedience that Abel followed (cf. Gen. 4:7,8). Cain failed to live in the light of the prophetic promise that God had given. He refused to recognize the intervention of God into human history. He failed to trust God for the future and, thus, failed to live for God in the present. He became the world's first murderer and his brother the first victim.

The first priority of Biblical prophecy is to produce righteous living in our lives. But Biblical prophecy not only establishes a priority for righteous living, it also establishes a priority for Christ-like love. Paul, writing to the church in Thessalonica, says, "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints" (cf. 1 Th. 3:12,13).

We are to demonstrate the love of God in our lives toward Jew and gentile alike. Because Jesus is coming soon, we should seek to exemplify His love. Because Jesus is coming soon, a believer should be worshipping in his local church regularly (cf. Heb. 10:25). He should be patient (cf. Jas. 5:8). He should refrain from judging others (cf. 1 Cor. 4:5). He should be proclaiming the Word of God (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1,2; 1 Pet. 5:2,4). He should be keeping his mind focused on the things of the Lord (cf. Col. 3:1-4). And because Jesus is coming soon, he should be a soul winner for our Lord (cf. Jude 21-25; 1 Th. 2:19,20; Dan. 12:3).

Every one of these commands is based on the sure word of Biblical prophecy that Jesus is coming soon. The time is short, the field is, indeed, white unto harvest, and the laborers are few. Would God that more believers would allow the priorities of Biblical prophecy to mold and shape their lives to reflect Christ's image until He returns.



Taking the Time to Put First Things First

WHEN YOU PUT JESUS FIRST, He will put you in touch with those He wants to reach with the Gospel. Here at ABMJ we are trying to reach all Jews everywhere for Christ. We think of our CHOSEN PEOPLE family as partners in this great task. We need your help—not just your prayers and financial contributions. . . we need *you* to help spread the Word!

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RUSSIAN FAMILY FINDS CHRIST



There was a party in heaven this past September 27th—or at least that's what I would like to think. The Bible tells us that "joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents." Not one but *seven* Jewish people accepted the Lord at the Sukkoth party held by the Brooklyn branch of ABMJ.

I'll never forget that evening at the First Baptist Church of Flushing, N.Y. It was the third day of Sukkoth, the feast of Tabernacles, and it was the culmination of many weeks of planning. The Lord was really with us, because some 75 Russian Jewish immigrants showed up, a greater turnout than we dared dream would attend.

I was particularly pleased that Misha arrived with his wife and nine-year-old son. This family left their home in Kharkov (the Ukraine) nearly two years ago. During their seven-month stay in Vienna, they met a young missionary who left an indelible impression on them. But they only

accepted his friendship and the literature he gave them—they would not accept Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.

When the missionary returned to the U.S., he spent a few months working with me on a volunteer basis. He discovered that Misha and his family had come to live in New York, so he contacted them. But all attempts to bring this family out to our Beth Sar Shalom meetings or to the Russian church in Manhattan failed.

Finally, the missionary had to return to Vienna, so he gave me the family's name and address for followup. I stuck the little slip of paper in my address book...and promptly forgot all about it!

Just a few days before the Sukkoth party, I came across the slip of paper and decided to dial the number. The woman's voice on the other end sounded rather business-like. Evidently she thought I was a Russian saleslady. But when she understood that I was a friend of the missionary she had met in Vienna, she warmed up instantly. She said she wanted to meet me and

indicated that she and her family would attend our Sukkoth party.

And there they were—the son in the first row and the couple toward the back of the church. Naturally I was excited and a bit nervous. We showed a film about Sukkoth and presented some live Messianic music. Then Steve Schlissel, the head of our ABMJ branch, gave a message on the prophetic significance of the Jewish holidays, with a special emphasis not on Sukkoth but on Passover. After all, Passover signifies our Messiah's sacrificial death, and that's the message we were trying to get across to our Russian Jewish listeners.

Naturally, the people couldn't understand a word of what Steve was saying, so I translated. At times Steve said so much all at once that I had difficulty remembering all he said. But the Lord gave me the words to say and the confident assurance that someone was going to turn his life over to Jesus that very night. I wondered who it would be as I looked out over the upturned faces absorbed in the message.

Finally the moment arrived. Steve asked those who wanted to accept Jesus into their lives to raise their hands. My heart was racing as I translated those words into Russian. But the response from the little boy in



Will 1981 Be As Bad

UNFORTUNATELY, A LOT OF PEOPLE will say "yes." But it doesn't have to be. The world may get worse, but each year should be better than the year before for those who love the Lord.

But it won't just happen. It takes careful planning to set the kind of priorities and goals that God will bless. And the beginning of the year is the perfect time to start thinking about your life, your goals and the assets God has given you.

If your desire is to be a good steward with what God has given you, shouldn't you arrange your affairs in such a way

the first row needed no translation. His hand shot up with incredible boldness, and he wore a terrific smile that broadened even more when he turned around. He saw in the back of the church a row of four people with their hands in the air. Two of them were his parents!

The boy turned back towards the front with a look I can't begin to describe. It was as if he was thinking it was too good to be true. I must confess, the same thought was going through my own mind—an entire Jewish family had turned their lives over to the Messiah!

Five people had entered God's Kingdom. But I mentioned earlier that seven people accepted Jesus. What about the other two? A man who had brought his unsaved wife and mother to the party asked Steve to sit down with them during the time of food and fellowship which followed the meeting.

While Steve shared with the women, the man got up and nervously paced the floor. He'd been praying for their salvation for more than two years.

In a matter of minutes, both his wife and mother accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior! When he found out he couldn't stop saying "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"

And all I could repeat, in Russian, was "Slava Bogu! Praise the Lord!"

As 1980 ?

that the Gospel will be preached to both Jew and gentile as a result of your planning?

We'd like to help you in planning for the time when you will no longer need your earthly assets. We've had many years of experience in helping people invest their assets in God's work. If you would like to confidentially discuss your financial goals, problems and opportunities for investing with a sympathetic Christian counselor, please write: *The President, ABMJ, P.O. Box 2000, Orangeburg, N.Y. 10962. Or call: (914) 359-8535.*

Questions AND Answers

by DR. HENRY J. HEYDT

QUESTION: Is there a passage of Scripture telling us that someone will meet us on the other side after we die?

ANSWER: Since the rapture will take place in a moment and the twinkling of an eye, it seems evident that the transition at death will be equally rapid. It is not, therefore, to be conceived of as having stages such as arriving, being met at the gates by Peter or someone else, and then being conducted into the presence of the Lord. The account of the death of Stephen in Acts 7:55-60 is quite sufficient to show that to depart is to be with Christ. His statement, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," indicates that it will be the Lord Jesus Christ Who will first engage our vision when we enter glory.

This is, after all, the way we desire it to be even as Paul expressed it in Phil. 1:23. This does not exclude meeting others inasmuch as we shall know even as we are also known, and this shall be face to face (1 Cor. 13:12). But first, it is His face we shall see as Mrs. Frank Breck phrased it in her beautiful song:

*Face to face with Christ, my Saviour,
Face to face—what will it be?
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me.*

QUESTION: Was the Lord Jesus Christ a Jew?

ANSWER: The Samaritan woman certainly recognized Him as such, whether by His racial characteristics, His speech, or the garment He wore; for she asked, "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?" (Jn. 4:9).

Pilate also recognized Him as a Jew in Jn. 18:35. The genealogy in Luke 3 is complete evidence of it.

Paul makes it plain in Rom. 1:3 that Christ was, according to the flesh, born of the seed of David; and the reference must certainly be to His lineage through Mary. To this day it is the heart of the issue in Israel where the insistence is that to be Jewish one must have a Jewish mother. If the father is Gentile the child, nevertheless, is considered Jewish.

I can see no particular merit in trying to extricate the Lord Jesus Christ from His Jewish heritage, but I can see how ridiculous the Scriptures would become if it were not true. Take, for example, His statement that salvation is of the Jews (Jn. 4:22) or that of Zacharias that He came to give the knowledge of salvation unto His people in the remission of their sins (Lk. 1:77). Matthew would be wrong in calling Him the son of David (1:1), and He would have no right to inherit the throne of His father David (Lk. 1:32). The Scripture that Christ cometh of the seed of David would have been broken (Jn. 7:42) and Paul's argument, "Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus" (Acts 13:23), would be altogether invalid. This would carry right through to the close of the New Testament with the Lord Jesus Christ making a false claim that He was the root and offspring of David (Rev. 22:16).

So let us not be afraid of "branding" Him with His Jewish nationality. It is far better than making Him a liar.

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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