

A MESSIANIC JEWISH QUARTERLY VOL. 67 NO. 1

The Shepherd of Israel



"The People of the Book" is an apt description of Orthodox Jews. When pagan nations tried to answer the basic philosophical questions, "Where do we come from?" "Why are we here?" and "Where do we go from here" the Orthodox Jew instinctively knew a truth which is clearly expressed in the New Testament—"the world by wisdom knew not God" (1 Cor. 1:21). Man himself, does not know the answers to these questions. The only One who does know is the very One who made us and who has answered these questions in the Book, the Scriptures, usually known by the acronym the "Tenach"—the Law, the Prophets and the Writings. We are the people of the Book!

God has revealed Himself in all the Scriptures. They tell us who He is—His name, His character, His holiness and His love. In each of the divisions of the Tenach, God revealed the coming One who is called the Messiah. This is one of the most important truths of God's revelation.

As we study this truth, there are three things to keep in mind:

1. This subject is a Biblical revelation; it is not a matter of speculation. It will not be solved by rabbis, priests, or theologians, but by the Word of God.
2. The terms *Messiah* and *Christ* are the same word—one is Hebrew, the other is Greek. They simply mean "God's Anointed."
3. In the Scriptures God's revelation of the Messiah is progressive. It proceeds from the simple to the complex; from outline to detail. The seed of the kingdom grows, "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear" (Mk. 4:28).

The Scriptures paint a clear portrait of the promised Messiah. Throughout our history there have been many who have claimed to be the Messiah. We should study these claims and compare their marks of identification with the Scriptures.

It is our conviction that the Lord Jesus Christ is Israel's Messiah. As a student of the Book, you should study it and decide for yourself.

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**The Book
With All
The
Answers**

*I Thought
I Could Drive to
Heaven in My*

ROLLS ROYCE

TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH CAPLAN

Sometimes we hear people say, "Break the news gently," but there is no easy way to tell a man he's going to die.

I'll never forget that fateful day when I first heard those words. As I drove away from the doctor's office, they kept tumbling over and over in my mind. "How can it be?" I asked myself. "I'm still so strong and healthy."

Nonetheless, my doctor said I needed heart surgery or I would die. Even with the surgery he said there was a good possibility I wouldn't survive.

The irony of my condition seemed so bitter. It was like Job's—only recently I had lost a vast fortune, and now it appeared as though I would lose my life too.

A short time later, I lay motionless for over seven hours on an operating table in West Los Angeles. For no less than three of those seven hours my heart was detached from my body, as life-support systems labored to keep both me and my heart alive. Later my doctor told me I had fallen into "the lowest ebb a human being can reach and still survive."

You can imagine my wife's shock when the doctor called to tell her of my deteriorating condition. Neither my wife nor I had been deeply religious to this point in our lives; but she

sensed that if I was going to survive, it would only be by God's grace. In the desperation of that moment, she cried out, "God, I'm a Jewish girl, and I really don't know how to do it, but I will give You the rest of my life if You give my husband back to me."

Miraculously, God answered her prayer, and I survived the operation. I was still a sick man, however, unable to breathe easily or walk properly. I was optimistic that time would restore my health, but I wasn't nearly so confident about my impossible financial situation. It seemed that I had come back to life only to face the same disastrous circumstances that I had left behind when I entered the operating room.

I should have heeded the warning of Moses when I was still a poor Jewish boy on the east side of London. It perfectly describes the life I had come to love. "And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth" (Deut. 8:17). I had made money and power my idols. This was an easy thing to do, because I had been raised in a poor Jewish family. My parents were so poor, in fact, that I was born in a Salvation Army home.

Somehow my father saved enough



"It seemed as though my wife and I had everything. We had homes in three countries, a beautiful 72-foot yacht in the South of France and a luxurious Rolls Royce Phantom. It was difficult to be humble in such circumstances."

money through the years in his rag business to send me to law school. So by the time I left home, the prospects for a good future never seemed brighter.

For a number of years I worked as a barrister (attorney-at-law). Then, when my father became seriously ill, I was forced to take over his business. It was a bitter blow. I was sure that I had tumbled from the top of the tree. Little did I realize that this was going to be my first step toward untold wealth.

Within 13 years I had graduated from the rag business into money lending, real estate and commercial banking. I had even become an industrialist. I was soon chairman of 7 public companies in London, and I owned 86 other companies, employing between 10,000 and 14,000 people. The poor Jewish boy from London was now listed as the twenty-second richest entrepreneur in England. My holding company had assets of \$300 million, and I was its largest shareholder.

It seemed as though my wife and I had everything. We had homes in three countries, a beautiful 72-foot yacht in the South of France and a luxurious Rolls Royce Phantom. It was difficult to be humble in such circumstances.

Beside all the material luxuries of life, I had a good education, culture and a socially proper amount of religion. I was filled with pride and all kinds of ungodly values. This didn't bother me, however, because I believed money could cover almost every sin.

Then the day came when the economy in England almost collapsed. Our stock market plummeted from 450 to 150, which would be like the Dow Jones going from 1,000 to 500. Almost overnight, my empire crumbled. Everywhere I turned I was faced with financial and legal crises.

We moved to the South of France, where I fell into a deep depression. Then we moved to the United States. But everything I tried failed. Nothing in life had prepared me for such failure.

None of this seemed to matter to Valerie that day as she bargained with God for my life. All she knew was that she wanted me, and that God alone could answer her prayer.

When I came home, she told me how she had called out to God and how He had answered her. I wasn't sure what it all meant, but somehow I sensed that God could help me too. So we began to pray together.

A short time later, a little old lady and her husband approached me on the street. I had never met either one of them before. So I was astonished when the woman boldly walked up to me and declared, "God has sent me to you." I knew she had to be crazy. But for a reason I have never been able to explain, I invited her to my home.

She and her husband patiently shared some Scriptures from the New Testament with us. I saw something in this couple that I had never seen in the rulers of industry, the politicians or my wealthy friends. They had a real relationship with God.

I tried to understand what they were telling me, but I couldn't. I had always thought Jesus was only a rebel who had gotten tied up in politics 2,000 years ago. It would have been so easy for them to have given up on me, but they didn't. Instead, they directed us to a Hebrew-Christian Bible study in west Los Angeles.

Both Valerie and I were overwhelmed by what we saw and heard at that Bible study. We had already learned by this time that we could never buy a relationship with God. Now, we were ready for whatever God had for us. Before the Bible study ended that evening we both accepted Jesus as our Messiah.

As we look back on our lives, we are amazed at how the Lord led us step by step into His kingdom. How we rejoice that our lives are now based on God's Word and not on man's greed. It's such a joy to be a child of God and to walk with Jesus. He alone gives the contentment and peace of mind that money can never buy. □

THE BOOK WITH ALL THE ANSWERS *continued*

The first Messianic prophecy is given in Genesis 3:14, 15: "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

"Here begins the revelation of the two seed-lines in the human race—one which belongs to God and the other which belongs to Satan. The one which had its beginning in Abel, the true worshiper of God through the blood offering, and whose destination is heaven—the other which had its beginning in Cain, a religious man who had no adequate sense of sin or need of atonement, and whose destination is hell.

"Here also begins the long highway of Abel, Seth, Noah, Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, and Immanuel the Christ.

"Here also begins the silken strand of prophecy and promise concerning the Messiah, which were fulfilled in the perfect works, life, death and resurrection of God incarnate.

"Through and by Christ on the cross of the atonement, Satan's head was bruised and his authority broken. Through and by Satan, the Savior's heel was bruised by suffering and death.

continued on following page

What a Rabbinical Student Thinks About Jesus

What reason could a Rabbinical student possibly have for believing in Jesus as the promised Messiah of Israel?

In an interesting pamphlet titled, *Twenty-One Reasons*, Elias Zimmerman explores the prophecies pertaining to the Messiah in the Old Testament and their fulfillment. He explains why, based on these parts of Scripture, he believes Jesus is the Messiah.

Please fill out this coupon if you'd like to receive *Twenty-One Reasons* (JO3).

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"Here also begins the Messianic hope for sinful man, whether Jew or Gentile. The whole revelation of God is set forth in outline in these two simple phrases. The promise of 'the Seed' contains the seed which is to blossom into the full orb'd revelation of God. We know enough by it to look for the descendant of a woman, who would be the Conqueror of Satan."

W. H. Rogers, D.D.,
The Messiah of Israel, p. 9.

Many centuries later the progression in Messianic prophecy is shown in God's promise to Abram: "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:1-3).

To Abram, God revealed the nation

of Israel in which all nations of the earth should be blessed. Through Israel have come

- a. The revelation of Jehovah as the one true God.
- b. The Scriptures. This is clearly stated in the New Testament, "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God" (Rom. 3:1-2).
- c. The Light which was to lighten the Gentiles.
- d. The Messiah, the promised One of the Tenach. He was born in Bethlehem and was qualified in every detail to be the Redeemer, Savior, Deliverer and Messiah.

To Jacob, God revealed the tribe from which the Messiah would come: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" (Gen. 49:10).

To David, God revealed the family from which the Messiah would come.

To Micah, God revealed the actual

town of His birth—Bethlehem.

To Daniel, He revealed the exact time that the Messiah would be "cut off, but not for himself" (Dan. 9:26).

These are just a few of the many Messianic prophecies in the Tenach. The New Testament emphasizes these prophecies and declares that God has fulfilled them all in one Person.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:1-3).

We are the people of the Book. We must study this Book and decide for ourselves if Jesus is the Messiah. Study the Scriptures! We think that if you do, you too will declare, "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth" (Jn. 1:45). —DF □

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