

# THE STORY OF A MODERN MISSIONARY TO AN ANCIENT PEOPLE

by

Leopold Cohn

Copyright © 1908

## CHAPTER SIX

### A HEBREW WOMAN'S STANDPOINT

It was hard to get Mrs. Cohn to read the Prophecies relating to the Messiah. According to Talmudic teaching, it is not right for parents to teach their daughters the law, that is, the Bible. Thus Jewish women as a rule are kept in ignorance of the Word of God.

While my dear wife was better educated than the average Jewess, she spoke several languages, was taught thoroughly the five books of Moses in the light of the Talmudic commentaries, and could read and write Hebrew, still she was brought up under the sentiment that a woman was not fit to study the prophets, especially with regard to such a mysterious and deep subject as that of the Messiah.

She sympathized with me in my conviction, took an interest in my studies during my attendance at the New College of the Free Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, helped me in different ways in my mission work among the Jews in Edinburgh and Glasgow, where I held meetings Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, when I was free from College, but she did not want to search the Scriptures.

### A Wonderful Dream

However, two remarkable incidents, which stood out like two faithful witnesses, influenced her in a peculiar manner and impelled her to study and find out the truth for herself.

One was that of a dream I had a few weeks before I sailed for America, when I had no thought of leaving my native country. In my dream I saw the sun rising in all its glory and brightness and not far from the sun were two moons, one very dark and the other full of light. As I looked at them with astonishment, lo and behold, the dark moon fell from the skies and disappeared, while the bright moon stayed there with the sun. When I awoke, my heart was troubled and I told the dream to my wife.

Later, in America, when I was led to see the truth as it is in Jesus, I at once recognized the interpretation of my dream. The moon is known by the Jews to be symbolic of the Hebrew race and their religion; for as the moon has the renewal of her light after darkness, so the Jews will be renewed in their national glory after their fall.

The sun is symbolic of the Messiah who is called the Sun of righteousness.

Thus, in that dream the Lord showed me that the dark side of my Jewish religion would disappear, while the real Jewish faith which is full of light would stay and abide with me through the Sun of righteousness, the Lord Jesus who is the light of the world.

I used to write in my letters to my wife that “now I know what the puzzling dream meant, and when you come, I will tell you all about it.”

After her arrival at Edinburgh, I often referred to that dream and its interpretation which always impressed her very much.

### **Thoughts on the Passover Rites**

Another help to her was that of a thought the Lord gave me at the time when for her sake I observed the ceremony on the first Passover night after she reached Scotland. Among other sacred rites performed on the first night of the Passover feast are the following ones: Three cakes of unleavened bread are placed on the table, one above the other with a napkin between them so that each is separate from the other. The head of the family who is performing the ceremonies takes the middle cake and breaks it in halves, concealing one-half under the pillow of the lounge on which he reclines at that meal.

Reclining is a symbol of the freedom the Jews gained at the time when God brought them out from the bondage of Egypt. At certain intervals, four cups of wine are served to those seated at the table and at the third cup, the father takes out the half cake from between the pillows, and divides it among the family.

I used to perform that ceremony year after year without considering the real reason for so doing, but with the light of the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ in my mind and heart, it suddenly dawned upon me what it all meant.

The three cakes represent Father, Son and Holy Ghost; the middle one, the Son, broken in halves, indicates the body of the Son of God, broken for our sins. Concealing it under the pillow signifies the burial of the broken body, and bringing it forth again at the third cup of wine indicates strikingly the resurrection of the Lord Jesus on the third day.

When the Lord gave me that thought, I at once with great joy in my heart, explained it to my dear wife and children, showing them that this custom which is being performed by all the Jews over the world from time immemorial, has in it the memory of death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and at the same time conveys to us His teaching of a triune God.

The early disciples of the Lord Jesus were Jews and they must have instituted this ceremony among their people so that Christ should never be forgotten among them.

## **Trying Incidents**

These thoughts startled my wife and she began to search the Scriptures and to talk to the Jews about the Lord Jesus, although she did not confess Him by baptism until two years later, but she could see the truth and she began to mention it in her letters to her brothers and sisters in Europe.

They became more bitter, and tried on one occasion to have the whole family extradited and brought back to Europe on some false charges.

Mrs. Cohn's sister, who was very fond of her, enclosed in a letter a piece of black ribbon and said that this would show that she mourns her as dead. This and many other annoying and harassing letters enervated her very much and affected her health, although she had always been strong and well.

On several occasions, when I had to meet groups of Jews for debates, she accompanied me and talked to them in a most remarkable way. She had much wisdom and a winning and convincing way of conversation.

Once a number of prominent Jewesses in Edinburgh visited and besought her with tears to leave me and stay with them. They offered her an amount of money and wanted to assure her by writing that she would never lack friends or means, if only she would stay among the Jews and give up her apostate husband. But she refused, and told them that she knew her husband better than they did and that she had more confidence in her husband than in all the Jews of Edinburgh. She also told them that they too ought to accept the Lord Jesus Christ.

**~ end of chapter 6 ~**

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>

\*\*\*