

# The Chosen People

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A photograph of a person walking away from the camera down a path. The path is flanked by tall, dark, gothic-style columns with pointed tops. The entire scene is bathed in a deep red light, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere. The person is a small silhouette in the center of the frame, walking towards a bright light at the end of the path.

DEMONS IN THE  
END TIMES

# From the President



JUNE 83

## The Chosen People

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**"God wants you to be wealthy." "God wants you to be successful." "God only uses successful and prosperous Christians in His work."**

We're hearing these claims more and more across America today. Such statements are based upon the premise that God blessed Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; that He blessed David and Solomon and the Old Testament saints in material ways. Therefore, the argument goes, "He will bless Christians in the same way today."

Such teaching is based, in part, upon formula evangelism, which says, "God has a wonderful plan for your life." However, this type of teaching is based upon a false premise.

In the Old Testament, God was establishing a theocratic society, and material prosperity was one of the conditional blessings of that society. Material prosperity will once again be realized in the Kingdom Age, when Messiah, our Lord Jesus, will reign in the millennial era. In this present age, however, the Church has not been promised material prosperity, success and social acceptance. Jesus clearly promised His disciples that in this world they would face persecution, trials and tribulations. Jesus did not promise His disciples a wonderful plan for their lives. He promised them a *divine* plan—a plan that would include suffering, affliction, hunger, the loss of friendship, the loss of jobs and even the possibility of a cruel death.

No, Jesus doesn't offer us a wonderful plan for our life. He offers us a divine plan—a plan that says He will never leave us or forsake us; a plan that says in our weaknesses we will have His strength; a plan that says, though the world may hate us, God Himself will continue to love and sustain us.

We are living in an age when organized Christianity has become comfortable. The material possessions and benefits of North America have caused us to conform to this world's system. Jesus said we are to be the salt of the earth; but, instead, rich with the world's possessions, the Church has sought to be the sugar of the world. The result is a weak and powerless Church. We must never forget that it is Satan who promises his disciples a wonderful plan for their lives—a plan that includes the kingdoms of this world.

In the closing days of this age, we need Christians who are willing to trust God for *His* plan for their lives. This plan will lead them to proclaim the Gospel, to live the Gospel and to teach the unsearchable riches of Christ to both Jew and Gentile alike.

How I praise God for the faithfulness of our missionary staff. These choice workers of our Lord know what it is to be the salt of the earth. They know what it is to be challenged by God's plan for their lives. They know what it is to experience God's blessing as they see Jewish people coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for helping us keep them on the field with your faithful prayers and loving support.

Shalom, Shalom

Harold A. Sevener

# demons *and the End Times*



By HAROLD A. SEVENER

"I am not guilty, by reason of demon possession," was the plea of a young man on trial for murder in the state of Connecticut. According to the testimony of Arnie Cheyenne Johnson, he was trying to exorcise a demon from his friend. Arnie challenged the demon to enter him. According to witnesses, the demon did, and, as a result, Arnie Johnson committed murder. This was the first time that the devil had been named as a co-defendant in a murder trial in North America. Johnson claimed, as did his lawyer, that the devil made him do it.

In an incident in New York a woman, fearing that her young son was possessed by the devil, poured scalding water over his body and then put him into a heated oven in an attempt to exorcise the devil.

There has been an alarming increase in the manifestation of evil in our day. Novels, television programs and movies are increasingly depicting story plots of demon possession, witchcraft and satanism. The great film epic "Star Wars" is essentially a power struggle between good and evil. Home video machines and the video arcades subtly mask the tendency



*continued from previous page*

toward violence and conflict in the games that are played. The popular game—Dungeons and Dragons—has been responsible for violence and deviant behavior in many colleges and high schools.

Why do we have this alarming increase in the manifestation of evil in our day? The Bible tells us that satanic and demonic activity will increase in the end times. The Bible indicates that demons and satanic activity have existed from the beginning of human history. But it appears that their activities increase on certain occasions.

Satan was present in the Garden of Eden (cf. Gen. 3). Demon activity was present before the flood (cf. Gen. 6).

**I**n an incident in New York a woman, fearing that her young son was possessed by the devil, poured scalding water over his body . . ."

There was an increase in demonic activity just after the Lord Jesus was born. And we know, from God's Word, that satanic activity will increase in the Tribulation (cf. Rev. 12).

The Tribulation will be Satan's final attempt to destroy the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. If he were successful he could invalidate the Word of God. Since Satan knows that, once the Tribulation comes, his time is short, he will do everything in his power to destroy the Jewish people (cf. Rev. 12:12-17).

History shows us that any attempt to establish and maintain the nation of Israel or to provide a place of sanctuary for the Jewish people automatically attracts the wrath of Satan. The modern nation of Israel, for example, came out of the ashes and destruction of the Holocaust. I believe that the Holocaust was Satan's attempt to thwart the program of God to reestablish the modern state of Israel and to provide a homeland for the Jewish people.

The Bible tells us that in the fullness of time God sent His Son, born of a

woman, born under the Law (cf. Gal. 4:4). So, likewise, in the fullness of time, God would reestablish the nation of Israel in order to fulfill the Old Testament promises and set the stage of world history for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan would attempt to thwart that, hence the rise of Nazism and the growing manifestation of evil in our day.

Anthony Burgess, novelist, in an interview for the news magazine *L'Express* of Paris, stated that man only really began to believe in an evil force outside of himself with the rise of Nazism. He stated, "Nazism is the most obvious manifestation of the forces of evil that are not rooted in man, but that man has allowed to be imposed upon him. We cannot say that the Nazis were mistaken, that their intentions were evil, it goes beyond that. The extermination of the Jews was a manifestation of evil." Interestingly, *Time* magazine made the same observation when Lt. Calley ordered the My Lai massacre.

Burgess went on to point out that the world is all too ready to hastily tune in to the supernatural, without knowing what station they will receive. He says, "We're not even looking for God or the devil, good or evil. No, we tune in to anything if it is supernatural. It can only be for the better. Actually, it can be for the worse."

With the increasing use of drugs, alcohol and various forms of self-pleasure and self-indulgence, society is on a collision course with evil. Now the Bible tells us that the Tribulation will be controlled by a man who claims to be God (cf. 2 Th. 2:3, 4) and who will be completely controlled and possessed by Satan (cf. Rev. 12:9; 13:4, 5). Some scholars actually believe that this man of sin, the antichrist or the beast, will actually be the offspring of Satan's seed. It is interesting that the secular movie industry has picked up this thought and developed such films as *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Omen* and *The Omen II*.

The Bible makes it clear that Satan is presently king over two realms. He is the god of this age (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4) or of this cosmos or world system in which we live. It is against this world system that the believer is at war (cf. Eph. 6:12). But Satan is also king over the demons and demonic forces (cf. Mt. 12:22-30). As such they are referred to as Satan's angels or messengers (cf. Mt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9). Their number is legion (cf. Mk. 5:9,

15; Lk. 8:30), and they are totally and completely obedient to Satan (cf. 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 1:6). Satan uses this demonic force as an army in an attempt to thwart the redemptive program of God. As the time approaches for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can expect an increase in demonic activity (cf. 1 Tim. 4:1-3).

This demonic army, made up of fallen angels, is composed of bodiless spirits. Thus, demons seek to enter the bodies of men in order to control their activities. The Bible seems to teach that power for evil is dependent upon such embodiment (cf. Mt. 8:16; 12:43-45). Their need for a body was so great that when Jesus cast out the demons from the maniac of Gadara they asked permission to enter the

**As the time approaches for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can expect an increase in demonic activity."**

body of swine. Evidently, unlike Satan, the demons have no control over animals, for the herd of swine ran headlong into the sea and were destroyed (Mk. 5:12, 13). Thus demons seek to possess men and women. Evidently, man, made in the image of God, has the intellectual and emotional capacity which the demon can use to thwart the purposes of God.

I believe that, as society moves toward more and more self-indulgence, hedonism and humanistic philosophy, as our own society has been doing for the past few years, more and more people become controlled by demonic forces. Scripture states that when Jesus was tempted by Satan, Satan offered Him the kingdoms of the world, its material wealth, its food and its resources if He would simply fall down and worship Satan (cf. Mt. 4:1-11). That temptation has not changed for the world today. The words of Jesus ring loud and clear, "For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Mk. 8:36).

Yet the demons of lust and power, who are legion, are constantly at work, seeking to make the pleasures of sin appealing and attractive in contrast to the Kingdom of God.

Now demons evidently are not only wicked, unclean and in total rebellion against God, they are also vicious (cf. Mt. 8:28; 1 Pet. 5:8). Interestingly, Anthony Burgess makes this observation of evil as it's manifested in young people today. He states, "Today evil is most clearly manifest amongst the young. And that is no accident. Young people have a vitality and energy which has not yet been challenged into creative activity, so it is vented in destruction. They set fire to cars, break shop windows, sometimes kill. Why do they do these things? Neither for a better world, nor to prevent war. Simply for pleasure. Taking pleasure in destruction is a manifestation of evil."

It is in the power of demons to cause people to experience pleasure in the most gross and violent acts. As a result, society becomes weak and permissive. Out of fear, nations begin to arm themselves with great military strength. Communities begin giving their police more and more power. When that doesn't work to curb the violence, they move toward vigilante committees. Then, society enacts ever more severe legislation, giving the state even more extensive powers. Historically, when society has reached these limits, it begins to look for a scapegoat. Satan seizes this opportunity and makes sure that the scapegoat is Israel.

I believe, once again, as we look to the end times and that great Tribulation, the stage is being set. Nations who were once friendly toward Israel are now turning their backs upon that country. The news media, which were once heralding Israel as the only Western democratic society in the Middle East, are now castigating her. I believe that Satan is preparing his demonic hordes and the world system for the final battle between good and evil.

I praise God for the countless hundreds of thousands of believers who continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, who continue to stand fast, wearing the whole armor of God and able to withstand the wiles of the devil. These are strategic days, and the Gospel needs to be proclaimed with love and determination to Jewish people everywhere. □

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Movie producers and script writers in Hollywood search the world over for exciting stories to tell on the screen. They really don't have to travel so far from home, however. Our missionaries in Los Angeles have lots of exciting stories to tell.*

## A MEETING PLANNED BY GOD

Santa Monica Beach is a favorite gathering spot for Jewish people living in West Los Angeles. So, as you might expect, our missionaries like to go to this beach and to a lovely park just above it to pass out tracts and talk to people.

One day, when Sid Stern was passing out tracts in the park, he came upon a group of four ladies. When he offered

them literature, one of them snapped, "Don't talk to him, he's a missionary."

Ordinarily, this would be enough to intimidate anyone. But, Frances, one of the ladies in the group, boldly replied, "Maybe I want to talk to him. Perhaps he can tell me about this Messianic Judaism my daughter has become involved in."

Sid seized the opportunity. He took Frances aside and began telling her about all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. Then he explained God's plan of salvation and demonstrated how Christ had come and given His life for her sins.

God was obviously working in Frances's heart. She agreed to meet with the Freemans, our missionaries in that area of Los Angeles. After just a few weeks she gave her heart to Christ, and now she's attending church

# YOU OUGHT TO BE IN



ABMJ missionaries (from left, clockwise) Sid Stern, Edith Freeman and Karl Thames.



with her daughter.

After accepting Christ, Frances happily testified, "That meeting with Sid must have been planned by God. I have never been in the park at that time of day before."

Maybe Hollywood writers believe in coincidences, but we don't. We think Frances was right. Unknowingly, when she left home that day, she was going to a meeting planned by God! □

## THE LADY WHO WANTED TO TOUCH THE CROSS

By EDITH FREEMAN

It's always a privilege to serve as a counsellor when an invitation is given at the conclusion of a church service.

After one service when I was serving

as a counsellor I noticed a woman hurrying from the back of the auditorium toward the platform. When she reached the front of the church, she bent over and touched the huge 12-foot cross lying on the floor. This impressive cross belonged to Arthur Blisset, an evangelist who had just finished speaking of his visit to Israel and Lebanon. Once this stranger touched the cross, she turned and began to rush away just as quickly as she had come.

Instantly, I felt compelled to run after her even though I had never done anything like that before. When I caught up to Bertha, I asked her if she was Jewish. "What's that to you?" she angrily snapped. "I'm Jewish too," I replied. Bertha could not conceal her skepticism as she retorted, "If you're Jewish, what are you doing here?"

As a missionary I've learned that sometimes people are deliberately brusque just to discourage you from continuing a conversation. But I was determined not to be intimidated by her harsh manner. So I said, "I worship here. I bring many of my Jewish friends here, and we have a number of Jewish people who are members of this church."

She quickly brushed aside my answer by retorting, "You're not Jewish anymore." It was obvious that Bertha was determined not to be touched by my commitment to Christ. Whatever had motivated her to come forward to touch the cross was gone.

I was pleased, however, by the fact that she accepted the tract I offered her called "Twenty-One Reasons" about why a rabbinical student accepted Christ.

As we walked out the front door, we bumped into the Gentile friend who had brought her to the meeting. I was excited to see that the Lord was still working in Bertha's heart, because as I talked to her friend some of my Hebrew Christian friends began to appear.

One by one they began to briefly share with Bertha what Messiah Jesus had done in their lives. She was especially impressed with the testimony of an Israeli man who had come to Christ. He openly shared his love for Jesus and showed her Messianic prophecies from the Old Testament that spoke of Jesus.

Eventually our little group on the sidewalk began breaking up to go our separate ways. Bertha could not help seeing these believers hug each other before they departed. She was deeply touched by the love and concern we had for one another. Bertha confessed that she would like to become my friend, but she was afraid I would try to convert her.

Since that day Bertha has called our home and has had a long conversation about spiritual things with my husband, Bill. Still, she's afraid to come to our meetings. Pray that she will soon find the courage to come to Christ just as she found the courage to come forward to touch the cross. □

*please turn to  
page 14 for the  
conclusion of  
"...Hollywood"*

# HOLLYWOOD



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# GOD'S ETERNAL CALENDAR

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By DR. DANIEL FUCHS

**F**or the past two months we have been studying two of Israel's sacred feasts—Firstfruits and Pentecost. These studies were based on Leviticus 23, which is one of the most fascinating and instructive chapters in the Bible. In 44 verses God presents the annual sacred feasts of Israel. At first glance it seems to be just a simple list of Israel's major holidays. It is all of that, but the more one studies the entire Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, the more one realizes that this is not just a list. It is God's calendar from eternity to eternity. In this chapter we are not dealing with mere holidays—they are Holy Days.

Israel's calendar is not only sacred to the Jews; it is also precious to Christians—to those who "have found him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth" (Jn. 1:45).

When we found Him, we also dis-

covered that the Old Testament and the New Testament are not two books. They are a unity—the Holy Scriptures. As we study Israel's calendar, we realize that we cannot understand the New Testament without comprehending the Old. The converse is also true. We cannot begin to appreciate the Old Testament until we accept the One who is revealed to us in the New Testament—the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are six appointed feasts in Leviticus 23, as follows:

1. The Passover and Unleavened Bread (vv. 4-8)
2. The Sheaf of Firstfruits (vv. 9-14)
3. The Feast of Pentecost (vv. 15-21)

At this point, there is a change in subject matter. After minutely describing these feasts, which are in the late spring, there is a verse that has



absolutely nothing to do with Israel's sacred Holy Days!

"And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 23:22).

Strange words in a strange place! The author then returns to the sacred feasts. All of the feasts listed below occur in the fall of the year, the seventh month of Israel's calendar. During the summer months there are no Holy Days.

4. The Feast of Trumpets  
(vv. 23-25)
5. The Day of Atonement  
(vv. 26-32)
6. The Feast of Tabernacles  
(vv. 33-36)

As we carefully analyze these seven "appointed feasts," we observe three significant facts. First, that all of these days are mentioned frequently throughout all the Scriptures, in the Old and New Testaments, and that they all have significant symbolic and prophetic meaning. Second, the New Testament clearly teaches that some of these prophetic feasts have already been fulfilled; these are readily recognized as those in the spring of the year. Third, it is evident that, even though all of them are prophetic, there are some that have not as yet been fulfilled. These are the feasts celebrated in the fall, Israel's seventh month. They are the feasts of Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles.

Between the fulfilled feasts of verses 4 through 21 and the unfulfilled feasts of verses 23 through 44, there is a gap that lasts several months. Most of Israel's feasts are agricultural, and during the long summer months the fields are white unto harvest. As they reap the harvest in these months Israel is commanded not to keep all of

the fruits for herself and is admonished to leave enough of her bounty to share with the poor and the strangers. God's provisions are not only for Israel. In God's providence, Israel is to feed the poor and the strangers also. It is to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

If this provision had never been made, we would not have the book of Ruth. The story of Ruth is more than a beautiful idyll, more than a love story—it is a revelation of God's heart! It is God's missionary program.

It has always been God's will that all men everywhere would love, honor and worship Him. When man failed at Babel, God chose the family of Abraham "that in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3). God's blessing was to be universal—to the family of Abraham first, but also to "all the families of the earth."

**T**he book of Ruth is set historically between the book of Judges, when "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" and when there was no king, and the book of Samuel where you have the king anointed, crowned, and the kingdom established. It's not stretching the facts to say that it is a parenthesis between human failure on one side and the glory of the kingdom on the other.

The story is so familiar that it is not necessary to repeat it. Ruth, the chief character in the story, is a Moabitess.

*She who was cursed by the law becomes married to Boaz and as we learn from the ending, Ruth is the great-grandmother of David. Her name appears therefore in the first chapter of the New Testament in the list of ancestors of Him, who is David's Son and David's Lord. She is the third Gentile woman in the genealogy of our Lord. The two Canaanitish women, Tamar and Rahab, precede her. The promises made to Abraham that the Gentiles were to receive blessing through his seed are con-*

*firmed through the history of these Gentile women among the ancestors of David and our Lord.*

A.C. Gaebelien,  
*The Annotated Bible*, v. 11, p. 118.

Because of the Levitical provision for the poor and the stranger, a cursed Moabitess met her Kinsman Redeemer and became the ancestor not only of David but of our Lord. Under the Law, a Gentile had to become a proselyte to partake of Israel's blessings. Not so under grace.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come . . . there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:1, 5). It was then that the firstfruits of Israel's ripened harvest were presented to the Lord. At that time the sheaves were reaped from Israel herself. The apostles preached not only to the Jew first, but only to the Jews. But there was abundant fruit left for the poor and the stranger! "The field is the world" (Mt. 13:38) and from those who "were all with one accord gathered in one place" "when the day of Pentecost was fully come" (Acts 2:1), myriads of the poor and strangers who ". . . being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Eph. 2:12-14). Like Ruth of old we have gleaned in the fields of Bethlehem and have found our Kinsman Redeemer.

There is still abundant provision for all in that Feast of Pentecost harvest. But the summer has been long. For 19 centuries our Lord has reaped an abundant harvest of Jews and Gentiles, but He has other festivals on His calendar. Our ears long to hear the sound of the coming "Feast of Trumpets." □

*THE NIGHT I TALKED  
WITH A DEMON*





By MITCH TRIESTMAN, Missionary, Philadelphia

Nearly 1,900 years ago Paul issued a solemn warning to the Church. He told us that our struggle is not against flesh and blood. It is, he declared, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms (Eph. 6:12).

What are those dark forces of evil lurking in the shadows of spiritual reality? God's Word tells us some of them are agents of Satan known as demons. This truth suddenly became a frightening reality to me during one of our meetings.

Nearly 50 people had come to this meeting in which I was scheduled to speak on the subject of Satan's attack on believers. The emphasis of my message focused on the fact that Satan does prowl about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

"If the child of God is to escape Satan's attacks," I told my audience, "he or she must be totally committed to the Lord." As I spoke I sensed that many people were being touched by the message. Little did I realize, however, that Satan was about to invade our group with a demon.

Just as we were singing the last song, a new person who had come to visit our service suddenly fell to the floor, screaming in pain.

Several paramedics who attend our meetings immediately moved forward to help her. But they couldn't detect any physical problem.

Sharon's pulse was normal, her breathing was unobstructed and she was fully conscious. Yet she was writhing in pain and incoherent.

We decided to move Sharon outside to see if the cool air would help revive her. It was nearly 30 minutes before we were able to carry on a coherent conversation. When she was able to talk again Sharon told me she was deeply troubled because she felt her parents hated her.

Since we had another girl in our group who had also been rejected by her parents, I asked her to help. Nancy talked to Sharon for nearly 20 minutes, and it seemed as though she had really been able to help her.

I was about to write the episode off as an emotional problem when Sharon

suddenly asked, "Where am I? What happened?" Then I knew it had to be something of a more serious nature. "Could it be," I quietly asked myself, "that this girl is demon possessed?" There was only one way to find out. I had to ask her some leading questions.

When I asked her if she ever heard voices in her mind, she answered "yes." I asked her what these unseen voices were like. When Sharon answered I could tell she was really disturbed. She said, "They're mean and ugly."

"Are they your parents' voices?" I probed. Sharon replied, "No, it is the voice of the devil!"

When Sharon told me this, I asked her to come and sit down inside the car with me while several people stood outside the car praying.

I was a little frightened by what might happen next, because I had never done anything like this before. If I asked the demon to identify himself and there was no answer, I'd really be making a fool of myself.

**Y**et I felt something inside of me saying this was what I should do. So I mustered up all the courage I could and said, "I represent Christ. By His authority I command the demon that's using the voice of Satan in this woman to identify himself."

Instantly a deep, ugly voice came from her mouth. He said, "My name is Malo." Now I knew for sure that Sharon was demon possessed.

I asked the demon, "By what right are you possessing this woman?" The deep, masculine voice began to list a catalogue of sins that permeated her life. As he spoke, I sensed that these were really sins that he was forcing her to commit. So I told him I wasn't going to tolerate these lies. I commanded him in the name of Jesus to tell me the truth. With this, he stopped lying and told me the specific sin that she was committing that gave him power over her.

After learning of this sin, I asked

Sharon to confess it to God and ask His forgiveness. Then, we spent a few moments together praying that God would give her power over it.

As soon as she had finished praying I once again addressed the demon. "What right do you have to possess this woman now?" I asked. He replied, "None, I have no place in her life now."

At this, I was about to cast him out in the name of Jesus. But before I could do so, he began to mock me in an extremely ugly voice. It was much worse than the voice he had used before, and it frightened me. It was as though I had just been confronted by a ravenous beast that could sense my fear. I felt like fleeing, but I knew I couldn't.

The Bible tells us that He (the Holy Spirit) who is in us is greater than he (Satan) who is in the world. So I decided to call this demon's bluff.

"I'm not going to take this nonsense from you any longer," I declared. "Don't try to scare me. So just stop talking in that phony voice." Immediately he went back to his "normal" voice.

Now that I had reestablished my power over this demon, by God's grace, I knew the time had come to cast him out. So I said, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to come out." At that very moment, Sharon shuddered as the demon left her.

The people who had been praying outside the car were amazed. They all agreed that they felt some kind of presence go by them, causing them to move out of its way.

Since this incident, Sharon has been completely calm. She now praises the Lord for her deliverance from the demon, and there haven't been any reoccurrences.

I still marvel that a meeting which began with a message on Satan could end with such a frightening demonstration of his power and presence. But most of all, I thank God that the Holy Spirit He has given us is greater than the unseen spirits of Satan's world. □

## There's a Special Reason Why Satan Doesn't Want Us to Tell Jews About Jesus

In Matthew 23:39, Jesus told His people they would not see Him again until they were willing to recognize Him as their Messiah. Amazingly, we find this same truth in the book of Hosea 5:15.

If we're committed Christians we won't want to miss the profound spiritual truth that is being taught us in these two passages. What is this truth? It's simply this—the one way Satan can try to keep Jesus from coming again is to keep the Jewish people from accepting the Gospel.

This is the reason the Jewish mission field is one of the toughest mission fields in the world today. It has Satan's special attention. It's also the reason why some of the greatest spiritual battles are being won on this particular mission field. Christ is determined to win back the hearts of His people.

Do you want to take sides in this great battle? As incredible as it may seem you can help. You see, your prayers and your faithful support really do make a difference in this great spiritual struggle.

Will you take a stand? Write today and let us know we can count on you to help us bring the Gospel to Christ's own people. The sooner they hear and accept it—the sooner He will return.

I promise to pray for ABMJ missionaries and the salvation of the Jewish people.

I also enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of ABMJ's missionaries.

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continued from page 9

## HE WANTED TO KNOW GOD AT ANY COST

By KARL E. THAMES

The first time I met Andy he was hot, angry and frustrated. He just walked into our office one day to express his anger at the world.

Even though Andy was Jewish, he had gone to a church for assistance. Unfortunately, they had little concern for his problems and sent him on his way. Now he appeared at our door to lash out at Christians, churches and an unjust world that had kicked him around one time too many.

As he vented his anger, one thing became clear to me. Andy was searching for something more than the temporal help he said he was seeking. He had come to the end of himself, and now he realized that the world could no longer hold any satisfaction for him. He wanted to know God at any cost.

I assured Andy that, even though he had experienced a lot of difficulties, the God of his people had not forgotten him. He could be certain of one thing—God was quietly working behind the scenes to his benefit as time would show.

Andy seemed pleased with my certainty about his future. He asked if he could come back so we could study the Bible together, so he too could understand God's purpose for his life.

Naturally I was pleased with his request, and we set up a time to get together on a regular basis.

During the weeks to follow, Andy shared the many questions he had about God and life. Why am I here? If there is a God, why is there so much injustice in the world? How can I know God in a personal way like you do?

I answered each of his questions as carefully as I knew how. Yet it was

difficult for him to grasp the spiritual truths I was trying to share. Each time he left, he seemed just as confused as when he came. Still, we were both convinced that God was not far away from his heart.

Then the day came when I received a frantic telephone call from Andy. He had just been fired from his new job. The girlfriend he had been living with for nearly three years had just walked out on him. And he had been thrown out of his apartment. Andy was now destitute. But worse yet, he was alone and no one really cared.

I immediately drove over to pick him up, and I brought him back to my apartment for dinner. After we had eaten, we began to talk about his situation.

What had he done wrong? What should he have done differently? Was there any way out of his problems? How could he put his life together again? After several hours of talking, Andy realized that the only thing left for him to do was to trust the Messiah Jesus with what he had left of his life.

As he prayed, I could sense a peace that Andy had never known before come into his life. Even though all the questions of life had not been answered for him, he now knew the peace of God. His crises had led him to Christ. At last he had a hope. □

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# Questions and Answers

by DR. HENRY J. HEYDT

**QUESTION:** Please explain the meaning of the word "cross" in Mt. 10:38, "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

**ANSWER:** The illustration used here by the Lord is based upon the custom for the condemned person to carry his own cross to the place of execution. It often happens that to love the Lord Jesus Christ and to follow Him brings a break in family life. To bear this for His sake is likened by our Lord in this instance to cross-bearing. In Mt. 16:24 the same figure is used for self-denial. From this usage it has become customary to consider any hardship as cross-bearing. While this may be quite true in itself, it is not the essential point of the illustration as used by Christ. He has reference to that which is borne for His sake, whether it be leaving father and mother or even matters of our own personal comfort,

in order to follow him.

**QUESTION:** When Christ was resurrected was He no longer human but all Spirit?

**ANSWER:** When you ask whether Christ was no longer human after the resurrection but all Spirit, we gather that you refer to His *physical* body. The Bible clearly teaches that He was resurrected in a real physical body. He said, "handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Lk. 24:39). This body, however, was in a glorified form. It was not restricted by physical laws. Thus, the closed doors did not hinder Him, nor did the distance between Emmaus and Jerusalem or, even, that between earth and heaven. It is wonderful to realize that our resurrection bodies will be like His (Rom. 8:23; 1 Jn. 3:2).

**QUESTION:** If God made everything perfect, and He hates sin, how was it that sin was found in Satan, and where did it come from?

**ANSWER:** The Bible deals with sin as a present reality and does not discuss its inception excepting as it is attributed to Satan. Sin became a possibility the moment God created a being who was not a mere mechanism and who had any latitude of will. For God to create a being who could love Him voluntarily there had to be the possibility for that creature not to love Him, and not to love Him would immediately be sin. The same thing is true of obedience. There can be no true obedience apart from the possibility of disobedience, and disobedience is sin. The first creature to exercise his will contrary to God's was Satan. For the account of his fall see Ezek. 28:11-19.

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