Why Preach Christ to the Jews? Part 2

By Charles Feinberg

Charles Feinberg:

"You've heard the charge in the indictment. What do you plead? What answer can you give me? What can you offer me?" And he ends his article in that way. My friends, does this bring the need home to your Christian heart with compelling force? If not, why in heaven doesn't it? Why not? If so, what are you purposed to do about it? Yes. We do have ample reason why we should share Christ with the Jews. Because the command of Christ, because of the need of the people, Because of the example of Paul, And Now Because of the wonderful opportunity, unprecedented opportunity in America.

Now America has a peculiar opportunity. With her more than 5 million Jews, here The Jew is accorded the rights of citizenship. And you'll remember that hasn't been true in so many places as far as the Jews been concerned. And America has this peculiar chance, you'd almost say once in a lifetime. It seems as if it's once in the great history of the world. Here the Jews are accorded the rights of citizenship. Political restrictions that were so long galling, unbearable had been lifted. Social, Fellowship Contexts are less forced and hampered. Intellectual advantages are accorded all. In this atmosphere the Jew has thrown off a great deal of his ghetto fears and prejudices. He's more approachable, although as you well know if you're abreast of the news and of the media, we're losing ground even in our country where there is such a revival Of Nazism, what we call neo-Nazism and neo-fascism and all manner of extreme lefts and extreme rights. But In the overall equation, he's more approachable. He sees here a far higher exemplification of
Christianity than he ever met in the past century in Europe and other parts of the world. And when one considers the demonic, satanic treatment that's been accorded to the Jew All in the past centuries, the story has been written in blood Century after century in Europe. He was hounded to the death. Well when you consider that demonic treatment, He, You are not surprised no more than anyone would be, you’re not surprised to hear the young Jewess Who had become a Christian. She asked the lady instrumental in her conversion to Christ, who had instructed her in the gospel. She said, "I'd like for you my dear friend to read history with me". Well her friend said, "Why do you want that? I would think you'd want to be reading the Gospels and be reading the New Testament and getting your bible more in hand." She answered, "I do want you to read history with me because I've been reading the Gospels and I'm puzzled. I want to know when Christians began to be so different from Christ." And it's a heartbreak to hear the account of this dear old Jewish man who is having the Gospel given to him and kept shaking his head from right to left, "No no no." And the friend said, "Well why no? Why no?" He said, "Because he cannot be our Messiah whose followers hate and persecute us so".

Oh friends, let's buy up our opportunity, God given, short, precious, as it is we never know when it will not be ours any longer. Should our Lord Jesus come and we go to be with him there will not be opportunity any longer to get literature to them, to get tapes to them, to get the message, to get a personal witness from loving missionaries who go to them with the gospel of redeeming grace. Let's buy up this opportunity. Let's not let it slip through us. Let's not come to the place where we say, "if I only had, If I only had." no, it’s God given, it's short at the very best, and it's precious.

And then there's another reason why we should preach Christ to the Jews. It's because of the sense of gratitude, sense of gratitude. We read in Romans 15 verses 25 to 27 Paul says, “But
now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the Saints", and he meant the Jewish saints, "for it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia", These are different regions or territories In Greece, the country of Greece, "It has pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints wo are at Jerusalem". What a beautiful thing to do to show solidarity in the body of Christ, to be able to fill up the need of those who were lacking. He says, "It pleased them of Macedonia to give a certain contribution", and he says, "It has pleased them", these gentile believers verily, truly, indeed, "and their debtors they are". These Gentile believers are debtors of the poor saints in Jerusalem. How so? "For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things", and we saw that the fall of the Jews, the diminishing of the Jews has meant the enrichment of the Gentiles. Yes. "If the Gentiles had been made partakers of their spiritual things their duty is also to minister unto them", The Jews, "in carnal things".

Not only do men appreciate gratitude, but God does also. You can see it in Christ's word when he healed ten lepers and only one of the ten came back. Our Lord Jesus and that one who came back Was A despised, avoided Samaritan and our Lord Jesus said," where are the nine? Were there not ten healed?" certainly. "Were there not ten cleansed?" Of course, and only one. God Appreciates gratitude as well as men.

Do we have no gratitude to the Jew for his preservation of the wonderful word of God for us? Ask anybody who has taken the time out. Spend time, as some of us have for a lifetime, and looked into the Old Testament. What a marvelous word it is. What a marvelous way in which it was preserved, and don't forget it, It was at the cost of life on the part of the Jewish martyrs. And wasn't the world astounded in the fall of 1947 And the early part of 1948 when the world heard of the Dead Sea Scrolls? Ah yes. And then to see how this Jewish community away from Jerusalem, This separatist group, Had tried to keep itself clear of all political entanglements and
all the rest all that displeased God, went according to the best light they felt they had. Oh how they preserved the scriptures. We have found thousands of copies of the word and how marvelously, accurately, exactly the word has been kept. Some changes yes as much as, for instance, some spell the word through T-H-R-O-U-G-H, and some will spell it T-H-R-U. That's inconsequential, things of that nature. Ah the Word of God has been so marvelously preserved for us. That's our title deed, if you will, to the mansion on high, To the Glory. Do we have no gratitude to the Jew that he preserved that wonderful word of God for you and me? Do we have no word of thanks? No feeling of appreciation in our hearts for his giving of the Lord Jesus Christ to us when we know that without him, There is no life without him, There is no forgiveness, without him There is no sense of peace, There is no pardon?

My dear friends, remember salvation in the truest, highest sense of the word is of the Jews. John 4:22, Our Lord Jesus said to the woman of Samaria he said to that Samaritan woman, "ye worship ye know not what". We know what we worship for salvation is of, or from, the Jews. Yes, in the truest sense it's of the Jews. It was prophesied all by the Jews. Isaiah, Jeremiah Ezekiel, Daniel, To say nothing about Elijah, and about Moses and then Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, all these. And won't forget it was brought to earth By a Jew, The Lord Jesus Christ he was verily a Jew. His legal father was Of Davidic ancestry legally. His adopted father was and his natural, true mother, his only parent was of the line of David as well. She was a Jewish virgin. It was brought to earth by a Jew, The Lord Jesus Christ. Some tell us today that Jesus was not a Jew. Well the woman of Samaria knew better than that. She said, "How is it that thou being a Jew asks this drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" And the Lord Jesus didn't say, "No you're wrong, I'm not a Jew." Oh no, Salvation was brought to earth by a Jew, the Lord Jesus Christ.
It was heralded abroad so that you have it today through the agency of the Jews, the disciples, and apostles. And do you know that practically every one of them, to a man, practically every one of them Suffered Martyrdom? Peter suffered crucifixion the tradition has it, Thomas and the rest. And remember Paul? Oh when we traveled to Rome on our trips to the Holy Land We never fail to stop by Rome and see that maritime prison, And that Appian Way by which he came up from the sea, And to think of the place where he was imprisoned. We’d scarcely put an animal there and he was put there and what joy he had in suffering; not only that he was privileged to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but to suffer for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. What a joy it was for him. Aren't we happy, aren’t we joyous that he brought that message? If he hadn't done it, how would Europe have heard the word? How would the Pilgrim Fathers have brought it to the United States? How would you and I have heard it? Or people around the world? Because some went even to India. There is a tradition That Thomas went to India, Specially is the tradition quite strong since there is a Christian group, Those who profess Christianity, in the Martoma church, the M-A-RT-H-O-M-A, Which means the Sir Thomas. Yes. You and I have it today, This Gospel that was heralded abroad through the agency of the Jews, the disciples, and the Apostles.

And don't forget it, it was Jewish blood that flowed on Calvary's cross for your sins and mine. "He, the just one, died for us, the unjust, that he might bring this to God, who will redeem not with corruptible, things with silver and with gold from our vain manner of life handed down from our fathers, but with precious blood as of a lamb without blemish, without spot". Even the blood of Christ who verily was fore-ordained for us from before the foundation of the world what happened these last times been manifested for our sakes. He bore in his own body our sins upon the tree. Him who knew no sin, He had no sin in him or on him. "Who knew no sin God
made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in him." It was Jewish blood that flowed on Calvary's cross for your sins and mine. And don’t forget that body that he had here on earth apart from the blood is still the body that he has now. It will always have throughout eternity the marks of his crucifixion, the marks of his passion. How do you know? Well in the revelation Whenever John saw him, when he saw the lion of the tribe of Judah in the midst of the throne it was as a lamb as though it had been slain.

Remember it's a Jew who is pleading for you at the right hand of God the father right now. "He ever lives to make intercession for us". That's why God in Christ can save everyone eternally, "All who come unto God by him seeing that he ever liveth to make intercession for them". And you know if any man’s sins, any Christian man or woman, young man or young woman, if any man sins we have an advocate with the father we have an attorney with the father. Not with the judge, God's still our father. We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He's pleading that we might not sin and then he pleads for us, represents us as the great attorney at the right hand of the father. He is pleading for us there in his marvelous, efficacious, wonder working advocacy. Never forget it, it's a Jew who will make heaven as glorious as it will be for you and everyone who has through the years, through the centuries, trusted Christ.

And yet there is another. There is another telling, compelling reason for sharing Christ with the Jews. Why preach Christ to the Jews? Well here is another one. The fruitful character of work among the Jews. Now I've heard it more than once in my almost 50 years of Christian experience, those whose hearts are not inclined toward work among Israel claim as a last ditch plea that work among the Jews is so lacking in fruit and results. Oh my dear friends, you think it's without results? It's lacking in fruit? It repays so little they say for the energy and effort
expended? I remember speaking some years ago in Texas to a leading Bible teacher and I remember his comment to a friend there. He said, "Well it is so lacking in results when the work of Christ is at stake." I ask you in Heaven's name, when the work of Christ is at stake, do we ask whether it pays? Christ was sure it would, Isaiah 53:11, "He shall yet see of the travail, the agony of his soul and be satisfied. Oh what a motivation for all our service, so that Christ might see the travails of his soul and be satisfied. And here as the writer of Hebrews says, "That Lord Jesus Christ is the one to whom we look". Looking unto Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith who for the joy that was set before him", he thought it was worthwhile, "Who for the joy that was set before him endureth the cross, despising the shame, is now set down on the right hand of the majesty on high." Oh yes. Does it pay? Christ was sure it would. Others did. Many of us know the founder of the China Mission, now known as the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Hudson Taylor was a dear friend of the founder of the Mild May Mission to the Jews, John Wilkinson. These dear men of God, J. Hudson Taylor and John Wilkinson were friends in England, And it was a custom between them that the first of the year Hudson Taylor would send his personal check to John Wilkinson for the Mild May Mission to the Jews for that work And in the South West corner of the check he would have, "to the Jew first". And like clockwork every first of the year, John Wilkinson would send a check to J. Hudson Taylor for work among the Chinese. And on that check, in the southwest corner, he would have, "and also to the Greek, also to the Gentiles."

Oh my friend, work among Israel has proved itself capable of maintaining our interest in it by the unparalleled results that have attended its labors. The statistics are available for those who care to have them. Those for this century are not in, but those for the nineteenth century are in and it was in favor of Israel, 7-2. Someone has calculated, I don't know how we could verify it
that about one out of four converts from Judaism are in full time service. This I do know, that
one of the greatest missionaries to the Muslim world said in my presence, He said, "If I had my
life to live over again Dr. Feinberg, I would be a missionary to the Jews". I was rocked to my
very depths. I called him by name I said, "My dear friend why is it that you say you'd rather do
that? “Because" he said, "one convert from among them is worth more than 300 elsewhere." I
don't know in what way God is viewing these. Any soul is precious in the sight of God but oh
don’t tell me that the work is unavailing. I am one of the fruits of labor among Israel. It's because
there was a missionary of the American Board of Missions to the Jews in Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania. when I had just gotten out of the University of Pittsburgh He was there to give the
loving message And God has wonderfully blessed his testimony so that today In the teaching
ministry covering almost 50 years we have our graduates, our representatives on every continent
of the world. Yes, I say the statistics are available if you care to have them. They are
overwhelmingly in favor of the Jewish work as over against any other work. But I'm not saying
that any one of them should be neglected. Luke 11:42, “Not that this should be left out but this
other one should be done also”.

I say friends only those who deliberately shut their eyes and will not see claim that work
among Israel is unfruitful. And no one is so awfully, abysmally blind as he who will not see. And
our Lord Jesus was right as he said to the Pharisees there in John's gospel, He said to them, "It’s
one thing to be blind but your blindness is so much worse when you say you're not blind but
see". Only those who deliberately shut their eyes and close their ears and claim that the work is
unfruitful. Dr. Schor S-C-H-O-R, was the originator of the Palestine exhibition in the Great City
of London, England. He tells this very interesting story. He said, "On one occasion I happened to
be in a railway train with a man who'd been to St. Paul's cathedral, if you've been to London
you've been there, tremendous structure. He said, "I happened to be in a railway train with a man who had been to St. Paul's Cathedral to hear Mendelssohn's, Felix Bertolli Mendelssohn's, Wonderful work, St. Paul. I got into a conversation with him", which isn't always usual between Englishmen, they do have to have more or less, especially in those days, formal introductions. But he said he got into conversation with this man and in the course of our conversation he said as emphatically as he could, "I've never heard of a converted Jew. I've never seen one and I shall never meet one." The refined, and courteous, and gracious Dr. Schor said quietly, "Now that is strange, you say you've never heard of the converted Jew, never see one, and you're never going to meet one. I see you've been hearing a work written by a converted Jew because Mendelssohn was a believing Jew, believing Hebrew. I see you've been hearing a word written by converted Jew about a converted Jew". Nobody would doubt that St. Paul was a converted Jew. And said Dr. Schor as he left the train, "and now, from here on out, you can say you've met one because I'm one myself". Dr. Schor Was a devoted Hebrew believer, a faithful follower of the Lord Jesus.

So let's not be willfully ignorant of the truth, such ignorance is the worst of all. Let's rather heed Esther 9:3. We read that when there was that awful, awful threat, That Damocles' sword that hung over Ester's people, How She wrought, how she labored, as did Mortdecai for their redemption, for their deliverance, for their salvation. And then we read in Esther 9:3, "They that did the king's business helped the Jews." It's a beautiful word there, in the Hebrew. [Phrase in Hebrew], which means, "Those who did the king's business were lifting up". The word helped is lifted them up in thought, and concern, and solicitude, in prayer. Today that's the way to do it. "Those that do the king's business", do you want to do God's business? You say, “Well of course I do. More than anything else". Well then what I say to you my dear friends I say to you all: Help the Jews. Lift them up in prayer. And then remember that Psalm 122 verse 6 still true. Never at
our family altar of a morning, every morning for the world, never at our family altar do we forget
the words of Psalm 122:6 as we pray for the lost in Israel. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem", that
means more than a political peace, that means more than their individual peace On a personal
basis in this earth, earthly peace. It means more than even a national peace. It's more than
economic peace. It is eternal peace. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and", what a promise, "they
shall prosper that love thee". Put that down friends, write it clearly. Put it somewhere on your
desk or near your prayer list and follow it. God will be no man's debtor, he will be no woman's
debtor, and he will repay you richly. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem". How clear that is. There
are no encumbrances there, it's for this age, it’s for this dispensation of the church, as well as for
any other. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee".

My dear friends, don’t ever forget it, the Jew is indestructible. Pharaoh tried to drown
him in the Nile, Nebuchadnezzar tried to burn them in the fiery furnaces, Darius tried to destroy
them by lions, Haman tried to hang them on the gallows, Herod tried to slaughter them, Titus
tried to exterminate them, The Romans threw them to the wild beasts in the arena, The kings and
priests Of the Middle Ages tried to torture them to death in the Spanish Inquisition, and other
means. And today we all know how Hitler Instituted crematoriums to cremate them and how
much they're suffering behind the Iron Curtain and other curtains. My dear friends, there have
been so many who've been out to torture them to death. I tell you, they are with us. They're with
us still, they remain with us. What shall we do with them? Better yet, what shall we do for them?
It's yours to answer before God and there's no chance to pass the buck here. You will be asked,
"What have you done for those for whom I died among my own brethren, the people of Israel?"
Love for souls knows no national barrier. You say, "But I'm so occupied otherwise. I can't
possibly have it". My dear friends you will be amazed, if your heart's attitude is right, God will
make it possible for you to do the work that you are doing now as well as to reach out in a ministry to Israel.

Now then, very briefly, why should we preach Christ to the Jews? Why should we share our savior with them? Because of the command of Christ, the example of Paul. The need of this people, how needy they are, how real and deep is the need. Because of the wonderful opportunity in America, Because of our sense of gratitude enjoined upon us by the word of God through the Apostle Paul, and then because of the fruitful character of the work Among Israel. My dear friends, if your heart be right with the Lord, intent to do his will, I assure you, you will find ample opportunities. You will find them among your merchants, you will find them among your doctors, you will find them among neighbors, you will find them wherever you seek. Where the heart is, where the desire is, that’s what God will see to it that you have an opportunity. and Oh, as I've gone up and down the lands, into the lands, as I've talked to precious friends near as family To us, and talked to these about Their concern for Israel, how their faces light up With joy that they've ever been given the privilege to minister To the brethren and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ. I challenge you on the basis of the Living Word, of the living God, I challenge you to find out for yourself, and that right soon, the glorious privilege, the glorious joy Of Giving the gospel to some Jewish soul.

Our father in heaven, this has not just been some business Economic proposition. This has not been some intellectual academic matter. Oh but we've been pleading for the life of a people, flesh and blood as we are. Lord, send us forth with the love of the Lord Jesus in our hearts to win many of the lost sheep of the House of Israel, those for whom he died. Yes, for whom he prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". May we get the blessing
of praying for the peace of Jerusalem. Thou hast told us we shall prosper. We thank thee our father for that plan, In Jesus name. Amen.