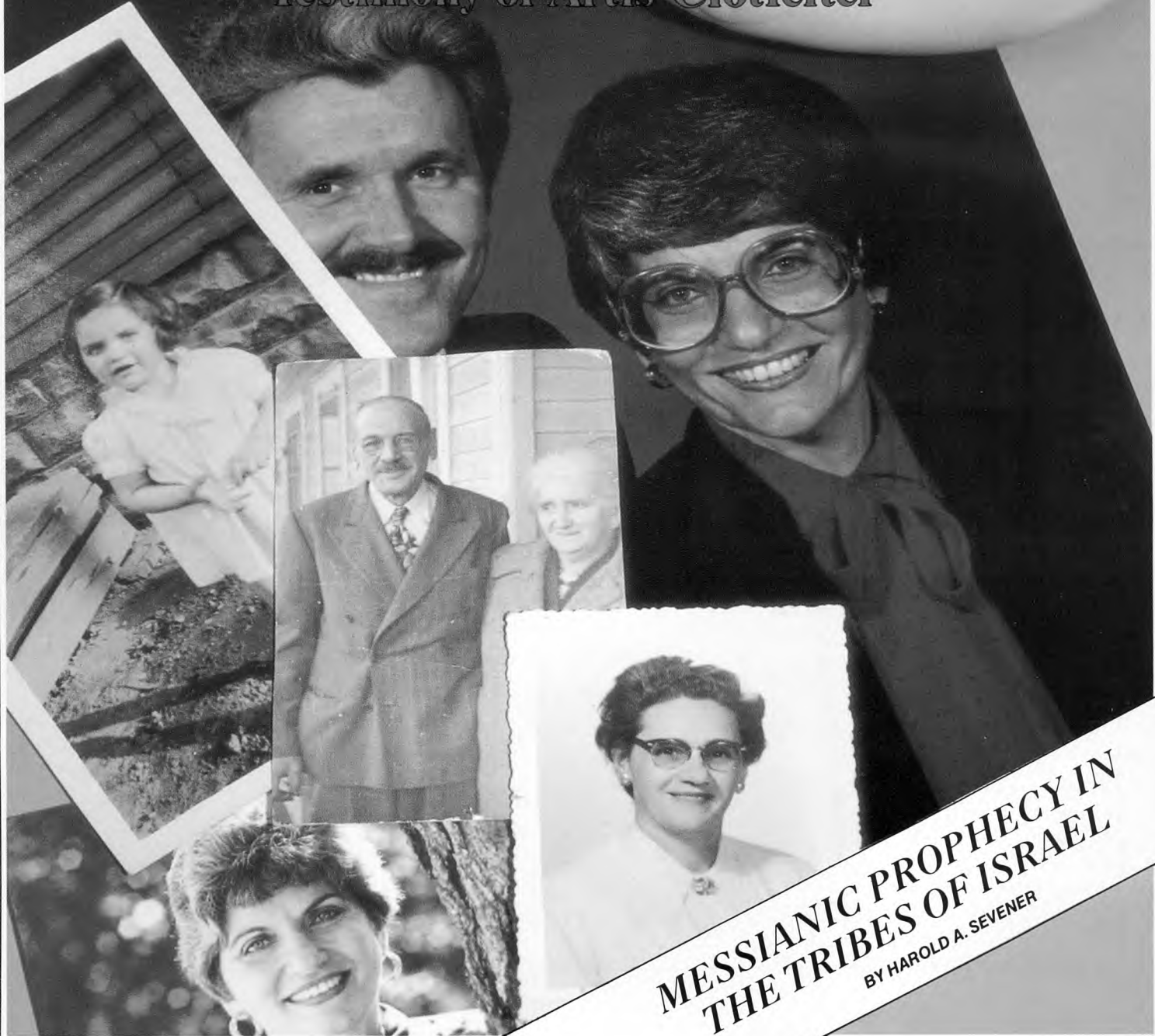


The Chosen People

NOVEMBER 1986 ISSN 0154-5323

COULD AN UGLY DUCKLING EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD?

Testimony of Artis Clotfelter



**MESSIANIC PROPHECY IN
THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL**
BY HAROLD A. SEVENER

From the President



The Chosen People

The Psalmist wrote, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (Psalms 107:1).

The Hebrew word for thanks is *Todah*. It comes from the root word meaning "to throw" or "to cast" away. It pictures one who has taken up a stone or a rock and with his arm extended is casting the rock away. From that picture came the idea of profession or confession. That is, to point something out with the hand extended. We still do this today. To rightly identify an object, we usually point it out. We confess or profess that this is the object.

From this picture of identification, of pointing to something with the hand extended, came the biblical idea of giving thanks, or thanksgiving. The idea expressed is that thanksgiving and praise naturally follow the acknowledged confession of a benefit received.

The goodness of the Lord, His loving kindness, His ability to supply and meet our daily needs, should result in the confession or profession of thanksgiving.

According to the Scriptures, when Solomon was born, God gave him the name *Jedidiah*. He was to be a delight, or a friend. One who would give thanks to God.

The name *Jedidiah* comes from the same root word of *Todah*, or to give thanks or praise. Solomon characterized the name which God gave him. When God asked him to make a request, Solomon asked for wisdom. But notice that Solomon prefaced his request by first acknowledging the loving kindness of the Lord (2 Chronicles 1:7-12).

When Solomon finished the building of the Temple, he praised the Lord (2 Chronicles 6:4-10). Throughout his life, Solomon gave praise to the Lord. His life professed thanks, as if pointed out with an arm extended to the living God.

This thanksgiving season, let us pause and reflect on the goodness of God. Let us give our confession or profession of thanks for His goodness, for His loving kindness to the children of men.

I certainly want to praise the Lord for what He has accomplished through our missionary staff: The many decisions for the Lord; the new congregations; the growth and the maturity in the lives of many Jewish believers.

I praise God for what He has been doing through you, our faithful *Chosen People* family. Without your prayers and support, we could not be accomplishing our goal of seeking to reach all Jews everywhere with the Gospel.

In Messiah,

HAROLD A. SEVENER

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., 100 Hunt Road, Orangeburg, New York 10962.

President

Harold A. Sevens

Administrative Vice-President

Roy Adams

Editor & Creative Director

Jonathan Singer

Staff Writer

Amy Rabinovitz

Missionary Director

John Bell

Regional Directors

Northeast: New York City, N.Y.

Sam Nadler

212-757-6716

Southeast: Reston, Va.

Larry Jaffrey

703-471-0163

Midwest: Chicago, Ill.

Roy Schwarcz

312-338-5959

Southwest: Fort Worth, Tx.

Dr. Irwin (Rocky) Freeman

817-731-6991

West: Los Angeles, Ca.

Dr. Daniel Goldberg

818-884-8245

National Church Ministries Director

Barry Rubin

International Conference Director

Tom Walker

Board of Directors

Dr. Daniel Fuchs, Chairman

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Roy Adams | John L. Pretlove |
| C. R. Clemensen | Goldie Rotenberg |
| John J. Kubach | Albert Runge |
| John E. Melhorn | Harold A. Sevens |
| Harold B. Pretlove | James W. Straub |

Directors Emeritus

Louis W. Ivins

Isaac J. Leonard

Honorary Director

Dr. Charles L. Feinberg

NOVEMBER 1986, Vol. XCIII, No. 3
THE CHOSEN PEOPLE (ISSN 0164-5323)
Copyright ©1986 by the American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc. Not to be reproduced in any form without permission of the publisher. Second-class postage paid at Orangeburg, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. Credits: Cover concept, Jonathan Singer, photo by Steve Burns. Photo Researchers, 16.



COULD AN UGLY DUCKLING EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD?

Testimony of
ARTIS CLOTFELTER

Growing up, Artis Clotfelter never felt quite good enough, pretty enough, or popular enough. No wonder she felt she could never be good enough for God.



I always felt different from the other kids.

An ugly duckling, I was too tall, always awkward and no matter what mother did with my thick black hair it stuck straight out. Even during those Depression years most kids had mothers who stayed at home and cooked. My mom was divorced and worked to support her invalid parents and me.

I always suspected the divorce was my fault. If only I'd been prettier, not quite so odd, my parents would have stayed together.

I felt different in other ways too. We lived in a predominantly Catholic neighborhood so my two best friends were Catholics. One time, stepping into their European style cathedral, I was reminded how different it was to be Jewish.

A Terrifying Voice

Just inside the door stood a mammoth statue of Jesus on the cross. It must have been 10 or 15 feet high. Worshippers would climb a ladder-like stairway in front of the statue and kiss the nail-scarred hands and feet.

I climbed the ladder and kissing that cold, imposing body a terrifying voice suddenly stabbed my heart: "Thou shall have no graven images before thee." Shaking, I climbed down.

As if it wasn't enough being different from my friends, mother never quite let me forget I was also very different from her.

She was a people-person. Strong and charismatic, she never seemed to feel inadequate. She loved pretty dresses and parties.

I wanted to be a Northwest Mounted Policeman. More often than not you could find me alone somewhere, in my room, eyes drooping as I stayed awake to read the

continued on following page



*Artis Clotfelter
Like most children who are loners I had a great sense of adventure.*

latest Jack London book.

Our house overflowed with Bohemian immigrants, people who loved laughter and music. I stayed outside the crowd, watching and listening, alone.

A Natural Curiosity

Like most children who are loners, however, I had a natural curiosity and a great sense of adventure. By the time I was 11, I had fallen in love with flying

through the Civil Air Patrol Cadets. On occasion I had even gone up with the famed aviatrix Jacqueline Cochran.

In school, I was well ahead of my class but frequently bored.



*My grandparents
Our house overflowed with Bohemian immigrants, people who loved laughter and music. I stayed outside the crowd, watching and listening alone.*



*My mother
She was a people person. She loved pretty dresses and parties. I wanted to be a Northwest Mounted Policeman.*



Always asking questions, I was considered too outspoken, another trait my mother didn't approve of.

One time during confirmation

studies I remember questioning the rabbi about Isaiah 1:18.

"Look," I showed him. "It says my sins are like scarlet but they can be white as snow. Why are they scarlet? How can they be white?"

"Don't ask such questions," he said, "and don't argue. If you would live a good life, do *mitzvot* (good deeds) and be a good person, instead of being a troublemaker, you would understand these things."

Naturally mother was exasperated. "Why can't you just sit there and keep quiet?" she pleaded.

"I just can't, that's all," I replied.

Ugly Duckling Into A Swan

Mother remarried when I was about ten. When I was 14, my stepfather, an engineer, moved us to Monterrey, Mexico where he had a very good job offer. Though I was 5'10" and loomed over everyone, at last it seemed that the ugly duckling was going to turn into a swan.

I was accepted by an older, faster crowd and went to gala balls. We were very involved in the Jewish community and there were constant parties and activities.

The fun ended when mom got worried about the company I kept. It was, she feared, too loose and fast for a young teen. Before I knew what had happened, I was whisked off to live with a complete stranger: my father.

Antebellum Atmosphere

Dad and his wife Lillie led a quiet, refined life in Washington, D.C. Lillie's father was a Civil War veteran and she had always lived in a somewhat genteel, antebellum atmosphere. Neither Lillie nor I was prepared for the culture shock of a rebellious, Jewish American Princess moving into her home.

Doubt and insecurity hit me harder than ever. I was attending a high school where most of the kids

were from families of ambassadors and high level government officials. For once I wasn't the brightest in my class. Washington turned the swan from Mexico back into an ugly duckling.

Gloria Steinem, one of the early founders of Women's Lib., was in my high school class and just recently I heard her confess she felt like an awkward outsider in school. If so, it didn't seem that way to me.

I remember questioning the rabbi about Isaiah 1:18. "Look," I showed him. "It says my sins are like scarlet but they can be white as snow. Why are they scarlet? How can they be white?"

She and her friends seemed like the 1952 version of the "beautiful people."

After high school, I snared a job at the Pentagon and began to date Len Clotfelter, a handsome airman. Len had come to Christ when he was 12, but was never grounded in the Word of God.

Our relationship bloomed and we married. When Len got out of the Air Force we moved to southern California, and began attending First Baptist Church of Lakewood with his sister.

For several months, Len grew as a Christian and I was willing enough to go to services with him. Everyone was praying for me, but I was

completely oblivious to the idea that there was some decision I had to make.

The Prayer Room

Oh, I was curious. One time after an altar call I wanted to see this "prayer room" they invited people to. After the service I quietly opened the door. All I saw were choir members taking off their robes.

It was after seeing *Oil Town U.S.A.*, a Billy Graham film, that I ended up in that prayer room. The counselor asked, "Do you believe the New Testament is the Word of God?"

"Yes," replied a prim and proper woman next to me.

"No!" I said, incredulous at the question.

The counselor called for Bob Ellif, Chairman of the Deacon Board. Bob had a special sensitivity to me, and after talking, said, "What you're saying is you'd like to find out more, right?"

"Yes," I agreed, relieved.

Pastor Harold Carlson came over and went through much of the same information Bob Ellif had. He explained that all of us were sinners, separated from God, and in need of a Savior. He showed me that Jesus said He was that Savior.

Didn't Feel Any Different

It's all a little hazy to me, but before I knew what had happened, Pastor Carlson and a bunch of others were congratulating me. I didn't feel any different, except I knew I had invited Jesus to come into my life and accepted that He died in my place on the cross. What good would that do, I thought. I could work all my life and still not be good enough to please God.

It wasn't until a few weeks later that I realized what had happened. The Scripture — "It is by grace you

continued on following page



have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9) — suddenly came alive.

God had given me eternal life! I had never felt quite good enough, pretty enough, popular enough, or bright enough. No wonder I felt I could never be good enough for God.

Accepted By God?

But God had already done it all! He wasn't disappointed that I was different; He had made me that way!

I went wonderfully wild. Accepted by God! Assured of eternal life with His glory! It was the best discovery that I had ever made. When I told my mother, I was so excited that I hardly noticed the frost in her voice when she said. "Are you trying to tell me your grandmother is in hell?"

When I told my mother, I was so excited that I hardly noticed the frost in her voice when she said. "Are you trying to tell me your grandmother is in hell?"

"But, mother, the Scripture says ..." I tried to explain.

The cold war that began that day lasted almost 30 years, until a month before Mother died, and she accepted His salvation. For one month, mother and I shared His praises, no longer separated by our differences.

I've been married to wonderful Len 32 years next Valentine's Day. We've had four children, two who went on to heaven ahead of us. Our two remaining beloved, Bruce and Twyla, love the Lord and are serving Him. On August 14, 1985, Twyla, and her husband Gary presented us with Brittany Ann, and I became a grandma.

When the joy of God first impressed me, I took out my childhood Bible, the one I had used growing up in synagogue and turned to the section marked "Birth." The words I wrote there still make me want to sing:

"The most important in all of eternity for me, April 1954, born again to be a child of God through the precious blood of the Lamb of God of Isaiah 53." □

Artis Clotfelter is a volunteer missionary in the Sacramento area. In addition to their monthly fellowship meeting, she attends Sacramento Bible Institute and teaches a Bible study for women with Jewish husbands.

By HAROLD SEVENER

Biblical names are frequently used as pictures of something which God wants to portray. Last month we began studying the names given each of the sons of Jacob (later to become the 12 tribes of Israel) and how each name is a miniature picture of the Messiah. We learned that Reuben means "behold the son" and Simeon to "hear him."

When Leah gave birth to her third son, Levi, she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me because I have born him three sons." So the child was named Levi (Gen. 29:34), meaning "to adhere to" or

In the naming of her third son, Leah, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, still speaks to us today.

"to be joined together closely."

You will recall that Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. In fact, the Scriptures seem to indicate that even

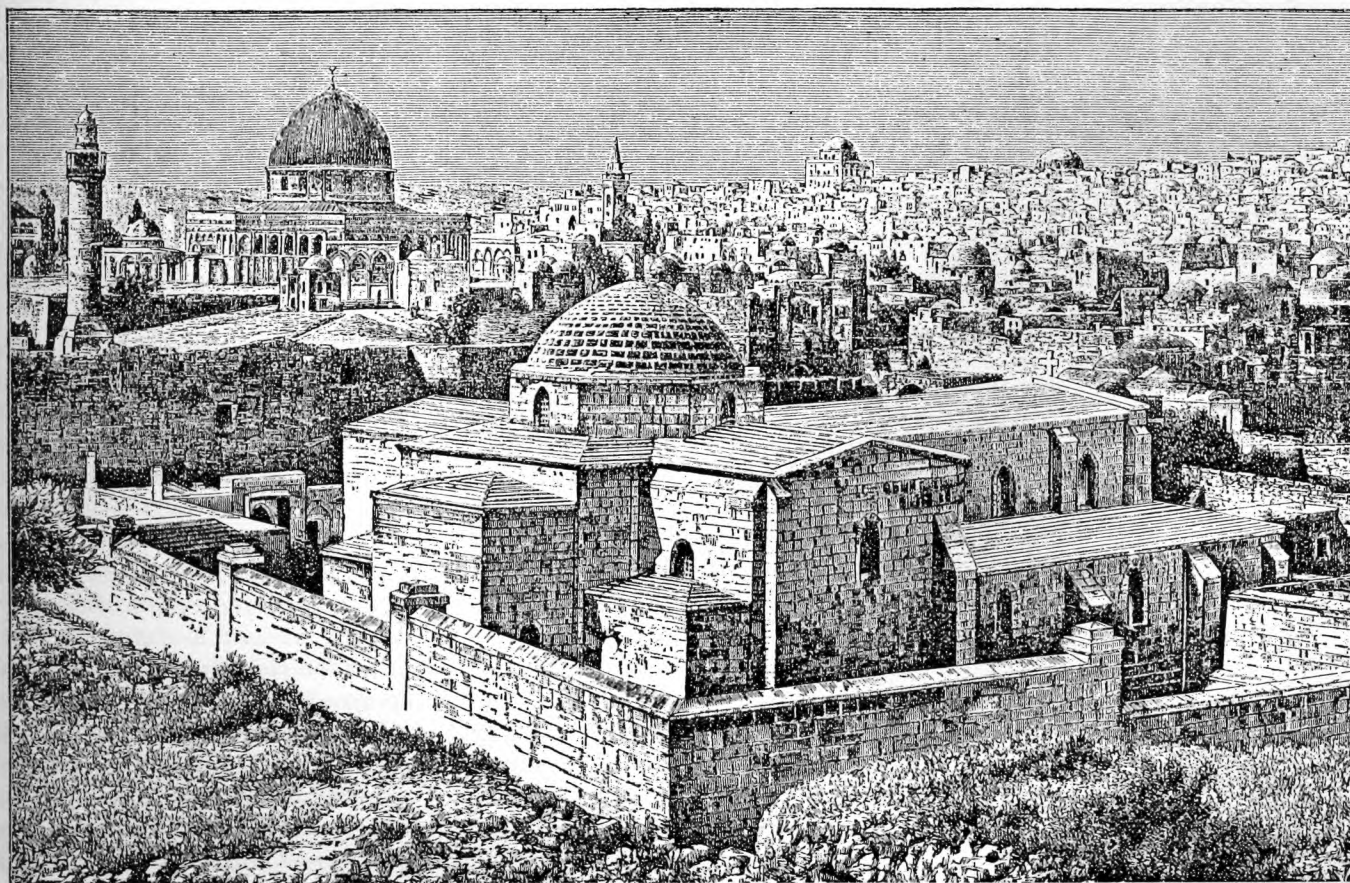
though Leah loved Jacob, he despised her. Leah hoped that this, her third son, would attach Jacob to her.

There is another play on words which Leah used in naming her son Levi, and that is the remote connotation the word carries of a "crown" or a "wreath." She hoped that Levi would be that crowning wreath that would attach her husband's affection to her.

Although Levi's birth in no way fulfilled Leah's hopes, his name does carry special meaning in regard

continued on following page

Messianic Prophecies Within the Tribes of Israel

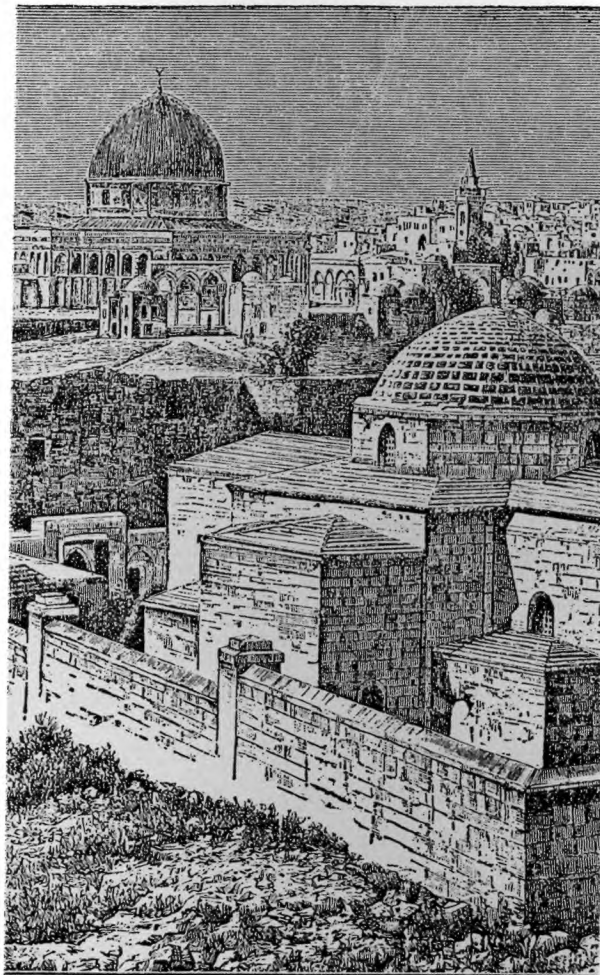


continued from previous page

to the Messiah. For it is through the Messiah that we as believers are attached to or joined together with God in demonstrating His presence to the world.

Ministering In The Temple

The tribe of Levi was the tribe responsible for ministering in the tabernacle and the Temple. Aaron, the high priest, belonged to the tribe



of Levi and as such he symbolized the work of our Messiah as He ministers for us in the heavenly sanctuary. As believers today we are called to be priests (Levites) joined together in ministering before the Lord.

The name Levi also reminds us

that Israel has been joined to the Lord in an everlasting covenant, a covenant that God will not forget (Jer. 50:5). When our Messiah returns to establish His kingdom Scripture says that strangers will be joined with Israel (Isa. 14:1) and nations will join themselves to Israel's Messiah (Zech. 2:10, 11).

Finally, we must remember that each and every believer is joined to the Lord. Paul tells us that the one who joins himself to the Lord is of one spirit with Him (I Cor. 6:17) and that we are to radiate the same spirit of holiness that Jesus demonstrated in His life. We are, each and every believer, joined with one another through the Holy Spirit to build a visible testimony of God's presence in the world (Eph. 4:16).

Far more than the name of a longed-for son, Leah was telling us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to join the Lord and serve Him.

God continued to bless Leah and she had a fourth son, named Judah (Gen. 29:35). Judah literally means "shall be praised," and seemingly the name means that Jehovah is to be praised because of the birth of her son.

Origin Of The Term Jew

It is from the name Judah that the term *Jew* comes. Literally, a Jew is one who is to praise God. This, in fact, is the definition Paul gives us of a true Jew, or a completed Jew, who has found faith in his Messiah (Rom. 2:29). He is a Jew inwardly whose praise is of God, and praise is to be the symbol of the people of God.

Praise is not a command, but rather the spontaneous response of a person who is joyful because of the redemptive work of God in his life. It is an expression of love, of gratitude.

In her fourth son, Leah praises God. It is interesting that right after Judah was born, Leah stopped bearing children. It is easy to praise

the Lord when God is granting our desires, when He is supplying our every need, and when there is no turmoil or hardship. It is easy to praise the Lord when there are no problems.

Leah had been blessed by the Lord with four children, four sons, and now she was barren. But evidently, her praises were true and she remained faithful to God. Even though the Scriptures do not tell us this, it can be derived by what was to come later. For after a long period of time, God remembered Leah and she bore Jacob a fifth son (Gen. 30:18), who was named Issachar. Issachar comes from a Hebrew word meaning "to give recompense" or "to reward for faithful work."

Reward For Faithfulness

Once again, in the Hebrew there is a play on words. Leah, recognizing that God had given her rightful wages in the birth of a son emphasizes that he is more than a wage: he was her reward for faithfulness to God.

The same root word used in Issachar as is used in God's promise to Abraham when He said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward" (Gen. 15:1). It is the same word used of the Levites, that they would have reward for service (Num. 18:31). The same word is also used of our Messiah, when He shall return and bring His reward with Him (Isa. 40:10; Rev. 22:12).

Rachel Jealous

Between Leah's fourth and fifth sons, Rachel had become jealous because she had no children. During this time she convinced Jacob to have children vicariously through her handmaidens. Thus in the course of time, four more sons were born to Jacob. Two through the handmaidens of Rachel and two through Leah's handmaidens.

In each birth, Rachel or Leah assumed the right to name the sons, inherently stating that the sons were theirs.

When Billah gave birth to a son, Rachel named him Dan (Gen. 30:6), literally meaning "to judge." Rachel uses the play on Hebrew words to state that God has judged or vindicated her.

In keeping with the Messianic hope and redemptive promises of God, the name Dan reminds us that God is our Judge. He is the righteous Judge (Ps. 50:6), the One who judged between the children of

have never trusted Him and appear before His white throne of judgment.

So, the revelation of the first five sons of Jacob brings a message to us today: Behold the Son (Reuben); hear Him, that is, the Son (Simeon); join yourself to Him (Levi); praise the Son (Judah); and God is my Judge (Dan).

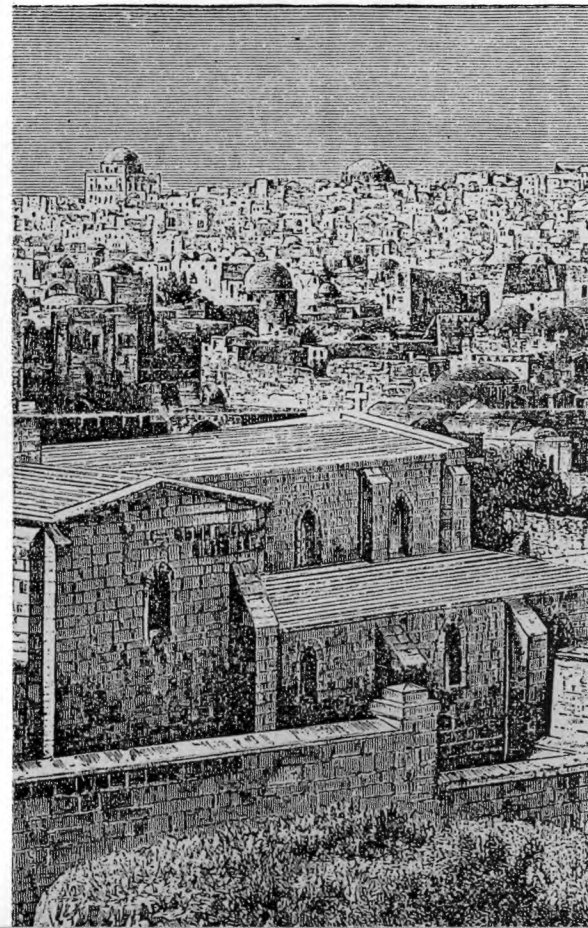
It is a message that we carry not only to our own hearts, but to the world around us as well. Behold the Son of God, hear Him, join yourself to Him, and praise Him, for God is our Judge. □

In her fourth son, Leah praises God. It is interesting that right after Judah was born, Leah stopped bearing children. It is easy to praise the Lord when God is granting our desires, when He is supplying our every need, and when there is no turmoil or hardship. It is easy to praise the Lord when there are no problems.

Israel and the children of Ammon (Jud. 11:27), and the Judge of all (Heb. 12:23).

The prophets foretold that Israel, in rejecting God's rule over them, would smite the Judge of Israel on the cheek (Mic. 5:1). The Judge who was smitten was none other than the Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2). Smitten upon the cheek in death (Mt. 26:67; 27:30), He would qualify to judge between the quick and the dead (Acts 10:42), and to judge the nations of the world (Mic. 4:3; Mt. 25:31-46).

According to God's Word, every individual will stand before the Judge of the whole earth, our Messiah, the Lord Jesus. They will appear either before the Lord as those who have placed their faith and trust in Him and are judged at His Bema (judgment seat), or they will appear before Him as those who



One in Messiah

Norma and Mario asked me to perform their wedding ceremony according to Jewish tradition. One thing, however, was lacking before they could be truly husband and wife.

By **ROBERTO PASSO**,
Missionary Director, Buenos Aires

Norma and Mario, happy as only a young couple in love can be, came and asked me to perform their wedding ceremony. They wanted it to be according to Jewish customs, and Mario made it plain that they wanted the wedding to be a testimony to his Jewish family.

Yet I suspected that even though Norma and Mario had been attending our services for some time, and Mario understood intellectually that Jesus is Messiah, he had not made a personal decision to receive the Lord.

"You know, Mario," I explained, "that Jesus has come and He is the promised Messiah for the Jewish people. But you need to accept Him personally as Savior and Lord."

"I think it is enough that I know He is the Messiah and believe what the Bible says," he told me. "I share this truth with others and even now my life has changed."

My answer was direct. "This is intellectual knowledge. Something you have proved by reason. Take, for instance, your marriage. How long have you been engaged to Norma?"

"Three years."

"It is not enough to know her or to love her. Now you are to take her as your wife, and in accordance with the Bible you shall become one flesh. The relationship with Messiah is similar; you can know about Him, but you must accept Him by faith."

Mario offered no resistance when I asked if he would like to receive

Messiah. We prayed together and closed with the words of Job 42:5, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye seeth thee."

The wedding was in the Jewish tradition, but it clearly included the Gospel. Many of Mario's relatives were upset at the ceremony. But as the weeks have passed, Mario's father, at first very angry, has begun listening to the tape of the wedding very frequently.

I suspected that even though Norma and Mario had been attending our services for some time, Mario had not made a personal decision to receive the Lord.

Now Mario and Norma's happiness is even fuller than before. Their hearts are joined in Messiah, and they ask that you pray that their families might also soon know the joy they've experienced in Messiah. □



See Israel THROUGH Jewish Eyes



**A UNIQUE TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND
• CONDUCTED BY HAROLD SEVENER,
PRESIDENT, ABMJ/CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES.**



- DIRECT FLIGHT VIA EL AL, THE WORLD'S SAFEST AIRLINE
- FIVE-STAR HOTELS
- VISIT SPECIAL SITES USUALLY OFF-LIMITS TO TOURISTS

Here is a wonderful opportunity to show your support for Israel and the Jewish people and experience an unforgettable ten days in the land of the Bible.

Your tour host is Harold A. Sevener, President, ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries. Mr. Sevener brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to your time in Israel, having done graduate study there and maintained many friendships with government officials.

You'll see many sites normally off-limits to tourists, like the "Rabbis' Tunnel," and visit in Israeli homes. Special arrangements have been made for you to meet with officials of the Israeli government and hear rabbis' lectures.

For an unforgettable journey, for the opportunity to truly see Israel through Jewish eyes, please plan to join this historic tour.



It's also not too early to reserve your space and travel with Mr. Sevener on one of the tours planned for 1987: April 27 - May 7, June 29 - July 9, October 26 - November 5.

Information is available by writing to the President, ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries, P.O. Box 2000, Orangeburg, NY 10962.

From the Exile to the Christ

The Jews in the Persian Dispersion

By DR. DANIEL FUCHS

The Jews lived for just over two hundred years under Persia. This period was crucial for the people of Israel. Persia permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Only a small percentage of the Jews returned. The great majority of the Jews were still scattered all over the Persian world which, according to Esther 1:1, extended from "India to Cush" or from the Ganges to the Nile rivers! The Persians granted religious liberty to their conquered subjects, but they never yielded a vestige of civil rule.

During this period, the prestige of the high priest increased enormously.

"He was not only at the head of the temple ritual; he became in practice head of the Jewish state in all that concerned its internal affairs, the more so as the Jewish state was now a temple-state, and this position was retained by the high priest, apart from a few exceptional intervals, throughout the era of the Second Temple."

F. F. Bruce, *Israel and the Nations*, p. 117.

Duality of Jewish Religion

It is at this stage in Jewish history that we recognize a duality of their religious existence. It was centered in the Temple in Jerusalem. But the great majority of the Jews were scattered all over the Persian Empire, they were still in exile, "the dispersion". Only those Jews in Persia, who were wealthy enough to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, could participate in the Temple festivals. How did the rest of the Jews, who lived scattered all over the world, continue to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

Jewish ritual was centered in the Temple in Jerusalem. But the great majority of the Jews were scattered all over the Persian Empire, they were still in exile, "the dispersion." How did the Jews, who lived scattered all over the world, continue to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? The synagogue.

The answer to this question is the synagogue.

"The exact origin of the synagogue is unknown. Though prayer was an integral part of sacrificial service at an early time, ... there is no record of the existence of special prayer houses. The synagogue may have originated during the period of Babylonian captivity, although some scholars trace its beginnings to the period of the Kingdom. The first Babylonian exiles (597 B.C.E. seem to have met for the purpose of exposition of the Scriptures and public worship on Sabbaths and festivals; when the bulk of the people were exiled to Babylonia (586 B.C.E.) they already found the institution of meeting for prayer and instruction in existence. Such gatherings are recorded in the Book of Ezekiel, and the reference in Ezek. 11:16 possibly reflects the emergence of the synagogue in the Babylonian Exile. To the allegation of the inhabitants of Jerusalem that the exiles, being far

removed from the Temple, had forfeited the presence and protection of God, the prophet replied with the Divine message that God Himself would be a *mikdash me'at* ("a little sanctuary") to Israel in exile (Ezek. 11:15-16). This was interpreted by the rabbis to refer to the 'houses of worship and houses of learning'."

The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion, p. 369.

One of the most important results of the Jewish exile in Persia was the development of the synagogue. The origin of the synagogue is obscure. However, we believe that the rabbis are correct when they say that it was Ezra who instituted what has now become the liturgy of the synagogue. There are some elements of synagogue worship which have persisted from Ezra's time until now. A study of the eighth chapter of Nehemiah will clearly validate this fact.

When Ezra read the Law to the Israelites who had returned, "all the people [were] assembled as one man in the square before the Gate" (Neh. 8:1). It was not in the Temple so that all Israel, including men and women, all who were able to understand, could be present. It was at this assembly that worship outside of the Temple was recognized. It meant that Jews all over the Persian Empire could worship apart from the Temple.

Reading from the Law

The most important element in the synagogue service is the reading from the Law. Ezra was called by the people to read the Law. It has always been the custom of the worship in the synagogue for the congregation to call upon a reader for the portion of the Law. At some later date, readings from the Prophets were added to the liturgy. So four centuries later, our Lord "went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him" (Luke 4:16, 17).

In Neh. 8:4, it is stated that "Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion." From the earliest times it has been customary for the reader to stand on the platform (*bema*) which was in the center of the synagogue.

When Ezra opened the Torah, "the people all stood up" (vs. 5). This standing up of the people is still the custom in the synagogue.

"Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, 'Amen! Amen!'" (Neh. 8:6).

These customs still continue in Orthodox synagogues. The *Mishnah* says, "He who begins the Torah

reading, and he who finishes it, utters a blessing before and after" (Megilla 4:1). The Amen response is also still followed in Orthodox synagogues.

No one can properly understand the New Testament Scriptures without recognizing the hand of God in the development of the synagogue. It has always been the purpose of God that all men everywhere would worship Him. When mankind failed at the Tower of Babel, God chose the Jewish nation to fulfill His purpose. The Lord said to Abram, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen. 12:3).

The Great Commission

The student of the New Testament Scriptures gladly recognizes that our Lord's Great Commission to make "disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19) is inherent in the Abrahamic Covenant, "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." In spite of God's gracious calling, the descendants of Abraham sinned against God. Time after time, our Lord remonstrated with them. "From the time your forefathers left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets. But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their forefathers'" (Jer. 7:25,26).

Finally, judgment came. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed and the Jewish people were scattered all over the Babylonian Empire. It was a terrible day.

The Jews carried the Book of Law into captivity with them and they began to study it. They also studied the Prophets. They assembled on the Sabbath. Scribes made copies of the Scriptures and wherever there were Jews, they met on the Sabbath and they studied the Scriptures.

But even in judgment, God showed His mercy. In Babylon the Jews learned their lesson. The Jews carried the Book of the Law into captivity with them and they began to study it. They also studied the

continued on following page

When the disciples went to all nations, they went to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. They went to the synagogues which were scattered all over the world and in them they found many Gentiles who had become "devout converts to Judaism." When the disciples brought the Gospel "also to the Greeks," these Greeks (Gentiles) had become converts to Judaism before they were converted to our Lord.

continued from previous page

Prophets. They assembled on the Sabbath. Scribes made copies of the Scriptures and wherever there were Jews, they met on the Sabbath and they studied the Scriptures.

Synagogues and Lighthouses

Persia defeated Babylon and some of the Jews returned and rebuilt the Temple. But the vast majority of the Jews were (and still are) dispersed all over the world. Wherever there were ten or more Jewish men, there was a synagogue. In later years, these synagogues became lighthouses in the stormy sea of paganism.

In the second chapter of Daniel he praised the God of heaven. "He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning" (Dan. 2:21). In this same chapter, Daniel prophesied of a great statue, "awesome in appearance." "The head of the statue was made of pure gold" (Dan. 2:32). This was Babylon. It had a chest and arms of silver. This was Persia. It was under Persia that Jewish history was divided into two streams, the Jews in Jerusalem and Judea, and the Jews dispersed all over the world. Under the providence of God these two streams enriched and nourished each other.

Four centuries later, "when the time had fully come, God sent his Son..." (Gal. 4:4). His commission was to make disciples of all nations. When the disciples went

to all nations, they went to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Ro. 1:16 -KJV). They went to the synagogues which were scattered all over the world and in them they found many Gentiles who had become "devout converts to Judaism" (Acts 13:43, see also Acts 14:1; 17:4, 12). When the disciples brought the Gospel "also to the Greeks," these Greeks (Gentiles) had become converts to Judaism before they were converted to our Lord. Gentiles actually became Jews. When the apostles "turned to the Gentiles" they didn't have to leave the synagogue.

Between Testaments

How did this happen? The answer lies in inter-testament history. There is a blank page in our Bibles between the Old and New Testaments. This page covers four hundred years. Theologians call this period "the four silent centuries." But God was not silent during these centuries, nor was He silent about them. Daniel said, "he sets up kings and deposes them" (Dan. 2:21). He set up Nebuchadnezzar, and deposed him. He set up Cyrus and used him. He set up Xerxes and under him, "many people of other nationalities became Jews" (Est. 8:18). Persia was short-lived as an empire, just two hundred years. Daniel had mentioned another empire—Greece—the "belly and thighs of bronze" of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. God was going to set up and depose another king. Our story, "From the Exile to the Christ," has so far been located in Asia and Africa. Far away to the north and west, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, many small "city states" had been battling each other for over a century. Eventually, a leader arose who would change world history. Again Palestine would become the battleground of the world's armies. Daniel called him "a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes" (Dan. 8:5). God was going to set up and depose another king, Alexander the Great. □

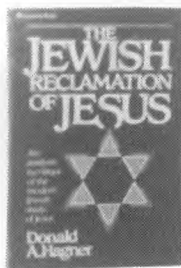
Some of the Jews returned and rebuilt the Temple. But the vast majority of the Jews were (and still are) dispersed all over the world. Wherever there were ten or more Jewish men, there was a synagogue. In later years, these synagogues became lighthouses in the stormy sea of paganism.

Value-Priced Titles

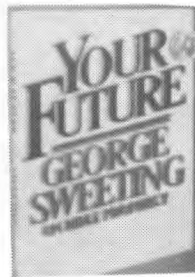
From ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries' Bookroom



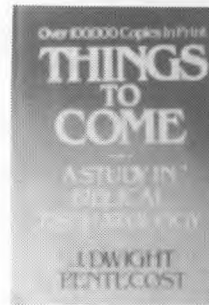
The Outpouring: Jesus in the Feasts of Israel by Elwood McQuaid An examination of Jesus' ministry and message in relation to Israel's feasts. B110
\$5.95



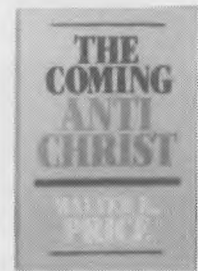
The Jewish Reclamation of Jesus by Donald Hagner Analysis and critique of the modern Jewish study of Jesus. B105
\$9.95



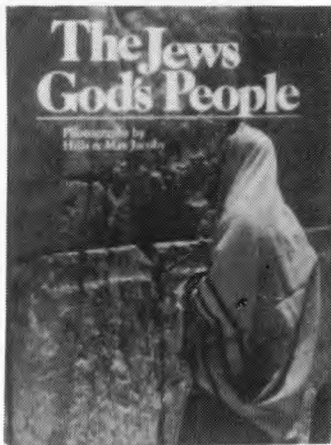
Your Future by George Sweeting What does the Bible say about prophecy? Dr. Sweeting presents an uncomplicated perspective on future prophetic events. B101
\$6.95



Things to Come by J. Dwight Pentecost A study in biblical eschatology. A welcome addition to the library of any pastor, Bible student, or seminarian. Hardcover. B14
\$17.95



The Coming Anti-christ by Walter K. Price From John Walvoord, in Moody Monthly magazine: "The best written article on this subject... in this century." B111
\$5.95



The Jews, God's People by Max and Hilla Jacoby Beautiful, full color photographs of Israel's people in oversized "coffee table" art book. Wonderful gift! B92
\$39.95



Taking a Stand by Howard Hendricks Dallas Seminary professor describes how "ordinary" people impact a generation by taking a stand. B73
\$4.95



The Coming Peace in the Middle East by Tim LaHaye LaHaye draws a scenario based on the biblical prophecies, key to interpreting today's headlines. B104
\$6.95



No Strange God by Gordon Jessup Introduces Christians to present day Judaism, the synagogue, the festivals, all customs and traditions. B57
\$3.00

On your nightable, or tied up with a ribbon for gift giving, these books will provide hours of relaxation and information. Order several now so we can be sure you'll have them for the holiday season.

ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries
Box 2000, Orangeburg, NY 10962

Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Please send me the following books:

B14 B57 B73 B101 B92 B104
 B105 B110 B111

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AB86

RECRUITED FOR GOD'S FROM THE U.S. NAVY

In his

the world searching for the meaning of life. A few years later he joined the Navy where his problems

By **LARRY JAFFREY**
Missionary, Reston, VA

Talking with Jeff was frustrating. He seemed genuinely interested in the Gospel, he listened intently, he agreed with everything I said, and he accepted Scripture as authoritative. But he couldn't accept the Lord.

Like most Jewish people, Jeff had been raised to believe that Jews don't believe in Jesus, but he had never been told why.

Searched For The Meaning Of Life

When Jeff was in his early twenties, he traveled around the world searching for the meaning of life. By his mid-twenties he decided there were no real answers, so he settled down, got married, and joined the Navy. He was in the Navy about three years when problems at home drove him once more to search for real answers.

A few years earlier his sister had come to faith, but Jeff would always cut her witness short. Now, afraid that his marital problems would interfere with his career, he didn't know where to turn.

Finally he went to his executive officer for help. This particular officer had heard me speak several months previously at a nearby church and had picked up some literature at the meeting. The officer, sensing Jeff's real need, gave him the literature. After reading the material, Jeff said he wanted to know more about it.

"But," he told his executive officer, "I think only another Jewish person

can help me."

They called me and asked if I'd be willing to meet with Jeff. I thought about it for a minute. It was almost 225 miles from my home. But then I agreed.

During our first meeting, we went through an evangelistic tract called *L'Chaim*, which outlines the steps to salvation using Old Testament Scriptures. Jeff agreed with me point by point, but hesitated to pray the prayer at the end.



Larry Jaffrey

As we went through the tract together, I could tell there was a battle raging inside of him, even though he showed no visible signs of anguish. Finally he said, "It's a big step, and I've got to think about it."

As we went through Acts 15, I saw that Jeff was listening carefully. He had a quiet, meditative spirit, and his thoughtful expression showed me he was weighing every word. I could tell a battle was raging inside of him, even though he showed no visible signs of anguish.

"I'm Jewish," he said, "and I always

continued on following page



S ARMY

early twenties Jeff traveled around
drove him to seek real answers.



Personalia



Wardell



Miller



Campos



Styler



Ennis'



Fleischers



Bells



Silvermans



Banashaks



Schwarcz



Kanters

ANNIVERSARIES:

Los Angeles based *Ruth Wardell* celebrated 40 years of service to the Lord this year.

NEW WORKERS:

Sam and Jenice Miller became our Houston area missionaries. *Michael and Sandy Campo* began ministering in Dallas. *Rob and Sharon Styler* are our new workers in Toronto.

RETIREES:

After faithful service to the Lord through this mission, *Bill and Jo Ennis* have retired from their post in Houston, as have *Jerome and Mildred Fleischer*, our workers in the San Francisco Bay area.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS:

John and Linda Bell moved from Chicago to headquarters where John has been named Missionary Director ... *Howard and Janet Silverman*

moved from Cleveland to Los Angeles where Howard has been named L.A. Area Director ... *Galen and Carol Banashak* will remain in Chicago with Galen assuming his new duties as Area Director of Toronto and Chicago ... *Roy and Joanne Schwarcz*, also remain based in Chicago as Roy becomes Midwest Regional Director ... *John and Terry Kanter* moved from Los Angeles to Chicago where Terry is Midwest Church Coordinator and John serves as a part-time missionary while attending Moody Bible Institute.

THANKSGIVING: A JEWISH HOLIDAY?

Everyone knows that Thanksgiving isn't *really* a Jewish holiday. Or is it?

Some have said that Thanksgiving's origins are in the Jewish harvest festival, Sukot. But if you've already read "Messianic Prophecy in the Tribes of Israel" elsewhere in this issue, you might already know a second reason why Thanksgiving is linked with Jewish origins.

In that article we read that the name Judah, meaning "to praise God," is the origin of the word Jew. "He is a Jew inwardly," the article reminds us, "whose praise is of God." Since Thanksgiving is the one American holiday that gives us occasion to thank and praise God, it must be a Jewish holiday!

As you celebrate the upcoming "Jewish holiday" of Thanksgiving, we hope you will join us in praising Him for the blessings He has bestowed on this ministry. Thanks to God and His working through you, many hundreds and thousands of Jewish people have heard the Gospel.

If you would like to add your own thanksgiving and become a partner in the Chosen People Ministries, Thanksgiving is a great time to do it. And have a nice Jewish holiday!

-
- Yes, I want to uphold ABMJ, making this ministry part of my prayers each day.
- Please find enclosed my gift of \$_____ in support of ABMJ's missionaries.

NAME (Please Print)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP D116



As clearly as possible I explained that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah, sent to the Jewish people first and through them to the Gentiles. Jeff had a quiet, meditative spirit, and his thoughtful expression showed me he was weighing every word.

continued from previous page

thought Jesus was for the Gentiles."

As clearly as possible I explained that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah, sent to the Jewish people first and through them to the Gentiles. I pointed out that the first debate in the Church was whether a Gentile could believe in Jesus without first becoming a Jew.

I could almost see the information

going into his mind and getting all jumbled up. No matter what I said, no matter how right it sounded, he could not accept Jesus. It was obvious that only the Holy Spirit could make everything fall into place.

Finally he said, "It's a big step, and I've got to think about it."

Nothing Left for Me to Say

I knew that there was nothing left for me to say. We prayed together, asking God to reveal Himself to Jeff, and I left.

Two days later I called Jeff to ask him what God was doing in his life.

"What did you do after I left?" I asked.

"Well, I read through the pamphlet again, and then I prayed the prayer at the end, telling God that those words were what was in my heart."

There was a brief silence before he added, "What do I have to do now?"

"Jeff," I exclaimed, "you've already done it!"

His smile seemed to come across the phone line.

"Oh," he answered, "now I understand what happened to me the other day and why things have been so different since then."

We reviewed the steps he had taken, and I explained what God was looking for in a changed heart. As he agreed to each step, I assured him from Scripture that Jesus was in his life.

Jeff is really growing in the Lord and is praising Him for how things are working out, even though things have not been easy for him and there have been a number of trials and testings.

The last time I spoke with Jeff, he said, "Larry, I just want to thank you for ABMJ and its ministry."

Imagine . . . thank *us*? I know that as I ask our *Chosen People* readers to pray for this new brother in the faith, they will agree that it is all of us who thank God for allowing us to see and share in this new life in our Messiah. □

The Withdrawable Gift Agreement

A long-time friend recently wrote that she had just received payment under a group insurance policy from her late husband's union. Since this money was unexpected, she asked if it might be "temporarily" used by ABMJ for the Lord's work. Although her financial future seemed secure, she wisely recognized that some future need might arise requiring use of that money. If not, she continued, at her death the loan could be forgiven. Our response to her question was a favorable "yes."

ABMJ/CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES does offer such a plan known as a Withdrawable Gift Agreement. Here are the highlights:

- Your gift is held in trust for your possible future need.
- We invest the money securely so it will always be available to you.
- You may specify how the earnings, less a 1% tax-deductible gift contribution, are to be applied: compounded in the account, used for current missionary support or paid to you regularly.
- You may add to your initial deposit as well as terminate the Agreement at any time.
- Upon death the total account value becomes a bequest and is used to support the front-line work of our missionaries and field evangelists.
- Your money avoids the time-consuming and expensive probate process, and becomes a charitable gift deduction for your estate.

Therefore, by means of the Withdrawable Gift Agreement, you are dedicating your financial resources to spreading the Gospel among His chosen people while wisely retaining access to that capital if later needed.

If the Withdrawable Gift Agreement might meet your needs, please write for more details and a sample Agreement: **The President, ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries, P.O. Box 2000, Orangeburg, NY 10962, or phone 914-359-8535.**

For more information about introducing your Jewish friends to the Messiah, please contact a regional director near you

WESTERN USA
WESTERN CANADA



Dr. Daniel Goldberg
20442 Sherman Way
Canoga Pk., CA 91306
818/884-8245

SOUTHWESTERN
USA



Dr. Rocky Freeman
3417 Hulen
Suite 124
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817/731-6991

MIDWESTERN USA
CENTRAL CANADA



Mr. Roy Schwarcz
6057 N. Kedzie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60659
312/338-5959

SOUTHEASTERN
USA



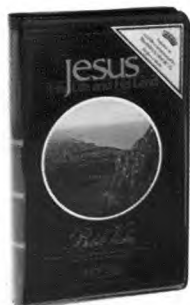
Mr. Larry Jaffrey
P.O. Box 2303
Reston
VA 22090
703/471-0163

NORTHEASTERN USA
EASTERN CANADA



Mr. Sam Nadler
250 West 57th St.
#230 New York
NY 10107
212/757-6716

If You Can't Fly To Israel These Video Programs Will Bring The Land To You



Jesus, His Life and His Land
Expertly filmed, this one-hour video explores Jesus' ministry via biblical sites and cities like Bethlehem, Capernaum, Nazareth and more.
VJES **\$29.95**

New!



Mystery of the Holyland (The Story of the True Cross)
Explores the centuries old mystery surrounding the whereabouts of the original cross. This fascinating documentary blends biblical art and dramatic recreation. **\$29.95**
VHTC

New!



The Secrets of the Pyramids
Who planned these superb structures? Who cut their mammoth stones? What secrets do these ancient skyscrapers hold? Explore Egypt's most spectacular treasures in this fascinating documentary filmed on location. VHSP **\$24.95***



The Holy Land (5000 Years an Incredible Journey) This magnificent one-hour video cassette presents ever major holy land site, from the biblical era to present day Israel.
VHOL **\$29.95**

New!



Basic Hebrew 1 & 2 A comfortable, entertaining way to learn Hebrew. Just watch, listen and enjoy. Utilizes latest educational technology to teach you 1,000 words and phrases. Filmed on location in Israel.
VHEB **Two Cassettes \$95.00****

New!



The Dead Sea in Biblical Times
The lowest place on earth, this ancient region of unparalleled beauty is where Abraham wandered, David hid, and God sent His angels to rescue Lot.
VSEA **\$24.95***

Perfect for gift giving during the holiday season, these professionally filmed videos are available on the popular VHS format.

ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries
Box 2000, Orangeburg, NY 10962

IN CANADA: Beth Sar Shalom Mission
Box 4400, Sta. 'D,' Hamilton, Ont. L8V4L8

Please send me the following videos:

VJES VHOL VHEB VHSP VHTC VSEA

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

A116

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. On foreign shipments, postage will be billed.

Canadian residents please add \$10.00 to U.S. prices, except asterisk items

Not a travelogue or a Bible lesson, these video programs show you Israel as you've never seen it before.