

**The
Chosen
People**

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Revela-
tion 12:
Satan's
War Against The
Jewish People



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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Credits: Woody Smith, 9, 10, 11, 12.

Does God still love the Jewish people? This time of year it's easy enough to give a flippant, "Of course." Valentine's Day can make many people in North America feel that saying, "I love you" is as traditional as saying, "Happy New Year" on January 1st or "Merry Christmas," December 25th.

When God says, "I love you," it has nothing to do with holidays or tradition . . . but with His unchanging character. God's love is an unconditional commitment to the eternal welfare of the object of His love. God's love is evident fully and finally in the cross of our Messiah. For in such a way He commended His love toward us while we were yet sinners.

His promises to Israel are no less meaningful. In Jeremiah 31:3 He assures Israel, while they were still in unbelief, that His love is everlasting and is based on His unchanging nature and not on the far too changeable hearts of His people.

This is why we can have such confidence. "For God so loved the world. . . ." That's you and me. God has extended this unchangeable love to us all. We can have great confidence in Him, even if our hearts are not as steady as we'd like them to be.

This is the message of the Gospel—the great news of His love: Man, as lost in sin as he is, can be redeemed and saved by the salvation in Messiah's death and resurrection because God loves His lost creation and wants all people to believe and be saved.

Of course the question arises: Does His love have an impact on our lives? "The love of Messiah constrains us" (2 Cor. 5:14). Does His love constrain you?

As we look to the Scriptures, we are sure that God loves Israel. When the Jewish people look at us, can the same be said? Does His love for Israel constrain us? Are we living epistles—love notes expressing the very heart of God?

Perhaps this month as our workers communicate the love of Messiah to Jewish people all over the world, you can provide a love offering. Or maybe you can get some of our materials to share Messiah's love for Israel with your friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Sincerely,

SAM NADLER

PRESIDENT, CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES



MEMBER EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION



Mystery t train

It took a subway train headed in the wrong direction (Brooklyn) to get a Jewish boy from the Bronx on the right track with God.

TESTIMONY OF STEWART WEINISCH

SOMEDAY... "I promised God at my Bar Mitzvah, "Someday I'll take the time to know more about You." Stewart Weinisch was thirteen when he made that promise. Thirteen years old, ready to experiment with the temptations of being a teenager, but, for the moment, awed as he stared at the open ark (where Torah scrolls are kept in the synagogue).

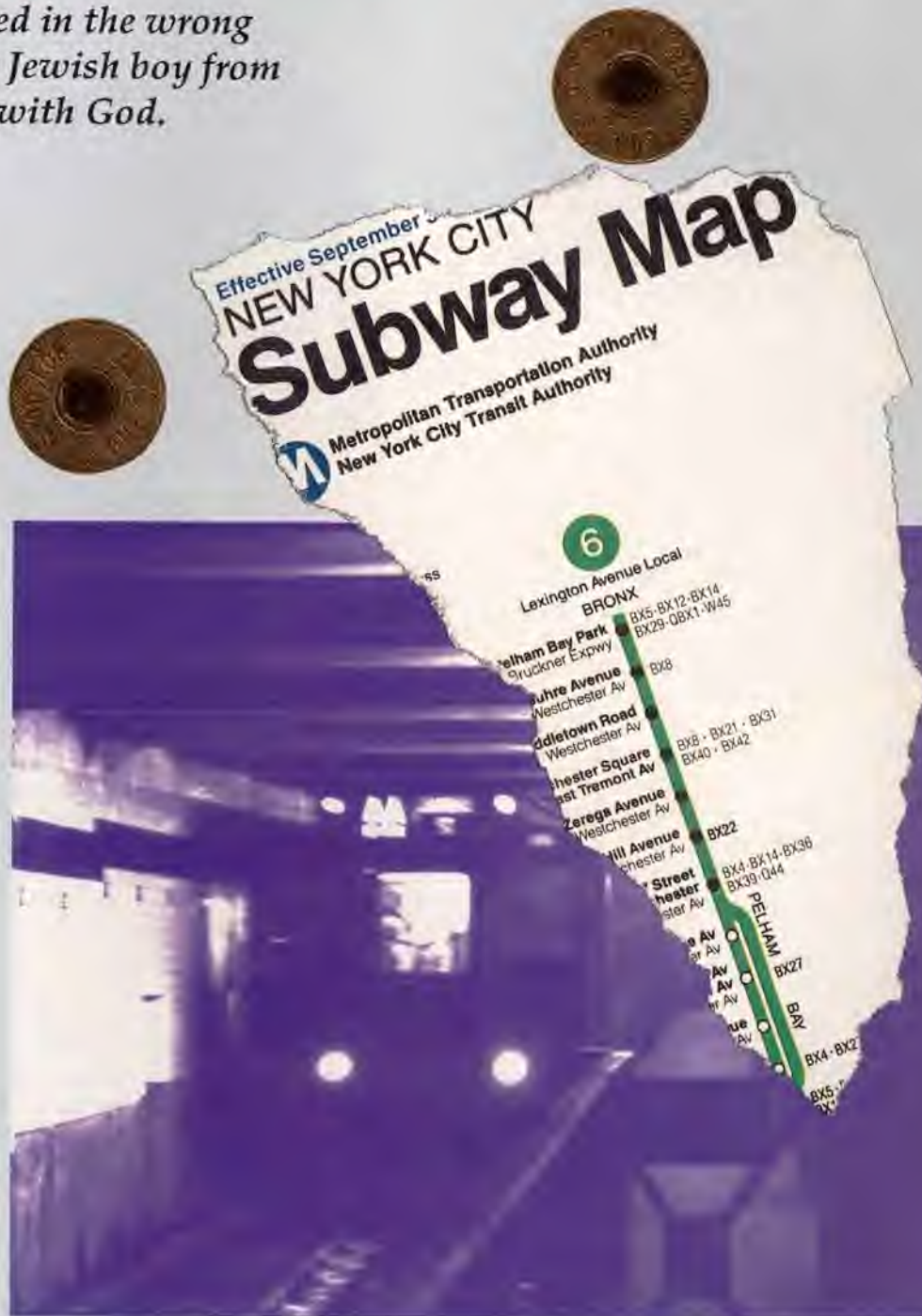
"For that minute I really meant it. I wanted to know God and I would spend time getting to know Him. But not now. Not today."

A Macher

Stewart grew up in the Bronx, one of three children. "My dad was active in the synagogue, a *macher* (important person). On high holidays, when the children met in a different building for their own services, Dad would often be the one honored to carry the Torah from the big synagogue to our service.

"I can still picture him walking down the street, hugging the Torah, wrapping it protectively with his tallis, guarding it with his life. I knew there was something very valuable in the Law, something worth living for."

Soon after Stewart had been Bar Mitzvahed, he became more inter-



ested in drugs and various Eastern meditations than in Judaism, and in developing a friendship that would prove to be very important in his life.

Big Brother

"As I was going through high school, I became friends with a divorced lady in my neighborhood, and became sort of a big brother to her two sons. Then the mother and I grew from friends into really good friends. At 18 years old I was all ready to marry her."

Then she got saved, and said she couldn't marry someone who didn't share her faith.

Frustrated over her beliefs, which Stewart assumed were "strictly Gentile," he was still emotionally involved with her and her children.

"Over the next nine months, we started a whole new relationship. We spent a lot of time reading the Bible. It went from one to two hours at a time, to four or five hours at a time. Pretty soon, whenever we were together, we were reading the Bible.

"Now this whole time we were only reading the Old Testament, because of course I told her that Jews don't believe the New Testament, and that it was written for the Gentiles."

The two read the Bible constantly, yet it never occurred to Stewart that there was anything he could learn about God from their studies. In her efforts to make it all more real to Stewart, she even sent away for a booklet titled "21 Reasons" which gives 21 prophecies showing that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

"I Was Jewish"

Eventually, Stewart concedes, "I began to get the idea that all this reading I was doing in the Bible was about Jesus, but that only made it more plain that it didn't have anything to do with me. I was Jewish."

The power of the written Scripture, however, began to overcome Stewart's resistance. "But I remembered what my father told me when I

was twelve and some boys yelled dirty Jewish names at me. 'Don't listen to what they say,' he told me, 'Christians hate the Jews.'"

Stewart came to the conclusion that things would look different if they were not reading from the "Gentile Old Testament," so he went out and bought a Jewish Bible from the Hebrew Publication Society and compared the texts word by word.

"What I found was that they were the same . . . almost. Certain key passages that talked about Messiah were different. For instance, in the Hebrew Publication Society Bible, Isaiah 9:6 read like this: "Yele Poetz, El Shaddai, Avi Ad, Sar Shalom."

Stewart came to the conclusion that things would look different if they were not reading from the "Gentile Old Testament," so he went out and bought a Jewish Bible.

It was transliterated Hebrew.

In tiny, tiny type off to the side was the actual translation: "His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace."

Puzzled

This was the only place Stewart found that transliteration was used. Everything else was a regular English translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Stewart was puzzled, thoughtful and more than a little apprehensive about what he was learning.

It was December, 1979, Christmas season, while all this was going on. On Christmas Eve, Stewart and his girlfriend went to a midnight service at an evangelical church in Brooklyn. Ex-

pecting to hear about Jesus and the manger, or "more about what Christians really thought," Stewart was stunned when the pastor preached about Abraham's faith. It was so Jewish.

"That night, I walked out of church feeling so high I couldn't believe it. It was a wonderful, pure, clean feeling and I knew I had found God. Faith wasn't a Jewish/Gentile thing any more."

Dread and Distrust

But as soon as they got in the car, a feeling of dread and distrust gripped him. "I had a sense that this was the devil, drawing me away from Judaism, doing what Hitler and all the other anti-Semites hadn't been able to do, shake Jewish people at their roots and destroy them. I convinced myself that the high I felt was an emotional experience."

For two weeks Stewart convinced himself that no self-respecting Jew would believe in Jesus.

"I ignored the whole thing as much as I could. Then, one day I took the D train home (like I always did), began to meditate (like I always did) and expected to come out of my meditation at the stop nearest my home (like I always did).

"Instead, I came out of my meditation and found myself in Brooklyn, not the Bronx. I had taken the D train all right, but in the wrong direction." To his surprise, Stewart found himself only a block or two from the church he had attended on Christmas.

"It was a Tuesday night, but the church was open for a Bible study. No one was there yet. Well, one person was—a deacon who had met me on Christmas. He saw me standing there and came over. 'Hey brother,' he asked, 'when did you get saved?'"

"'Uh, I'm Jewish,' I replied."

Minutes later Stewart was talking to the deacon, and to a friend of his who was, *not* coincidentally, a Jewish believer.

"For the first time I heard the Gospel from a Jewish perspective. It was astounding. We read Jeremiah 31 and



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realized this was a new covenant . . . a new testament."

In one fell swoop, everything Stewart had heard and read made sense. He remembered that three years before a friend had tried to tell him about Jesus. "I remembered I threatened to kill him if he ever talked to me again," and he also remembered that his friend had left a New Testament "that I had been afraid to touch because I thought it was cursed.

"I went home and dug that Bible out; the Bible that made me so mad when he gave it to me. And I started reading. I read from the first page in Matthew where it says, 'the genealogy of Jesus Christ (I knew that Christ meant Messiah), Son of David, Son of Abraham.' At that moment it all came together. Jesus was the Jewish Messiah and trusting in Him was the most Jewish thing a Jewish person could do."

Heart vs. Head

The next week, Stewart went to a Bible study with his girlfriend. The sermon was about belief, and the dif-

ference between believing in the heart and believing in the head.

"Right after that message, I made a commitment to God. I knew I had already made up my mind, but now I made a commitment in my heart also."

A week after his commitment to Messiah, Stewart was walking with his girlfriend when she mentioned a Jewish neighbor.

"I wish there was some way I could tell this woman about her Messiah," she said.

In a flash of understanding, Stewart realized "... that one day I'd be witnessing to Jewish people . . . that this is what I wanted to do . . . what God wanted me to do."

Not long after, an "old drinking buddy" introduced his aunt to Stewart. His aunt, also a Jewish believer, introduced Stewart to Sam Nadler.

"Sam disciplined me and encouraged me to go to Moody Bible Institute where I completed the Jewish

Studies Program."

It's been over twenty years since Stewart made that "someday" promise to God. And he's traveled a lot of miles since he took the train going in the "wrong" direction. Yet somehow God used it all for His grace as Stewart took the D train to God.

Editor's note: Shortly after Stewart came to faith, he and the woman who was so instrumental in his salvation parted ways. In 1985, after Stewart finished Moody Bible Institute, he met Jewish believer Shoshannah Tilleman who he married on August 2, 1986. They have two children, Jonathan and Melissa. Together the Weinisches planted Joy of Israel Congregation in Connecticut and have recently moved to Queens to expand the Chosen People work in New York City.

Revelation 12: Satan's War Against The Jewish People.

The Book of Revelation tells us why Satan has been trying to destroy the Jewish people since the Book of Genesis.

By SAM NADLER
PRESIDENT
CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

AS THE BOOK of Genesis gives us seedlings of all truth and doctrine to be developed in God's progressive revelation of His Word, so the Book of Revelation is the capstone and conclusion of all truth and doctrine.

In Revelation, we see the fulfillment of the Lord's prayer, "thy kingdom come," as well as the return of the Lord, the victory and vindication of the saints, and the defeat of Satan.

However, Revelation is not only about victory, but also about the warfare which brings about victory.

As the day of Messiah's return draws nearer, and ministry to the Jewish people becomes ever more urgent, it is well to review Revelation 12 and understand the spiritual warfare against the Jewish people and against those whose ministry it is to reach them for Messiah.

In Revelation 12, there is a four-fold attack of Satan:

1. The attack against the person of Messiah (vv. 1-6).
2. The attack against the power of

Messiah (vv. 7-12).

3. The attack against the people of Messiah (vv. 13-16).
4. The attack against the proclaimers of Messiah (vv. 12-17).

Attack against the person of Messiah

In this section we read of the sign of a woman and the sign of the dragon. There have been a lot of differing opinions about the woman's identity.

1. Some think her to be Mary because in verse 2 it states that she would give birth to the Messiah. But the rest of the chapter doesn't allow for this interpretation; first, because we see that in the period of time of verse 13 and following, the same woman is referred to in the second half of the Great Tribulation, and, second, because this woman is alive and well at that point and is being persecuted by the dragon. Since Mary could not be alive at that time to be persecuted by the dragon specifically, this does not refer to her.
2. Another consideration, especially among those who see the

Church going through the Tribulation, is that this refers to the Church. The major difficulty with this interpretation is that even if you do see the Church as going through the Tribulation period, how can the Church give birth to the Messiah?

As the day of Messiah's return draws near, and ministry to the Jewish people becomes ever more urgent, it is well to review Revelation 12 and understand the spiritual warfare against the Jewish people.

3. We are left with a final consideration—that the woman is Israel—the Jewish people. In Genesis 37:9, we see in Joseph's dream the same description as in Rev. 12:1: "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

With Joseph included as the twelfth star, this is a picture of Israel, as Paul says, "... from whom is the Messiah according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen" (Rom. 9:5).

The second sign (v. 3) is a great red dragon, who is revealed as the devil (v. 9) whose one goal was to stand "before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child" (Rev. 12:4).

Yes, Satan's purpose was to prevent Israel from bringing forth Messiah, for this One was prophesied to be Satan's own destroyer (Gen. 3:15).

Attack against the power of Messiah

In verse 7 we see a "war in heaven" between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels.

(If you wonder where the dragon's angels came from, consider Rev. 12:4: "And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and he threw them to the earth." Evidently, when Satan went into rebellion against God and became the "prince of the power of the air" [Eph. 2:2], and the "god of the world" [2 Cor. 4:4], he took one third of the angels, "stars," with him.)

Satan brings his attack to heaven itself to directly confront the authority and power of Messiah. But Michael, our Jewish Messiah's "chief general," whose area of responsibility is the Jewish people (Dan. 10:21; 12:1), thwarts the attack of the evil one. It states that Satan was "not strong enough and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven" (Rev. 12:8). In Satan's futile attack against the power of Messiah, we find a phrase reiterated over and over again—"cast down to the earth" (three times in 12:9 and once each in 12:10, 12:12 and 12:13).

Satan is thrown down, even though he would attempt to defeat the power of our God. We see that he . . . was "cast" from the Throne of God (Ezek. 28:16, 17), will be "cast" from heaven (Rev. 12:9), then will be "cast" into the Bottomless Pit (Rev. 20:3), and will finally be "cast" into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10).

Satan fought to prevent the person and power of Messiah unsuccessfully; so too does he attack Messiah's brethren after the flesh.

Attack against the people of Messiah

Satan fought to prevent the person and power of Messiah unsuccessfully; so too does he attack Messiah's brethren after the flesh. In verses 13-16, we see that Satan attacks the Jewish people, but God provides help. The first help is the "two wings of the great eagle" (v. 14). This refers to Exodus 19:4 and God's miraculous deliverance of Israel from the Egyptians.

The second help comes in verse 16, "the earth helped the woman." When the serpent had a flood come forth from his mouth to sweep away the woman, God provides a way to divert the flood.

This flood from his mouth could refer to his arrogant and blasphemous words seen in the ministry of the beast (Rev. 13:5). In this case, "the earth in helping the woman" would be the believers in the Word (those on the earth) who come to the assistance of the Jewish people during the Tribulation. These would be the sheep as opposed to the goats who helped the "least of these brethren" (Mt. 25:40).

Or perhaps this refers to a physical miracle as when the Lord had the earth open up to swallow Korah (Num. 16:31, 32). This is very likely since we know that during the Tribulation period there will be miracles done for Israel as during her exodus from Egypt (Isa. 11:15, 16).

Of course the real question would be, "Why would Satan bother to attack the Jewish people at all, since Messiah has now come, died for our sins, and been raised from the dead?"

To the careful observers of the Scriptures, we see that Satan attacks the Jewish people for two important reasons.☞

(Continued next month.)

Hurray for the Truth!

Several people have asked about InterVarsity since reading our editorial in the April, 1991 *The Chosen People* magazine. The editorial mentioned a Moody Monthly Report on InterVarsity's distribution of a controversial book, "God in the Pits," at their Urbana conference. In our communications with InterVarsity, they assured us that they certainly continue to proclaim that there is no salvation apart from faith in Jesus, and that without faith in Jesus people are under eternal judgment. Regarding the book in question, it only goes to prove that even a good organization can make the mistake of distributing a questionable book.



Winn and Dana Crenshaw



Stewart and Shoshannah Weinisch



Irv and Cordelia Rifkin

Coincidence . . . Or, Divine Appointment?

Each of these Chosen People Ministries workers experienced God rearranging circumstances so that a Jewish person could hear the Gospel.

FROM GENESIS 24 we learn of Eliezer, a servant sent to find a wife for Abraham's son, Isaac. Rejoicing over the success of his mission he testified, "and I being in the way, the Lord led me. . ."

Walking in His will, Eliezer found God blessing his ministry. It's still the same today, as these Chosen People Ministries' workers will tell you. Each of them experienced God arranging circumstances so that a Jewish person could hear the Gospel.

Take Jean Louis*, a 25-year-old French Jew in this country only for a short time as an exchange student. When he "happened" to meet Chosen People Ministries' workers, Cordelia and Irv Rifkin (CPM, San Diego), a few months ago, he had many questions about the Gospel. "The main thing he needed to hear," recalls Irv, "was that it wasn't *wrong* for a Jew to believe in Jesus."

Jean Louis was sharing an apartment with several Christians who had witnessed to him. But what he understood of Christianity from his native, mostly Catholic France, made him feel uncomfortable.

Jean Louis started attending Irv's Bible studies, spending time at Irv's home and meeting other Jewish people who believed.

Then, one night he called Irv. "I've just accepted the Lord," he told Irv jubilantly. On November 3, Irv baptized him. Then, before Thanksgiving he returned to Europe.

"The main thing he needed to hear," recalls Irv, "was that it wasn't *wrong* for a Jew to believe in Jesus."

Hear Today, Gone Tomorrow

Bob and Amy* "happened" to move into the same apartment complex as Winn and Dana Crenshaw (CPM, Washington, DC). Bob, 40ish, Jewish, and a salesman for high adventure type travel junkets, was totally secular; a New Ager who loved to watch Winn playing with his children in the yard they shared.

"He said there was something different about our lives," Winn recalls.

Bob's interest in Winn grew to many dinner invitations at the Crenshaws' over the last few months. And many questions: "Why do you read the Bible? . . . What does the

Cont'd. on page 15



LINCOLN LED THE WAY

The 16th American president provided the unlikely opportunity to present the Gospel to an elderly Jewish woman.

GARY DERECHINSKY
BOSTON, MA

EVERYTHING about my meeting with Marion, an elderly (unsaved) Jewish woman, seemed to have gone well. At her hospital we shared some pleasant conversation. My 3½-year-old son, Joel, had thoroughly beguiled her. And she even allowed me to pray for her healing. But I had missed the most important opportunity of all—I had failed to share the plan of salvation with her.

In the last months since this incident I've prayed regularly for another opportunity to share the Gospel with Marion. That opportunity came a few weeks ago. Her daughter, a Jewish believer, called and told me that Marion was back in the hospital and asked if I would visit her.

Casual Conversation

The next day I visited the hospital and found Marion recuperating and in good spirits. For about a half hour we engaged in casual conversation, but to my dismay not one word was spoken about the Lord. "Marion," I said, changing the conversation, "your daughter tells me you'll be celebrating a birthday in February."

"Oh, yes," she said. "My birthday is February 12th, the same day as Lincoln's birthday."

Suddenly, I realized that Yeshua had given me the opportunity I was so desperately looking for! "You know, Lincoln was a great man," I said.

"Yes," she smiled, "he *was* a great man."

I told Marion that one of the reasons Lincoln was such a great man was because of his strong religious convictions.

I told Marion that one of the reasons Lincoln was such a great man was because of his strong religious convictions. Marion offered that she believed in God. She told me she would often speak to Him about her misdeeds or bad attitudes and ask Him to forgive her.

I explained how God had made a provision for our "misdeeds" and "bad attitudes" through Yeshua's atonement.

Jesus Was a Jew

"Jesus was a Jew, wasn't He?" she

asked.

I assured her that He was, and that by placing our trust in Him we could have the assurance of being forgiven.

"In some ways I have always believed that," she said.

I told her that there are two things that my son, Joel, says to me that always thrill my heart. The first is, "Daddy, I love you." The second is, "Thank you, Daddy."

"Marion, those are the two most important things we can say to God," I told her. She nodded her head silently in agreement. I asked if she had ever said those things to God—thanking Him for sending His Son to die and atone for us.

"No," she said.

Then I asked her if she would like to do that right now.

Yes, she nodded silently.

Gently holding her hand, I led Marion in a prayer of salvation, asking her to pray along with me as we together expressed our love and thankfulness to God for His unspeakable gift. At that moment, Marion's name was written into the Lamb's Book of Life! Later, I phoned her daughter and we rejoiced over her mother's decision.

On February 12th, Marion will be celebrating her 90th birthday, but by heaven's timetable she is just a babe in Messiah! ☺

We

Sometimes we know your names, sometimes you are anonymous. But you're not just a name to the women at Chosen People Ministries who read the mail every day. Often we remember you as we see your names from month to month . . . or even week to week. There are so many wonderful stories of people who have been friends through many years—the sound of joy echoes through the corridors of my spirit each day as I serve God as Office Manager.

We just received word from one of our partners in Alaska that her husband had gone on to his eternal reward, but that he wanted his wife to continue sending part of his Social Security check to Chosen People Ministries. So even in death, when a life has been touched by Messiah's love his good works follow him. One of our friends from Massachusetts came to visit us here at Headquarters. He was retired, and he was a partner because his mother had been a partner many years ago.

At times the amount of the donation is great—and we rejoice together—as a gift of \$10,000 was recently received with thanksgiving, (especially because that month our budget had not been met!). However, *every* donation that passes across our desks is received with praise and thanksgiving—from the thousand dollar gift, to the hundred, the fifty, twenty-five, the fives, even to the one-dollar bill that you sacrificially send to us.

Also, I observe that it is not always the wealthy who keep our ministry going—but those who give out of their need. God's economy is a mystery.

Then, too, I cannot forget the people who send in a donation anonymously for whatever reason. There is a person who sends \$16.00 frequently—we don't know who you are, but you are known to God; and **another person sent in a silver ring today and said, "I have no finances to send. Sell this ring** and use the money to spread the Good News that the Messiah did come." Friends, we are not building an earthly kingdom at Chosen People Ministries, but one that is eternal in the heavens; one



Get Letters

You're not just a name to the women who open the mail at Chosen People Ministries.



Above, praying over the mail each morning at 9:30. Large picture (from left to right) Mennie Wright, Sandra Avery, Eileen Miller, Peggy Tucker, Susan Turner, Mary Yearly, Marilyn Gravitt, Ann Jackson, Betty Roble and Susan Ferrell.

that will stand forever. We desire to get the Word out. And every day our ladies pray over your prayer requests. (It is not a "rote" exercise, but a prayer of faith for you and your needs.) Now we know you as a name. In eternity, we shall know each other, even as we are known by Messiah. ☺

*Marilyn Gravitt
Office Manager
Chosen People Ministries*

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The Prophet Daniel



By HAROLD A. SEVENER, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

The great victories over the Ptolemies of Egypt by Antiochus III had brought him to the attention of Rome. As Daniel had prophesied, Rome also had designs on the country of Judea and, in fact, on the entire Middle East. When the word spread that Antiochus III wanted to add Greece to his expanding empire, Rome took action to stop the expansion of Antiochus III's empire.

In 190 B.C., Antiochus III suffered a major defeat at the hands of Rome near Magnesia (a city in Asia, near Ephesus), and he was forced to sign a treaty with the victorious Romans. His son Antiochus IV (later called Antiochus Epiphanes) was taken hostage by Rome. Perhaps the Roman leaders thought that holding the son of Antiochus III would give them more control in the situation. However, this was not the case.

The threat of Rome evoked such fear among the inhabitants in the eastern provinces of the Seleucid empire that they revolted against Antiochus III. In trying to put down the revolt, Antiochus was killed (or murdered) while trying to sack the temple treasuries of Elymias.

Taxing the Jewish People

After Antiochus III's death, Seleucus IV, his eldest son (also called Philopater), ascended the throne in 187 B.C. Almost immediately Seleucus increased taxes to pay for his father's wars. He also intended to lift the tax exemptions his father had granted to the Jews, thus ensuring that the Jews would pay their share of the tax burden. When the Hellenistic Jews in Jerusalem heard of Seleucus' new policies, they told him about the fabulous treasure stored at the Temple in Jerusalem, saying it would be more than sufficient to pay their share of the taxes. Seleucus immediately sent his official treasurer, Heliodorus, to Jerusalem to confiscate the Temple treasury.

According to Jewish tradition, the High Priest met Heliodorus when he arrived in Jerusalem and tried to discourage him from confiscating the Temple treasury, but Heliodorus would not be dissuaded. Jewish tradition goes on to say that when Heliodorus attempted to enter the Temple, a miracle happened. He saw a vision of a horse with an armed rider. The horse and rider struck him, and two young men beat him nearly to

death. This vision so unnerved Heliodorus that he lost consciousness and collapsed and had to be carried out of the Temple. When he regained strength, he returned, empty-handed, to Seleucus and told him about the "divine power" that protected the Temple treasure.

The Hellenistic Jews in Jerusalem continued to pressure Seleucus to take the treasure rather than to tax the people. However, before Seleucus was able to seize the treasure, Heliodorus, his trusted treasurer, poisoned

According to Jewish tradition, the High Priest met Heliodorus when he arrived in Jerusalem and tried to discourage him from confiscating the Temple treasury. Jewish tradition goes on to say that when Heliodorus attempted to enter the Temple, a miracle happened. He saw a vision of a horse with an armed rider.

him (175 B.C.) and attempted to take the throne for himself. Seleucus, perhaps having had an idea that his life was in danger and that he was in need of help, had already dispatched his own son, Demetrius, to Rome in exchange for Antiochus Epiphanes IV, Seleucus' brother, who had been taken hostage by Rome some 14 years earlier. In fact, Antiochus Epiphanes was returning to Syria when he heard that his brother, Seleucus, had been murdered by Heliodorus, who had subsequently usurped the throne.

Needless to say, the news of his brother's death infuriated Antiochus. While in Rome, Antiochus had learned how Rome used force, political intrigue, religion, as well as savage brutality to impose its will on conquered territories. Immediately, Antiochus made political alliances with two men who had been his father's enemies—Eumenes, king of Pergamum, and his brother, Attalus. These two men supplied Antiochus with armies and financial aid in his fight against

Heliodorus. Before long, the armies of Antiochus prevailed, and Heliodorus was captured and cruelly slain. Demetrius, Seleucus' son and rightful heir to the throne, was left in Rome, and Antiochus proclaimed himself to be the rightful king of Syria and Asia (including Judea).

A Contemptible Person

Daniel prophesied of Antiochus Epiphanes: "He [Seleucus] will be succeeded by a contemptible person [Antiochus Epiphanes] who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue" (Dan. 11:21).

Through intrigue, Antiochus Epiphanes, a man who was not entitled to be king, became one of the most influential and powerful kings of the Middle East. He was known for his love of cruelty.

Thus, through intrigue, Antiochus Epiphanes, a man who was not entitled to be king, became one of the most influential and powerful kings of the Middle East. He was known for his love of cruelty and for his devotion to Hellenism. He was also an immense egoist, equating himself with the gods by giving himself the title "Epiphanes" ("the illustrious or majestic one"). The Jews of Judea made a subtle change in his title, calling him among themselves Antiochus Epiphanes ("the madman").

The reign of Antiochus Epiphanes from 175 to 164 B.C. marks a turning point in Jewish history. He was dedicated to restoring the strength of the Seleucid empire and was determined to accomplish his goal through an intense program of Hellenization. He was determined to enforce his particular brand of paganism on all of the territories under his rule. This policy eventually resulted in a head-on collision with the Jews, for although some of them subscribed to some forms of Hellenism, none were really ready to embrace Antiochus' form of Hellenism. Sadly, however, by the time the Hellenistic Jews discovered the extreme nature of the Hellenism Antiochus was promoting, it was too late: They were already in its trap.

So it is with sin. Someone once said, "The cords of sin are too light to be felt until they are too strong to be broken." The Jewish religious leaders began to fear man more than they did God. They had stopped listening to their prophets and had settled for a Hellenistic form of

Judaism. They had been willing to compromise their faith and the Word of God. Whenever believers compromise, God's judgment is forthcoming.

God is righteous and holy. He wants His people to trust Him completely. He will supply every need for those who purpose in their hearts to trust Him. But sin creates a barrier that hinders the exercise of faith and trust. The resulting feelings of being alone and forsaken can lead to the making of unholy alliances. This happened to Israel.

Soon after Antiochus Epiphanes came into power, the Hellenistic Jews of Jerusalem offered him a large sum of money if he would remove Onias III, the High Priest, from office and transfer the High Priesthood to Onias' brother, Jason. Onias was a strict Orthodox Jew, but Jason leaned toward Hellenism. Antiochus was delighted with the proposal. He needed the money they offered to settle the debts he had incurred in his coup against Heliodorus. Antiochus had Onias, the legal High Priest, deposed and imprisoned. In 173 B.C., Antiochus appointed Jason as the new High Priest.

Hellenistic Jews

Soon after taking control of the priesthood, the Hellenistic Jews asked their new High Priest, Jason, to petition Antiochus to allow them to build a gymnasium in Jerusalem so that all Judeans who had been trained in the Greek games could participate. Antiochus, the Hellenist, was delighted. Further, the Hellenistic Jews wanted all Jewish participants in the Greek games to register themselves as residents of Antioch, or as Macedonians, thus insuring their full participation in Greek society. In 174 B.C. Jason selected the Acropolis on the northwest side of the Temple as the site for the Olympian games and the gymnasium.

The selection of this site for the gymnasium added further stress to an already explosive situation. Orthodox Jews were not only opposed to Jason being the High Priest, they were also opposed to every form of Hellenism. Participation in the games required that every athlete compete in the nude, thus necessitating that Judean participants in the games appear nude in sight of the Temple. It also meant that Judean participants would have to go through the painful operation of disguising their circumcision, the mark of God's covenant. To remove this mark was, in effect, to become non-Jewish. To most Jews, this was unthinkable. But Israel had always wanted to be like the nations; now in the person of Antiochus Epiphanes, they had a king who would force them to be like the nations. God had told Daniel, "Another horn, which started small but grew in power" would arise. He had said that this little horn would trample down the Temple and its worship (see Dan. 8:9-12). ☞

Planting Ahead

By REV. DAVID HENSCHEN, *Stewardship Director*



It is now the year of our Lord 1992 (5752 by the Jewish calendar). It seems most of the prophecies concerning our Messiah's return have come to pass. If one listens carefully, the sounds of birth pangs fill the spiritual realm. It is often tempting to just sit back and forget about long-range plans because we are confident His coming is almost upon us. And yet we know that He will continue to empower us in His work even to the end of the age.

A famous theologian once said that even if he were confident of Messiah's return tomorrow, he would still plant his apple tree today. We in the ministry must continue to plant seeds with our eyes on the future so as to assure a bountiful harvest no matter when He comes.

It is to this end that Chosen People Ministries Foundation has expanded its long-term giving program. We

know that Jewish evangelism's most significant thrust will be in the last days. We must prepare now for the tremendous amount of resources we will need as we enter this period.

Would you like to be instrumental in the major thrust that lies ahead? Why not become a Legacy Builder in the Foundation? It's easy to become one and we now have a program that allows almost anyone to participate. Just review the following legacy building tools and request information on those that seem right for you (use the envelope inside this issue). When we implement the tools that fit your needs, you will become a Legacy Builder.

- Remember us in your will – adding codicils
- Gift Annuity – the gift with life-long cash flow
- Withdrawable Gift Agreement – quarterly income for the giver who

may need access to principal (30 day notice)

- Real Estate or Home – how to leave us property
- Life Insurance – giving the policy or name us beneficiary
- Life Income Plans – our new *Pooled Income Fund* provides older donors with regular income and current tax deduction (principal not withdrawable)
- Living Memorial – honor someone special through a memorial
- Endowments – help us permanently endow missionary positions (i.e., in Israel and the Soviet Union)

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the hundreds of you who have already made plans to leave your legacy.

If you have included Chosen People Ministries in your Will, please let us know so we can say thank you!

Cont'd from page 8

Bible say about Israel?" Winn patiently witnessed to Bob, but Bob never showed any signs of conviction.

"He listened to me almost like Paul was listened to at Athens," laments Winn. "He was into reincarnation, the environmental movement—sometimes I felt like I represented just another unique or interesting worldview to him."

Several weeks ago, Bob and Amy moved back to New York for business reasons. Pray, along with Winn and Dana, that God will continue to water the seed they planted in Bob.

Turkey Dinner Evangelism

It was every homemaker's nightmare: you cook a huge dinner, then your guests cancel at the last minute.

Stewart and Shoshannah Weinisches' (CPM, New York City,

see page 3) dinner guests had good reason to cancel—a medical emergency. But the Weinisches still had a turkey dinner with all the trimmings sitting on the table.

Quickly Stewart telephoned two Russian Jews, Alex and Dimitri,* who had been attending the Russian Bible study conducted by CPM's New York team in Brooklyn. Dimitri was a Gentile Russian believer, but Alex, a Russian Jew in his late 30's, was proud to call himself an atheist.

"He had a real coldness about him," recalls Shoshannah, "like he was dead inside."

Over dinner, he told Stewart, "you can't prove God exists." His dinner conversation touched on everything from DNA to pantheism, and the atheism he inherited from his father, a high-ranking Communist Party member.

"He had a brilliant mind," remembers Shoshannah, "but full of worldly wisdom." While clearing the dishes

and later upstairs, tucking in the kids, Shoshannah prayed for Alex; that God would somehow open his mind to spiritual truth.

Stewart is positive that at the moment his wife prayed upstairs, Alex's countenance changed.

"You're the first person who talked to me about Jesus that I trust," Alex later confessed.

He also said he understood for the first time why he needed a savior.

As Alex left the Weinisches, still beaming, he told Shoshannah, "There's a wonderful spirit in this house."

Pray that Alex will continue to attend the Brooklyn Bible study, receiving the witness of our workers there. And pray, as the CPM missionary staff continues, like Eliezer, to "walk in the way that God has led," that many more Jewish people will be divinely placed in their path. ☺

*Not real names.

"Our perspective of Israel was greatly enlarged."

—AR, Seattle, WA

"My study of Scripture will be much enriched . . ."

—GN, New Middletown, OH

"What a congenial group . . . Thank you again!"

—B and DK, St. Louis, MO



Join Harold Sevener, President Emeritus Chosen People Ministries, in Israel April 25-May 6 and November 7-18, 1992. Tour price only \$1,992.00.

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