



A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Like any Jewish person who comes to believe in Jesus as Messiah and Lord, I can look back upon a series of influences in my life which led to this decision, but the one all-important factor for me was being given a Prophecy Edition of the New Testament. Just inside the cover were listed many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah promised to Israel and their fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth as shown in the New Testament.

I was certainly challenged to consider the possibility that Jesus was **our** promised Messiah! It was a possibility I didn't really want to face as a Jew, but the long list of prophecies from "our" Scriptures with their detailed fulfillments couldn't all be coincidence!

The one Scripture that stood out from among the rest was Isaiah 53,

*He was wounded for **our** transgressions, he was bruised for **our** iniquities...*

Ours? Isaiah was one of our Jewish prophets, wasn't he? I had sung these words so many times when I joined our local choral society in singing Handel's *Messiah*, but I had never let myself name the name of Jesus when the score came to it. This

little Prophecy Edition, however, was forcing me to consider Him as one of "us." Although it was some time before I let this thought relate to me personally, I do realize in looking back that discovering that Jesus fulfilled so many of the Jewish Scriptures removed a major defense from my heart.

(Haim of Haifa, HCF
Missionary in Israel)

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

We were recently asked about the printed testimony of one of our missionaries in which the words, God and Lord, appear with a vowel missing, G-D and L-RD. The explanation for this practice lies in the very high regard which Jewish people have for the name of God, based on the third of the Ten Commandments,

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)

In order to avoid taking lightly ("in vain") the name of God, a Jewish person will not even spell out the divine names completely, but rather delete a letter. Similarly, a common manner of reference to

God by Jewish people is, **Ha Shem** (Hebrew for "The Name"), rather than actually using one of God's proper names and risk violating the injunction against vain reference to so holy a being.

NOTABLE QUOTES

How odd
of God

To choose

The Jews.

(William Norman
Ewer, 1885-1976)

But not so odd

As those who choose

A Jewish God,

But spurn the Jews.

(Cecil Browne
in reply to Ewer)

"The Jews have played an all-important role in history. They are preeminently an historical people and their destiny reflects the indestructibility of divine decrees. Their destiny is too imbued with the 'metaphysical' to be explained either in material or positive-historical terms."

(Professor Nikolai Berdyaev,
The Meaning of History,
London: Moscow Academy
of Spiritual Culture, 1936, p.86)

THE JEWISH HALL OF FAME

A "Who's Who" among prominent Jewish men and women which will be continued in subsequent issues of this publication.

Marc Chagall (1887-1985)

– One of the most widely known and best loved Jewish artists whose work depicts village life among the Jews of his native Russia and Eastern Europe. Chagall's most ambitious work was twelve stained glass windows symbolically portraying each of the tribes of Israel and now on display at the Hebrew University Medical School in Jerusalem.

Itzhak Perlman (1945-)

– Tel Aviv born violin virtuoso who has distinguished himself in performances around the world. He contracted polio at the age of four and has been a paraplegic since then and an inspiration to many who struggle with various disabilities.

Simon Wiesenthal (1908-)

– Austrian Jew who was responsible for the arrest and conviction of 1100 Nazi war criminals, including the notorious Adolf Eichmann. All of Wiesenthal's relatives perished in the Holocaust and he was incarcerated in numerous concentration camps. The California-based Simon Wiesenthal Center is devoted to tracking, identifying, and opposing bigotry and discrimination against any people in any part of the world.

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