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## JESUS WAS A JEW



Who was Jesus of Nazareth? Controversy over the answer still rages today. Was he a good teacher? Was he a well-meaning, but confused, religionist? Was he a disciple of another teacher?

The author attempts to answer these questions. He documents the opinions of many Jewish leaders. He deals with the Messianic hope. And he quite frankly handles Jewish objections to Jesus. *Jesus Was A Jew* also contains interviews with almost 40 Jews concerning what they believe about Jesus — rabbis, homemakers, actors, hairdressers . . . from all walks of life.

Regardless of your answer *Jesus Was a Jew*.

By Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

Price \$2.95

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# the CHOSEN PEOPLE

MARCH, 1975



### THE CABBALAH

The Cabbalist movement was a mystical movement in Judaism. Today it is centered in the upper Galilee city of Safed. It is based on an old Jewish mystical book called *The Zohar* which amazingly contains some Trinitarian concepts of the Godhead.

On the right, over the figure of the Cabbalist sitting in mystical meditation, is the Hebrew letter *shin* symbolizing God's presence with Israel even in exile.

On the left by his head, are the four Hebrew letters forming the holy Name of God.



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

AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE JEWS, INC.

460 Sylvan Avenue • Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 07632

In Canada: BETH SAR SHALOM MISSION, INC.

39 King William St., Hamilton, Ont., L8R 1A1

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20 cents a copy • VOL. LXXX NO. 7 • MARCH, 1975 \$2 a year

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dearly Beloved Friends:

*And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king (Esther 5:11).*

Was the king giving Haman a blank check? He evidently thought so. After all, he and the king had been the honored guests of Queen Esther the night before. The king had promoted him. Not only so, but the queen had already invited him and the king to another feast, and he was sure he had the favor of both king and queen! It was true that after the feast, Mordecai, the Jew, spoiled it all by not bowing to Haman, but he had taken care of that. His wife and friends had counselled:

*... Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and tomorrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made (Esther 5:14).*

Evidently Haman had no time to sleep that night; he was too busy building the gallows. The king also had a sleepless night. "On that night," the same night Haman built the gallows, "could not the king sleep" (Esther 6:1).

*On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they*

*were read before the king. And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the king said, What honor and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him" (Esther 6:1-3)*

### "He That Keepeth Israel Shall Neither Slumber Nor Sleep"

Is it strange that at this precise moment the sleepless king and the sleepless plotter met? Why was it on the night of the day Haman planned to ask the king to hang Mordecai the Jew, that the king could not sleep? (Remember the Jewish day begins with the night.) Why would the king ask to have the chronicles read at that time? Why would the reader choose to read to the king about the deeds of Mordecai, the one Haman wanted to hang? Why hadn't Mordecai been rewarded when he saved the king? There is only one answer to these questions: There is another King who does not sleep! "Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Ps. 121:4).

Haman arrived at the palace at just the right time. He wanted to slay the one whom the king wanted to honor. "And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the

king delighteth to honor?" (Esther 6:6). It seemed as if the king were giving Haman a blank check.

*And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honor, Let the royal apparel be brought which the king is accustomed to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man whom the king delighteth to honor, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor" (Esther 6:7-9).*

"Royal apparel;" "The horse that the king rideth upon;" and "the crown royal." (Evidently Haman believed that clothes make the man.) Perhaps when the people saw him they might even discern a greater than Ahasuerus. But Haman was wrong. It was a despised Jew, Mordecai, who was to be highly exalted. The Jews would not perish; Haman would hang on the gallows he prepared for Mordecai.

Once more today the descendants of the Agagites are building gallows for the descendants of Mordecai. These gallows are taller than fifty cubits: they are the riggings of the oil wells. Crowned kings of the East, then and now, have but one purpose: the destruction of the people of Israel. Rulers of the earth, heed the Word of God, "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Ps. 121:4).

### **The Lord Jesus Christ Will Be Honored By The King**

In the book of Esther there is a marvelous prophetic truth revealed. It is the truth of Revelation 19:

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God . . . And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:11-13, 16).*

Who is He Who is clothed with a vesture dipped in blood? It is the Lord Jesus Christ Who once came of the seed of Abraham, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). He is the man whom the King delighteth to honor!

*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth . . . And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).*

We reach for The Book and read of the One Who saved us, and we pray "Come, Lord Jesus, take your rightful throne, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory."

Faithfully yours in His service,

*Samuel Tuck*



## **OLD WINE OR THE BEST WINE?**

by **MIMSY KAPELL**

When I came back from my three day "intensive" at the Yoga Ashram, Doug was sitting in my suite reading the Bible. He looked up, beamed at me and handed me a piece of paper with a poem on it about the Trinity. At first I read it with mild interest but almost gagged when I saw the words "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" — how goyish! (Here I was in my white Ashram attire.) I mean, it's fine to get into the Bible if that's your path but not this church stuff. Doug told me he had accepted Jesus into his heart and that he had been born again. That's the first time I had ever heard that expression used and I had no idea what it meant. But this didn't seem like the Doug I knew — spaced out, running around. Here he had written me a poem and was speaking so gently but firmly to me about Jesus being the Jewish Messiah. Now, this might not strike you as strange, but for a woman who had gone out with him for two years and had known him to be outwardly apathetic towards my feelings and generally harsh and crude with his words, I was practically floored!

Secondly, the fact that Doug was talking about the Jewish Messiah hit a spot in me not touched after years of drugs and sex and eastern mysticism. However, he convinced me that if I did believe that God was really there, that He would answer my question, "Is Jesus the Messiah and do I need Him in order to be right with God?" I asked and no bells went off and I didn't get any rushes up and down my back. So I figured, "Well, I guess it's not true." ("The Jews seek a sign" is right!)

But that weekend we went to Beth Sar Shalom in Manhattan to talk to Charlie Eisenberg. I was under the impression that Doug was going to talk with him and I was just going along "for the ride." But, I found myself in Charlie's study being asked questions and asking many questions. "How do you know the Bible is the Word of God? How can God condemn people to death who have never heard about Jesus Christ? What about reincarnation?" etc. Little did I know how much I thirsted for the living God, the God of my Fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I was so skeptical and so super-critical but meanwhile my heart was melting. Charlie answered all of my questions with Scripture. This further frustrated me because I didn't know if I believed that the Bible was God's Word. I had no "hang-up" about Jesus. It was the Bible I could not believe in. Charlie asked me if I wanted to ask Jesus into my heart and grudgingly, I said, "Yes" (grumble, grumble). I repeated the prayer of repentance and acceptance of the Lord. I somehow knew I was a sinner. I praise God for helping me rise above my fears and doubts and accept Him that day.

Charlie gave me much to read. I didn't know what I had done; I only knew that if God wasn't here, I was going to give up. This was two years ago, and I could go on forever telling you what the Lord has wrought in my life since then. Doug and I are going to be married soon and this is only one aspect of the Lord's dealing with the old wine that was running low in our lives and how He gave us new wineskins and filled us up with the best wine you could ever taste. Shalom!





**REV. DAVID WOODS**  
MISSIONARY  
LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

## GOOD TEAM WORK!

Recently we had a request from a Jewish woman believer in California to visit her sister hospitalized here on Long Island, N.Y. The request was received in California by Richard Cohen, forwarded to Bill Ennis in Hollis and then passed on to me in Long Island. (Good team work — that makes me glad to be a member of the ABMJ team.) The woman in California was praying for her sister's recuperation and salvation.

The next day I visited the hospital and found the woman writhing with pain. She had just had major surgery. I identified myself and she seemed glad to see me. She was deeply disturbed and afraid. I asked her if I could read the Bible and share some prayer with her and she smiled, "Yes."

She had had a very difficult childhood and now was practically penniless. She was full of hate for the husband who had afflicted her with V.D. then deserted her leaving her desperately ill. Furthermore, the doctors were not able to diagnose her case early enough to prevent much damage in her body.

After Miss S was discharged from the hospital, she called and several days later I visited with her in her apartment. Her rent was two weeks in arrears and her landlord was harass-

# FROM THE FIELD

ing her to move out. Her funds were depleted. I understood her need and offered to bring her some food. However, she told me that she had an appointment in a short while at the welfare agency to ask for aid.

From the day I first visited Miss S at the hospital, I was burdened for her salvation. Now I sensed her need and desire to yield to Christ as Lord of her life. We read the Scriptures and then I proceeded to tell her of Jesus' love and concern for her life. She told me that some Christian girl friends told her of Christ when she was twelve years old. In the ensuing years and to that very day, she had visions of seeing the Lord. I knew within my heart that she belonged to the Savior. I simply asked her to pray and ask Jesus to come into her heart and to make Him Lord of her life. When she said, "Yes," to Jesus, that was indeed precious and there were tears of joy flowing. Her countenance was bright and I was happy for her.

After that brief moment of glory, I took her in my car to the welfare agency. We were there for several hours and thankfully, they were able to give assistance for her financial needs. I drove her to the market and then to her apartment. She will receive help with her rent until she is well and able to find employment. That day brought much hope and joy to my being.

Subsequently, I wrote to her sister telling of our visit and the good news that her loved one was born into God's family. She will continue to need the prayer, love, and concern of those who care. Dear brethren in our Lord, we covet your continued prayers for our ministry here on Long Island.



**REV. LARRY JAFFREY**  
MISSIONARY-IN-CHARGE  
PHILADELPHIA BRANCH

## MINISTERING FOR GOD IN CHERRY HILL

For several years we have seen the Cherry Hill, New Jersey area as a field where the Lord wanted us to minister. Several attempts were made to start meetings in the area, but when meetings were scheduled the response was zero and so they never came about.

Then several months ago I met a wonderful Christian couple at the church where my family worships. As we talked, I mentioned our outreach to the Jewish community. They took an immediate interest in our work. They lived in Cherry Hill and had been praying for several months for an opportunity to reach their Jewish neighbors.

They offered their home for meetings and the first meeting was scheduled. Although the weather on the day of the meeting was hot and muggy, God overruled and an hour before the meeting started it rained for about 15 minutes to make the evening comfortable. The Lord brought the people out; the living-

room was full; and the meeting went very well.

There was a great opportunity to share Christ with the unsaved following the meeting. One Jewish lady came with her believing daughter. The daughter told me she had doubted that her mother would ever come to such a meeting, but she was there and eagerly listened to the Word of God. An unsaved man was very open to the Gospel, but he just could not bring himself to yield to the Savior.

The blessings continue to flow in from that meeting. Within three weeks and as a direct result of the meeting, three people came to know the Lord. Pray that these new believers will ask God to guide their lives and also pray for the many new contacts that were made as a result of the meeting.





REV. RACHMIEL FRYDLAND  
MISSIONARY-IN-CHARGE  
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

REV. PERRIN COOK  
MISSIONARY-IN-CHARGE  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

## THE LORD HAS BEEN GOOD

The Lord has been good to us this year. We established new contacts with Jewish students on campus, some of whom are Hebrew and Yiddish speaking. One requested a Hebrew New Testament (Prophecy Edition). She took other literature as well. The following week she came back to our literature table on campus to see whether she had missed any of our Jewish literature. Another young Jewish student was not so open and said she had better take the literature so that it would not be used to mislead others. A long conversation developed as I quoted from the Hebrew Bible telling her that it is God's Word, promising us cleansing and a Savior for our redemption.

R, who was unfriendly last year, has been very friendly this term. He refuses to take literature home but reads it on the spot then puts it back. B passes often and carries on long, friendly conversations in Hebrew. At one time he shared a room with a Christian student and is strongly in favor of the Gospel but has not come out in the open with his convictions. M, a Hebrew speaking student, is most open and has promised to attend our meetings, but so far has not shown up. S has read all the literature we gave him, plus many library books on the subject. He even sent for a Bible correspondence

course. All this, he says, to prove that we are wrong! Nevertheless, he comes for long friendly chats in Hebrew and says he has the greatest respect for us. He attended several Jewish Christian meetings in our home and elsewhere.

Our home meetings have not grown in numbers but those who attend are being established in the faith and are eager to witness. We do covet your prayers for these meetings.

My wife Estelle and a few other Hebrew Christian ladies meet in a neighbor's home for weekly prayer and this is a great blessing.

A few months ago we were joined by a faithful friend and witness in Israel. The Lord has used her in befriending Estelle's brother and leading him to the Messiah. Her witness in Israel was increased and strengthened as a result of the hardship that arose after the last Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) War of 1973. This should remind us of the perilous times in Israel and our responsibility to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). May God give us wisdom in witnessing and leading our Jewish people to the Lord Jesus. Israel's friends are forsaking her but the Lord has not forsaken her, "Behold, He who keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4).

## WITNESSING WITHOUT OFFENDING

The missionary's task of enlisting volunteer helpers leads to interesting contacts, but many times the question is the same: "How can I witness and not offend my Jewish friend and not break up a good relationship?" This question was asked recently by a young college student who had been sitting with children in a Jewish home while the parents attended synagogue services. She had the problem of witnessing without offending and also faced the possibility of losing her means of helping finance her education. Then she told me this story:

She had put the children to bed and was studying the Book of Romans when the father of the children came in and saw her books. He was interested and asked if he might borrow her books. He had heard of this man Paul and was interested in what he had to say.

Now, why am I relating this simple incident? Here was a wide-open door. God had answered her own question about witnessing without offending. She could tell him about Paul and the Lord Jesus and in addition loan him her books. God is faithful and gives opportunities for Christians to wit-

ness. Let us keep alert for His leading.

Another opportunity for witness was given us when we visited a service in the synagogue and saw a family sitting off by themselves. My wife and I sat beside them. They could not speak English, but in a few moments another Jewish lady came and told us they were her sister and mother who had suffered persecution overseas. In a few moments the husband and two sons came and they had learned to speak English so we met the whole family. We have since visited the home and on one occasion only the grandmother came to the door. We could only show interest and love, and go our way. There is the language barrier, but the language of love is understood in silence. Please pray for this Jewish family's salvation as they try to make a new beginning in this country.



**MR. IRVIN RIFKIN**  
**MISSIONARY-IN-CHARGE**  
**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

## **DEPORTATION CAMP WITNESSING**

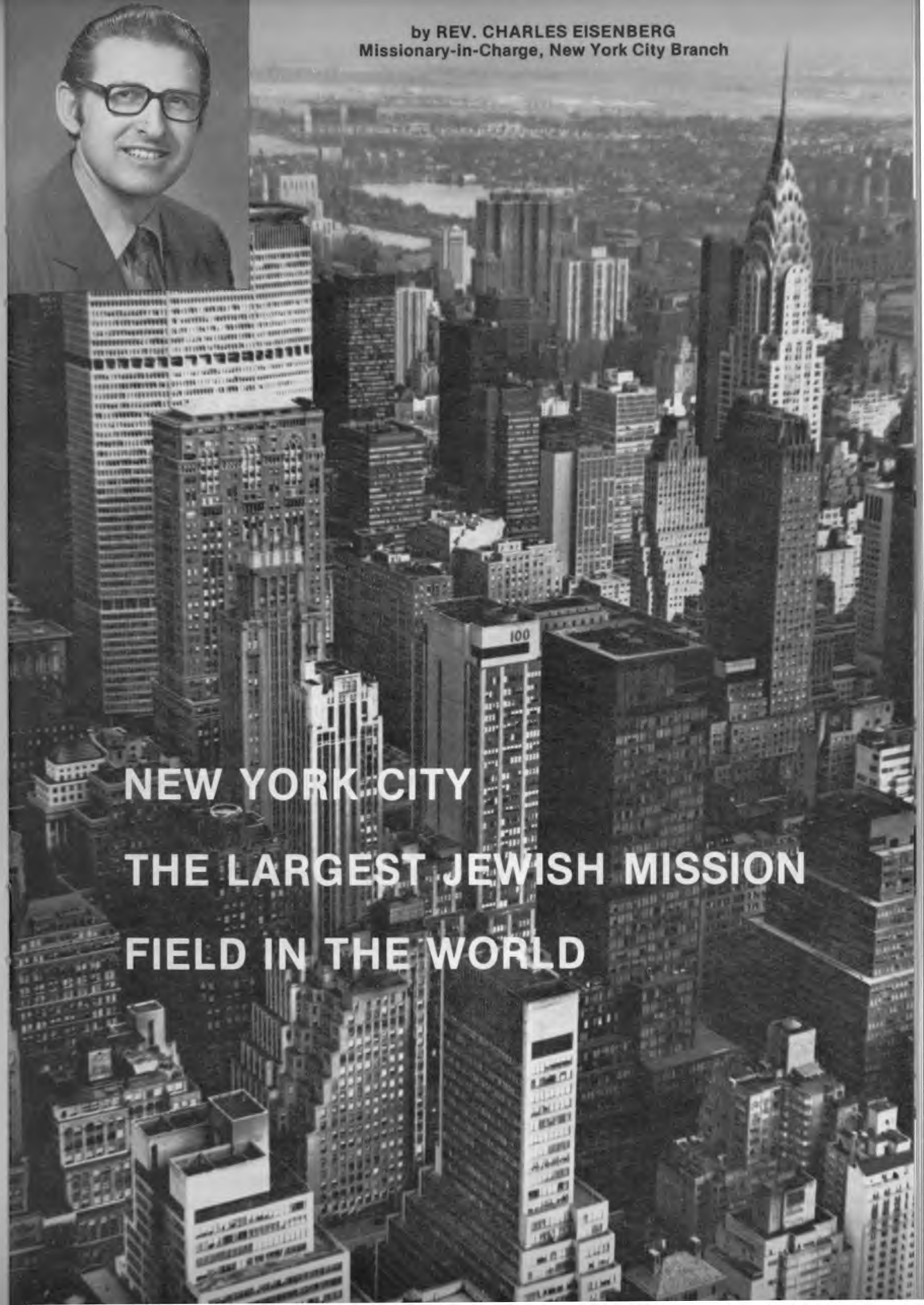
The next letter I received from KM was from Australia. He told me how appreciative he was for the kindness shown him and thanked me for the pamphlets that I gave him. He said that he was reading them very intently.

A few months ago I received another phone call from El Centro. This time it was from a Mr. M P who was in the same deportation camp. Mr. P was born in Austria and migrated to Buenos Aires when he was very young. His parents had moved quickly and forgot to register him as a citizen of Austria. His mother returned with him to Austria after his parents were divorced and, when she died a short time later, the youth was placed in a youth camp. As he grew up he moved from place to place and country to country. He was apprehended here in the U.S. without the proper papers. Twice he was denied entry into Argentina. He is literally a man without a country. Under the laws of Israel, he had the right to immigrate and live there. We agreed to help him get to the Israeli consulate, and legal aid authorities have helped him with paper work. During our talks and visits together, I had many opportunities to share the claims of Messiah with him. We read Isaiah 53 together, and I gave him a testimony book of one of our Jewish believers to read.

The Lord interceded and the camp authorities took him to the Israeli consulate. Mr. P is now in Israel and we ask that you pray that he will accept his Messiah.



by **REV. CHARLES EISENBERG**  
Missionary-in-Charge, New York City Branch



**NEW YORK CITY**  
**THE LARGEST JEWISH MISSION**  
**FIELD IN THE WORLD**

## THE FIELD

The largest Jewish mission field in the world is here in the New York metropolitan area. It is a larger mission field than either Israel or Russia. Here we find a large concentration of Chassidic Jews, as well as various other Jewish groups such as the Jewish Defense League, B'nai Brith, etc. Among the liberal Jews are those who do not believe at all in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

There are many institutions of higher learning in the area. Several Jewish schools, including the Jewish Theological Seminary, serve as an educational backdrop to the city. There are also many colleges and universities in this area in which the Jews, normally a minority group, make up the majority of the students.

How can we even think in terms of 3 million Jewish people? We haven't even scratched the surface, but praise God, His promises are always in the affirmative, "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (2 Cor. 1:20). In Jer. 33:3 He says "Call unto me, and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." We're praising Him for His blessings and anticipated victories (Ps. 34:3). We are serving the all sovereign, all powerful, all knowing, all wise and unchanging living God of Israel! He is far more concerned with the lost sheep of the house of Israel than are all believers throughout all ages. However, He allows us to share His burden in prayer (Rom. 10:1ff.).

Through specific prayer requests the Holy Spirit has been building a firm foundation (Ps. 127:1). He has established certain ministries here and, at the same time, has opened some new ones to us. We are thrilled with the exciting ways God has led us this past year.

## THE PERSONNEL

In God's perfect plan He has called specific people into areas of ministry wherein the Holy Spirit can exercise His gifts through them. He qualifies and enables them to work in various fields of the world which is His vineyard. Obviously, no work can possibly function or have a sustained ministry without a dedicated staff which is in love with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our present staff is composed of Mrs. Penny Ripka and Mrs. Elaine Fenchel, both part-time secretaries, who are a blessing and a benediction. Recently we added Mr. Danny Siegel as College and Career Minister. We praise the Lord for the unity He has given us. We are dependent upon the Lord for there is a notable recognition on our part that we are in the midst of a tremendous supernatural conflict going on in the city (Eph. 6:11-12, 2 Cor. 2:11). But we are fully aware that the Lord is able to undergird us and give victories through Him "who loved us and has washed us in His own blood" (Rev. 1:5).

## MANIFOLD MINISTRIES Sunday Afternoon Services

We have continued our 3:30 p.m. afternoon services because we have found that believers are edified in the exposition of the Bible, through testimonies, and by special music. More importantly, in almost every service we have a constant influx of inquisitive Jewish people who want to find out about Hebrew Christianity. We have been fortunate to have many precious men of God speak at our services such as ex-rabbi Sam Stern, Charles Picos, Roger Fulton. Occasionally we give young believers the opportunity to teach and preach. Recently Alan Mendelsohn gave a fine message from the prophet Isaiah. We need to allow God to use young believers in order that they will develop confidence in the delivery and exposition of God's eternal Word.

## Action Group

After much prayer and preparation, two of our men have recently initiated a discipleship program on Tuesday evenings before the Bible study. Patterned after similar courses administered by Campus Crusade and the Navigators, Daniel Siegel and Alan Binger are developing potential leadership among some of our young men, Jews and Gentiles, who desire to reach Jewish people with the Gospel message and to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord. Daniel is a graduate of Butler University and has been involved in various disciple-



ship programs for the past three years. Alan Binger is a graduate of Penn State where he was led to the Messiah and into a discipleship program through the joint efforts of two Jewish believers. Upon completion of his B.A. degree, Alan enrolled at Brooklyn Law School and is now in his second year. Both young men show fine promise as leaders.

#### Tuesday Evening Bible Studies

Under the able direction of a volunteer worker, Mr. Carlton Fast-off, our Tuesday night Bible study has increased in interest and in numbers. He has been teaching from 1 Peter for the past months and we thank God for the thought-provoking lessons and class participation which he stimulates. Occasionally too, he preaches in our Sunday service and his wife Gerry sings beautiful solos. It is our privilege to have this dear couple minister to us. Please pray for the continued blessing and use of Carlton's family in the Lord's service.

#### New World Trade Center Outreach

A few months ago the Lord gave us two new Jewish believers who came to Him within the space of two weeks. Bob and Rochelle are both college graduates who work within close proximity of the New York World Trade Center which is now the tallest building in New York and second tallest building in America, only exceeded by the Sears building in Chicago. As we prayed, the Lord

began to lay it upon our hearts to start a Wednesday noon Bible study and we have since begun one on the 45th floor of the building. There is a good distribution of both Jews and Gentiles most of whom have come to know Jesus as Messiah within the past three years. Presently, we are involved in an inductive Bible study on the book of Daniel.

#### Port Authority Literature Table

Several months ago we initiated and have maintained a witness at the Port Authority Bus Terminal which links and extends into the Times Square subway system. Thousands of people pass through here each day and many are open to receive Gospel literature. We have had marvelous witnessing experiences with Jews and Gentiles alike. People have accepted Jesus right at our literature table! We use various tracts and broadsides and one of our main tracts is "The Greatest Jew Who Ever Lived" published through the American Tract Society. Obviously, this ministry is primarily one of sowing the precious seed of the Word of God and we are encouraged by Solomon in Ecclesiastes 11:1,6:

*Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days . . . In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike.*

#### Cable Television Program

Vince Morgan, a missionary with the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination working out of Manhattan, Alan Mendelsohn, and I discussed the possibilities of going on television. Each of us recognized our apparent lack of professional background in television and separately would have been fearful of such a prospect. Mr. Stuckey, who is director of "God's Umbrella" and perhaps the person most responsible in New York in getting Christian groups on cable television, had spoke to Vince in the past to encourage such a venture.

We prayed about combining our efforts in this joint-ministry and decided that the Holy Spirit was leading us to launch out in faith. We started a talk-show program entitled, "Jesus, The Jew and You," in January of this year. Mendy, a free lance writer, has written most of our formats, and for the technical aspects of these programs God has sent us Michael Amber, an actor who has produced some minor productions. We have had excellent music and testimonies and key spokesmen for the Hebrew Christian position.

It is thrilling to know that this program reaches a potential audience of 200,000 people, the majority of whom are Jewish. The program is public access and we do not pay anything for our presentation. Two Jewish businessmen have paid for the necessary television cassette tapes which can be used over and over again. We praise God for this

unusual door of ministry, unprecedented in Jewish evangelism here in Manhattan.

#### CONCLUSION

Because we daily experience Satanic opposition, therefore we covet your prayers. Paul encourages each of us to:

*Put on the complete armor that God supplies, so you will be able to stand against the devil's intrigues. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood opponents, but against the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly spheres . . . praying in the Spirit on every occasion with ceaseless prayer and entreaty, constantly alert to pray with all perseverance and entreaty for all saints [Eph. 6:11-12, 18, New Berkeley Version].*





## Questions and Answers



By HENRY J. HEYDT, Th.D.

**QUESTION: If the Holy Spirit is a person, why does the Greek use the neuter pronoun in Jn. 14:17, and why do the translations render it "he" instead of "it"?**

**ANSWER:** According to the requirement of Greek grammar, a pronoun must agree with its antecedent in gender and number. A plural noun requires a plural pronoun, a feminine noun a feminine pronoun, and so on. The word "spirit" in the Greek is neuter (*pneuma*) and therefore a neuter pronoun is necessary. Thus the Lord Jesus Christ quite properly uses the neuter pronouns in Jn. 14:17. Because of this it is of the utmost importance to note what He does in Jn. 16:13 and 14. Once in each of these verses He by-passes the requirement of Greek grammar and uses the masculine pronoun with the neuter noun, "spirit." Thus He distinctly emphasizes the fact that the Holy Spirit is a person. This cannot be attributed to ignorance on His part because He followed the proper grammatical form in Jn. 14:17. Since, in the English language, we do not use the neuter pronoun when speaking of a person, the translators correctly render the Greek by the masculine. Further proof of His deliberate intent to designate the personality of the Holy Spirit in John 16 is the fact that He uses the emphatic pronoun and construction. As a matter of fact, there are two emphatic pronouns in verse 14, both the "He" and the "me." To do full justice to what the Lord Jesus Christ

both said and intended we would have to translate "*He* shall glorify *me*," or "*HE* shall glorify *ME*." However, English translators do not attempt to reproduce the emphatic forms with the exception of Joseph B. Rotherham who is responsible for *The Emphasised Bible*. He first translated the New Testament and used a system of underscoring and heavy type. In my 1872 edition of this work the pronoun "He" is in heavy type while the "me" is underscored.

**QUESTION: Why do you call Palestine the Holy Land? Did not God curse the whole earth in Gen. 3:17?**

**ANSWER:** The simplest answer to your question is Zech 2:12, "And the Lord shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again." We call it the holy land because it is so designated in the Scriptures.

This is the land included in God's covenant with Abraham to be the place where He would dwell among His people and meet with them and commune with them (Ex. 25:8, 22). The tabernacle, and later the temple, was to have its holy place and its most holy (Ex 26:33). God repeatedly called the location of this place of worship and fellowship "my holy mountain" (Isa. 56:7, 57:13; 65:11; etc.).

The curse of Genesis 3 did not negate God's purpose to have a holy people and a holy land, and for the ultimate accomplishment of this the Lord Jesus Christ came and suffered

and died and rose again. "So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more" (Joel 3:17). Creation itself is awaiting this day (Rom. 8:19-22).

**QUESTION: Please explain 1 Cor 2:6, "wisdom among them that are perfect."**

**ANSWER:** The word "perfect" refers to those who are mature, full-grown. See Phil. 3:15 and Heb. 5:14. Not only did Paul not rely on the wisdom of this world, but the wisdom of God which he set forth in this writing was for the mature believers. Even the disciples at one period of their growth were not able to bear the heavier food (Jn. 16:12). The principle of adaptation (spiritual truth applied to the various stages of Christian growth) is often overlooked. Babes are given solid meat, and we wonder why they cannot apply it. We learn much regarding the presentation of the truth of God from this second chapter. The natural man cannot receive it (verse 14), and the spiritual man is dependent upon the Holy Spirit for its revelation (verse 13). The degree of spiritual wisdom which can be received depends upon our growth (verse 6). This wisdom is given in mystery so that it cannot be apprehended by the unsaved (verses 7, 8). Since God has already revealed it (verse 10), we must go to the Word of God to find it.



# THE JEWS AND THE TRIBULATION



by ARNOLD G. FRUCHTENBAUM, Editor

(Continued from February issue)

## II. The Jews And The Beginning Of The Tribulation

### A. Daniel 9:24-27

In what way are the Jews involved with the beginning of the Tribulation Period? In Daniel 9:24-27 we are given the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, or better, the Seventy Sevens upon Daniel's people. In this passage, a period of 490 years is decreed upon the Jewish people. A careful study of this text will show that the first 483 years of the 490-year-period are now history having been fulfilled with the death of Christ. However, there are seven more years left to run in God's prophetic clock for Israel. The question now is, when will this last seven years begin ticking away? Daniel 9:27 helps to answer that question:

*And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.*

This verse speaks of an individual making a seven-year treaty or covenant with the Jewish nation. "He" refers back to its nearest antecedent which is "the prince that shall come." This person is better known in Christian circles as the Antichrist. So when the Antichrist signs the seven-year treaty with Israel, the last week or the last seven years of God's prophetic clock for Israel begins ticking away. This then is the starting point of the seven years of Tribulation.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that it is not the Rapture that begins the Tribulation. The Rapture will occur sometime before the Tribulation. It might come just before the Tribulation or it may come 20 years before. The point is that it is not the Rapture that begins the Tribulation but rather the signing of the seven-year covenant by Israel with the Antichrist. If the Rapture were to come today, the Tribulation would not begin tomorrow since the world stage is not yet set for the Tribulation to begin. So it is important for Bible students to keep in mind that the starting point of the Tribulation is the signing of the seven-year covenant and not the Rapture itself.

Three things ought to be noted from this passage. First, the covenant as is viewed in this verse is viewed from man's perspective. As far as man will view it, it will simply be a seven-year treaty between Israel and the Antichrist which the Antichrist himself will break later. Secondly, the covenant is made with many but not with all. While the many who make this covenant would of course include the leaders of Israel, there will be a segment of Jewish people who will refuse to have anything to do with this particular covenant and will not identify themselves with it and will oppose it. A third thing to notice is the three results. First, the covenant is broken: *In the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.* Although the covenant was made for seven years, the Antichrist will break this covenant halfway through. A second result is that following the breaking of the covenant desolation falls upon the Jewish people by the one breaking the covenant: *and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate.* The covenant, which may create a feeling of safety, will result in desolation being poured out upon them. A third result is that following this the wrath of God will be poured out upon the desolate: *and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.*

### B. Isaiah 28: 14-22.

While Daniel 9:27 gives us the covenant that begins the Tribulation

from man's perspective, Isaiah 28 verses 14-22 gives us the covenant from God's perspective. In verse 14 we see God's viewpoint of the many who enter the covenant:

*Wherefore hear the word of Jehovah, ye scoffers, that rule this people that is in Jerusalem.*

God calls the ones making this covenant *scoffers*. He considers them mockers rather than serious leaders. Verse 15 gives us the reason why God considers them this and God's viewpoint of the covenant itself:

*Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.*

Here, in vivid terms, we see why God calls the leaders *scoffers* and His viewpoint of the covenant. It is obvious from this verse that the leaders of Israel went into this covenant in order to obtain some measure of security and to escape *the overflowing scourge*. But God declares that this is not a covenant of life but a covenant of death. It is not a covenant of Heaven but a covenant of Hell. And rather than gaining security, they will receive a strong measure of insecurity.

In verse 16, we see a picture of the non-many who refuse to enter the covenant:

*Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah. Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone a tried stone, a precious corner-stone of sure foundation: he that believeth shall not be in haste.*

In verses 17-22 we find the same three results as in the Daniel 9:27

# THE JEWS AND DECEITFUL "PROPHETS"

passage. First, in verses 17-18 the covenant is broken:

*And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plummet; and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding-place. And your covenant with death shall be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.*

Second, in verses 19-20 desolation falls on the Jews. Rather than having security they have insecurity. It is a picture of tremendous discomfiture. The insecurity and discomfiture is pictured in two ways. First, it is like a man trying to stretch himself out on a bed and the bed is too short for him. Secondly, it is like a man trying to wrap himself up in a blanket to protect him from the cold and the blanket is too small to cover all of his body. It is a picture of tremendous discomfiture.

The third result is the wrath of God in verses 21 and 22:

*For Jehovah will rise up as in Mount Perazim, he will be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon; that He may do his work, his strange work, and bring to pass his act, his strange act. Now therefore be ye not scoffers, lest your bonds be made strong; for a decree of destruction have I heard from the Lord, Jehovah of Hosts, upon the whole earth.*

The Scriptures have many names for the Great Tribulation period and here are two of them: *Jehovah's Strange Work*, and *Jehovah's Strange Act*. It is given these two names because of the latter phrase of verse

22, *for a decree of destruction have I heard from the Lord, Jehovah of Hosts, upon the whole earth.* This decree was issued from Heaven because of the covenant made in the preceding verses.

The Jews are related with the beginning of the Tribulation simply by virtue of the fact that the Tribulation will not begin until the Jewish people sign the seven-year covenant with Antichrist.

(To be continued in April issue)



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by WESLEY J. A. JONES

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