

THE STORY OF A MODERN MISSIONARY TO AN ANCIENT PEOPLE

by

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CHAPTER EIGHT

MRS. COHN USED BY GOD

Christian ministers as well as laymen began to rub their eyes and ask themselves: "What does it all mean?"

Many Jews used to come to my house privately during the week to inquire more fully about the truth, for when they attended the meeting they could only listen. My dear wife used to take a great deal of pains explaining to these Jews, and told them of her own history. Nearly all those to whom she talked went away with strong faith in the living God and in His word about the Messiah. She soon gained the confidence of the Jewish men and women who had great respect for her tact, wisdom and godliness, as she grew stronger and stronger in the faith.

Still, Satan put many temptations in her way to repel her from Christ. For instance, our children who went to Sunday school, used to be persecuted by Christian children who called them names and sometimes tried to do them bodily harm. The children used to come home crying and tell their mama how the others called them names, but she, with true motherly love, took them in her lap and comforted them telling how the Lord Jesus suffered and how Elisha, the great prophet, was called names by a lot of children. Thus, with great sorrow in her heart for the wounded feelings of her children, she knew how to comfort them and still remain steadfast in the Lord Jesus Christ from whom such things could not separate her.

Trials of Our Children

On one occasion a number of boys took one of my boys, who was only six or seven years at that time; they stretched him on the floor, some holding him down while another stepped on his legs, below his knees and fractured them. In spite of the agonizing screams of the boy, they laughed and said, "That is the way the sheenies cry."

Then the boy was brought home helpless and one can imagine what great grief and vexation that caused us, and I thought "Now her faith will be weakened," for Jewish people used to come in and when they learned of it, say, "You see with whom you have to associate and who Christians are." But the warm heart of my dear wife never gave way, but always kept on saying: "And so they did to the prophets who had to suffer to glorify the name of Jehovah, and so must we."

Our little boy was sick for a long time in the hospital, but the Lord healed him and our joy was made full.

On a later occasion, however, some other so-called Christian children took one of our boys, and while several held him by force, another came with a knife and cut his lower lip through and through, and said: "This is the way we have to do with sheenies."

Many other trials came in different ways from the hands of so-called Christians, and I always felt worried lest they should repel either my dear wife or some of my children from the Lord Jesus Christ but thanks be to God, it was not so. All remained steadfast, heeding not such trials and persecutions, and after a short time, Mrs. Cohn was baptized by W. C. P. Rhoades, D. D., pastor of the Marcy Avenue Baptist Church.

Further Assistance

We went on in the work under great financial difficulties for about two years, when the two Baptist societies, the Home Mission and the Church Extension, combined and offered their help.

I looked upon this as a direct support from the Lord God in whom I trusted and to whom I looked for all my needs, for I did not apply to these societies, and yet they came so nobly and asked me if I wanted their aid. Of course, it was done in a natural way, but I did not know it.

T. J. Whitaker, who used to come to the meetings, reported to the Baptist ministers and societies what he had witnessed and urged them to come and help.

So, one Saturday as I was preaching in Brownsville, about a dozen ministers and laymen surprised me by their presence. I told them that I would thankfully accept their support as I believed that the Lord sent them to my help, but I stipulated that I should not be interfered with in my methods of work in the spiritual dealings with my Jewish brethren whom I had studied from my earliest youth, knowing their characteristics, thoughts and daily life so well, and I also knew that Christian people had never studied Jewish life and consequently did not understand, humanly speaking, how to reach my brethren.

I certainly believe, however, that God can use anybody, if He chooses, to work in a supernatural way. They agreed not to interfere with me and said they believed I was led by the Holy Spirit and that they would not come in between Him and the work, but would share in it by supporting it.

So they continued for eleven years, when I gratefully thanked them for their past kindnesses and resigned, as it became necessary to place the work upon an independent and interdenominational basis.

~ end of chapter 8 ~

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