

Israel's Hour of Decision (from the Messianic Hour Radio Broadcast)

By Charles Feinberg

[Transcription Note: Musical interludes of varying length appear throughout the recording.]

Charles Feinberg:

The messianic Hour is on the air. Oh Israel, hear the word of the Lord. A hearty welcome friends on the broadcast of the messianic hour under the direction of Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg professor of Old Testament at Talbot Theological Seminary. This program aims to foster love for God's ancient people Israel and to spread the truth of salvation in the Messiah for blessing and inspiration. Stay tuned for the next half hour. Once there were two distinguished brothers they were identical twins. One was a minister the other a physician. A lady who wanted to confer with a minister who happened to meet one of the brothers on the street. Unsure which one he was she asked are you the doctor who preaches or the one who practices? it's well for the believer to do both is it not to proclaim Christ is valueless if the life does not back up the speech. Some time ago, there appeared an interesting selection which said in part a Christian is not only to be morally correct but also to be winsome one trying to do good can do it so unattractively even so rudely that God is actually discredited.

It's possible on the other hand to live in the realm of such sentimental sweetness and light that he's too anemic to come to grips with anything. And so God is again misrepresented. Christian living friends prompted by the Holy Spirit faithfully reveals the Lord to others and creates in them a desire to know and to do his will. The mistake a little boy made while reading Joshua 1:7 in family worship was not so bad after all. He said. Instead of only be thou strong and very courageous he read it only be thou strong and very contagious. Well his father, his mother and father both smiled but they were silent and thoughtful. That child had expressed a truth worth considering.

Those who properly follow the Lord are not only courageous but they are also contagious as they touch the lives of others. Being a Christian in a strong but winsome way produces an infectious goodness the kind that moves men to glorify the one who grants believers the power to face an unfriendly world with gracious fortitude. It is not important friends what I say or what you say but what says the scripture. Hear the old testament prophecy in Psalm 40 verses 6 to 8 sacrifice and offering thou hast not desired, mine ears hast thou opened burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required then said I lo I come in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will. Oh my God. Thy law is within my heart. Now here is the New Testament fulfillment in the Messiah in Hebrews chapter 10 verses 4-9.

For is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins wherefore when he comes into the world he said sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not but a body hast thou prepared me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin, thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I lol I come. In the volume of the book, it is written of me to do thy will o God above when he said sacrifice an offering and bird offerings and offering for sin, thou wouldst not. Neither hast

pleasure therein which are offered by the law. Then said he lo I come to do thy will o God he takes away the first that he may establish the second.

Our gracious God and our father thou God of Abraham God of Isaac and God of Jacob. God of messiah the Lord God and Father of all of us who put our trust whether Jew or Gentile those of us who put trust in Christ the Lord as savior as redeemer as sin bearer. How we thank thee that all through the Old Testament. Thou did show by way of a pre-figuring a picturing a portrayal how thou did show that there would be pardon and forgiveness through the shedding of blood the blood of an innocent one the innocent victim would suffer for the guilty. And how we thank thee that when the hour arrived one whom had a will to do so such as no animal had in any sacrifice he couldn't express his will. But the sacrifice of high heaven. The Lamb of God. Thy sin offering for us did express his will. He said I lay down my life for the sheep. I lay it down. And I take it again.

This commandment have I received from the father he did it lovingly willingly he did it self-effacingly. He did it joyously who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross and despised the shame. Lord may many hearts among our dear Jewish listeners be drawn out to this blessed one who's bone of our bone flesh of our flesh who came to redeem us and to redeem all the world may every listening heart be made to realize his claim on life for now and for all eternity. We pray in Jesus' name amen.

It's wonderful to contemplate that God's love is wide. It is personal. We read John 3:16 God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. It could be no wider than that. God the son loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20. It could be no more personal than that. Sometimes we hear people say I love everybody. That's good if it's true. But I think we'd much rather hear someone tell us I love you. Everybody may include you and me. But that

personal pronoun you ignites the sparks of appreciation and appropriation. God loves you dear friend. There's not a day of your life that this is not true. I'd like to think with you today friends on the important prophetic theme Israel's hour of decision. In a passage from the old testament, Hosea 5:15 and one from the New Testament Matthew 23 39. God has graciously given us the blueprint for Israel's hour of decision. What's that? The grand climax of her long history. Now the passage from the prophet Hosea reads Ephraim is oppressed he's crushed in judgment because he was content to walk after man's command. Therefore am I unto Ephraim as a moth into the house of Judah as rottenness. When Ephraim saw his sickness and Judah saw his wound. Then went Ephraim to Assyria and sent to King Jareb. But he is not able to heal you neither will he cure you of your wound.

For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion and as a young lion to the House of Judah I even I will tear and go away. I will carry off and there shall be none to deliver. I will go and return to my place till they acknowledge their offence and seek my face. In their affliction, they will seek me earnestly. Now the portion in the New Testament is as follows. Oh Jerusalem Jerusalem that killeth the prophets and stoneth them that are sent unto her. How often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings? And you would not behold your house is left unto you desolate for I say unto you. You shall not see me henceforth till you shall say blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Now God the Father the God of Israel is the speaker in the Hosea passage and the Messiah the Son of David Jesus of Nazareth is the speaker in the Matthew passage the Prophet's message in this chapter Hosea 5 is addressed to priests people and king.

It's one of threatening judgment because of their continued sin. But in the midst of judgment, God indicates mercy is stored up for a future day. Our text indicates four clear

elements and factors in Israel's hour of decision. In the first place, there is the departure of the Lord. First of all the people have been threatened with a moth and rottenness judgments. Now these can be exasperatingly destructive though they are quiet and secret. But the damage is real and the loss is a burden then the sinning nation is threatened with the coming of the Lord as a lion, which tears, which is irresistible and none can deliver from its grasp. But the greatest threat of all is that the Lord will return and go back to his place.

Now this is the greatest calamity that could befall them. The presupposition is that the Lord has been here on Earth in the midst of his people and we know that he was in the person of the Messiah in his earthly ministry. Israel's greatest loss was the withdrawal of Messiah from their midst. Christ said to Israel that because they had refused to be gathered to him they would have their house left to them desolate and would not see him henceforth. He actually left Israel and returned to his place. Psalm 110 one states he is seated at the right hand of the father. That passage reads the Lord said unto my lord sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Now the fact that Christ is seated in heaven is glorious indeed for the believer. It means the Redeemer remembers us constantly in prayer in intercession and in advocacy but for Israel, it means that the Lord who was in their very midst has now withdrawn his bodily presence from them. That's the severity of God. But it does have a future purpose. It does have a future program a blessing in view. Some time ago in New York City a policeman saw an old lady stand in the middle of one of its busiest streets with a heavy truck rushing down on her. Instantly he sized up the situation. He saw how futile it would be to shout because she would become more confused. So in a moment of time that Officer leaped in the way through the old lady out of the path of the onrushing truck while he himself was thrown into bruised unconsciousness.

Now should that old lady blame or bless the roughness of the policeman. Have we ever blamed God for his severity to Israel? We must not. He means ultimate blessing in it. In the second place, our passage declares both passages actually declare the affliction of Israel immediately that God begins to deal again with Israel. It will be in affliction now we do well remember this in the midst of the progress the strides economically politically that are amazing that are now being made and have already been made by the state of Israel since its establishment in the year 1948. In the month of May but the predicted time of trouble lies ahead. Fore gleams of this distress are already to be seen on the horizon with threats of every character from their neighbors who surround them on every side and continually breathe out threatenings and slaughter.

The time of Jacob's trouble is foretold and will come to pass as Zechariah indicates it will be a refining process to refine the silver and the gold God's day of full reckoning with Israel will come in due time. It must be before they see Messiah's face again. A lifetime of agony and woe will be condensed in a short period called [inaudible] called birth pangs of the Messiah. After the agonizing affliction of Israel there will come in the third place the acknowledgment of their offense. Notice the word is in the singular, offense. The trials of Israel with God's hand on them will have their intended effect. They will acknowledge their offense; they will see their sin of rejection of messiah in all of its heinous abominable tragic form. Messiah will remain in his place where he's gone.

Till, there's a till in Hosea 5:15 and Matthew 23:39 till they admit their offense in rejecting him. He came unto his own things his land his throne his kingdom and they who were his own his own nation received him not. Isaiah 53 tells us surely we did esteem him stricken smitten of God and afflicted but he was wounded for our transgressions he was bruised for our

iniquities. The chastisement the punishment for our peace was upon him and by his stripes, we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray we've turned everyone to his own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all who among his generation considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due. Zechariah says they shall look unto me whom they have pierced. And they are going to mourn for him as for an only son and be in bitterness for him as for the first born. Yes they will be the prodigal nation come home at last.

Thank God for the blessed accomplishments that will come about through their affliction. God will turn it to their good, their benefit but his infinite glory. There's a mission place in Japan that has a meeting place built by the stones that were thrown at the Christians in years gone by. What happened was a mob rushed upon the company stoned them away and when the time of peace came, the Christians picked up the stones and worked them into the building. So God can and will overrule all to his glory. Finally, after these preliminary experiences of great spiritual significance have done their work of grace. There will be the seeking after the Lord. Christ said you shall not see me henceforth till you shall say blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Once they acknowledge their offence, they will seek after the Lord. Hosea had predicted after which shall the children of Israel return and seek the Lord their God and David their king and shall come with fear under the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days when they do seek him they will seek him early literally rising up before dawn every one of the gospel records makes it quite clear whether it's Matthew 27 1 and 2 or Mark 15:1 or Luke 22:66 or John 18:28.

All the gospel records make it quite clear that his people Messiah's people were quick in their rejection of him for they arose early to declare the refusal of his claims and position just so will they be early. They will arise be times in their acceptance of him. Paul puts it in this fashion.

There shall come out of Zion the deliverer, he shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. And this is my covenant unto them when I shall take away their sins. Then they will pronounce upon him the great messianic blessing of Psalm 118:26, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. It's common practice among our Jewish people to greet a worthy esteemed guest with the words [inaudible] blessed is he that comes thus they become accustomed to the use of this formula of greeting a beautiful one indeed.

But little is it realized that it is preparation for the grand day of welcome and recognition with the very same words when Israel as a nation will so receive him again and they will so unitedly nationally pronounce blessedness upon the coming one the Lord is eagerly waiting for that hour he will receive back his erring people. It was the great Bible teacher Kemal Morgan who used to tell of a mother in Scotland whose daughter went wrong. She broke with her home went to the city went down to unspeakable lowest degradation. Well mother didn't know where she was she didn't hear from her for six months didn't hear from her a year two years five years six years she had not heard from her for ten long years.

One night broken and ruined and wrecked Janet took her way home arrived there in the dead of night. She went up the little lane that led to the cottage and when she got near, she saw a light burning in the window. She was frightened wondering whether her mother had gone or was ill. What did the light in the dead of the night mean? Hadn't communicated with her mother for ten long years but now she's tremendously frightened and upset. What did that light mean? Softly she crept up till she got to the cottage itself put her hand on the latch. She found the latch was opened the door was not locked as she opened it a voice said is that you Janet. Think of it mother upstairs waiting for ten long years. Said the girl what's the light burning for mother. I was afraid

you were ill said mother. It's never been put out a night since you left Lassie and the door has never been locked.

How the door to God's heart is ever open. Israel will find it so on that day of seeking him in the hour of vital and eternal decision. Listening friend in Israel, God is waiting tenderly lovingly for you too. You'll find them when your heart is open to receive him. There must be a recognition of your need for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There must be an ascent of your heart to the truth that Christ has died the just for you the unjust in order to bring you to God. There must be an acceptance of the gracious offer of his pardoning love on the basis of his work and merit alone not involved one whit with any demerit or merit of our own. But the matter is urgent. We mean it will not brook of delay. Not even a day just as a ravaging disease must be checked without delay so the disease of sin must be dealt with in your heart. Now trust messiah the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior now and heaven will be assured you God's word promises it.

Our father in heaven, we pray the broadcast in music vocal instrumental and in the preached word how we pray that the broadcast may reach down deeply into multiplied hearts that this may not be just something to pass the time away. It may not just be another program on the air but it may mean life and sustenance it may mean pardon and forgiveness and joy eternal to Jewish hearts and all who listen we pray in Jesus' name amen. Friends since the beginning of the messianic hour now concluding his 21st year of broadcast the dedicated purpose and vision have been to reach our Jewish friends with the truth concerning God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ. We found radio most advantageous tool to reach those who would not otherwise attend any gospel service.

It's one of the most inexpensive means of touching large segments of any population nor to make possible these broadcasts to maintain that outreach our staff members themselves have given generously and consistently to carry the heavy load they do need your help. Every gift received without deduction goes directly toward the specific ministry of reaching the Jewish people with the news of the Messiah our savior. We would greatly appreciate your daily remembrance of this work in your prayers. Then as the Lord speaks to your heart invest in reaching them for Christ. Our mailing address is the messianic hour post office box 11 0 2 Whittier California 9 0 6 0 9. Again now box 1 1 0 2 Whittier California 9 0 6 0 9. We trust we'll hear from you. It would encourage every one of us our soloist today was Dave Eflin, Tim Harvey at the organ. Now this is Charles Feinberg thank you for listening for your faithful prayers for your zealous witness on behalf of the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Listen again next week with your Jewish friends your Jewish neighbors all your friends at the same time for the messianic hour. [End]