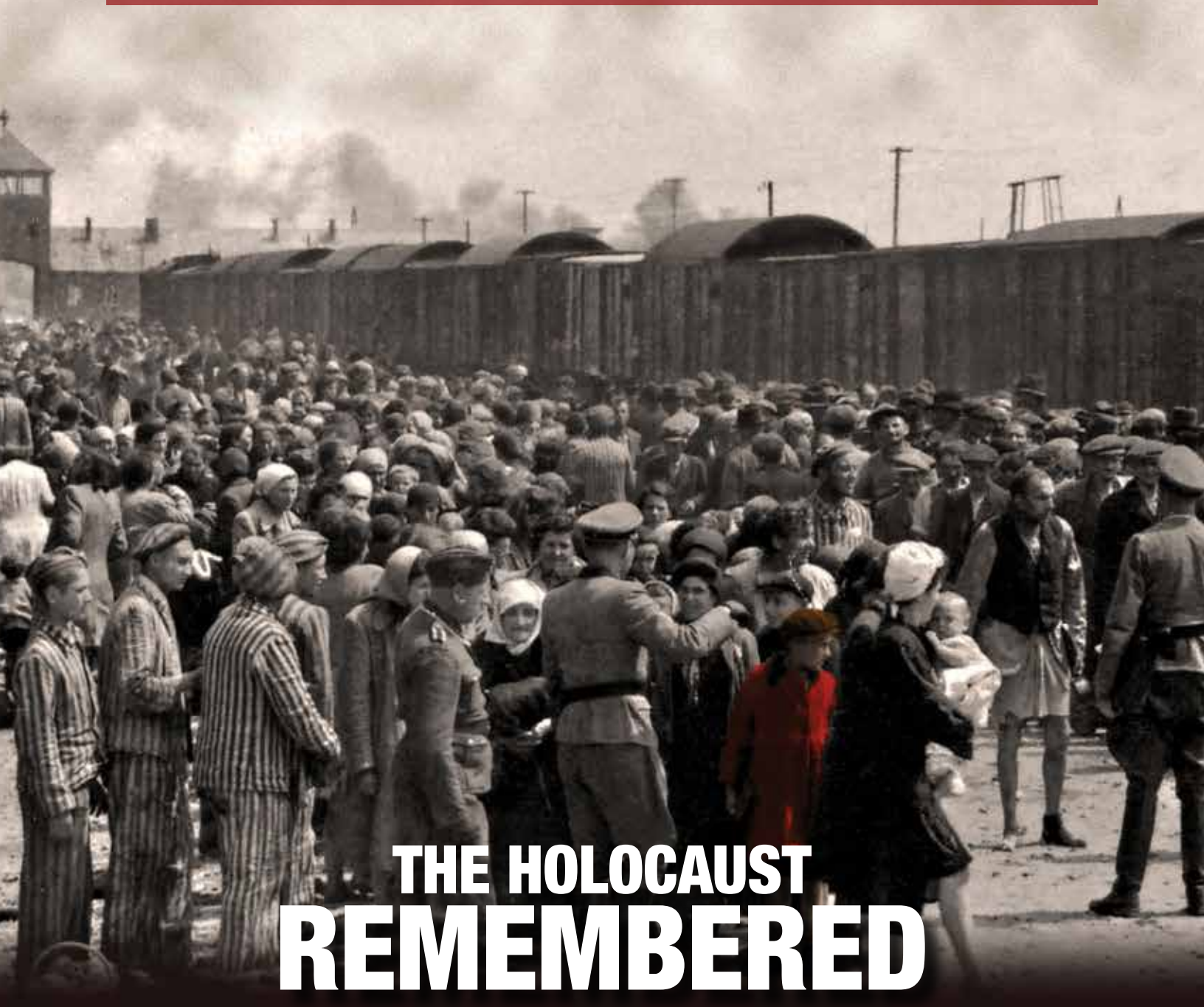
THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

125 YEARS

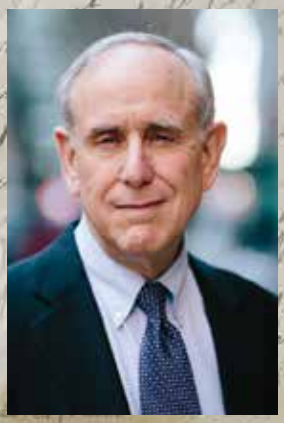
Volume XXV, Issue 4
May 2019



THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED

NEVER AGAIN | REPORTS DURING WORLD WAR II: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS | HARD QUESTIONS

Never Again: The Holocaust Remembered



FROM THE PRESIDENT

TRAGEDY OPENS OUR EYES TO GOD'S PRESENCE. IT IS DURING THE DIFFICULT TIMES THAT WE RECOGNIZE HE IS ALWAYS PRESENT AND POWERFUL, AND THAT EVEN DEATH AND DESTRUCTION CANNOT KEEP US FROM HIM.

Dear friend,

Shalom in our Messiah, Jesus. I am so grateful for all those who have sent us messages of goodwill in honor of our 125th anniversary as a ministry. I am also very grateful for those who have given to our CPM 125th Advancement Campaign. We hope to reach our target of raising an additional $1,250,000, which will help us with our goal of reaching 125,000 people, both Jewish and Gentile, who either need to be reached with the gospel or who want to share the good news with their Jewish friends.

We have already engaged with more than 75,000 individuals online. To be specific, we now have their names, home addresses, and e-mails for follow-up. By God's grace, two thousand of them are Israeli non-believers who we met through our Hebrew Isaiah 53 campaign.

We are expecting to meet thousands more as 125 staff and volunteers will pour out into the streets of New York City during the last week of July and first week of August for our **Shalom New York** outreach! The volunteers are subsidizing themselves, but we are providing the funds needed for our staff to come from across the globe. We will even have a team of Israelis from Israel reaching Israelis in New York City.

If it sounds exciting—it is! Our local New York missionaries, congregations, Bible studies, and disciple-makers are ready to do the follow-up with those seeking the Lord. So please pray often, give generously, and consider joining us for Shalom New York! There is still space available for you. Visit shalomnyoutreach.com for more information!

Holocaust Memorial Day

The United States Congress established May 2 as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Many of us have expanded this to the entire month of May and are holding various lectures and memorial services to commemorate this terrible moment in Jewish history.

As a Jewish person, I grew up under the dark shadow cast by the Holocaust. My grandparents were pre-Holocaust European Jewish immigrants to the United States. Like so many others, they never talked about those tragic days. They did not walk through it personally but knew a lot more than they would ever tell us. Perhaps they wanted to spare us from the horrific details of this nightmarish chapter in Jewish history. I was raised with photographs of my aunts and uncles that I would never meet because they died in the Holocaust.

As a Messianic Jew, I wondered if my relatives who lost their lives in the midst of Nazi terror ever heard of God's grace through Jesus the Messiah—either before or during the days of the Shoah (Holocaust). Knowing the answer to this question became somewhat of an obsession for me over the years.

I began to wonder if there were instances of God's presence during the Holocaust. As the president of Chosen People Ministries, with access to our archives stretching back to 1894, I knew that our Mission had a significant ministry during those desperate days. I began looking through these documents to try and discover what transpired through our ministries in Europe at that time.

Dr. Finestone speaking at a church about 1945

I was astounded by what I found. I want to share these amazing accounts of grace and mercy with you. There are so many stories of how our ministry served Jewish people during the Holocaust. The following pages contain some of the more poignant vignettes we compiled for you to read and reflect upon.

But, there are more stories, so we compiled an entire booklet that goes into more detail. You can order a copy of *Never Again* by completing the enclosed card.

Chosen People Publications

The publications reflect the writings of Joseph Hoffman Cohn, the son of our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn. Joseph became the director of the Mission after the death of his father. The reports are from before, during, and after the Holocaust and are drawn from *The Chosen People* newsletter and *The Shepherd of Israel,* an evangelistic publication.

If there was one outstanding lesson I gleaned from these stories, it was simply this—***the Lord uses tragedy to draw us to Himself***. The story of the Jewish people during the Holocaust can be compared to the Book of Job. God created and chose the Jewish people to be His light in a dark and broken world. He made promises to our forefathers that He would never allow His people to be destroyed (Jeremiah 31:31–37, Romans 11:28–29). God confirmed His Word again through the prophet Jeremiah: *"'If this fixed order departs from before Me,' declares the Lord, 'then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever'"* (Jeremiah 31:36).

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob assured us that He will be faithful to His promises.

Hitler murdered at least six million Jewish people, but never completed the job he started, as God would not…and could not…allow it!

God's grace is sometimes hidden in the midst of life's greatest difficulties. Tragedy opens our eyes to His presence in ways that good times never will. It is during the difficult times that we recognize He is always present and powerful, and that even death and destruction cannot keep us from Him. This is why the Apostle Paul writes so powerfully,

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Remembering the Holocaust

It is good to remember the Holocaust and evil intent Satan has in mind for God's ancient people. The Devil still wants to destroy the Jewish people to prevent God's promises from unfolding. This should motivate us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and to remember His grace in the midst of life's difficulties.

We must never lose hope as He is still Lord and in control, even though humans and Satan himself are guiding humankind on a path to total destruction.

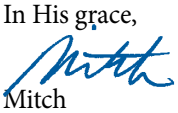
In reading these stories, you might very well be brought to tears. I was! I also hope you discover the Lord of all comfort who will point your heart and soul to His goodness and the salvation He brings through the death and resurrection of His only begotten Son. If we learn one thing from the cross, it is that great suffering leads to even greater glory.

God's best for Israel and for the Jewish people is still ahead, as Paul promised,

> *For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written.* (Romans 11:25–26)

I pray you will find the reports meaningful and that you will oppose antisemitism whenever and wherever you see it! Thanks again for your faithful prayers and generosity!

In His grace,



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REPORTS DURING WORLD WAR II: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The following are excerpts from two of our publications, *The Chosen People* and *The Shepherd of Israel,* during World War II.

JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN

The Chosen People—May 1938

Dearly Beloved Friends:

Sorrows fill our own souls as we read of the calamities that have befallen the Jews in the present hour in Austria, in Germany, in Roumania, in Poland. Here is tragedy beyond the power of pen to describe. A friend in Vienna wrote us, of course very guardedly, just a glimpse of what had been going on in that terrible Nazi putsch by which Hitler suddenly seized Austria. We in America, although undergoing our own hours of depression and suffering, still know too little of what are the agonies of this harassed people. On the day of the swift sweeping down of Hitler upon Vienna, the Jewish population was panic stricken, they were caught like rats in a trap, for they had no warning of the impending disaster. Immediately, they threw together what few things they could, and then began an exodus such as perhaps took place on the night when they were delivered out of Egypt. The roadways out of Vienna were choked with Jewish men, women, and children, packs on backs, hurrying to escape from an Austria gone mad with Nazi hate for the Jew. Suddenly all frontiers were closed, and these poor Jews only found that they must return to whatever might await them. The trains were crowded with the better-class Jews, who had gathered together what possessions they could, and were rushing likewise to escape. At every frontier the trains were stopped, every Jew was dragged out, searched down to the skin, and stripped of every possession he had. The Nazis boasted that they had thus collected over twenty million marks! They then loosed these hapless Jews and told them they might go where they would!

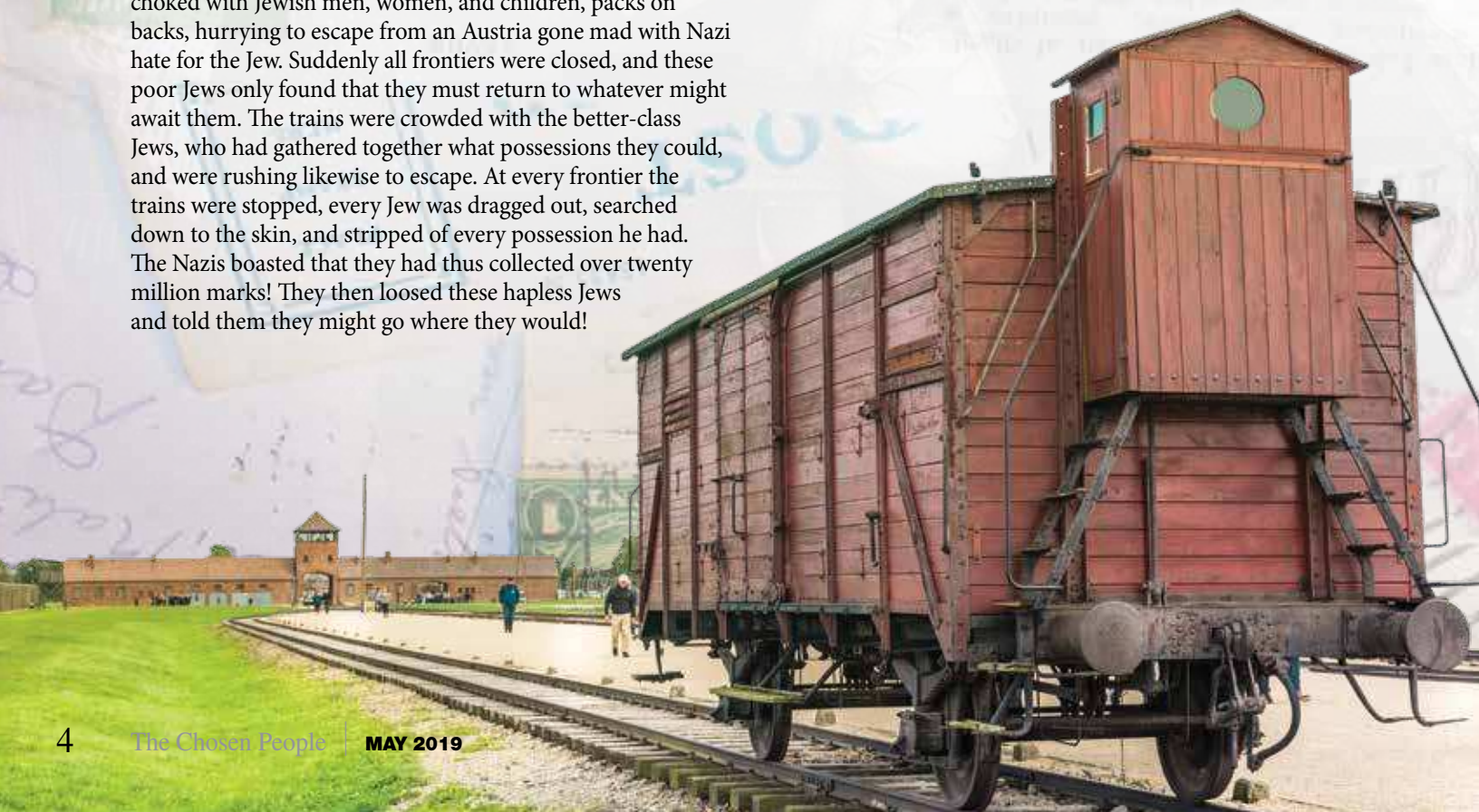
A SHATTERED JEWRY AND A SILENT GOD

JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN

Our nation bleeds. It bleeds in Germany, it bleeds in Roumania, it bleeds in Italy, in fact it is hard to find a land under the sun where Jewish blood does not run like rivers of water. The Jews of the world are terror-stricken, and run hither and thither, and do not seem to know what to do. Rabbis keep stuffing them with false hopes, and they mislead them into blatant demands for certain "rights" as to Palestine or other places. All these tactics only make matters worse, and the Jews find themselves sinking deeper and deeper in the quick sands of world hate.

Yet, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not dead—the God of Elijah is not dead. Our fathers, the patriarchs and prophets, turned to God in time of trouble, they obeyed His word and God delivered them. Let us also turn to that God and do what He told us to do, obey His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and then having done all, in humble childlike obedience to Him, we can with the fullest confidence look to Him for deliverance. If the Word of God is true, and if Jewish history counts for anything, when that hour comes, the world will witness the most wonderful salvation that ever it has seen in six thousand years of hectic and bewildering history.

The Shepherd of Israel—June 1939



The Shepherd of Israel—July/August 1939

(The following is an excerpt from a radio broadcast by Reverend Coulson Shepherd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlantic City, New Jersey):

And now I come to the message, which I hope will be helpful to all listening, especially to you Jewish people. We are living in an age when giving offense seems to be the order of the day. The Bible says: *"Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:32).

God's Word says, *"Give NONE offense,"* and yet offense is being hurled at ALL these days, especially at the Jews.

We pity the ungodly Gentiles and the professing Christians who are giving offense to the Jews. They are disobeying God, and all who think and act contrary to God's Word and will are bound to suffer great loss. The Word of God cannot be broken. Therefore, all offenders of Israel will be cursed. Sayeth the God of Abraham, *"I will curse him that curseth thee"* (Genesis 12:3).

We have been showing all along in these talks that there is a vast difference between Gentiles and Christians. One thing that characterizes a Gentile is a hatred toward the Jewish people. The opposite characterizes a Christian. So whenever you meet or hear of a person who displays hatred toward the covenant people of God, you can know that he is a Gentile and not a true Christian, no matter what his religious profession is. A true Christian is a believer and follower of the Christ of God and, like his Savior, who was a Jew, has love in his heart for those that Christ referred to as "My brethren after the flesh."

I want to impress upon you this morning that even though persecution against you on the part of Gentiles the world over is on the increase, God is working it together for the good of your nation. God is going to bring eternal good out of the world-wave of anti-Semitism that is forming into an international pogrom with the alleged purpose of driving the Jew into racial suicide. But the Gentile of Jewish hate does not know the Jew. He does not know that the Jew is an old veteran in the business of surviving persecution. From Haman's day to Hitler's, the Jew has been persecuted, but he is still here and in far greater numbers and strength than ever before. The persecution, which is now going on throughout the world, is helping to solidify Jewish hopes and aspirations, to bring to your minds the great heritage of Jewry, and, to a certain degree, to remind you Jewish people of your place in the program of God and of your place among the nations of the world.

The Chosen People—April 1943

INCIDENTS IN THE WORK

"What can we do?" Over and over again our friends are asking us frantically the above question. Many of them have been horror-struck and sickened at heart beyond their own power to describe when they have been reading of the almost unbelievable savageries to which the Jews in the Nazi-occupied lands are being subjected. "It makes my heart sick to the very core," wrote one of our friends, "and I find myself driven to my knees as I implore God to have mercy. But what else can I do? It does seem that something can be done and something should be done to stop this orgy of massacre and torture. Tell me what to do and I will do it."

And from the saddest depths of our heart we can only answer the dear child of God, this is the most important thing you can do—pray! And keep on praying, for God wants us to be importunate in our prayer to Him on Israel's behalf.

For the moment nothing material can be done; there is no possible way to get money into the hands of these miserable victims of demon hate; there is no way whereby we can rescue even one family from the clutches of Hitler's maw. But we can leave Hitler and his horde to the hands of a just God. There must be a day of reckoning for this unspeakable fury of hate and brutality.

WHEN HITLER COLLAPSES

But, there is coming a day, and it may be sooner than now looks possible, that Hitler will collapse, the Nazi regime will come to its day of reckoning, the hordes of Satanic hate will be driven into the rat holes from where they came; and in that day literally millions of pitifully helpless Jews, men, women and children, many of them perhaps stark mad with the insanity of what they have been through, these will need such an outpouring of Christian ministry and binding of wounds, that the need can hardly be measured in dollars and cents. For that day you can help us to store up the reserves we will be needing. For the sake of crystalizing the matter, let us call a new fund "Post-War Refugee Relief."

This is the answer to the question, "What can we do?" What prompted the writing of these lines was the receipt of a letter telling us that the writer was enclosing a draft for $2,000 to be used for just such a purpose as this, to help some Jewish family who has been the victim of Nazi outrages, to bring such a family to America, if possible, to reestablish them and give them a chance to be human beings once more. This friend tells us, "If you cannot do this job immediately, at least the time will come when you can; so here is the money."

We pass this on now to our devoted and faithful friends, who are weeping with us on behalf of Israel, and who see eye-to-eye with us as we face these staggering problems. We are here to serve you and shall do all in our power to make every dollar produce one hundred cents of results for the Lord.

HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Holocaust. It is a word that has the power to haunt us. For Jewish people, the Holocaust serves as a reminder of the precarious foothold the Jewish community holds in this world—and how quickly the world can turn against us.

If there is any event in history that Jewish people point to as an illustration of why they cannot believe in Jesus, it is the Holocaust. Here are some of the common Holocaust-related questions Jewish people might ask, along with some suggested responses:

Q. *If there is a God, where was He during the Holocaust?*

This question may be asked in two ways. The first assumes that the answer, "nowhere," is self-evident. However, this question may also be asked in a sincere effort to reconcile the terrible mystery of God's unfailing goodness with the horrors of human history. Where was God? Who has not, at some time, cried out as the Psalmist did, *"Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble"* (Psalm 10:1)?

God permitted the Holocaust to occur. Where was He? He was in the same position that He occupied at Calvary as Jesus suffered on the cross. God was suffering alongside those who were mercilessly killed by the enemies of the God of Israel. It is one of the most compelling characteristics of the gospel—our God suffers with us and for us.

Q. *Where was the Church?*

History tells us that after the early fourth century, Christianity became the preeminent faith of the Western world. The Catholic Church also became a powerful political force.

As a political power, the Church soon became immersed in the intrigues common to all-powerful institutions. Eventually, it became more concerned with wielding power and its own survival than in bearing the cross of Messiah. In many instances, it became corrupt. This corruption, combined with the entrenched antisemitism often encouraged by the Church, helped to create the environment that spawned the Holocaust. There were notable exceptions, however, such as those churches in Holland and even Germany who clearly saw the choice between good and evil and acted accordingly—often at great cost.

Q. *How can the gospel be true if Christians killed six million Jews?*

Christians did not perpetuate the Holocaust—the Nazis did. Many believing Christians died in the Holocaust and many risked their lives to help the Jewish people. *Yad Vashem,* the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem, has even dedicated a part of its site to commemorate non-Jewish "rescuers" who helped Jewish people avert death at the hands of the Nazis. It is true that many Christians were ambivalent or slow to act. However, it is unfair to put the full blame for the Holocaust upon Christians.

Q. *What will happen to the religious Jews who died during the Holocaust?*

We have saved the toughest question for last. If we say, as the Scriptures proclaim, that salvation is found only in Jesus the Messiah, our Jewish seeker will accuse us of condemning the Jewish millions not only to the ovens, but to eternal condemnation in hell. Many will ask, "Is this the act of a righteous God?"

We need not surrender the gospel message in an attempt to justify God. Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me"* (John 14:6). No one is able to know the destiny of another, nor the lengths to which God will go to reveal Himself in the final moments of an earthly life. The Scriptures also proclaim, "Salvation belongs to the Lord" (Psalm 3:8). We believe that only those who consciously trust in Jesus will be saved. We simply do not know what happens in the hearts of individuals prior to their death. Only God knows!

Show them the way

There is no more terrible blight on humanity than the Holocaust. As easy as it may seem to place the blame wholly on Hitler and the German people, we know nothing is that simple. There is a far darker cause that underlies the attempted extermination of God's chosen people. It is Satan's wrath poured out on the canvas of human history and the sin that blights our creation.

Perhaps, for the Jewish seeker and many others, the awareness of sin can serve as the signpost pointing to something far greater—the holiness and goodness of God and the gospel that saves us: *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:9).

The Chosen People

Vol. 11 NOVEMBER 1905 NO. 2

Higher Critics and the Jews

Many highly educated Christian leaders have nobly put forth their efforts in showing up the folly of the Higher Critics, and the hieroglyphics on the tablets and monuments of the East have been some of their chief proofs. But they have all missed using against them, one of the most powerful explosives known, and that is, the Jewish nation. The critics can chew the cud on the dead leaves of Isaiah or Jonah, but let them try and chew the living and everlasting nation, the Jews, and they are likely to break all their teeth on them. Let every Higher Critic bump his head against this highest monument the world has ever had and so lose his brain and be forgotten forever.

The history of the Jews was not, like that of other nations, written after it had occurred, but thousands of years in advance. Let the Higher Critics explain why that history, which was once prophecy, is being literally carried out now as well as a thousand years ago. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Jews are the two mighty monuments witnessing for the truth of the Lord and His Anointed beyond any human refutation.

Vol. 20 JANUARY 1915 NO. 4

INCIDENTS IN THE WORK

Another Baptism

The brother who has been baptized since the last issue of THE CHOSEN PEOPLE is a young man of twenty-six, who formerly was a socialist. Although he was brought up religiously in Russia and read the Bible (this means to the Jew the Pentateuch and Psalms) yet he drifted into atheism and finally delighted only in socialistic and anarchistic books. He utilized every opportunity for talking in public about these "isms." Some time ago he thought he would visit the mission as he had heard people talk so much about it. After attending once he felt a desire to return and so kept on coming to our meetings until he professed belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is zealous and gives ardent testimonies at our Monday evening meetings.

Vol. 4 NOVEMBER 1898 NO. 1

INCIDENTS IN THE WORK

Beside a Sick Bed

BY LEOPOLD COHN

At the close of a meeting in Brownsville, one Saturday morning, a number of Jews and Jewesses came to shake hands with me, and begged me to call upon a sick Jewess right away. They said: "She is in a critical condition, and has expressed, several times, a great wish to see you." When I reached the poor patient, I found her in a very miserable condition, a baby lying beside her and her husband holding another one in his arms. Both man and sick wife began to cry when they saw me come in, and the wife, for joy over my visit and in courteous welcome, tried to sit up in bed, but she had not the strength, and fell backward upon the pillows.

Now there were many Jews and Jewesses in the room, and the Holy Spirit constrained me to offer prayer in the presence of them all. I first explained to them in whose name I was going to pray, and who He was, and that I had the experience that God answers prayer in the blessed name of the Lord Jesus Christ. While praying, the Spirit of God took hold of these Jews present, and troubled their hearts so much that they asked me what they should do in order to obtain a good knowledge about the Messiah in whose name I prayed. I marveled at the movement of the power of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of these men, and said in my heart, "How wonderful are thy works, O Lord!"

It is not too late to join Shalom New York.
Want to serve the Lord this summer?

shalomnyoutreach.com

shalom**NY**

BRING THE MESSAGE OF PEACE TO NEW YORK CITY!

If you love to share your faith and you have a heart for Israel and the Jewish people, **Shalom New York** may be the most significant opportunity you will ever have to realize God's great evangelistic purpose for your life!

Choose One of Two Weeks—Or Come for Both!
Week #1: July 27–August 3, 2019
Week #2: August 3–August 10, 2019

ISRAEL'S *Glorious Future*

WISCONSIN

October 11–13, 2019

Lake Lawn Resort / Delavan, Wisconsin

Please plan to attend our Midwest Messianic retreat celebrating the 125th anniversary of Chosen People Ministries. Our theme is Israel's Glorious Future, and our speakers will include Dr. Michael Rydelnik of Moody Bible Institute, Dr. Mitch Glaser, President of Chosen People Ministries, and Reverend John Bell, former pastor of Grace Pointe Church in Naperville and Plainfield, Illinois.

Register online at **chosenpeople.com/igfmidwest**.

Israel the Church and the Middle East, challenges the supersessionist drift of the modern church, showing that God retains a plan and purpose for the Jewish people. It provides readers with an objective and interdisciplinary treatment, which is irenic and respectful in tone. The book is directed toward pastors, global Christian leaders, theological students, and well-read lay Christians who are actively seeking guidance and resources regarding the Middle East conflict. | $24.95US

Never Again is a collection of stories from the Chosen People Ministries archives detailing the courage, bravery, and grace found in the midst of the unspeakable tragedy of the Holocaust. This book reminds us that Lord was still at work during those difficult days, and encourages us to stand up for the Jewish people, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and oppose growing antisemitism today. | $7.95US

MESSIANIC RESOURCES

For phone orders call 800-333-4936 in the U.S. For more resources, visit us online at chosenpeople.com/store.

125 YEARS

November 13–15 • NEW YORK CITY

Please plan to join us on the heritage tour as we explore Jewish sites in New York City with a special focus on places that are especially meaningful to the history of Chosen People Ministries.

We are now taking reservations for our 125th-anniversary celebration banquet at the Prospect Hall in Brooklyn. We will have a very special speaker who we will announce later, along with music, worship, and testimonies by the Chosen People Ministries staff. For more information, or to register, please visit **chosenpeople.com/125banquet.**

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

CHARTER ECFA MEMBER
A higher standard. A higher purpose.

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