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HEBREW CHRISTIAN PASSOVER HAGGADAH

Compiled by Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum



Next month is Passover and the first night is on March 26th.

For the Hebrew Christian this Haggadah has retained the beauty of the Orthodox Seder but has brought it into conformity with faith in Christ our Passover.

For the Gentile Christian it shows how Christ is the Lamb of God and the fulfillment of the Old Testament festival type.

Price **\$2.00**

American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc.
P.O. Box 1331, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632

In Canada: Beth Sar Shalom Mission, Inc.
39 King William St., Hamilton, Ont., L8R 1A1

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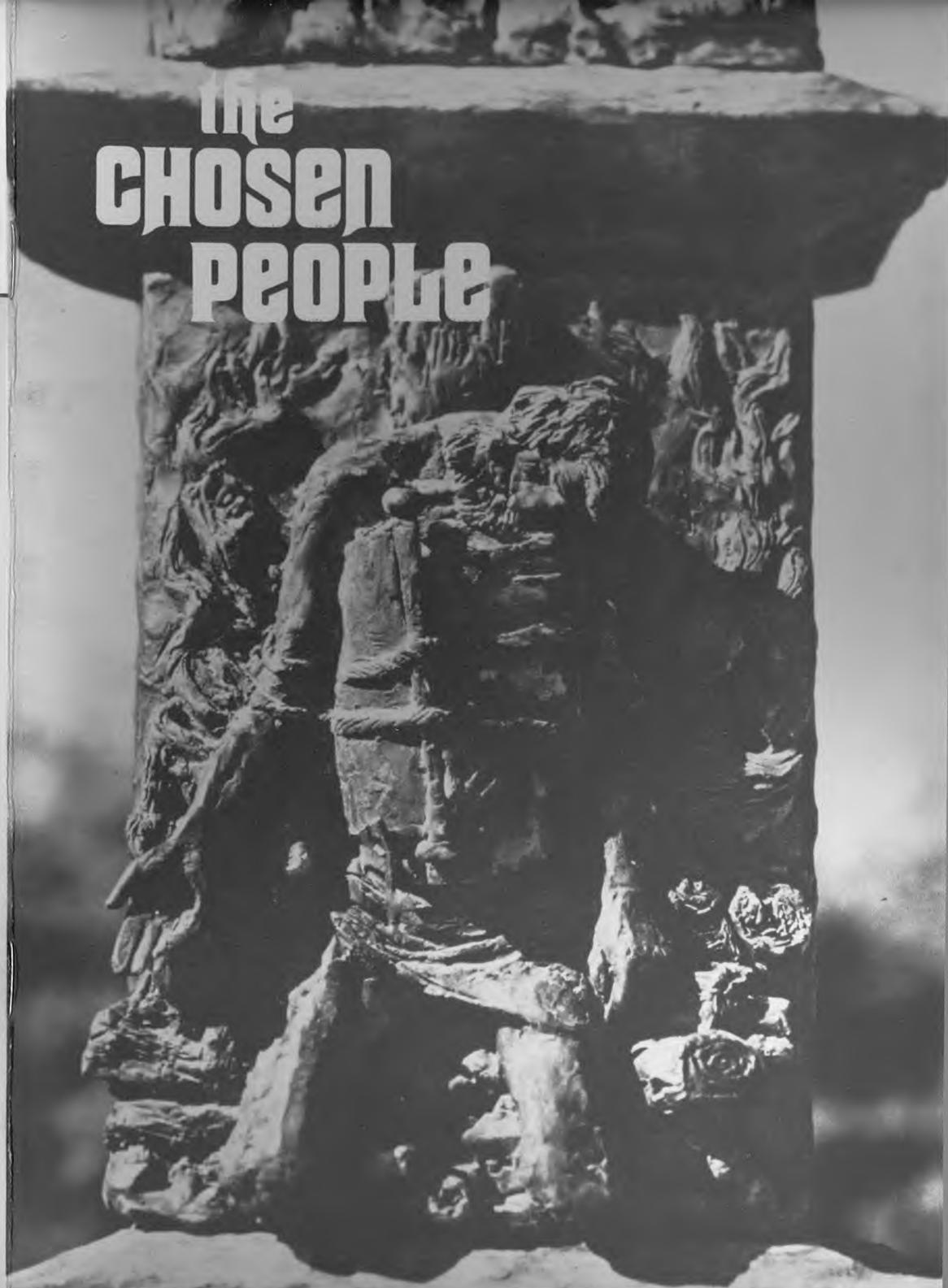
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The CHOSEN PEOPLE





RABBI HANINA DYING FOR TEACHING TORAH

When the Romans passed a law forbidding Jews to study the Scriptures, Rabbi Hanina gallantly continued to teach the Torah (the Mosaic Law) to his congregants. Caught in the act by Roman authorities, he was executed by being burned at the stake with the Torah scroll wrapped around his body.



THE CHOSEN PEOPLE is published monthly, September to June, as a medium of information concerning the Jews, Israel and the work of the

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Beloved Friends:

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house." I wonder whether Peter, when he wrote these words, was thinking about what the Lord Jesus Christ said to him years ago at Caesarea Philippi. After Peter's great confession, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God" (Mt. 16:16), our Lord told him, "Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." (Mt. 16:18). At that time Peter understood very little what it meant. But as an aged man, years of labor, experience, and sorrow distilled the meanings of the words; and he gave them an entirely different application. (One that is better than what his "successors" gave them.)

As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him — you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ [1 Peter 2:4,5]. The New Testament, New International Version.

It is surely legitimate to hear him saying in these words: 'Make no mistake, it is Jesus Himself on whom the Church is built. The confession of Him which the Father in heaven revealed to me, not I, the poor sinner who confessed it — the Christ whom that confession set forth, He is the foundation stone, and all of you are

called and honoured to ring out the same confession. Jesus is the one Foundation, and we all, apostles and humble believers, are but stones builded on Him.' Peter's relation to Jesus is fundamentally the same as that of every poor soul that 'comes to' Him.

Alexander Maclaren, *Expositions of Holy Scripture*. Vol. 11, p. 86.

The Lord's Provision For All Our Needs

This is the Annual Report Issue of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE. On pages 10 and 11 you will find a report of our stewardship. To many people these are merely figures, but we must realize that they are much more than that. I am asking that you translate the figures from dollars and cents into flesh and blood, actually into "living stones." (See Ephesians 2: 20-22.) Look at the column, "Sources of Income." This is more than dollars and cents! It represents the faithful loving gifts of thousands of "living stones" all over the world who not only give to us, but also pray for us. It is also the marvelous and abundant provision of the One, the "chief cornerstone, elect precious" (1 Peter 2:6) for all of our needs. In the midst of spiralling prices and seemingly unbounded inflation we have our problems, but we praise the Lord for

Him Who supplies "all our needs according to his riches."

Faithful Stewards For Our Lord

Look also at the column "Application of Funds." Realize that this splendid report is made possible by those "living stones," the Board of Directors of the Mission. I sometimes think they are "whetstones" as they sharpen the knives. But they do insist on a balanced budget, and it is due to their labors that none of the whittling has been in our ministry or staff. In fact, we have been able to grant our staff, who also are "living stones," a small, but necessary, cost-of-living allowance.

Read the report and realize also that the Lord is now building His "spiritual house." Solomon's Temple had a stone foundation. We, too, build on the rock foundation which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ [1 Cor. 10:4].

He is the foundation upon which we build.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ [1 Cor. 3:11].

Solomon's temple not only had a stone foundation; its material was also stone. The members of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ are called "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5). As the Rock is living Rock, so the stones are living stones. Just as the stones partook of the nature of the

foundation, so do the members of the Church of Christ partake of His nature.

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature [2 Peter 1:4].

The stones were costly stones (1 Kings 7:11); believers are bought with a great price (1 Cor. 6:20). The stones were selected and prepared beforehand; as believers we have been chosen before the foundation of the world.

And how those "stones" fit together! One "stone" from Athens fits in perfectly with the one from Buenos Aires, and they all fit together with the children who received the Lord at our camp last year!

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord [Eph. 2:21].

Above all, look at the report and realize that by God's grace we are quarrying "living stones" for eternity. In Solomon's Temple there was not heard the sound of hammer, axe, or any tool while the house was being built. So by God's grace, we labor in the quarries, and the "living stones" are being set in their places by the silent, omnipotent energy of the Holy Spirit. It is in His Name we happily present our report.

Faithfully yours in His service,

Samuel Tuck


THE LITERATURE MINISTRY

By Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, Editor

Does the literature ministry have any effect in Jewish evangelism? YES! We recently received the following letter we wish to share with our CHOSEN PEOPLE family.

Dear Sirs:

Thanks for the calendar. I am writing to you to announce what is a major episode of my 48 years. But first let me say that I have been getting mail from Sar Shalom regularly for some 2-3 years. I have always read this literature with great interest, but with a bit of skepticism.

I have also read my accounts of Jewish history over the past decade or two. (I am a teacher in the public school of ----- Ca.) I recently read *The Passover Plot* by Schoenfield, the English historian, twice. Now I have made the decision, I HAVE ACCEPTED JESUS CHRIST AS THE TRUE MESSIAH. I have done this on my own and hold his soul in my heart. This is because, at this point in time, for me, this is how I feel. But I restate in no uncertain terms that Jesus was the long-awaited Hebrew Messiah.

Naturally, I am not giving up Judaism to be a Christian only, but rather, a Jewish follower who holds God Almighty as number 1, above all else, and the man known as

Jesus as His true son through the womb of Mary. Anyway, that's it; as of 5 days ago. Already my world is changing. I am a "completed Jew" as the words go, and I have never before felt so good and at peace.

Will you please send all the literature you have, so I can read voraciously the accounts you have to offer. I may not agree with some of your publications, but there is one thing I find irrevocable, that God did provide His chosen people with the Messiah about two thousand years ago.

Sincerely,

Mal -----
Amen!



OUR INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

Jerusalem Israel



Jacob and Leah Goren

To the glory of God and by His help, our activities during these past months took many directions. We held several baptismal services. I would like to tell you how one couple came to take this step.

They came from the Diaspora, speaking French, so that we had no common language with them. They introduced themselves as believers and our French speaking members conversed with them. Our members presented them to the congregation, and they were accepted. On one Saturday when I was the preacher, I brought a Bible study on, "Who is a follower of Christ?" One of my points was on the necessity of water baptism as a public profession of acceptance of Christ and identification with Him. After the meeting this man came to me (now speaking in Hebrew) and said, "Thank you for that message. I want to be baptized." We arranged a service and he and his wife were baptized. This is a family with three lovely boys and we thank God for them.

Always on Saturdays we have good meetings, often attended by many visitors, a good part of them young people.

Our prayer meeting and Bible study during the week are attended by a comparative few as people are busy and working hard.

With regard to our camp this past season, we had received many threatening letters and we preceded camp by months of prayer. You can imagine our joy then, when we could thank the Lord that not one threat-

ening incident had taken place during the entire time. Ten days after camp, we received a telephone call from a reporter of one of the Hebrew newspapers. He had heard that we were holding a conference of Christian workers in our home and preparing plans to hold a camp for Jewish youth! My answer was very short. "You missed the train." I didn't enlighten him with any explanations. The announcements about camp had been sent out to interested families and churches some months previously. The fact that the papers did not hear of this until after camp was a proof to us that we were under God's protection.

An outstanding feature of our camp this year was the wonderful cooperation from other believers, helping with teaching, crafts, cooking, cleaning, and defense! Yes, the question of defense was not an imaginary problem. Every morning around six I was there to check every stick and stone, both outside and inside the compound before I let the children in. We kept the gate closed and opened it only upon identification of the one who wanted to come in. Praise the Lord for His protection, approval and blessing.

Please continue praying for our meetings, camp plans, and opportunities in visiting. Shalom!



Dr. Joseph Alkahe

The chapel was filled to capacity. The occasion of a wedding of young Jewish believers had drawn to the tent-like assembly hall a large crowd. Friends and relatives had flocked to see the bride and groom. The bride had been educated at the local Baptist school and was a true child of God. Her father who lived some miles to the north was a religious Jew, respectful of inherited tradition. He had remarried after the death of his first wife and had since then kept his daughter at a distance especially since she had embraced the faith of the believers. The groom came from an Orthodox Jewish family.

All was set for the ceremony, but the bride's parents were missing. After an hour delay, the public was showing signs of impatience. I, in my capacity of local pastor to solemnize the wedding, decided we could not delay any longer. One of the deacons accepted the responsibility of the father's role for the occasion. At this juncture, misgivings crept into my heart. Did I really know the father's attitude to his daughter's marriage? I had understood he approved, but how did he react to a marriage of Hebrew Christians? Would he regard it valid? Would his reluctance keep him away from the ceremony?

The traditional wedding tune sounded and the couple made their

Tel Aviv Israel

way before me and the ceremony went smoothly until the point where the bride and groom were to pledge themselves to live as husband and wife — when suddenly the bride's father appeared in the entrance, and stopped abruptly. A flash of anger contorted his face and he shouted at me, "How dare you do that before my arrival?" Unable to contain himself he burst out of the hall and into the yard yelling wild curses. He continued screaming as he gradually walked off down the street and vanished.

The audience was frozen and I stood wordless and motionless watching the scene. As I realized that the father would not return, I simply said, "Let us pray." We turned to our heavenly Father and asked Him to bless this union of His children and to guide them in His way and with the love of Jesus Christ. What a contrast! There was the earthly father reducing himself out of breath in anger, and here was our heavenly Father blessing His children in His lovingkindness. Yes, we have a Father Who loves and stands by us in our every need.

Many came to me from the audience after the ceremony to confess their wishes to know more about Jesus and to share our inner certainties. Even the bride's father met me later to apologize. But the true blessing came from above, with an assurance of love and joy from our Lord and Savior.



Athens, Greece



Demetrius Papanikolaou

Although we seem to be passing through days of apostasy against the living God and moving among a cold and absolutely indifferent people, our Lord is giving comfort in the way He is guiding our steps and leading us to people who are groping in darkness to find light. Within the past two months I have met and talked with more than 500 souls and, during visits to families, have given out many New Testaments by request and many Calendars. Praise God for His grace and please pray for a large harvest in this visitation outreach.

Store and shop witnessing has been especially fruitful both to the shop owners and interested customers. Please pray for Mr. S, a lecturer, who has been speaking at a local club on Jews and Thessalonica. He does not believe the inspiration of the Bible and is leading the youth astray.

Another soul who has been hearing about the Messiah is Mrs. P who was delivered from Auschwitz. She has been indifferent to religious matters but by hearing of God's love for her, her heart became soft and she promised to read the New Testament.

Some months ago an Arab bombist was killed in a hotel, and this event gave me cause to speak to many about God's keeping and protection. The Arab was killed by the explosion of his bomb that was planned for a synagogue. But, the Jews were thoroughly protected that they might worship God in safety. That evening a rabbi had said to me, "You are in danger here with us." But I smiled and let him know my feelings, that my life was precious only to God Who had redeemed it. Then he did not say a word.

All thanks to God Who enables me to walk and serve Him in this world. I kneel in prayer and so do not give up when the circumstances are hard to bear. His narrow path for our lives of service is often a way of suffering, but we are not alone — He is with us.



BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



The Staff

WE ARE MARCHING ON!

By Victor Sedaca

Even though our country is going through one of the most precarious moments of her history as far as violence is concerned, the Lord has not ceased to bless us and keep our people firmly bearing His witness among their "brethren according to the flesh."

Week after week, as we continue to study the Scriptures, new Jews interested in their spiritual condition join us in searching the truth regarding the Messiah Jesus. We have the joy of receiving in the midst of our group those who have come to a real experience of salvation and spiritual growth, some of them being Jews. The Bible study hour on Wednesday evening is one of the highlights of our activities, and the fellowship time which follows is a time for decisions and clarifying Biblical subjects.

We are very glad some Christian ministers are among those coming to our Bible study. They regard these meetings a great help, not only in a better understanding of the Scripture, but also because they are useful in learning how to meet some Jewish objections in contacts with Jewish friends.

Literature

With the generous co-operation of the Million Testament Campaigns and the help of our brother in Christ,

Richard MacMullin, thousands of tracts and New Testaments have been distributed among the 300,000 Jews in Buenos Aires. Hundreds of Jews have requested the New Testaments and many times they do not wait for the post office to do the job; a phone call is faster and more personal! In other instances, some Jews have requested the New Testament through "special delivery" letters. Almost every day letters came from one place or another to our headquarters asking for a New Testament. God only knows what the final impact His Word is having in these needy Jewish hearts.

Teaching of Languages

This is a very promising ministry held in our Center by Rev. and Mrs. Peter Clark, also missionaries to the Jews in Buenos Aires. Those who attend the Hebrew and English classes are Jews who find this service a token of a real interest in Jewish tradition and contribution to the Jewish neighborhood. We do not use these classes as "bait" to convert Jews, however every time religious subjects come to the surface, a word of testimony of our Messiah is given openly and frankly. This honest procedure on our part is greatly appreciated.

Broadcasting

One of the long-time dreams we have been praying about has become real. A short time ago the Lord opened a wide door for a weekly broadcasting program for the Jews in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. We didn't hesitate to enter. Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. the entire coast of the River Plate and the Atlantic Ocean is being hit by the "Messianic Voice," a very high quality radio program featuring Hebrew songs, Hebrew Christian testimonies, an offer of literature and New Testaments, and a central prophetic message of 8-minutes, closing the program with a cordial, sincere, "Shalom, amigos." We praise our heavenly Father that at last, for the first time in Argentina, a regular radio program is broadcasting the wonderful message of the Messiah Jesus to the 550,000 Jews in our country. Please pray for this new activity.

Summer Camps

We are not yet able to organize our own Sar Shalom summer camp. However, the missionary-in-charge conducted a camp of about 300 youngsters under the auspices of the Baptist Association of Entre Rios. The general subject: Israel, Her Present and Future. Many of these young Christians heard for the first time that Israel is playing a crucial role in present history and that the Lord is reserving an even more crucial one for the future in God's final redemptive eschatological program.



Bilingual Meeting

Deputation

This very important aspect of the Mission activity in Buenos Aires is carried on by the missionary-in-charge with the very appreciable help of Mrs. Sedaca. Many churches within and outside the city, Bible Institutes, Women's auxiliaries, home meetings and Christian magazine writing have kept Debora rather busy during the past months. She travelled hundreds of miles to accomplish her scheduled engagements.

We continue praying that He may send us new workers to help in the outreach of the 300,000 Jews living in Buenos Aires.

The Argentine Republic is located almost at the end of the earth, however, we feel close to the many Christian friends of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE who are supporting us in prayer as well as in sacrificial assistance.

THIRTY-TWO YEARS OF MISSION WORK By Emanuel Lichtenstein

"My times are in Thy hand," as it says in the Psalm of David, 31:15. That's what we pray together at the Mission.

It's our 8th year here under the direction of brother Sedaca and during these years we have given special attention to our Spanish speaking group because for those who came from Europe after a hard period of war, it has become our second father land. Nevertheless we are continuing with happiness in the Lord with our German meeting. We form a great family in the Lord, rejoicing together in Spanish and German. We praise the Lord with our hearts in one or the other tongue.

Our ladies' group continues all year long. One of our faithful co-workers, Mrs. Bartsch, has been kept from attending the Mission since last Christmas because of an accident. Every Mission hour we pray for her, that the Lord will give her the strength she needs to attend the Mission with us. As the one responsible for the German group, I am holding a bridge between our Beth Sar Shalom and Mrs. Bartsch's home. She gains strength when I transmit our encouraging words to her and we always have prayer and Scripture reading together. It's a blessing and when I leave her, I know she is never alone, even during those difficult times.

Mrs. Conzen went through a hard period of illness, but, we thank the

Lord she now takes part every week in our Mission work.

We have to give special thanks to Mrs. Debora Sedaca for she always has a special part in Spanish during the meetings, either testimonies or poems, or she simply tells us of her experiences when she makes trips to the interior to tell others about the Mission. Cristina Altmann, our secretary and organist, is also helping bringing items of interest to the Mission in different forms. We are thankful that we have some new friends attending the meetings and especially one or two ladies who actively help with visitation.

Last summer, Cristina, who through her parents has been with us her whole life, made her first trip to Europe with her mother, our co-worker Mrs. Altmann. It was an important experience in her life, and it has been a blessing for us because she brought slides back with her. She took pictures of our Vienna Mission where I was active for more than 35 years. It was a very joyful feeling to observe the slides from those very old and kind remembrances of "Seegasse" in Vienna. She also took pictures of our New Jersey Headquarters and we were happy to see Dr. and Mrs. Fuchs in their new offices and also the group of workers there who are responsible for our world-wide Mission headquarters

[Continued on page 12]

EIGHTIETH ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE JEWS, INC.
OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS
Year ended September 30, 1974

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Designated for Missionary and Evangelistic:	
Branches:	
Atlanta, Ga.; Baltimore, Md.; Chicago, Ill.; Coney Island, N.Y.;	
Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colo.; Flushing, N.Y.; Hicksville, N.Y.;	
Hollis, N.Y.; Houston, Texas; Huntington, N.Y.; Levittown,	
N.Y.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Miami, Fla.; Minneapolis, Minn.;	
New York, N.Y.; North Atlantic States; Omaha, Neb.; Peoria, Ill.;	
Philadelphia, Pa.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; San Diego,	
Calif.; San Francisco, Calif.	\$ 120,883
Foreign Missionary and Relief Work	23,441
Missionary Literature:	
The Chosen People	\$ 21,186
Promise of Tomorrow	1,788
Bibles, New Testaments and Tracts	36,792
	59,766
Mass Media — Evangelism:	
The Promise of Tomorrow	4,505
Israel Broadcast	9,756
News Media	1,488
	15,749
Student Training	4,503
Bible Conferences	3,256
Children's Work	1,414
Relief for Needy Christian Jews	2,567
Total designated for Missionary and Evangelistic	231,579
Undesignated contributions	1,228,343
	1,459,922
Transfers from Investment Fund	391,547
	<u>\$1,851,469</u>

REPORT OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc.:

We have examined the statement of source and application of funds of the operating fund of the American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc. for the year ended September 30, 1974. 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.

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of source and application of funds presents fairly the recorded transactions of the operating fund of the American Board of Missions to the Jews, Inc. for the year ended September 30, 1974.

New York, N.Y.
November 8, 1974

Elmer Fox and Company

APPLICATION OF FUNDS

Missionary and Evangelistic:	
Branches:	
Salaries and other expenses	\$ 716,028
Other general missionary activities in the	
United States of America:	
Salaries—missionaries and field workers, retirement insurance	
and social security, transportation and other expenses	200,044
Foreign Missionary and Field Work :	
Israeli, South American, European and Canadian fields	70,432
Missionary Literature:	
The Chosen People	\$133,602
Promise of Tomorrow	14,387
Bibles, New Testaments and Tracts	56,410
	204,399
Mass Media—Evangelism:	
The Promise of Tomorrow	39,705
Israel Broadcast	38,696
News Media	48,547
	126,948
Student Training	11,105
Bible Conferences	28,469
Children's Work:	
Evangelistic, educational, handicraft and recreational	
supplies, outings and Camp Sar Shalom	22,539
Relief to Needy Christian Jews	11,291
Total Missionary and Evangelistic	1,391,255
Administration:	
Salaries—administrative and office	217,027
General:	
Maintenance, fuel, supplies, insurance, repairs, postage	
meter, postage, printing, stationery, legal and auditing	
fees and all items not properly chargeable to other	
classifications	239,707
Total administration	456,734
	1,847,989
Increase in Operating Fund Balance	3,480
	<u>\$1,851,469</u>

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits . . ."
(Psalms 103:2).



Ladies' Bible Study



Language Students and Teachers

[Continued from page 9]

work. It brought us closer together as we saw "what goes on" there. The slides reminded us that there in New Jersey they are giving of themselves for us in Buenos Aires, or in Paris, or wherever our Mission Branches are.

We now use new Hymnals, in "Luther-tongue"-in German. Christina gave much of her time gathering together new hymns with those old ones we liked best. We also use Spanish hymnals.

After our meetings we join together for the social part. We then like to hear a word from our dear "housewives," Mrs. Sedaca and Mrs. Altmann, who are responsible for our cakes and sweets.

We close this with prayer that our Lord Jesus Christ will bind us here in the Buenos Aires Mission in Spirit with all our Mission friends through the world.



Victor Sedaca Teaching at Bible Camp

GIFT ANNUITY INVESTMENT

By Wesley J. A. Jones

Have you ever heard of making a gift, yet retaining the value of it for your continuing use?

This is possible with an AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE JEWS Gift Annuity Investment! You can read about it in our new, copyrighted booklet on the subject. In this interesting pamphlet you will find specific examples of payments at various ages, as well as illustrations of the tax advantages of annuity payments. You will also find suggestions for some unique usages of such a gift investment.

Write to Dr. Daniel Fuchs and mention "Annuities." Include your birthdate and that of any other beneficiary, and we will prepare a personalized illustration of benefits for you.

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE JEWS CONFERENCE CORNER

How about a Family Vacation this summer at one of these outstanding

CONFERENCES ON PROPHECY?

- Mt. Hermon, Christian Conference Grounds, California, June 2-5, 1975
- The Firs Christian Conference Grounds, Washington State, July 5-12, 1975
- Sacandaga Conference Grounds, New York State, August 16-23, 1975
- Green Lake Conference Grounds, Wisconsin, August 23-30, 1975

Clip and mail this coupon today!

Conference Director, ABMJ
P.O. Box 1331
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632

My family and I (or a friend of mine) would like to know more about a family Conference on Prophecy vacation this summer. Please send me a brochure about the _____ Conference. Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Questions and Answers



By HENRY J. HEYDT, Th.D.

QUESTION: Is it correct to say that the term “Nazarene” (Acts 24:5) was used for Jewish believers in Christ while the term “Christian” was used of Gentile believers?

ANSWER: This distinction is not correct although it is true that the expression “sect of the Nazarenes” was used of those Jews, still within Judaism, who believed that Jesus was the Messiah (the Christ). The Greek word translated “sect” is *haireisis*, from a verb that means simply “to choose.” It therefore means a choice or option and, as such, was used of the Sadducees (Acts 5:17) as well as of the Pharisees (Acts 15:5). Because individuals in such groups are usually strongly opinionated persons, the word came to indicate those who stimulated faction, discord and contention. As such it is used in Acts 24:5 of those Jews who were followers of Christ. With the severance of these Jews from the synagogue the term fell into disuse.

Although the word “Christian” was first used at Antioch where a great number of Greeks had come to believe in Christ (Acts 11:21), there were also Jews who had believed and the Word was taken at first only to them (verse 19). It therefore embraced both Jewish and Gentile believers. This is seen in the statement in verse 26 that the *disciples* “were called Christians first in Antioch.” It is also to be remembered that the very name is essentially Jewish since “Christ” is only the Greek for the Hebrew “Messiah.” The word “Christian” (Greek, *Christianos*)

is a transliteration and may well be translated “Messianist.” It is absolutely wrong to say that only the Gentile believers were so called. They had accepted the Jewish Messiah and were, therefore, so designated. This is behind the statement of Agrippa to Paul in Acts 26:28 when he said, “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” Peter also uses it quite naturally when writing to the Jewish believers of the dispersion in 4:16 of his first Epistle.

QUESTION: Since Stephen says Jacob was buried near Shechem (Acts 7:16) and Genesis says he was buried near Hebron (Gen. 50:15), how can we reconcile this?

ANSWER: Abraham and Jacob had bought two burial places. Near Hebron Sarah was buried (Gen. 23:19) and also Abraham (Gen. 25:9), Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah (Gen. 49:31), and Jacob (Gen. 50:12-13). The remains of Joseph were brought from Egypt and buried in Shechem (Josh. 24:32), and, as Stephen tells us in Acts 7:16, the other sons of Jacob who died in Egypt. Stephen simply states in the previous verse, as far as Jacob is concerned, that he “. . . went down into Egypt, and died . . .” He then includes “our fathers” who also died in Egypt and says that they “. . . were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre . . .” The American Standard Version is clearer in using the pronoun “they” with the plural verb in verse 16, “. . . and they were carried over unto Shechem . . .” Because of the conciseness of Stephen’s sum-

mary, some commentators have concluded that he meant that Jacob was also buried in Shechem and have thus imagined a contradiction.

Regarding the burial of “our fathers” (the sons of Jacob), we know from the Old Testament only that Joseph was removed from Egypt and buried in Shechem. Jewish tradition tells us that they were all thus removed. There is an interesting legend in *Sotah* 7B that “All the years that the Israelites were in the wilderness, Judah’s bones kept turning in his coffin until Moses arose and begged mercy for him.” The footnote in the Soncino Press edition of the Talmud adds, “According to tradition, the bones of all Jacob’s sons were carried out of Egypt.” What we learn from the inspired account in the book of Acts is not only that this tradition is correct, but also that the burial place was Shechem.

QUESTION: Just what is the “handmaiden” the Bible speaks of?

ANSWER: The ordinary use of the two Hebrew words translated “handmaid” (*shiphah* and *amah*) is simply that of a female slave or servant (Gen. 16:1; Ex. 23:12). Through this relationship it came to be used as an expression of humility generally and religious humility specifically. The religious significance carries over into the New Testament in Lk. 1:38, 48 and Acts 2:18 with the Greek word, *doule*, the feminine for “bondslave.”





By **ARNOLD G. FRUCHTENBAUM**, Editor

When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, When he separated the children of men, He set the bounds of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel. For Jehovah's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance [Deuteronomy 32:8-9].

From the teaching of the Scriptures we know that God has a prophetic program. This program is often subdivided into three distinct plans: His plan for the Church, His plan for Israel, and His plan for the Gentile nations. But whether we speak of God's plan for the Church, Israel, or the nations, all three of God's plans revolve around the Jewish people. The Jews were, remain, and will always be the hub of God's overall program. Even when God in His providence laid out what would become the boundaries of future nations He took into account the number of the children of Israel. So according to our introductory verse, when God in His providence laid down the borders of what would

THE JEWS AND THE TRIBULATION

become the United States of America, He somehow took into account the number of Jews.

In these studies before us, we are going to center our attention on the Great Tribulation Period. Although the Tribulation falls on the whole world, even that program of judgment is centered around the Jewish nation. This study will be covered in four areas relating to the Tribulation and we shall see how all four areas involve uniquely the Jewish nation. First, we will discuss the Jews and the purposes of the Tribulation; secondly, the Jews and the beginning of the Tribulation; thirdly, the Jews in the Tribulation; fourthly, the Jews and the end of the Tribulation.

The Jews and the Purposes of the Tribulation

God has three purposes why He brings about the period of the Great Tribulation. The first of these three reasons is true of Jews and Gentiles alike. But the second and third reasons specifically involve the Jewish nation.

A. To Make An End of Wickedness And Wicked Ones

The first purpose of the Tribulation is to make an end of wickedness and wicked ones. Since this involves Jews and Gentiles alike and goes beyond our theme we will not take the space to develop it. But you will find this purpose recorded in Isaiah 13:9 and 24:19-20.

B. To Bring About A World-Wide Revival

The second purpose of the Tribulation is to bring about a world-wide revival. This purpose is spelled out in Revelation 7:1-17. In verses 1-8 we are shown the means by which God will bring about this world-wide revival, while verses 9-17 give the results of the revival.

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that no wind should blow on the earth, or on the sea, or upon any tree. And I saw another angel ascend from the sunrising having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a great voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we shall have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. And I heard the number of them that were sealed, one hundred and forty and four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel: [Rev. 7:1-4].

Verses 5-8 proceed to state that twelve thousand Jews are selected from each of the twelve tribes giving a total of 144,000 Jews and by means of these Jewish evangelists God will bring about a great world-wide revival.

Looking at this from a human viewpoint, if one wanted to bring about a world-wide revival in a relatively short period of time, namely 3½ years, one could not pick a better group to work with than Jewish people. This is not strictly a subjective judgment for there are some objective reasons why Jews would be a good group to use for this purpose.

For instance, what is involved for the average American Christian today before he is prepared to preach the Gospel in a foreign field? To begin with, after he receives Christ, he must think in terms of a three or four year Bible school or Bible college education. If he was saved while he

was in a secular university, he must think in terms of three or four years of seminary. But even the Bible college or seminary graduate is not yet ready to preach the gospel in a foreign field in a language which is not his mother tongue. The next two years or so must be spent in language study for he must learn the language in which he intends to communicate the Gospel. So the average American Christian must spend anywhere from six to eight years of study before he is prepared to preach the Gospel in a foreign field. God's second purpose in the Tribulation, to conduct a world-wide revival, will be conducted in the first 3½ years of the Tribulation. There is not that much time to play with. Here is where the advantage comes in for using Jewish people.

First of all, the Jews are scattered all over the world. All of the world's major languages and a number of the world's minor languages are spoken by some Jews somewhere. Outside of the United States, most Jews are at least bilingual. The author of this article himself speaks two languages. The author's parents speak five languages each.

Secondly, also outside of the United States, most Jews receive a basic knowledge of the Old Testament and are taught the Scriptures.

So some time after the Rapture of the Church, God will go around the world and save 144,000 Jews. They already speak the languages. They already have the basic knowledge of the Old Testament. All they would need is a little time spent in learning the content of the New Testament and thus they can begin to preach the Gospel in a relatively short time, in a matter of months.

So during the first half of the Tribulation-period God will evangelize the world by means of the 144,000 Jews and thus fulfill the prophecy

found in Matthew 24:14:

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come.

In verses 9-17, following the vision of the 144,000 Jews, John sees the results of the ministry of these Jewish evangelists:

After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands; and they cry with a great voice, saying, Salvation unto our God who sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb . . . and one of the elders answered, saying unto me, These that are arrayed in the white robes, who are they and whence came they? And I say unto him, My Lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that come out of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. [Rev. 7:9-10, 13-14].

After the vision of the 144,000 Jews, John sees myriads upon myriads of Gentiles as well as other Jews who have come to a saving knowledge of the Savior during the Tribulation period. So by means of the 144,000 God will accomplish the second purpose of the Tribulation, that of bringing about a world-wide revival.

C. To Break The Will of The Jewish Nation

The third purpose of the Tribulation period is to break the power or the stubborn will of the Jewish nation. In Daniel chapters 11 and 12, Daniel the prophet has been given visions of how it will be in the Tribulation period. Then in Daniel 12:5-7 the question is raised as to how long this period will be allowed to continue:

Then I, Daniel, looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on the brink of the river on this side, and the other on the brink of the river on that side. And one said to the

man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, How long shall it be till the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times and a half; and when they have made an end of breaking in pieces the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

This passage states the third purpose of the Tribulation period. It is to break the power or the stubborn will of the Jewish people. The Tribulation will continue and will not end until this happens and so from this we deduce the third purpose of the Tribulation. During this period God intends to break the power of the Holy People. The means by which God will perform this is given to us in another text, Ezekiel 20:34-38:

And I will bring you out from the peoples, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out; and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there will I enter into judgment with you face to face. Like as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I enter into judgment with you, saith the Lord Jehovah. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; and I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me; I will bring them forth out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am Jehovah.

In this passage Ezekiel draws a little simile as he begins to relate by what means God will break the power of the holy people. Ezekiel harks back to the time of the Exodus when, under Moses, the entire nation of Israel was brought out of the land of Egypt and into the Sinai Peninsula. God's purpose was for them to proceed on to the Promised Land after they received the Law from

Mount Sinai. But because of continual murmuring, complaining, and rebelling against God's revealed will, God finally entered into judgment with His people at Kadesh Barnea. The judgment was a judgment of death. The nation was commanded to wander in the wilderness for the next forty years until, except for two men, the entire generation that came out of the Land of Egypt died in the wilderness. Forty years later a whole new nation, a nation born in the wilderness, was allowed to enter the Promised Land under Joshua.

Ezekiel says that a similar thing will happen in the future. God will regather the Jews from all over the world, the regathering happening right now in the State of Israel. Then

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a time will come when God will enter into judgment (The Tribulation) with His people and all the rebels will be purged out through the judgment. A whole new nation, a regenerate nation will be allowed to enter the Promised Land under the reign of King Messiah.

So by means of the Tribulation judgments God will accomplish His third purpose for the Tribulation, that of breaking in pieces the power of the holy people.

So as far as the Jews and the purposes of the Tribulation are concerned, the second and third purposes of the Tribulation peculiarly involve the Jewish nation.



(to be continued in the March issue)

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