

THE STORY OF A MODERN MISSIONARY TO AN ANCIENT PEOPLE

by

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CHAPTER TEN

CLOSE OF MRS. COHN'S LIFE

My dear wife's illness which began soon after her arrival in Scotland increased all the time, however; in all her weakness, through prayer and faith, His grace sufficient. With genuine self-denial her strong mother-heart forgot her own pain and thought for her dear children. Even when she lay in bed helpless sometimes at the point of death, she would whisper orders concerning the welfare of her children and the comfort of her husband.

Not only was she the scriptural "**virtuous woman**" in the way of a good house-wife and loving mother, but she also wonderfully combined these praiseworthy qualifications with the happy possession of a great missionary zeal.

She always managed to arrange her house affairs so as to be able to accompany me to the meetings, where her presence was an inspiration, like a light in a darkened room. Occasionally, she would address the audience and frequently talk personally to individual Jews about their souls at the close of the services pleading with them to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. All respected her and many were led to Christ through her earnest testimony.

Sometimes she did visiting among the Jewesses upon whom Jewish tradition made it improper for me to call.

Many Jewish women testified that she brought comfort to their sorrowing hearts and sunshine to their beclouded minds, and many Christian ladies who met and learned to love her said: "Your wife has been a blessing to me."

All this, notwithstanding the fact that she was most of the time, a sufferer.

She never showed her illness no matter what pain she had to endure. Her face was always sunny and she ever rejoiced in the Lord, bearing her pain most patiently, even to the very end of her earthly life. One of the messages she sent at the last was: "Tell the children to submit to God's will."

Her heart and mind were always firmly fixed upon the Lord Jesus, her Saviour.

Once, while suffering much pain, she asked me a few questions as to the position of the Lord Jesus in heaven. After my answer, she said: "My thoughts are continually wandering away from me, up and up, far yonder they break through that mysterious wall and show me how I will meet Jesus there. My mind pictures Him as sitting on a great white throne, holding out a golden scepter as Ahasuerus did to Esther the Queen."

These as well as a number of other utterances, from her feverish lips during her last hours, revealed her absolute faith in the love, mercy and truth of the Lord Jesus who promised to receive His followers into the prepared place; she never doubted, but could see her way clear and straight to the presence of the King of kings without any fear whatever.

Such words could not but confirm my conviction that there has not been a more devoted Christian woman on earth. She was anxiously waiting to see the much needed building for the mission realized. She used to join me in a private prayer to God to move upon the hearts of those dear Christians who have the means and cause them to put up the building. She was so sanguine and confident that she never doubted its realization. However, toward the end of her life when very feeble, she said to me: "I have been pulling with you hard uphill for so many years, waiting for the Mission building and now when almost to the top, the Lord wants me to go away. I have asked God to let me live to see the building and a Jewish-Christian congregation worshipping the Lord in it, but He says no, just as to Moses when he wanted to enter the "Promised Land."

Mrs. Cohn was greatly rejoiced every time a Jew, or a Jewess confessed Christ. Her happiest days in America, she told me once, were those when she assisted at the baptisms of converts. If she was hoping to see a large movement among the Jews Christ-ward, and thus a few hours before her departure, though too weak to move, her missionary spirit rose above her sufferings and everything dear to her heart on earth and she expressed the desire to get up and "go down on my knees and die praying, so that my soul may go up there with a special petition for the speedy conversion of my people."

Mrs. Cohn's last illness began in August, 1907. After a request for prayer on her behalf made in the March, 1908, *Chosen People*, her critical condition changed so that there was hope for her recovery, several serious symptoms disappearing one after another, almost in a supernatural way.

She, herself, however, realized all this time, that she was going to leave us and hinted as much, though avoiding plainer talk for fear it might distress me. Thus, at the end of two weeks she suddenly began to fail, and in two days slipped away. Saturday morning, April 4th, at 9:30, she began to lose consciousness and at 11:30 she breathed her last.

A number of friends, even from out of town, were so kind and came to comfort us. Some Jews who were not converted but who had heard Mrs. Cohn's short talks in the Mission expressed in writing and personally their great sorrow and deep sympathy.

On Monday evening, the funeral service was held in our home. The Rev. W. C. P. Rhoades, D. D., her pastor, who had baptized her twelve years ago, delivered an impressive address, Thus ended a life which was a continuous and effective testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.

And yet, not ended; for she: “**though dead, yet speaketh**”; speaketh to my heart, and to the hearts of those who knew and loved her, both among Jew and Gentile.

For me, who am now left alone to complete the work for which we both sowed in tears, she will ever live, a constant inspiration and motive power in the carrying on of the work which was the supreme love of her life; until I, too, shall reach the yonder shore, and amidst the glad meeting and greeting, we both hear the “**well done, thou good and faithful servant.**”

In loving appreciation and gratitude to God for such a life and such an inspiration, I have written these pages, in the hope that the Lord will use them to the blessing and encouragement of many souls, and to the awakening of an unprecedented interest in Israel. Amen.

To you, kind reader, I can but repeat the invitation of a previous page, “**Come thou with us, and we will do thee good.**”

Cast in your lot with Israel; give to this Jewish mission freely of your time, your prayers, your sympathy, your means; it needs your every support, and well deserves it. It is a work of the very God of Israel, and every true Christian will want to have a large share in it.

Sincerely yours in Him,

Leopold Cohn.

~ end of chapter 10 ~

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