

# LEVITT LETTER

\* "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." (Romans 10:1)

ZOLA LEVITT MINISTRIES Vol. 7, No. 1

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DALLAS, TEXAS 75225

## "DO UNTO OTHERS.."

For weeks I've been collecting news articles about the Falashas, the Ethiopian Jews who have been moved to Israel. I'm sure you read about it.

It seems that tens of thousands of these unfortunate worshippers of God have been starving in their forgotten land. They have been there since the time of King Solomon, who sent mercantile fleets and mining expeditions into that territory when Israel dominated the Middle East. They have kept the scriptures in a most scrupulous way, observing the hard Old Testament law with perfect faith.

Now the whole world is watching as the population of Ethiopia simply lies down on the barren ground and dies. Certainly some help has been received but it is in no way equal to the problem.

One nation has really done something about it.

The Israelis, in all their poverty, sent airplanes down, picked up their people, and brought them home.

I recently sent the following letter from our Israel tour department to Jerusalem:

Travel   
Experience  
International

*Group and Individual Holy Land Tours;  
Israel, Greece, Turkey, Egypt; Custom  
Itineraries; Minister Tours*

February 6, 1985

Prime Minister Shimon Peres  
The Knesset  
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Prime Minister Peres:

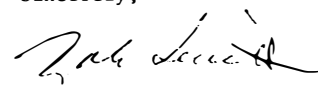
Please know that I have never witnessed anything so compassionate or scriptural than Israel's action toward the unfortunate Falashas. In all of history this event, the rescue of an utterly forsaken multitude of starving people, will stand out in shining glory.

I understand that there is no profit to Israel in this action and that it was done in secret. This is in keeping with the very highest principles of Judaism. The operation speaks clearly of your energy and your principles, so I wrote directly to you.

I humbly commend you and the state of Israel to continue through such adversity to teach the principles of God Almighty to a failing world.

May the God of Israel who restored us to our land continue to watch over you, Prime Minister.

Sincerely,

  
Zola Levitt  
President

ZL/ep

## Rachmiel Frydland 1919 - 1985

I recently learned of the death of Rachmiel Frydland, the most courageous saint I ever knew. I had the honor of editing a biography of this one-of-a-kind Christian soldier.

It's hard to know where to begin to tell the story of a man like this one. As a Jew, he was a prodigy in the study of the Talmud and a fully qualified Rabbi. As a Christian, he held degrees qualifying him as a minister and a linguist in Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, and Arabic. In the secular world, he completed all the requirements for a Doctor's Degree at New York University but never troubled to accept the degree. The last picture I have of him was taken in an office at Jews for Jesus where he is shown stuffing envelopes.

What I remember best about this brilliant and humble servant was his amazing ministry during the Holocaust. This man smuggled himself *into* the Warsaw Ghetto in order to witness to the Jews! In a place where a veritable massacre was going on day and night, and life hung by a thread, Brother Frydland put his life on the line to testify of his Lord. I never knew a more inspiring missionary story.

During the brief period that I helped him with his writing, I was embarrassed to have to keep talking about myself. His interest in the next person was

complete and sincere. He acted as if he had little to talk about and had been nowhere special. His writing was modest and simple and it was only through patient interrogation that I was able to bring out the facts of his incredible ministry.

Few outside the hard missions to the Jews know his name and he will never be regarded as an important Christian. I know that even now he's telling the Lord that he did nothing.

There was a time in Rachmiel's life when he was entirely alone in the world. He was an Orthodox Jew who believed in Christ and he was turned away by the synagogues and finally by his church, who said that since the Nazis were in charge, Jews couldn't worship Christ in the churches! He faced nothing but enemies and the Lord put them all beneath his feet.

A great saint has gone ahead. His place will be close to the throne in the Kingdom to come.

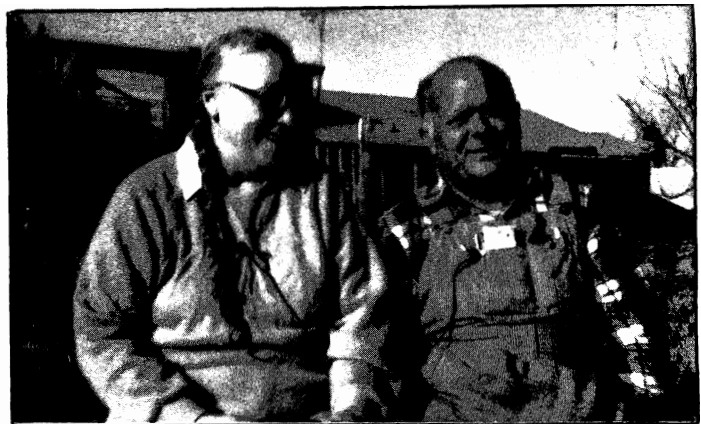
# "The Ruff House"

I wanted to give you a report on the effects of your kindness toward the "Ruff House", the home of the 30 handicapped folks about whom we did a program last winter. George and Alice Ruff, who take care of this difficult ministry, recently gave us a note to pass along to all of you. The Ruff's are people of few words and they are mighty busy. Their message below is short and simple but those of us who have been on the scene are extremely impressed by what can be accomplished with simple Christian charity.

Eventually, we plan to make another television program and show the results of your kind giving. For starters, let me just point out that our audience has made it possible for Alice Ruff to have two washing machines and dryers! (She had used a laundromat for years.)

Alice asked us to send the following note to our audience in general and she is personally writing to each

donor. Thanks again to all of you for coming forward and helping out in this most worthy cause.



*Alice and George Ruff*

*Dear Zola,*

*I want to thank you so very much for what you have done for the Ruff House family. We love you all.*

*I would like you to know that we have one building almost finished. Our septic tank was replaced and our*

*plumbing was brought up to standard. We will have another portable house moved in next week.*

*We praise the Lord for everyone who helped and our prayers are with them. Words are so inadequate.*

*The Ruffs*

# THE RUFF HOUSE—NEW AND IMPROVED!

Once in a while we get the chance to tell you something truly delightful. Zola and his staff visited the Ruff House recently and almost didn't recognize the place. Through your kind gifts this excellent ministry to retarded children and other castaways has really prospered.



Class of '85 — George Ruff's "cup runneth over" as he supervises a matched set of Ruff House newcomers.

The occasion was devoted to our ministry staff looking at what the Ruffs have accomplished with your donations and we were deeply impressed! Where there used to be a single small room for the whole population of the place (over 30 souls) to eat and talk and pray together, there are now several buildings with plenty of space. Where there were only muddy dirt trails on the lot there are now walkways with railings for the blind. In place of Alice Ruff's closet-like kitchen, where she cooked for the entire "family", there is now a true institutional kitchen and dining room where all can be served together in good fellowship.



Desserts are much in demand at the Ruff House.

This was a work we loved doing and it shows both the power of television and the kindness of Christian people. We assumed when we made our program showing the Ruffs at their work with those in their care that the audience would respond with modest gifts. In fact, we were overwhelmed by the donations and as we passed them on, we saw real Godliness in action. We use the expression "lives have been changed" very freely in Christian works, but in this case lives really were changed. A proper treatment of the subject will require another television program and that is what we intend to do in the future.



In the former Ruff House dining room there would barely have been room for four people to eat together.



New construction is underway steadily at the Ruff House since our program ran.

For now, I thought we would share the enclosed photos with you and thank you again for your generosity and your willingness to help out.

# Zola Teaches the New Testament

After years of being called Rabbi, and being asked questions in Hebrew, and all the rest of the "Jewish lore" kind of discussions, I want to emphasize that I am a Christian. Sometimes when I get up to speak in church, the pastor says, "How shall I introduce you, Brother Levitt...Jewish-Christian?, Hebrew-Christian?, Messianic Jew?, Completed Jew?"

Well, when my people were saved in the first century we were called Christians.

I do not have two Bibles, I only have one. The beginning of it has the Law and the Prophets, and the latter part has the Messiah and the Kingdom. I realize that God referred to them as the Old and New Covenants, and so we have come to call them the Old Testament and New Testament. But I don't think God ever thought of them as being two books. I rather like Dr. Tom McCall's statement when I showed him a New Testament bound by itself. He referred to it as "a roof with no house beneath", or more simply, "the amputated Bible".

So in order not to become identified with one part of the Bible or the other, I undertook to teach a series on the New Testament to a small group I meet with weekly. We taped those lessons and we've enclosed them in a binder for you as a set of six tapes. They are entitled, "HE IS COMING! Prophecies of Messiah", "THE KING: Images of Messiah", "EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN: The Acts", "THE EPISTLES TO THE JEWS: Worship Him", "THE EPISTLES TO THE GREEKS: All Have Sinned", "THY KINGDOM COME: Revelation". You may have the "New Testament Set" for a gift of \$30 or more. We cannot sell the tapes individually and you wouldn't want them that way. The teaching leads from one to another and you should experience all of it as a piece.

I don't think you'll find my thoughts about the New Testament particularly revolutionary or different. It may vary in the fact that I think from a Jewish perspective, but then so did the writers of the New Testament. To my knowledge, they were all Jews and I suppose a Jew would understand them very readily. But in any case, judge for yourself. You'll be helping us out.

Thanks again for all those materials that you have used produced by this ministry. Those purchases have greatly helped us to continue our work.

# Ten Minutes

I have so far refrained from commenting on the President's visit to the cemetery in Bitburg, Germany, but I would feel remiss in saying nothing. I think those unfortunate 10 minutes will be remembered as long as Ronald Reagan's name is mentioned. I think he made a mistake.

The mistake was not so much in offending the Jewish people nor the World War II veterans. Certainly, the President did all that and more. The mistake was in presuming that he is some sort of king rather than the President of a democratic society. It is not fitting that this elected official should judge the feelings of those who were the victims of the Holocaust or the horrible battles of that hideous war. His moral platitudes and insipid lectures were badly out of place. In confronting both houses of Congress, the distinguished veterans of World War II and the leaders of the Jewish community, he was simply beyond his depth. His singular stubbornness in the face of monumental opposition was reminiscent of Richard Nixon.

Fifty percent of all the Jewish people alive during World War II perished in the Holocaust. If we Americans had lost 50% of our population 40 years ago, we would not be willing to "reconcile" this disaster in a 10 minute ceremony.

In this democracy, the elected officials contract to carry out the will of the people. I'm not aware of any American who wanted the President to visit Bitburg. Ronald Reagan has fallen into a trap made for leaders everywhere; he has so many yes-men around him, and such a vote of confidence wherever he appears, that he begins to think that all his ideas are right. Worldly presidents and kings come and go. Their mistakes only make us long for the One who will occupy the Throne forever.

# A Note from Zola...

Dear Friends,

*This has been a learning experience for me. Spending two months in Israel has taught me a great deal about the country as I noted in the previous article. I collected some stories to give the flavor of this land and its people as I went along:*

*I visited an absorption center where new immigrants from almost everywhere in the world are taught the Hebrew language and oriented to life in modern Israel. There I saw the Ethiopian people who have been rescued from starvation by people already in poverty. I saw a Syrian Jewish girl desperately trying to learn Hebrew in a fast moving 5 hour day class; she couldn't read and write her own language and so she had to practice using a pen before she could learn how to make the letters. I met a German girl neither Jewish nor Christian who simply said she had developed an intense feeling for this land and felt compelled to immigrate here or die. There were Russians, Rumanians, Argentines, Koreans and everyone else imaginable among the new immigrants. When the teacher called recess our only common language was Hebrew and about all we could say was what we were learning in the lesson book "Where are you from?", "Where is your family?", "How will you get money?"*

*Israelis don't make appointments. The principal of the Hebrew school at the absorption center wanted to see everyone personally for a 20 minute interview. She commanded that we all stand outside her door after class-- 25 of us! The entire day was then consumed waiting in a tiny airless hallway for these interviews. In the principal's mind I supposed, this was good training for a well disciplined life in the Promised Land.*

*I met several "undercover" Christians, some Americans. They had all sorts of schemes for testifying to people tactfully even as they learned the language. I saw a Bible concealed with the paper cover of a Hebrew prayer book. One of the most incredible turnabouts in history is that a person seen carrying a Bible couldn't be a Jew.*

*When we made our programs we used Israeli actors to portray biblical scenes. We picked out folks with likely faces to play the roles of the prophets and other familiar characters mostly from the Old Testament. One actor walked off the set when we needed him to play Judas throwing the silver into the Temple. It had nothing to do with the Lord we ascertained, but he didn't want to play the part of a traitor.*

*The Bible is also objectionable to Moslems and it gets so that it's more comfortable to carry it inside of a briefcase in the land where it was written.*

*The person who interrupts has precedence in Israel over the person already talking. Therefore, the door would open to our Hebrew class and the teacher would stop the lesson immediately and begin a complicated discussion with the visitor in advanced Hebrew which would leave us baffled, pens in hand. The same thing happened at hotel desks, stores, etc.*

*The climate of Jerusalem, still a mountaintop in a desert, is exhilarating with its dependably cool mornings and evenings. The cloudless skies, the clean dry air and spectacular sunsets combine to make each day a very special experience.*

*Some of the older folks prefer Yiddish—the Jewish language of Europe -- to Hebrew. I met a man who has been in Israel for 60 years and still speaks Yiddish 90% of the time.*

*Our television crew had many good laughs during the insane schedule of getting up in darkness and beating the sun to the locations every morning, then working until well after dark each evening. At the traditional tomb of the prophet Samuel I stood under a gigantic tree full of silent birds. They listened intently through our program concerning Jonah's three days and three nights in the fish and the resurrection of the Messiah. As soon as I was finished talking they began chirping and tweeting so boisterously that we could hardly talk to each other on the set. The Israeli location producer observed that the birds were Jews and they now had much to argue about.*

*If I sound a bit affected with all this, it's easy to get that way over a period of time in the modern Promised Land. The place is simply not like any other on earth and God has indeed chosen to himself "a peculiar people", as he said in the Word.*

*Israel is kaleidoscopic with its numerous religions, languages and cultures. There's something there that really gets you--I don't care who you are. The Talmud says that if a man breathes the air of Jerusalem he grows wiser, and why not? God has lived there.*

*I've been a lot of places and seen a lot of things, but I've never seen anything quite like Israel!*

In His love,



# “MESSIAH” is coming!

The photos below are stills from our new fall series, “Messiah”. Israeli actors portray the biblical characters on location throughout the eleven programs.



Abraham prepares to obey the will of God.



Israeli actors portray the biblical prophets in our new “Messiah” series. Here Hananiah approaches Jeremiah, who wears a yoke on his shoulders to symbolize the yoke of judgment upon Israel.



Joseph's brothers cast him into a pit.



Judas, in his guilt, hides in the corner of the Temple courtyard with his bag of blood money. In a moment he will hurl the 30 pieces of silver at the feet of the priests.

# IN THE SHADOW OF THE TEMPLE

*My old friend and co-author, Dr. Tom McCall, accompanied our location crew to Israel this past summer to help us make the new series, "Messiah". Tom made many interesting observations of his own and he contributed the following thoughts for your edification.*

We trust that you are enjoying the new ZOLA LEVITT PRESENTS television series entitled "MESSIAH", in which Zola is teaching the great truths of the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy on location in Israel. What you do not see on TV, however, is all of the feverish activity that goes on behind the scenes in the production of such a series. The producer, Ken Berg, and the associate producer, Dottie Kingston, together with our Israeli associates, Dani and Nilly, are in the rocky Jerusalem hills before 6:00 a.m. to catch the Israeli sunlight just right for the video camera. It was my responsibility to assist with the content and the biblical and historical material of the programs. You can rest assured that the crew did everything possible to guarantee that what you see in these programs is authentic and accurate, and we trust that the Lord will make all of these truths more real and vital to everyone who views the series.

One of the things that I enjoyed the most during the filming of the scenes, and in the few opportunities we had for breaks, was to see the marvelous progress that has been made during the last few years in archaeological research in Israel, especially in Jerusalem around the Temple Mount. When one thinks about it, it is amazing that the 3,000 years of Jerusalem's history have remained almost untouched during the flourish of archaeological activity that has occurred during the last 100 years in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Europe, and even in Israel itself. However, since 1967, when the Jewish people regained control over the old city of Jerusalem, the archaeologists have almost totally excavated the ruins around the Southern and Western walls of the Temple Mount. One of the leaders of this monumental task is the archaeologist, Dr. Meir Ben-Dov, who has published several works about the results, including the recent publication, *In the Shadow of the Temple*. This book deals with the long history of Jerusalem as it is revealed in the numerous layers of material that has been uncovered. The work is most scholarly but is written in an interesting way, describing the many difficulties and obstacles that were overcome, both political and physical, in the process of the excavations.

The excavations disclosed four major chronological eras — in the area immediately adjacent to the Temple mount: the Jewish era, the Roman era, the Moslem era, and the new Jewish era. Each of the earlier eras contained various subdivisions.

The history of Jerusalem goes far back in time, before David made the city his capital in about 1,000 B.C. Abraham was familiar with the area as Moriah and Salem, and the abode of Melchizedek, but there were apparently no structures of civilization on the Temple Mount itself at that time. When Jerusalem became a Jebusite city, it was surrounded by a wall and located entirely on a hill several hundred feet south of the Temple Mount, so there were no discoveries of Jebusite occupation in the excavations by the Temple Mount and none were expected.

## JEWISH ERA

*First Temple (1,000 - 586 B.C.).* The earliest discoveries of civilized construction near the Southern wall of the Temple Mount was of a massive public building, dating back to the time of the kings of Judah, perhaps even Solomon himself. The archaeologists are speculating that these may be the foundation walls of the great palace that King Solomon built around the time that he built the Temple. There is evidence that this structure, even though it was very sturdily built on the bedrock, suffered a disruption and was afterwards shored up with another outer wall. The workers are speculating that these foundations were jolted during a great earthquake, perhaps one at the time of King Uzziah, around 700 B.C.

*Second Temple (586 B.C. - 70 A.D.).* It was during the time of Herod the Great, near the end of the second Temple, that Jerusalem reached the zenith of its architectural magnificence. The excavations have uncovered the massive, beautifully finished stones in the wall, the gates and the stairs that led up to the Temple Mount, the homes of the people that were nearby, complete with mikvahs (ritual baths), and the aqueduct that brought huge quantities of water from near Bethlehem to be used in the Temple. All of these were sites familiar to Jesus Christ and His disciples, and most of the city was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

## ROMAN ERA

*Pagan Rome (70 A.D. - 300 A.D.).* When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, they expelled the Jewish people from their holy city and encamped the 10th legion there. Remains of their coins and structures have since been found. Emperor Hadrian left his abominable mark by building a temple to Jupiter on the Temple Mount, and all of this led to the revolt against Rome, headed by the Jewish general, Bar Kochba, which was disastrously suppressed. Some coins and artifacts have been uncovered from this sad period.

*Christian Rome (300 - 603 A.D.).* Jerusalem was revived again when Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and his mother Helena, and later successor, Justinian, built churches such as the Resurrection Church and the New Church in the city. No one knew where the New Church built by Justinian had been located until this recent excavation when they discovered the apse. Jerusalem was visited by many pilgrims from around the Roman empire during these centuries, as is testified to by the numerous hostels with Byzantine decorations and designs. For a brief period Emperor Julian attempted to revive paganism in Rome and encouraged the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem from which they had been banished and rebuild the Temple, but the whole project came to naught with Julian's death.

## **MOSLEM ERA**

*Persian (603 - 638 A.D.).* The Persians had a long war with the Byzantine part of the Roman Empire. The record in stones shows that when the Persians conquered Jerusalem many of the great church buildings and other structures were ruinously destroyed. It is thought that the Jewish soldiers in the Persian army were particularly upset with the use of columns from the ancient Temple in the New Church and brought it down to rubble.

*Early Moslem (638 - 1099 A.D.).* About this time the Moslem religion came on the scene and took advantage of the weakened condition of the Roman and Persian kingdoms, capturing Jerusalem.

One of the most surprising discoveries of the excavations was that the Omayyad dynasty built a great palace at the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount, as well as the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. The succeeding dynasty, the Abbassids, completely erased the history of this palace from Moslem memory, but it has now been uncovered.

*Crusader (1099 - 1187 A.D.).* Churches, fortifications and evidences of Crusader occupation on the Temple Mount, have been discovered in the process of the archaeological work. They were the first to use the Temple Mount for living quarters, and they utilized the Herodian archways behind the Southern wall to stable their horses.

*Late Moslem (1187 - 1917 A.D.).* After the Crusaders were expelled, the Moslems once again made their architectural mark upon Jerusalem. One of the major contributors was Sulieman the Magnificent, the Turkish ruler who refortified the walls of the city much as we see them today. The first archaeological efforts were accomplished in the 19th century by British military officers, Wilson and Robinson, who dug shafts in and around the Southern and Western walls of the Temple Mount.

## **BRITISH AND JORDANIAN ERA**

*British and Jordanian (1917 - 1967 A.D.).* The areas south of the Temple Mount was covered with debris and used as a vegetable garden during the time of the British mandate following the first World War and the subsequent partitioning to Jordan by the U.N. in 1948. King Hussein built a girls' school on the site after being assured incorrectly by the archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon that no Moslem structures were underneath.

## **NEW JEWISH ERA**

*New Jewish era (1967 - present).* Since the six-day war in 1967 the Jewish archaeologists have cleared the Western Wall for a worship area and spent 12 years of careful attention to archaeological excavations. They have uncovered the remains of 3,000 years of Jerusalem's history and the work is not finished yet.

Uncovering the history of Jerusalem is something like uncovering the layers of biblical and human history because Jerusalem has touched the lives of peoples around the world.





*At this time of year Christians around the world are reading about the birth of Christ. God foretold His people about the coming of the Messiah in some detail throughout the Old Testament. I would like to share some of the key scriptures and the "hidden" symbolism behind this miraculous birth.*

#### **THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM...**

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2).

*The following New Testament scriptures beautifully fulfill Micah's prophecy:*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and

have come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea; for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel (Matthew 2:1-6).

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them (Luke 2:1-20).

*it is significant that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not only because this fulfilled a specific prophecy, but for more subtle reasons. In Hebrew, Beth Lechem means House of Bread. Jesus continually used the image of bread and growing grain in His teachings: "If a kernel of wheat go into the ground . . . it bringeth forth much fruit." He was born in the House of Bread, raised in The Branch (Nazareth, in Hebrew, Nezeret, means branch. In John 6:35 Jesus said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, . . ."*

*The meaning becomes more profound in Matthew 26:26 which says, "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body." The unleavened bread to which He was referring was pure (leaven in the Bible means sin). It was striped ("By His stripes we are healed"). It was also pierced with holes ("They shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced").*

*It was no accident that God planned for His Son to be born in the House of Bread, Bethlehem.*

### **THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE BORN OF A VIRGIN...**

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

*The following Scriptures confirm this prophecy:*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS (Matthew 1: 18-25).

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then

said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elizabeth, she hath also conceived in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her (Luke 1: 26-38).

*In orthodox Judaism women are responsible for very little regarding ceremonial activities; however, the mother of the house is to light the candles for Passover and each Sabbath. God chose a woman, Mary, to bring us the light of the world and the Jewish women continue to bring the light to the various celebrations.*

### **THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE THE SON OF GOD...**

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee (Psalm 2:7).

*The New Testament says:*

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? . . . (Hebrews 1:5).

So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee (Hebrews 5:5).

### **THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH...**

The scepter 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 (Genesis 49:10)

*The simple fulfillment is:*

For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood (Hebrews 7:14).

*The prophecies leading up to the birth of Christ are indeed wonderful as are their fulfillments. I would like to close with the following two verses:*

WHOSOEVER believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (I John 5: 1,4).