

HOW TO REACH THE JEW FOR CHRIST

by

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CHAPTER FOURTEEN

THE CLOSE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

This lesson will be studied in two parts:

- A. The Anti-Semitic Crusade
- B. The Rise of Zionism

A. THE ANTI-SEMITIC CRUSADE

The larger nations of the world (with the exception of Russia) had granted equality to the members of the Jewish race. The Jews were no longer handicapped. They achieved success in all fields of life. They flooded the universities, became the leaders in medicine, philosophy and jurisprudence. They became successful, and their success awakened jealousy in the hearts of their neighbors.

In 1879, a German court preacher named Stocker, capitalized on the jealousy which was aroused by the success of the Jews. He raised the cry that Jews were injurious to the Christian State. He formed an Anti-Jewish League and proceeded to make life in Germany intolerable for the Jews.

An epidemic of Jew-baiting was raised and thousands of Jews were driven from the country. The epidemic spread to Austria, Hungary and France. Anti-Semitic newspapers appeared and the Jews were accused of being a nation of criminals. In France, they were accused of being German spies; in Germany, they were accused of being French spies.

Meanwhile, there was deep unrest in France because of a corrupt government, which was dragging France to her ruin. The government looked for a scapegoat and pounced on the Jews.

A young Jewish officer named Alfred Dreyfus was accused of selling military secrets to the Germans. It was hoped that his conviction would set up a furor of anti-Semitism which would drown out the complaints of the people against the government. But Dreyfus was courageous and he had a wealthy family to support him. Dreyfus was sentenced to Devil's Island, but his people fought for him. The liberty-loving world was aroused. The fight lasted twelve long years.

Finally the real criminals committed suicide, the corrupt officials were overthrown, and Dreyfus was completely exonerated.

Dreyfus and the Jews were exonerated, but the Jews had learned a lesson—there was no liberty for them in Continental Europe. In Russia they had been massacred by the thousands; Poland persecuted them; the other nations snubbed them. En masse, they turned to find a new home, which millions of them found in America.

B. THE RISE OF ZIONISM

The Jews all over the world realized that they were exiles—they had no homeland of their own.

And then Zionism arose. This movement began in Russia, shortly after the murder of Alexander II. But in Russia the movement was all enthusiasm and no work. It was a vague dream.

In 1860 Theodore Herzl was born in Budapest. He was born a Jew, but he took little interest in Jewish life or thought. He served in Paris as a foreign correspondent for a Viennese newspaper during the Dreyfus scandal. The sight of this young officer being disgraced simply because he was a Jew set Herzl thinking. He realized that no matter where the Jew lived, he was still a foreigner! Could they not create a state where they could live their own lives in peace and quiet? Herzl set down his ideas in a book called *The Jewish State*.

Other people had written on this subject with greater ability before this, but somehow or other, Herzl's writings fired the mind of the population. He became the leader of a new movement: Zionism. But his followers were penniless and there was no home for the Jews. For eight years Herzl labored, but dissension crumbled the ranks of his followers. In the prime of his life, Herzl died.

Herzl died, but his movement still lives. It was given impetus by the creation of the Palestinian Mandate. At present it is a political movement, building itself on the religious desires of the Jewish people. Some of the Jews have returned to the land of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We would that they would return to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

EXAMINATION

1. What caused the anti-Semitic crusade?
2. Who was Stocker?
3. Describe the Dreyfus case.
4. What is Zionism?
5. Give a brief resume of the life of Theodore Herzl

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