

The Chosen People

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**"I Knew
There
Was A
God."**

*Lydia went looking for
her Jewish identity in
Leningrad but found
her Messiah instead.*

БИБЛИЯ



From the President

The Chosen People

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE is a medium of information concerning the Jewish people, Israel, and the work of the Chosen People Ministries, 1300 Cross Beam Drive, Charlotte, N.C. 28217-2834

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"Count your blessings, name them one by one." We often think of Thanksgiving in regard to what we have—our families, our health, our possessions, our jobs. At Chosen People Ministries, being thankful seems to be so easy. The Lord has provided so much—faithful staff, abundant opportunities for service, and—praise the Lord!—much response to the Gospel. Each day, it seems, I'm privileged to hear of yet more Jewish people responding to the Gospel.

And daily I'm privileged to see how wonderfully the Lord protects our workers. When the "coup that couldn't" took place in the Soviet Union, we were able to place a quick call to our staff in Kiev. Of course we were concerned for their safety. Vladimir Winer as yet hadn't even heard about the coup. His response to the takeover by Stalin-type leaders, which might have brought severe repercussions on him and other bold believers, was, "I'm here to serve. I'll stay until the Lord removes me!"

Later, when Vladimir found out the exact hour the coup took place, he added, "At that time we were holding a Bible study, and four Jewish people gave their hearts to the Lord!" Hallelujah! How can we *not* be thankful?

But what do we do when there seem to be no victories? What if we are widowed, or in bad health, or in financial trouble?

What can we be thankful for when we seem to have nothing—no job, poor health, no family? In Revelation 7 and 15, we see those "who have come out of the great tribulation" (7:14); they came out "victorious" (15:2). Even though they had lost everything—even their lives (12:11)—are they unthankful or even bitter? Not at all! Rather, they are more thankful than ever. For, having nothing in this world, they saw and appreciated all the more the worthiness of God and their salvation and eternal life!

One Jewish man, the father of a believer on our Board of Directors, worked very hard to establish his business. Then, when it was established, he worried so much about losing it that it continues to be his preoccupation.

Many of us do the same thing. We become so preoccupied with maintaining God's gifts to us, that we are never truly thankful for the Giver.

His gifts, provisions, and blessings are not the true gifts, but only tokens of His love, expressions of His heart toward us.

Only the greatest of all gifts—that "indescribable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15), the Messiah Jesus, the fullest demonstration "of his own love for us" (Rom. 5:8)—is worthy of praise.

Now we give thanks to Him as we see the tokens of His love; one day when we know fully, even as we are fully known (1 Cor. 13:12), we will give the ultimate thanks for His worthiness, His character, and His perfection.

Let's prepare for that day by giving thanks for His blessings and by testifying that our thanks is to the Giver of every good gift.

SAM NADLER
PRESIDENT, CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES



MEMBER EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION



Letter to a SKEPTIC

(Part II)

Ju. 1991

Shalom Aleichem:

Thank you for replying, I must admit I was surprised to hear from you. You presented an interesting argument.

I have a question (if you will take the time to answer it!). Is there any mention in Talmud that would in any way indicate that Y'Shua Ben Yosef is the "Messiah"? Aside from using King James "Old Testament" quotations what does Tenakh indicate about "Messiah"?

Also, my friend, are you yourself Jewish? It is so much easier for a "goy" to proselytize a Jew (and become adamant in their approach to the Jewish people!). If you are Jewish yourself and have a knowledge of our culture, prophecies, and religious traditions, we can correspond further, but if you are gentile and believe the way you do, then what further is there for us to discuss? It all becomes then "Christian vs. Jew." An age old argument that extends backward to the beginning of time when our people were massacred and persecuted all in "his Holy name." If you are Jewish and wish to pursue this matter further, I await your correspondence. If you are on the other hand a gentile "missionary" then either pass this on to someone who can better relate to me or deposit this correspondence in "the round file."

Shalom!

D. [REDACTED]

In last month's Chosen People (Oct. 1991), you read the first exchange of letters between a Jewish man and Winn Orenshaw from Chosen People Ministries. This month they continue their "interesting argument."



Shalom,

I am sure you think that I either didn't care or was afraid to write back. However, on July 8 I left D.C. on business for Chosen People Ministries that included, among other things, teaching in Gentile churches about the tragedy and horror of anti-Semitism. I drove through Atlanta and would have liked to have met you, but I have no idea where your town is.

After arriving in D.C. on August 15, I left again on the 18th to be a camp counselor for 11- and 12-year-old boys at our camp, Simchat Yeladim, in Pennsylvania. After taking a few days off to get "reacquainted" with my wife, I thought I would spend a few minutes giving you a few more things to think about concerning Yeshua.

From the Talmud

You asked if the Talmud had anything to say on the subject. Here are a couple of interesting passages for you to consider.

Sanhedrin 97:a (compare it with *Daniel 9:24-27* in the Tenach) says that the age of man will be 6,000 years: 2,000 of chaos, 2,000 of the Law, and 2,000 of Messiah. If this is true, then Messiah should have come about 2,000 years ago, for we know the Law was given approximately 4,000 years ago.

The Daniel passage indicates a couple of interesting things. (a) The Anointed One (Meshiach) will be "cut off" 483 years (69 weeks) after the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem following the Babylonian captivity. The decree to rebuild Jerusalem

was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus on 3/14/445 B.C.E. (Gregorian). If one calculates 483 Jewish years (360 days per year), one discovers that the length of time is 173,880 days, which would be 4/13/32 C.E., the exact day Yeshua arrived in Jerusalem for His last Pesach. He was greeted by many who believed He was Meshiach with the words "Baruch haba bashem Ad-

***Sanhedrin 97:a* says that the age of man will be 6,000 years: 2,000 of chaos, 2,000 of the Law, and 2,000 of Messiah. If this is true, then Messiah should have come about 2,000 years ago.**

onai" [Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord]. However, most of the Jewish leaders rejected Him and determined to do away with Him, thus "cutting him off." (b) The Daniel passage goes on to say that this "cutting off" of the Anointed One would be before the destruction of the second Temple (Zerubbabel/Herod), which we all know occurred in 70 C.E.

Both of these points made by Daniel seem to fit well with the *Sanhedrin* chronology of the time of Messiah's coming.

Mysterious Happenings

A second passage in the Talmud that deserves your consideration would be *Yoma 37:a,b*. It mentions some interesting things that began happening on Yom Kippur approximately 40 years before the destruction of the Temple. For the first time ever (a) the lot for the *azazel* [scape goat] came up in the right hand of the High Priest rather than the left; (b) the red strap tied to the door of the Temple stopped turning white as the *azazel* was thrown over the cliff; (c) the westernmost light on the Menorah in the Temple stopped lighting as the *azazel* was thrown over the cliff; and (d) the doors to the Temple mysteriously opened.

The interpretation of these events by the rabbis at the time was that they were a sign of coming judgment upon the nation by God.

However, could there be an-



other explanation? For also approximately 40 years before the destruction of the Temple, Yeshua died. As we discussed last time, I believe He died to be the *kippurah* sacrifice for the sins of the Jewish people. If He was, in fact, a sin sacrifice (atonement), could it not be that by changing the things mentioned above, God was showing the Jewish people that they missed the significance of Yeshua's death?

The Ultimate Sacrifice

Here's another thought along those lines: Look at the similarities

A second passage in the Talmud that deserves your consideration mentions some interesting things that began happening on Yom Kippur approximately 40 years before the destruction of the Temple.

between the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. and the miracle of Hanukkah. Both instances involved a pagan world leader attempting to destroy the Jewish people and Temple sacrifices. In 165 B.C.E. God went to a great deal of effort to save the Temple

and the sacrifice. However, approximately 230 years later, He let the Temple and the sacrifices be destroyed forever. What was the difference? Could it be that the Temple and its sacrificial system were no longer needed because the ultimate sacrifice had been made in the death of Yeshua? (Remember Isaiah 53 from the last letter?) I think it had, especially when one tries to recon-

Leviticus 17:11, which states that

blood is given for atonement. With the High Holy Days coming up, where is the blood today? *Teshuvah* [repentance], *tefillah* [prayer], and *tzedakah* [righteousness] provide no blood for atonement. The rabbis at Yavneh made a statement about atonement, but that doesn't change the Tenach. It still demanded blood. Yeshua's death provided that blood once and for all!

My friend, the truth of the matter is that there is no *one* Biblical or Talmudic passage that, taken alone, definitively points to the Messiahship of Yeshua. However, just like in a court of law, the preponderance of the evidence convinces me beyond a reasonable doubt.

To get to your question about my heritage. No, I was not raised in a Jewish home. However, that in reality

has nothing to do with the real issue here. For you see, if Yeshua isn't the Jewish Messiah described in the Tenach, He isn't the Messiah for anyone, Jew or Gentile. The Gentiles were never anticipating a "Messiah." He was only revealed in the Tenach. The



question isn't one of heritage.

The real question is: *Is Yeshua the Messiah or not?* If He is the Jewish Messiah prophesied in the Jewish Scriptures, every person must decide for him or herself what to do with Him. If Jewish people let tradition or the rabbis decide for them, they have given up their own right to decide. I suggest that you continue to research the person of Yeshua and be willing to submit to the truth once you find it.



Winn Crenshaw is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University and has attended Dallas Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Dana, a teacher, have two children.

I knew There Was A God

*Lydia went looking
for her Jewish
identity in Leningrad
but found her Messiah
instead.*

By LYDIA ONBREIT



Two things in my mother's heart greatly influenced my life when I was young. The first was her desire to know God. The second was fear, fear she and my father felt if they were to attend synagogue.

I was born in 1967 in a Jewish family in Leningrad, Russia, at a time when Leonid Brezhnev ruled. The State was "supreme," and "religion" was for "illiterate fools who were unworthy of the great opportunities the State could make available."

Jewish Fear

My parents knew, as did everyone else, that they would be considered disloyal to their country if they went to synagogue. It was every Jew's fear during worship to see the edges of a flash, knowing that the KGB was recording their presence on film.

You have to live under this kind of system to know what it means, to understand how effectively and powerfully it can threaten your life and job.

However, no system can shut out God.

My mother had a great desire to be close to God and to see that I loved Him too. For this reason she took me to the Russian Orthodox church when I was about eight years old. There we were both baptized. After all, there was only one synagogue for the authorities to watch, but there were many Russian Orthodox churches.

I still remember that day. The awe-inspiring richness of the church with its silver and gold trimmings and beautiful icons led me to feel a deep peace and reverence for God.

And so, although I did not understand what I did that day, in all my life

I was never to forget it. From that day on, I began to tell everyone that I believed in God. You must realize that the Soviet Union is primarily an atheistic country, so that what I was saying was considered to be very out of step.

I seemed to be more out of step as I grew older.

My parents knew that they would be considered disloyal to their country if they went to synagogue. It was every Jew's fear during worship to know that KGB agents were there.

Communist Indoctrination

My parents worked very hard to have me accepted at a high school that specialized in English. There, in addition to our other school work, we memorized articles and political texts about our leaders so we'd be ready to explain our policy and peaceful intentions to foreigners.

It was fully understood that we were expected to become Communists when we graduated from high school.

But from the American and British political essays I read, I knew that there was much wrong with the Communist system. Deep in my heart I knew there was something very wrong with what I was being taught, with more than just the political system.

For instance, we were told that rich people had made up the concept of God to exploit the poor. This I just could not believe!

I knew there was a God. I felt He had great love. Still, I had no knowledge of how to follow Him, and so I continued along the path that our "system" set out for me.

After high school, because I had been good at mathematics and foreign languages, I went to the Railway Engineering Institute to study civil engineering. This was a time when I should have been entirely devoted to logic, to my future . . . to becoming a productive Soviet citizen. Strangely, what began to grow most in me was a curiosity about my Jewishness.

Jewish Identity

Suddenly I wanted to know more about what it meant to be Jewish, to understand the culture, the holidays, the history. I began to attend synagogue on the holidays, hoping to discover more about what it meant to be a Jew. Yet the synagogue was very crowded on the holidays (perhaps people felt less intimidated because of the crowds) and since the service was in Hebrew, I didn't really understand anything that was going on.

Throughout my years at the institute, my longing to know more about my Jewishness grew. I didn't seem to be able to do much about this longing except to ask questions of my grandparents. Occasionally I'd pray, trusting in the rote prayers I had learned in the Russian Orthodox church.

Then I was invited to an international ball at the Palace of Youth. This hall housed the social and political activities of the Komsomol (Communist Union of Youth). Affiliation with the Komsomol was prelude to becoming a Communist Party member.



For over a year, Lydia Onbreit has faithfully worked with our Russian outreach. She is currently training to enter full-time ministry with Chosen People Ministries. Please pray for her as she raises her support. If you know a church that is not currently supporting Chosen People Ministries, or that is interested in supporting a worker reaching Russian Jewish immigrants, please let us know.

At this dance, I met a girl from Finland. Always trying to practice my English, I began to talk with her. We agreed to exchange letters after she left the Soviet Union.

In her first letter she told me she believed in God.

As we corresponded, she challenged me to think about God and what He meant in my life. She also mentioned that she would be praying for me and my family.

God answered her prayers in two ways.

Jesus Was Jewish

First, a friend (who knew I wanted to practice my English) invited me to see the movie *Jesus of Nazareth*. This was the first time I had seen or heard that Jesus was Jewish. The final scene, when Jesus told His disciples that He would be with them always, left me with the feeling that I could truly believe and trust Him.

The second event happened after I graduated from the institute. I was working as an engineer. Again while trying to practice my English, I met American students who invited me to the Baptist church.

Go to a Baptist church? At first I was afraid. I had heard the Baptist church was a cult, a sect, full of fanatics and illiterates.

Still, something inside prodded me to form my own opinion, so I went. There I met some people who had a house church, and (again listening to that inner curiosity, that prodding) I began to attend their Wednesday night Bible studies.

The Bible studies were in a little two-room apartment, where a pastor, his wife, and seven children lived. Often the services were as long as two hours, and because 30 or more people would sometimes come, there would be standing room only.

Still, what I noticed wasn't the small apartment or the long stand. It was the excitement I felt in hearing people talk about God and the Bible.

At home I was praying very often, and at work I was telling people about God. I had stopped caring about being an engineer and a Communist.

Praying Often

It was the first time I learned about the Bible in a way I could understand it, and I continued to go to the study. At home I was praying very often, and at work I was telling people about God. I had stopped caring about being an engineer and a Communist, as if I had ever really cared to begin with. I was eager to be completely God's.

On Easter Sunday, I felt that I wanted to make my beliefs public, but my mother was at the service with me, and the words just wouldn't come out. However, a few weeks later during service, I felt God calling me.

The pastor asked if anyone wanted to receive the Lord. All at once everything I had always felt for God seemed to well up inside me. I was full of peace and cleansing, full of the beauty and awe of the God of Israel.

I started to pray to receive the Lord, but could hardly finish because I was crying so much. Then came an overwhelming feeling of newness and satisfaction—a part of me had found something I had always been looking for.

Witnessing in Leningrad

Within weeks the Lord was using me to witness and hand out Gospel literature on the streets of Leningrad. By August 1990 (three months later), God had opened a door for me to visit New York.

At Calvary Baptist Church in Manhattan, I met Israel Cohen and, through him, Danny Siegel (both Chosen People Ministries workers in New York). Like me, Danny had recently arrived in New York and also had a desire to reach Russian Jews with the message of salvation. He had only one problem: He could neither speak nor understand Russian. We began to work as a team.

I have learned a lot about my Jewish identity during the last six months as a volunteer with Chosen People Ministries. This summer, I was part of STEP, learning how to serve Him as a missionary. As I look at all God has done in my life, I know that 2 Corinthians 5:17 is true: "If anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" ☺

Thank you for praying for us during the busy fall season as we urged Jewish people all over the world through Jewish Holy Day services to trust in Yeshua (Jesus) as their atonement. Here is just a sampling of . . .

ANSWERED PRAYER



In Montreal, Larry Rich led the monthly meeting with an emphasis on "What It Means to Have Your Sins Forgiven." But the highlight for Larry and Chosen People Ministries worker Winnie Marriner was the day after the service, when they called on a Jewish man. He had been too ill to come out to the meeting, but that day, over Chinese food, he received the Lord.

Boston, MA

says Pastor Gary Derechinsky, "The services at Beth El Shaddai were 'very special' this year," especially for the children. The teachers were really inventive with their use of pictures and crafts to teach God's lessons of faith through the holidays."

Los Angeles, CA

Steve Cagan says,

"The holidays were fantastic. Believers, unbelievers, Jews, Gentiles, and even a Mormon I've been working with seemed to truly hear the message. And at Yom Kippur we heard a really great message by Christopher Melisko on 'The Three Elements Missing in the Traditional Yom Kippur Service—No Substitute, No Intercessor, No Assurance.'"



Plainview, NY

The Jewish New Year 1991 brought hope of a renewed life for one Jewish woman at the Olive Tree Congregation. Three years ago she had come to faith, but after several months had fallen away. This Rosh Hashanah she came out to our services and, when Michael Rydelnik asked for people to recommit their lives to the Lord, she came forward. It seems that even though we hadn't heard from her, she had never forgotten (nor been able to ignore) what she learned about the Lord.

Toronto, ON

The Olive Tree had two great services that, according to Pastor Ben Volman, were even more interesting because the room they rented was right down the hall from where a large group of secular Jewish people were worshipping. "Our room was closest to the entrance," says Ben, "so they had to pass by us on their way in."

Washington, DC

"Utterly thrilling," says Scott Brown, taking a minute to reflect on the Son of David Congregation. "Two years ago," he says, "we were 6 to 8 people in a circle. God has been so wonderful to us. It's wonderful to see 110 people gather on Yom Kippur—some of them Jewish people who even a month ago weren't believers."

God blessed the first meeting of Beth Sar Shalom's monthly fellowship with a packed-out service of 160 adults. Both saved and unsaved Jewish people weighed the words of Sam Nadler's exhortative Yom Kippur message. The toughest moment for one Israeli believer was translating Sam's message—including the jokes—for his unbelieving mother.

New Haven, CT

One hundred fifty worshiped at Joy of Israel's two holiday services, and Pastor Stewart Weinisch said many of them were Jewish friends, family members, and first-time visitors. The congregation was also able to provide special ministries this year: a sign-language interpreter to meet the needs of deaf Jewish believers and Messianic curriculum for the children.

Charlotte, NC





Livingston, NJ

Beth Messiah meets in a nearby church, and since Rosh Hashanah fell on a Sunday night, the pastor cancelled his regular service and encouraged everyone to attend this special holiday worship. Larry Feldman reports that it was a great service that was edifying to the church members, to the Messianic Jewish believers, and to the nonbelievers. "One [nonbelieving] Jewish woman was initially antagonistic," recalls Larry, "and felt that everything was wrong. But by the end of the service, she was convinced. We look forward to continuing our witness to her."

Stockton, CA

Calvary Baptist Church shared a traditional Rosh

Hashanah meal and celebration when Artis Clotfelter joined them for a seated dinner for 80. Artis recalls, "One unbeliever who attended—the principal of a local school—was so enthusiastic about the service that he came up to me and said, 'This makes so much sense.'"

Columbus, OH

Michael Campo reports that this, the

second year for services at the Olive Branch Congregation, followed a year of growth, struggles, even a bomb threat. Despite all this, the congregation continues to grow and gather worshipers.

In addition to several unsaved Jewish people who came after seeing an ad in the newspaper, Light of Israel Congregation had several visiting family members, including three members of Pastor Rich Freeman's family who do not yet know the Messiah. "They surprised me by saying yes and coming to the services," he tells us. "I was especially glad they could meet other Jewish believers and hear how the holidays point to Jesus." 🕊

Las Vegas, NV

Our San Diego worker, Irv Rifkin, led

a Yom Kippur service at Congregation Etz HaZhan that member Claire Lively described as "making everything fall into place. You couldn't ignore God's message and meaning in the holiday because everything was so clear." One Jewish woman, an unbeliever, put her head down and covered her face with her hands. I could see her just not wanting to hear the message. But she'll be back. God is working in her.

Yonkers, NY



The Prophet Daniel



By HAROLD A. SEVENER, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Daniel's vision recorded in Daniel 8 dealt with more than just the Medo-Persian Empire, which we discussed in September's article. Notice what he wrote: "As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage. I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power. The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven" (Dan. 8:5-8).

From East to West

This vision of Daniel's is most unique because it foretold the shifting of Gentile power from the east to the west! We have already noted that Daniel saw the ram (representing the Medo-Persian Empire) charge from the east and conquer the west, the north, and the south (Dan. 8:4). Then, in the very next verse, the ram is attacked *from the west* by a goat with a great horn (8:5). Verse 21 reveals that the shaggy goat was none other than the king of Macedon (Philip of Macedon) and that the large horn between its eyes was Philip's son, Alexander the Great.

Once again, history has proved the accuracy of the Bible. Historically we know that the goat's horn represented Greece under the leadership of Alexander the Great, its first king, who conquered the kingdom of Persia (the ram). Greece's conquest of Persia marked the first time in history that a nation from the west conquered a nation to the east. Also, up to this time the Gentile domination of Israel was always controlled by the east. But since the victory of Alexander the Great to the present day, Israel has always been controlled by the nations of the west. Even in our day it was the western nations of the world that literally brought Iraq to a halt in its invasion of Kuwait and in its desire to invade Saudi Arabia and, ultimately, Israel. In the final conflict, which will occur during the seventieth week of Daniel, the western nations of the world will once again seek to control Israel and the nations to the north, east, and south.

Daniel's vision of the goat with the horn between its eyes was remarkably fulfilled in every detail. But first, let's take a closer look at Alexander the Great.

Alexander the Great

Although Alexander the Great is not mentioned by name in Scripture, 1 Maccabees does mention him by name: "And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chettiim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece, and made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth, and went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted, and his heart was lifted up. And he gathered a mighty strong host, and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him" (1 Macc. 1:1-4).

Philip, king of Macedon, had trained his son, Alexander, for his military career. At the early age of 16, Alexander took part in the campaign against the Illyrians. In 336 B.C., when Philip was assassinated, Alexander was confirmed as the leader of the Hellas army to fight against Darius, the leader of the Persian army.

Without Touching the Ground

History has recorded the swiftness with which the Persian Empire was destroyed by Alexander the Great—six short years. Scripture describes Alexander as a goat coming "from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground" (Dan. 8:5). Alexander wanted revenge for the atrocities his people had suffered at the hands of the Persian king Xerxes. Thus, after his father's death, Alexander first secured all of Greece and then gathered his army at Pella and crossed the Hellespont to fight against the Persians.

He successfully routed the Persian army, slaughtering many of the troops and chasing the rest into Asia Minor. But he was unable to capture Darius. Then, when Alexander heard that Darius had regrouped his forces and was coming to meet him in battle with over half a million men, Alexander is said to have hastened with all speed to meet him.

"Rapidity of motion (symbolized in Daniel 8:5 by the 'he-goat' that 'came from the west . . . across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground'), was Alexander's great strength. In 333 B.C. the two armies

met in the relatively narrow plain of Issus. Here the Persians lost, to a great extent, the advantage of their numbers; they were defeated with tremendous slaughter, Darius himself being put to flight. Alexander pursued the defeated army only far enough to break it up utterly. He then began his march southward along the seacoast of Syria toward Egypt" (*International Standard Encyclopedia* [Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1979], vol. 1, p. 88).

More Than a Man

While in Egypt Alexander went to the oracle of Jupiter Amon (Amen-Ra). Afterward, the Egyptians declared Alexander to be the son of their god and to have divine origin, thus making Alexander more than a man. Coins were struck with Alexander's image depicting him with two ram's horns. This image of Alexander was carried over into the Koran, which calls him "Iskander du al-qarnain" (Alexander of the Two Horns). Thus some Bible commentators assign a late date to the book of Daniel or state that the ram seen in Daniel 8:3 did not refer to the Medo-Persian Empire, but to Alexander instead. History refutes this interpretation, however, as does the Word of God (cf. Dan. 8:20, 21) in that Persia was historically symbolized by the ram. The ram's horns given to the image of Alexander only symbolized

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the Egyptian attempt to make him a god, perhaps explaining Daniel's vision of the large horn (Alexander) on the head of the goat as he defeated the ram (Persia).

Having subdued Egypt and having received god-like status, Alexander set out on his last campaign to utterly defeat Darius and the Medo-Persian Empire. He was determined that Darius, who had slipped through his fingers twice before, would not do so again. Scripture declares that Alexander "charged at him in great rage" (Dan. 8:6). Once again, Darius was forced to gather a large army. The Persian army, which this time assembled on the plains of the Tigris River, was no match for Alexander's small army. Alexander's troops overwhelmed the Persians and slaughtered almost the entire army, resulting in the total submission of the Medo-Persian Empire to Alexander.

The vision of Daniel was completely and totally fulfilled: "I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power" (Dan. 8:7). The Persian Empire, which had taken years to consolidate, was completely conquered by Alexander in only six short years. After conquering the Persian Empire, Alexander continued to pursue Darius into India. Alexander would have followed Darius into the Far East, but his Macedonian army would not go with him, so he returned to Babylon.

Alexander's Fall

Daniel then noted that the goat, which we are told represented the king of Greece, became very great, and that the great horn, which represented Greece's first king, Alexander the Great, was broken off at the apex of its strength and power. "The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off" (Dan. 8:8).

Once again history has recorded the exact fulfillment of Daniel's vision and prophecy. Like other kings of Babylon, Alexander began to live a drunken, licentious life. He was struck with malaria, and because of his poor health brought on by his sinful and dissolute life, he died after being ill for only 11 days. Thus ended the career of Alexander the Great, the brilliant 32-year-old king who had ascended the throne of Greece only 12 years earlier.

Scripture makes a clear correlation between sin and physical well-being. Sin takes its toll on the physical body. Although all sickness is not the result of sin, sin can, and often does, bring on sickness. I believe the present AIDS epidemic is a good illustration of this principle. Of course, not all who suffer from the AIDS virus do so because of sin. Many have contracted it through no fault of their own. However, others have become infected with AIDS as a direct result of sins such as sexual immorality and bondage to drugs.

The Scriptures instruct believers to remember that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. The holy presence of God dwells within each person who has accepted Jesus as Messiah and Savior. Believers, therefore, need to be very careful how they treat their bodies and what they do with and through their bodies. Knowing that the Spirit of God dwells in their bodies should not only bring to believers a peace and a tranquillity that are unknown to nonbelievers, but they should also recognize the importance of their physical bodies and the need to care for them so they can be used as instruments of God's righteousness in the world. ☺

Meet David Henschen

*Can anything good come from Davenport, Iowa?
David Henschen thinks so.*



Notwithstanding the fact that Davenport, Iowa, was once called "a dumpy little burg" by the national press, most people find it a city that instills American virtues like respect and integrity.

Most certainly David Henschen, Chosen People Ministries' new Stewardship Director, would agree. Something about what David learned growing up in Davenport made a difference in his life and helped bring him safely through his "wild phase."

Spiritual Parents

In addition to the advantages of growing up in a moderate-sized city with a stable culture, young David lived next door to his grandparents.

"They were my spiritual parents," he says. "Through their influence I came to faith at 14 and was a leader in the youth group throughout high school."

Soon after David's spiritual birth, he participated in a course on lay ministry for evangelism where he was taught the essentials of evangelism. Going door to door and sharing the Gospel, David made an impact for the Lord among his fellow students.

Summing up this period of his life before college, David recalls, "I experienced real growth at an early age."

College, he admits, was not a time of spiritual growth. At the University of Iowa he began to drift away from the Lord and to follow a "me-first" philosophy. "God allowed me to experience the 'fruits' of this philosophy for several years."

Insurmountable Problems

During this time David met and married his wife, Nadine, who also was a Christian but who lacked a firm grounding in the Word. After three years of marriage their problems seemed insurmountable.

"I fell to my knees one day and cried out to God for help," David admits. "Remarkably, He removed the scales from my eyes."

David mourned the years he and Nadine had lost, but not for long.

"As God's lordship was reinstated in our lives, He began healing our wounds and afflictions," recalls David. "Since then we have grown to the point of leading and discipling other couples in Messiah."

While the stitches of their relationship were being knit together, their first child was born prematurely. Weighing under one pound, the infant died. It was a time of immense struggle. Miraculously, their delicate relationship with each other and the Lord deepened.

Through all of this, David was pro-

Career Growth

gressing in his career, building a solid reputation in a field that has seen the lightning rise and fall of many—the world of finance. By 1987 he was vice president and assistant branch manager of Shearson Lehman Brothers in Austin, Texas, specializing in wills and estate and tax planning for individuals and foundations. Previously he had served as a vice president at Paine Webber and as a financial consultant at Merrill Lynch.

Then several years ago David and Nadine sensed God's leading them into full-time Christian service.

"After nine years' experience as a financial consultant on Wall Street, I felt God asking me to put my skills to work for Him," says David.

"I want to go wherever God wants us to go," he remembers Nadine telling him one night.

After two years of prayer, the Henschens knew God was directing them to Chosen People Ministries.

Pray for David, Nadine, and their children—Danielle Marie (3) and Jeremy Stephen (2)—as David assumes his new responsibilities as Stewardship Director and Administrator of the Chosen People Ministries Foundation. Also remember to pray for the Henschens' grass roots ministry—working with married couples who are experiencing marital problems. ☺

"We Tested God"

By REV. DAVID HENSCHEN, *Stewardship Director*

Many years ago while Nadine and I were working together on our monthly budget, we decided to pull out our Bible concordance and see what the Lord had to say on the subject of giving. Several verses really hit home, but none challenged us more than Malachi 3:10, "Bring the whole tith into the storehouse. . . . Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Nowhere else in Scripture could we remember reading a verse challenging us to put our Father to a test. So, as children often do, we decided to challenge our Father on this one. After all, He not only permitted us to test Him, He *commanded* it.

Along with increasing our giving to our church, we began pledging \$25 each month to a missionary family.

We felt such joy from our giving that we soon doubled our gift to the missionary by using some discretionary funds from our budget (which by then was squeezed to the limit). Several months later we met another missionary whom we knew we should support. But it seemed as though our budget wouldn't allow it. We prayed and were led to give anyway. Within a few weeks we received an unexpected raise that not only covered our missionary support but allowed us to give to more missionaries as the Holy Spirit led.

With prayerful additions over the years, we now support nine missionaries and hope to add one each year as the Lord leads.

About four years ago we were moved in another way concerning our missionary family. As we read Proverbs 13:22, "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children,"

we became convicted. Although we had made provisions for our physical family, we had made none for our spiritual family. Who would take up our support to these individuals if we passed away? We immediately established a program that would not only continue but actually increase our giving when we joined Jesus. How we rejoice in the knowledge that we will continue to participate in bringing the lost home to our Lord even after we are gone.

If you have not made provisions for your own spiritual family and would like our help in doing so, please drop a note to my attention in the envelope included in this magazine. We would be glad to assist you in providing for all the charitable organizations and missionaries you wish. And, of course, we hope you will prayerfully remember Chosen People Ministries and our missionaries as you establish your plan.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF . . .

As the holiday season comes upon us, we often remember our departed loved ones. In a quiet moment the joys of holidays spent together can bring a smile or perhaps a tear. Remembering the gifts that were once shared may also bring tender moments. Wouldn't it be nice to give a present to your loved one once again? Memorial gifts—gifts given as an expression of your fond memories—are a loving alternative.

Chosen People Ministries accepts and even encourages memorial gifts to honor and to share the memory of your loved one. Moreover, through these gifts you reach out both at home and around the world to help us share the love of Messiah with the Jewish people. What a wonderful way to remember your loved one—helping others to know the love of God!

"And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead" (Hebrews 11:4).

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