

THE
CHOSEN
PEOPLE

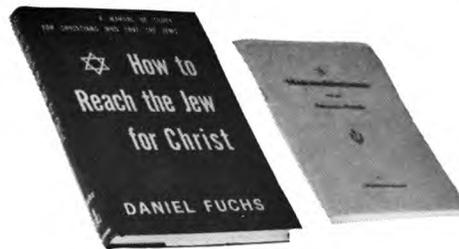
FEBRUARY • 1969

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THE CHOSEN PEOPLE: Monthly, official organ of the Mission

THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL: Bilingual monthly for Jews

SAR SHALOM PUBLICATIONS: Pamphlets for Jews in English, Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Spanish and French

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Salutation

DEARLY BELOVED FRIENDS IN THE LORD:

"So will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem." Sennacherib, the haughty King of Assyria, had invaded Palestine and was attacking Jerusalem. His army was powerful and, humanly speaking, irresistible. Instead of looking to the Lord for protection many of the leaders applied to Egypt for help. Isaiah was both an historian and a prophet. As an historian he remembered how a Pharaoh of Egypt armed with chariots drawn by horses tried to destroy the Jews (see Exodus 14:8,9).

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD (Isaiah 31:1). (New Scofield Reference Bible).

As a statesman, Isaiah realized that humanly speaking only God would be able to stem the Assyrian invasion.

As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it, and passing over he will preserve it (Isaiah 31:5).

"As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem." What a striking picture of the love of God for Jerusalem. The word flying is better translated hovering. It is feminine in the Hebrew Scriptures.

We have been watching in spring the hedge where we know is a nest. Suddenly the mother-bird, who has been sitting on a branch close by, flutters off her perch, passes backwards and forwards, with flapping wings that droop nervously towards the nest over her young. A hawk is in the sky, and till he disappears she will hover—the incarnation of motherly anxiety. This is Isaiah's figure. His native city, on which he poured so much of his heart in lyrics and parables, was again in danger. Sennacherib was descending upon her; and the pity of Isaiah's own heart for her, evil though she was, suggested to him a motherhood of pity in the breast of God. The suggestion God Himself approved. Centuries after, when He assumed our flesh and spoke our language, when He put His love into parables lowly and familiar to our affections, there were none of them more beautiful than that which He uttered of this same city, weeping as He spake: *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen gathereth her brood under her wings, and ye would not!*

George Adam Smith, *The Expositor's Bible, The Book of Isaiah*, p. 245, 246.

The doctrine of the Fatherhood of God is an abiding truth upon which we frequently meditate. I say this reverently, there is another doctrine which we often skip; that of the mother love of God. This is always shown in behalf of Jerusalem.

VOL. LXXIV—No. 6 **THE CHOSEN PEOPLE** FEBRUARY 1969

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\$1 a year

Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my LORD hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; . . . (Isaiah 49:13-16).

He who wept over Jerusalem, longing to gather her as a hen shelters her brood, has also graven her upon the palms of His hands. Throughout the ages of eternity our Lord will proclaim His love on His outstretched hands, visible proof that He was wounded for transgressions.

There is another picture painted with bold stroke in this verse, "passing over he will preserve it," literally "passing over he will deliver." The expression "passing over" is almost a technical word in the Old Testament Scriptures. It is the same word used in reference to the Passover! This picture is that of the destroying Angel going through the land and he "passed over" the doors upon which the blood had been sprinkled. This verse paints a two-fold picture of God. In one, expressing His love for Jerusalem, He is likened to a hovering bird, her breast full of maternal tenderness. In the other, He is likened to the destroying Angel Who, in delivering His people, brings judgment upon their enemies.

Within a few months Isaiah's prophecy was literally fulfilled. There was another Passover! Inside the walls of the besieged city of Jerusalem the inhabitants slept through an untroubled night of peace. They were protected by the mother love of God. Outside the walls the Lord had "passed over."

Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses (Isaiah 37:36).

I love the redundancy of the King James Version. They were not just corpses; they were dead corpses. This grammatical construction, which is not permissible in modern usage, suggests another truth. There are degrees of punishment in judgment. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

There will be a Passover in the future. Once Israel suffered in bondage in Egypt, she cried to God and God wrought deliverance through the blood of the passover lamb. Isaiah tells of another deliverance, not from slavery in Egypt but "from the four corners of the earth." Zechariah tells of another attack on Jerusalem, not by Sennacherib but by all the nations of the earth. Once again the Lord will show His mother love for Jerusalem and He will finally destroy Jerusalem's enemies.

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; . . . Then shall the LORD go forth and fight against those nations . . . (Zechariah 14:2, 3).

This is the annual report issue and again we are thrilled to report how your Mission has daily been experiencing the "mother love" of our wonderful Lord. Day by day He has faithfully supplied our every need as we seek to tell Jerusalem about her Messiah.

Faithfully yours in His Service,



Introducing Thomas G. Lawrence

We are pleased to announce that as of January 1969 DR. THOMAS G. LAWRENCE has joined the Staff of The American Board of Missions to The Jews as Field Evangelist.

Dr. Lawrence brings to the work a vast experience in pastoring, Bible conferences, and prophetic teaching. Before coming to the United States he had an extensive ministry throughout Great Britain. He is a graduate of South Wales Bible Training Institute and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary of Philadelphia. His pastorates have included those in Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut and formerly he was associated with Moody Bible Institute, serving on their Extension Staff.

Christian leaders speak of Dr. Lawrence's ministry as being helpful and God-blessed:

" . . . a splendid grasp of the Word" Dr. Charles L. Feinberg, La Mirada, California.

"His teaching meaningful . . . well portrayed." Dr. Clarence W. Jones, Quito, Ecuador.

" . . . unusual expositor of the Word . . . profound yet practical." Dr. William F. Kerr, Portland, Oregon.

"Ministry is straightforward and to the point." Dr. Robert Lancaster, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

"His method of presenting truth is fresh." Dr. Andrew Telford, Cheltenham, Pa.

"I cannot recommend this dear brother too highly." Jack Wyrzten, New York, N. Y.

Pray with us for a blessed and extensive ministry throughout the country as Dr. Lawrence expounds from the Word the place of the Jew in the plan of God.

For speaking engagements, contact Dr. Thomas G. Lawrence in care of Headquarters, New York City.

“... My Word . . . shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please” (Isaiah 55:11).



Incidents from the field

REPORTS SENT IN BY OUR WORKERS

One Step Higher

By R. TERRY DELANEY
Missionary-in-Charge, Denver, Colorado



MY hand reached toward the doorbell, but my attention focused upon something else — or was it the lack of something? Where was the *mezuzah** traditionally found

on the doorpost of a Jewish home?

It had been over a year since I presented the “Christ in the Passover” service at Holladay Baptist Church in Salt Lake City. Following the service a Christian lady introduced me to a Jewish friend whom she had brought to hear the Gospel presented through the ancient Hebrew feast.

I found Mrs. R to be friendly and interested in discussing Christ’s role as the Messiah of Israel. As we talked, I marveled at her knowledge of Christian doctrine. She explained that an interested Christian friend had placed her name on our *Shepherd of Israel* mailing list and she read the publication regularly!

Although Mrs. R was willing to discuss Christ at the church, she did not want me to call at her home.

Since a year had passed, I felt it would be good to re-establish the contact with this Jewish lady. In answer to the doorbell ring, Mrs. R invited me into her home and immediately exclaimed, “I do not intend to convert.” Her face betrayed her anxiety as she awaited my reply.

“Nor do I intend to convert you for only God can speak to one’s heart about your relationship with Him,” I replied. This remark seemed to set her at ease.

Mrs. R then began to relate her feelings about Christ. “I believe he was a very good and a very great man but no more,” she stated.

I answered, “He could only be one of three things: A liar, a paranoid, or who He claimed to be, the Son of God — the Messiah of Israel.”

“Nowhere in the Old Testament does it say that the Messiah would be the Son of God,” she retorted. I read to her out of the second chapter of Psalms. Then I turned to Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6,7, relating how the Son would be Israel’s deliverance.

Mrs. R was visibly moved by the Scripture from “her Bible.” She commented, “I cannot accept Christ now, but I can talk of Him. As I grew up my parents wouldn’t allow me to even mention the name of Jesus. Now I talk about Him, so you see I am one step closer. Who should know what tomorrow will bring!”

As I departed, our conversation turned to the missing *mezuzah*. Mrs. R told me her husband was not a religious man. The family therefore did not observe any of the religious laws or customs of Judaism. She told me her husband did not care what they did or believed and that they prided themselves on being open-minded about religious things. I asked if they were open-minded enough to consider Christ as their Messiah.

She smiled as she replied, “As I

said, I am one step closer . . . maybe someday my children, maybe even me.”

Pray that someday may come soon!

**mezuzah*: Small scroll attached to doorpost on right side of entrance to home. Contains parchment with the inscription thereupon from Deut. 6:4-11; 11:13-21.

Today Is The Day Of Salvation

By RUTH A. BACKUS
Missionary, Phoenix, Arizona



ABOUT six weeks ago a Jewish couple, who accepted Christ a year ago, telephoned and asked me to counsel with a former neighbor of theirs, a 19-year-old

Jewish girl who had to leave her home that afternoon because of family problems. A Christian home was found for her temporarily, and then another home was located where she could stay indefinitely. The young girl was so amazed by the loving interest of those who came to her rescue that she was willing to listen to them as they witnessed to her. She has been attending church, the monthly fellowships, and one of my Bible classes. One day when I visited her I gave her a Prophecy Edition of the New Testament, some of our tracts, and several copies of the *Shepherd of Israel*. She continued to ask questions.

Last Sunday night I visited a church

I have not attended for some time. After the service as I talked to the Jewish couple, this young Jewish lady appeared and it was announced that she wanted to make her decision for Jesus Christ. We were in the parking lot, and as she had a few questions, we got into the car and drove to my home. After about an hour of discussion, she said that her questions were answered and that she was now ready to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior. We knelt to pray and I told her that she should just talk to the Lord and tell Him what was on her heart. It was a most precious prayer! When she arose from her knees, she said, “My, that was hard, but I am so happy.”

As she looked back over her life she could relate many things which had been steps in bringing her to this moment of making a decision: she had once attended a Bible camp; she had questioned things about Judaism and especially the inconsistencies between preaching and practice in the local synagogue. The change in the lives of the Jewish couple who accepted Christ a year ago had a profound effect upon her, and this caused her to do much thinking about her own spiritual need. She said that all day Sunday she had wanted to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior, and yet she wanted to wait until the Passover banquet so that it would be a special occasion. I told her that we have no guarantee of tomorrow or even of today, but that the Scriptures tell us that today is the day of salvation. Please pray that her family may also accept Christ soon.

A Lonely Searching Heart Finds Rest In The Messiah

By MR. ELIEZER URBACH
Missionary
New York Headquarters District



MRS. H, WHO is in her sixties, was contacted by us while she was a patient at Columbia Hospital in New York City. It was while we were visiting a Mrs. T that we

distributed several Jewish Art Calendars among the Jewish patients in that ward. Mrs. H gladly received our calendar and was very receptive to us. After she was discharged from the hospital we were able to establish further contact and were invited to pay her a visit.

She lives with her sister in a big apartment in uptown Manhattan. She is lonely and unable to work because of poor health. She said that when she and her sister were young they always had friends in their home but now no one cares for them.

We pointed out to her that she doesn't have to be lonely, that God can be her real friend through the Messiah, the Lord Jesus. We told her the decision is hers to make whether to receive or to reject Him. She also said that she believes in God and that sometimes He answers her prayers, however she doesn't have a personal relationship with God. We gave her our testimonies of how God came into our lives and changed us and that we now have peace and real fellowship with Him through the Messiah. We told her this could be for her also, if she would only acknowledge the Messiah as her Savior and receive Him into her heart.

We tried not to press her, but explained that it is necessary to come

to God on His terms and that Jesus, the Messiah, is the only way. She was very open and receptive but could not appropriate what we were telling her. We pointed out that the Messiah, as written about in Revelation, stands at the door and knocks. We have to open the door of our hearts and invite Him in, and He promises He will never leave us nor forsake us. Then we saw that the Holy Spirit was dealing with her. She had tears in her eyes and said that she was willing to accept the Messiah to be her Master and Lord. We told her that if she was willing, she should invite Him into her life. She prayed that God would forgive her sins and that Jesus would come into her heart and be her Lord. We asked her to read several passages of Scripture relevant to what we had been explaining to her and she read these very willingly. She asked us to come back in the near future to talk with her sister.

Please pray that God will continue to work in this lonely heart and that she might share the good news of the Messiah with her family.

"God Works In Mysterious Ways His Wonders To Perform"

By KENNETH A. REEVES
Missionary, Los Angeles, California



TWELVE years ago the K family was having many serious problems and contacted me for help. The wife had suffered unmentionable atrocities inflicted in a Nazi concentration camp. I secured sufficient finances from our New York office to pay their rent and food bills. Mr. K had to care for his wife and was unable to work. After consulting with doctors, we were able to have

Mrs. K hospitalized and her husband began working to support them. As time permitted I took him to the hospital to visit his wife, and as I drove I often talked to him about Jesus Christ.

Ten years ago we left Los Angeles to serve the Mission in San Diego then later in the San Francisco area. We returned to Southern California to work with the Hollywood office in August of 1968. During this twelve-year period we heard nothing from the K family and they had not heard from us until a few weeks ago.

An advertisement appeared in a West Los Angeles newspaper a few weeks ago pertaining to a panel discussion on the subject, "Can A Jew Who is A Jew, Be A Jew?" Little did I realize that someone of my acquaintance would attend that meeting. I wasn't present at the meeting, but shortly after it was held a Jewish family called my wife and wanted to talk with me. I was out of town for a Bible Conference and my wife told them I would call upon my return to Los Angeles.

I called the family and tears came into my eyes to learn it was the K family. They thanked God, the Mission, and me for the events that have taken place in their lives. Mrs. K is a believer in Jesus Christ as her Savior and Messiah. Mr. K has made a profession of belief. They have their own business, not large, but enough for a living. We were guests in their home last week and tears welled up in their eyes as they thanked us for visiting and partaking of food in their home.

Two things were brought to my attention in this incident: first, how a little effort on our part meant so much to others; and second, how often we fail to appreciate the little things of God.

May the very presence of our Lord bless your hearts abundantly as you "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" and

that Jewish people might truly find the Prince of Peace in Jesus Christ.

Encounters On Maxwell Street

By JOHN GULLEY AND STANLEY W. MOTE
Staff workers at Aedus Center
Chicago, Illinois

Progress they say will change the face of Chicago's Maxwell Street. In the meantime, along a few blocks on Maxwell, a few hardy Jewish merchants maintain what is probably the last place of its kind in America. Here they will still keep sidewalk displays and open-air booths and compete feverishly to win the customer. Here too, can be an open door to witness for the Messiah.

Shortly after joining the work at Aedus this fall, we followed the suggestion of Harry Jacobson, the missionary in charge, that we visit some of the merchants on Maxwell Street. We went first to an indoor shop where we bought a hat. We weren't sure what to do next, but introduced ourselves as being from Aedus and the Lord gave us liberty. Once the ice was broken, we told the proprietor of the program at the Center and left an invitation to our Bible study, a Jewish Art Calendar, and literature about Israel's future. There were customers and the shopkeeper didn't talk with us, but we were encouraged to keep on.

We entered another shop and browsed, and a salesman came over to us. We introduced ourselves and told him about our Bible studies and shared our concern regarding Israel's future. A Jewish saleslady also joined the conversation and accused us of being missionaries trying to "convert" people. She was of Orthodox faith and insisted that Judaism was not "missionary." Her hostility made it difficult to continue talking with the man, so we left literature.

We then visited some of the outdoor stands but most of these were begin-

ning to close as the section is dangerous after dark. We were able to pass out literature and met one man who really wanted to know why we were there. He was willing to talk as he closed up his booth.

This gentleman said he had been in Europe during World War II. Although he gave no details, it was obvious that he had seen great suffering. He claimed to have studied the Hebrew Bible and Talmud thoroughly, and he had "glanced at" the New Testament. In spite of his religious knowledge, his experiences had apparently embittered him for he said, "Science proved all religion was just belief."

We shared our testimony of finding

God through the Messiah, but he doubted that any belief could help him. However, he was willing to concede that it had helped us. John asked him if he thought he had a responsibility to God, and showed him various Scriptures. He told us that anything could be proven from the Bible, and then he had to close shop and leave. We left the literature we had with us and made our departure thankful for the opportunities to witness and for the willingness of this man to listen and tell us how he felt.

We trust that we and other workers will have opportunities to follow this up and pray that the Holy Spirit will open hearts as the Word of God is shared with these Jewish people.

A Double Event with Blessings

By MRS. DAVID WOODS, Mpls/St. Paul Branch

A double event took place for our children recently. A birthday and Hallowe'en were celebrated together amidst giggles, laughter, games, traditional dunking of apples, blowing out candles on the birthday cake, and selecting a prize costume. Needless to say, all won — hands down! The Lord blessed our hearts when the children thoughtfully set aside cake and candy for the two children absent because of sickness.

From their Bible lesson the children were amazed to learn the many ways and methods that Satan uses to confuse, tempt, and make them act contrary to God's Word. It was a special blessing for the teacher to see one pair of eyes "glued" to the flannelboard as God's Word was explained for the first time to a seven-year-old Jewish lad. Unless he continues to attend Bible classes at Beth Sar Shalom, he won't hear about God again until he begins Hebrew School in two more years. Pray that his mother will allow him to come to the meetings and that he will receive all that God has for him.



An Expanding Witness

By Rev. and Mrs. ROBERT E. A. MILLER, Missionaries
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL TRIALS and "kinks" in the work here notwithstanding, we praise God for the expanding witness to an ever-increasing band of Jewish people. Rarely does a day go by without some curious and unbelieving Jewish person either calling or coming here to the Center to ask questions, seeking answers to some of life's dilemmas. How we need the prayers of our faithful Christian friends for the salvation of these sons of Jacob who have had the witness of Messiah clearly presented to them.

Rejoice with us in the salvation of a Jewish lady in her early forties. She has heard the Christian message and grappled for nearly three years with the question of whether or not Christ is the Jewish Messiah. A few months ago the scales fell from her spiritual eyes and she claimed Him as her Savior. Pray with us as we seek to feed her the Word and cultivate her spiritual growth.

We are at a critical stage in the witness to Mr. G who is under deep conviction but is terribly hung up on his own intellectual rationale. Claim his salvation as you praise God for the answer to prayer.

Miss G has as much as admitted she knows Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah of her Jewish people. Her next step of believing Him to be her own Savior is not far away. Join us in praying her over that line!

We have a great burden for the Jewish youth of our city, but our contacts are greatly limited at the moment. Our son has been witnessing to a school chum who has become deeply interested in who Christ really is. He comes to activities here at the Center as often as his parents will permit but lately that has not been often. They are fearful that their son is going to be "converted" so they devise any means to forbid his coming. Pray for the overcoming power of God's Spirit to work in this young man and his family.

Another high schooler told us at the close of last Family Night that he was going to ask his rabbi why he hadn't been taught some of the things from the Old Testament that he's heard at our Center. Apparently he did go to his rabbi for we haven't heard from or seen the boy since. He needs your prayers.

We rejoice in the recent salvation of a young Jewish mother who is now attending the Thursday night Bible study class. After a year of growing friendship with her Gentile Christian neighbor, during which time they read and studied together the Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus Christ, Mrs. T gave her heart to Him. Pray for us and for her as we seek to instruct her in the things of God. Pray for the salvation of her husband who is bitterly opposed to her commitment to Jesus as Messiah and Savior. Only God will be able to effect a breakthrough to this man's hardened heart.

Seventy-Fourth Annual Financial Report

American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc.

This report shows the allocation of the receipts and disbursements of the Operating Fund for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1968, as recorded on the books at Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL, *Treasurer*

RECEIPTS

Funds:	
General	\$1,026,017.97
Branches:	
Brooklyn, N.Y.; Chicago, Ill.; Columbus, Ohio; Coney Island, N.Y.; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colo.; Flushing, N.Y.; Hollis, N.Y.; Huntington, N.Y.; Kansas City, Kan.; Levittown, N.Y.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Miami, Fla.; Minneapolis, Minn.; New York, N.Y.; North Jersey, N. J.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rochester, N.Y.; San Diego, Calif.; San Francisco, Calif.; South Jersey, N.J.; Washington, D.C.	75,508.06
Foreign Missionary and Relief Work	5,948.64
Missionary Literature:	
The Chosen People	\$ 11,584.00
The Shepherd of Israel	1,529.50
Bibles, New Testaments, and Tracts	15,757.30
	28,870.80
Radio Ministry	3,251.02
Student Training and Missionary Institute	1,826.25
Children's Work	1,492.00
Relief for Needy Christian Jews	1,349.50
	1,349.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,144,264.24

ACCOUNTANT'S CERTIFICATE

American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc.:

We have examined your accounts maintained at Headquarters for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1968. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. It was not practicable for us to extend our examination of contributions beyond accounting for the receipts as recorded.

Our report thereon includes financial statements covering not only the receipts and disbursements of the operating fund, as set forth herewith, but also your trust funds and investment fund. The accounts are kept on a cash basis with the costs of certain building renovations amortized annually. Assets such as furniture and fixtures, office and motor equipment, have been expensed upon acquisition.

In our opinion, the accompanying statement presents fairly the cash receipts and disbursements of the operating fund for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1968.

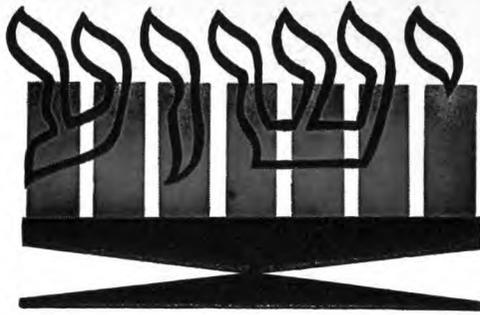
PATTERSON & RIDGWAY
Certified Public Accountants

December 12, 1968
New York, N. Y.

DISBURSEMENTS

Missionary and Evangelistic:	
Branches:	
Salaries and other expenses	\$ 513,285.67
Other general missionary activities in the United States of America:	
Salaries — missionaries and field workers, retirement insurance and social security, transportation and other expenses	112,532.23
Foreign Missionary and Relief Work:	
Israel, South America, European and Canadian fields	56,636.10
Missionary Literature:	
The Chosen People	\$ 87,435.66
The Shepherd of Israel	19,341.74
Bibles, New Testaments, and Tracts ..	87,761.45
	194,538.85
Radio Ministry:	
The Chosen People <u>Broadcasts</u>	48,164.10
Student Training and Missionary Institute:	
Jewish students supported in part or in full, in training for Jewish Missionary work; also maintenance of Missionary Institute	23,758.66
Bible Conferences	31,945.69
Children's Work:	
Evangelistic, educational, handicraft and recreational supplies, outings, and Camp Sar Shalom	14,702.87
Relief to Needy Christian Jews	11,313.12
	11,313.12
TOTAL MISSIONARY AND EVANGELISTIC DISBURSEMENTS	1,006,877.29
Administration:	
Salaries — Administrative and Office ..	90,594.85
Leopold Cohn Memorial Building:	
Maintenance, fuel, building supplies, insurance, repairs, replacements, etc.	8,184.78
General:	
Maintenance, equipment, supplies, postage meter, postage, printing, stationery, legal and auditing fees, and all items not properly chargeable to other classifications	40,193.78
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION DISBURSEMENTS	138,973.41
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,145,850.70

“... the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord ...” (I Kings 17:16).



Jewish Notes BY ALTHEA S. MILLER

Who Is A Jew?

Of all the problems facing the Jewish world today, none is more vexing than the as-yet unanswered question, Who is a Jew? Answers have been propounded: if one is born of a Jewish mother; if one has embraced the Jewish faith; if one is nationalistic — a believer in and associate of the Jewish State, Israel. Yet all those answers have been subject to angry attack.

Suppose the mother is Jewish but her offspring declares himself an atheist. Is he still a Jew? Is Jewishness contingent upon physical background rather than faith? If religious faith is unimportant, why is a Jew who has embraced the Christian faith sometimes denied citizenship in Israel even though he was born of a Jewish mother? If faith in the God of Jacob is not important to Jewishness, just so one has a Jewish mother, can a Gentile become a Jewish proselyte without believing in the Jewish religion? Suppose a given Jewish mother is either an atheist or a Christian; into what category is her offspring fitted?

The *Jerusalem Post* reports that a Jewish naval officer has requested that his children be registered as being of Jewish nationality, despite the fact that their mother is neither Jewish nor religious. The Attorney-General argued against the case by insisting that

Jewish religion and nationality are inseparable. According to his understanding of this legal involvement, Jewish nationality cannot be claimed in any case where the mother is not a Jew by faith, because according to Jewish law (halacha) the children take the religion of their mother. Such reasoning raises the inevitable question: Suppose the mother has no religious faith although she is a Jew by birth?

It is easy to see how reason can paint itself right into a corner when the question of Jewishness is grappled with out of context. No logical resolution to this dilemma is available apart from God's calling of Abraham to become the head of a nation, which in turn would be the people through whom God's redemption would come, even Messiah.

How readily the controversy could be settled if the Word of God were believed. "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly . . . But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Romans 2:28, 29).

American Campus Threat to Jewish Survival?

According to a New York rabbi, the four-year stay of Jewish youth on

American campuses poses a threat to Jewish survival. The rabbi gave as one chief reason for his deduction the lack of basic grounding in Jewish heritage and its values on the part of Jewish college professors.

This sad lack on the part of Jewish intellectuals renders them powerless to guide and advise the thousands of Jewish youth pursuing higher education on American campuses.

More Dialogue?

An organization formed last year by Roman Catholic bishops of America has recently called on Catholics to take the initiative in promoting Catholic-Jewish understanding.

Although the Catholic Church feels that Catholic-Jewish relations were never better, it is the Bishops' consensus that most Jews and Christians are indifferent about developing any understanding of each other.

The Beginning of the End?

It seems quite obvious that not all Arabs take seriously the Biblical instruction to the Jews that they are to build a homeland from "this Lebanon even unto the great river, . . . Euphrates . . . and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast" (Joshua 1:4). Among many thoughtful Arabs who may not like it, there are those who are worried that this phrase does appear in the Old Testament, according to a recent report out of Israel.

In 1949, former Prime Minister David Ben Gurion said that Israel's policy "consists of bringing all Jews to Israel . . . We are still at the beginning." Since the founding of the nation the call has gone out to world Jewry: "Come home. Eretz Israel needs you." Although the return to the land has lagged from time to time, especially from nations where Jews have been happily situated, the aliyah

has received great impetus since the Six Day War of 1967.

"We are still at the beginning" is as true today of Israel's part in the prophetic picture as it was when those words were spoken. Great and awesome days lie ahead for this tiny land which is called "the navel of the earth." As the problems of the unified Jerusalem are grappled with, never were the words of the Psalmist more pertinent than today: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" (Psalm 122:6).

Adat Ashrey Ha'am

According to the Washington, D. C. press, a group of Jewish men and women living in the area have been meeting together as an informal, non-organized congregation since the fall of 1967. The only formality to which they subscribe is the name above, which they translate as: "Happy are the people."

The leader and organizer of the group explained that they do everything as a group. The evening meetings are arranged for discussion, stressing the fact that religion is a community experience the way they view it. They have compiled their own prayer book and use it as a learning tool. It is loose-leaf for easy changes and additions.

These home meetings have developed with one big purpose in mind — a way to seek a meaningful Judaism. It is expected of all who attend that they will participate in the various discussions. In fact, members are urged to suggest topics for discussion that would be of particular interest to themselves.

Thus does modern, sophisticated Jewry reach out for meaning to life and faith. If only they would hear the voice of Him who said, "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Questions & Answers

By HENRY J. HEYDT, Th.D.



Question: *How long did it take Moses to take the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land before God turned them back to wander in the wilderness for forty years?*

Answer: One of the best summaries of the wilderness wanderings is to be found in *Hurlbut's Bible Atlas* published by Rand McNally. The journey to Mount Sinai is given as occupying two months and a half. A year was spent at and around Mount Sinai and then the journey was resumed to Kadesh-barnea. The account goes on to say: "Twice the Israelites were encamped at Kadesh, which marked the beginning and the end of the thirty-eight years' wandering in the Wilderness of Paran. From Kadesh the twelve spies were sent northward into the land of Canaan, and the adverse report of ten of them caused such terror and rebellion in the host that God declared that they should not enter the Promised Land until all of that generation should have passed away (Num. 13,14). They were ordered to turn back into the wilderness, but disobeyed and, against their leaders' advice, tried to force a passage to Canaan, probably up the passes Sufa. But the inhabitants of the mountains (Amorites, Canaanites, and Amalekites in alliance) attacked them to their utter defeat at Hormah, and barred their entrance to the land through

the South Country, as the warlike Philistines had closed it against them by the way of the plain by the sea (Exod. 13:17). Discouraged and despairing, the Israelites turned their faces once more toward the terrible Wilderness of Paran."

* * * *

Question: *1 John 4:1 tells us to try the spirits. How do we do this?*

Answer: The word "try" is probably better rendered as "prove." We are to prove or test the spirits because of the many false prophets that are in the world. The test that John gives us in verse 2 is whether or not they confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. See 2 John 7. This refers not to the mere statement of the fact but that it constitutes a vital and basic truth which is deliberately and firmly maintained. It is the truth a person would die for. It does not say that Jesus Christ has come "into flesh" as though it was something He merely temporarily assumed, but He came "in flesh" just as John states it in his Gospel when he writes in 1:14, "the word became flesh" (*egeneto*). This represents a belief in a real and absolute incarnation which is essential to the entire doctrine of the atonement, God manifest in flesh. It is an affirmation of the fact that God and man became one in the person of the Lord Jesus

Christ. It is a test relating to the PERSON of Christ as Peter points out in 2 Peter 2:1. It parallels what Paul states in 1 Corinthians 12:3, "that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord (Jehovah), but by the Holy Ghost." This is likewise the true significance of Romans 10:9 where Jesus is confessed as Lord (Jehovah) and where this is associated with His resurrection which would not have been possible apart from there having been a true incarnation and which would have been necessitated by it.

* * * *

Question: *Could John 10:16, "other sheep I have, which are not of this fold," mean those on other planets besides the Gentiles in our world?*

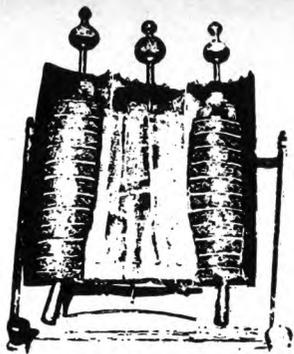
Answer: It is true that with the advancing of time many Scriptures come into new focus. I rather doubt, however, that John 10:16 has reference to life on other planets. A comparison of this verse with Isaiah 56:8 would indicate that the Gentiles are intended. The program of redemption as presented in Scripture is related to the human race as the offspring of Adam. Other created beings, as the angels who sinned, do not come within its scope. See particularly Romans 5:12-21.

* * * *

Question: *In Matthew 10:16 why does Christ say to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves when He could have used Solomon as an example of wisdom?*

Answer: The wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ was greater than that of Solomon (Matthew 12:42). Therefore, rather than questioning His wisdom in the use of the analogy of Matthew 10:16, let us seek to search out its depths. The serpent was known for its wisdom (called subtlety in Genesis 3:1) and the dove for its

simplicity (referred to as "silly" in Hosea 7:11). The two aspects are contrasted by Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:3 where we have the subtlety of Satan and the simplicity in Christ. A comparison of the two is made in the Midrash Rabba on Exodus 14:15: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me?" "Said R. Johanan: God addressed Israel: 'O my dove,'... The Holy One, blessed be He, said: 'With me they are like a simple dove, for they obey and do all that I decree upon them; but against idolaters they are stubborn as beasts,' for it says, *Judah is a lion's whelp* (Gen. XLIX,9), *Benjamin is a wolf that raveneth* (ib. 27), *Dan shall be a serpent in the way* (ib. 17)." In *Shir hashirim Rabba* it states: "Ye shall be towards me as upright as doves; but towards the Gentiles, as cunning as serpents." In these two quotations the opposite characteristic of these creatures are seen, but the Lord Jesus Christ brings them together. The wisdom of the serpent is balanced by the simplicity of the dove. Furthermore, the symbols used in the verse deal with the animal world. It would have been a strange analogy indeed if Christ had said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as Solomon, and harmless as doves." Being harmless as doves would seem to call forth that particular characteristic of wisdom in a serpent which causes it to quietly glide away when danger is near. This is beautifully expressed in The Lutheran Commentary as follows: "On account of its gentle traits, the Lord presents the dove as an image of the candor, sincerity and purity of the motives by which He desires the disciples to be characterized (comp. Phil. 2:15, 2 Cor. 1:12). He teaches them that they should not needlessly provoke opposition to the Gospel by any imprudence, by passion or by selfish feelings on their part."



Israel's Inalienable Possessions

DAVID BARON

CHAPTER IV

The Shekinah Glory And The Covenants

"The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night departed not from before the people."

"Nevertheless, I will remember My covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant."

The third of the "gifts" enumerated in our Scriptures as constituting part of Israel's high calling of God, is expressed in the words, "and the glory." This, of course, refers to the glory of the personal Presence of Jehovah in their midst, which distinguished and separated Israel from all other peoples (Ex. 33:16) — that wonderful Shekinah, the visible symbol of which was the cloud of glory and pillar of fire, which went before them in all their wilderness experiences, and which never utterly left them, in spite of all their forwardness and sins; the glory which in the Tabernacle and in the first Temple dwelt between the cherubim, as the visible demonstration of His covenant relations with that people.

Well may their great lawgiver exclaim, in view of this special relationship of Jehovah to His people, "Happy" (or, "oh, how happy," or "blessed") "art thou O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by Jehovah, the Shield of thy help, and who is the Sword of thy excellence"—"for ask now of the days that are past which

were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other where hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it? Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire as thou hast heard, and live? or hath God assayed to go and take Him a nation by temptations, by signs and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched-out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that Jehovah your God did for you?" (Deut. 33:29; 4:32-34).

At present, and ever since the commencement of "the Times of the Gentiles" with the Babylonian captivity, the glory has departed from Israel, and since then the word "Ichabod" is written over their whole history. "Where is the glory?"—their land is laid waste, their Temple destroyed, themselves scattered and tossed about among the nations. But this "Ichabod" period will not last for ever.

The same prophet, Ezekiel, who in the earlier chapters of his prophecy describes the slow, reluctant departure of the glory of Jehovah from the midst of His people, sees also its return from the same direction from which he saw it depart—a vision, this, of the appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus

Christ, when His blessed "feet" shall "in that day" stand again "upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east."

But when the glory of the personal Presence of Jehovah-Jesus shall thus be revealed so that all flesh may see it together, even as the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken—Israel and Jerusalem will again be the centre of it, and the word will yet go forth: "Cry out and shout, thou inhabitress of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee" (Isa. 12:6). Not till then, not till "out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God doth shine," will the ancient promise be fulfilled, that the glory of Jehovah shall cover this earth even as the waters cover the sea: "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples, but Jehovah shall rise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and (then) nations shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising" (Isa. 60:1-3). Truly great and wonderful is the "gift," or privilege, expressed in the words, "Theirs is the glory."

"And the Covenants."—This is the fourth item in the summary of the "gifts and calling" which God irrevocably bestowed upon the chosen nation; and at the remembrance of it the Psalmist may well sing:

*"Glory ye in His Holy Name;
Let the heart of them rejoice that seek
Jehovah, . . .
He remembers His covenant for ever,
The word which He commanded to a
thousand generations—
Which (covenant) He made with
Abraham.
And His oath unto Isaac;
And confirmed the same unto Israel
for an everlasting covenant;
Saying, Unto thee I will give the land
of Canaan,
The lot of your inheritance."*

(Ps. 105:3,8-11)

Yes, this covenant with Abraham still stands, and will "to a thousand generations," for it was absolute and unconditional, and was renewed again and again to Isaac and to Jacob, and confirmed by oath by the God who cannot lie, and who pledged His own existence for its certain fulfillment. And one chief item guaranteed in this covenant is Israel's ultimate permanent possession of "the land of Canaan as the lot of their inheritance," so that we may confidently look forward to the certain fulfillment of it, in spite of those who, in opposition to God's promise and oath, boldly deny that the Jews ever will be restored, or that there is a national future for Israel at all.

But it is not only that one unconditional everlasting covenant which He made with Abraham, and which He renewed to Isaac and Jacob, that the Apostle has in his mind. "Theirs are the covenants," he says—for all the covenants which God, in His great condescension, made with man since Abraham, were made with them, and primarily belong to them.

Christians sometimes speak of the Jews as the "people of the Old Covenant," in contradistinction to themselves as the people of "the New Covenant"; but we have only to turn up the original records of the new covenant to see that, nationally, God did not make this covenant with the English, or French, or Germans, or Russians; but "the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah" (Jer. 31:31-34).

It is true that, as individuals, men of all nations are, through their union with our Lord Jesus Christ, grafted on to the olive tree of Israel's covenanted mercies, and, together with the remnant of the nation, even now partake of the root and fatness of the Jewish olive tree—thus anticipating the time

when "all Israel shall be saved" (Heb. 8). But this inclusion of Gentile believers who were formerly "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise," in no wise affects the purpose of God in relation to Israel *nationally*. Theirs are "the covenants"; and as sure as there is a God of truth, every item and promise in those covenants, from the highest and greatest contained in the words—"I will forgive

their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more; I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be My people; they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them"—down to the minutest promise in reference to the possession of their land, and their future national prosperity in it, shall all be fulfilled in His own good time.

(Continued in March Issue)

Jack Bono's Testimony

I was born in Corrientes, Argentina and raised in a Jewish home. At the age of eight I moved with my family to Casablanca in Morocco. After the Arab revolution in 1956, my wife and I decided to come to this country.

I wanted all the time to better myself and in so doing, pushed myself so hard that I suffered a breakdown and was hospitalized for three years. I was seriously ill and the doctors gave up all hope for my recovery.

In the meantime, we were forced to move to a small house where we rented the first floor apartment. Our neighbor upstairs was a Hebrew Christian woman and she invited my wife to attend a meeting with her at Beth Sar Shalom. The missionaries in charge were so kind and helpful to my wife that she became interested in the Word of God.

One day my wife and a missionary from Beth Sar Shalom came to visit me at the hospital and gave me a few tracts to read. At the beginning I did not pay attention to the content of these tracts, but my wife told me how miracles could be performed if I only would place all my trust in God.

I was coming home on a "pass" every weekend and that is how I met Rev. Johnson. He came to pick me up at the hospital and take me home to spend the weekend with my family.

I was impressed by Mr. Johnson's dedication to people and his everlasting kindness and understanding which made him so different from many others.

One Saturday night my wife and I were invited to a church in Mt. Lebanon where they were showing the film, "I Found My Messiah." I was so deeply moved by the story of this young man who came to know the Lord, despite all of his family opposition, that as I watched the film I put all my trust on the Lord and asked Him to come into my heart.

Since that night my life has been completely changed. By accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, I was taken out of darkness and confusion and led into the path of righteousness and wisdom. I also received the most precious gift of all: "Life Eternal."

I want to thank with all my heart, the American Board of Missions to the Jews and also all the Christians for their continuous efforts in bringing me the Gospel of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The day will come when all of the Jewish people, wherever they may be, will get out of darkness, just as I did. They will look up to their Jewish Messiah, Yeshuah Hamashiah, for their eternal salvation. Amen.

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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