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**STRONG
DELUSION
OVER ISRAEL**

The Messiah of a Divided People

By Tal Brooke

Pushing Prophecy

By Steven Sizer

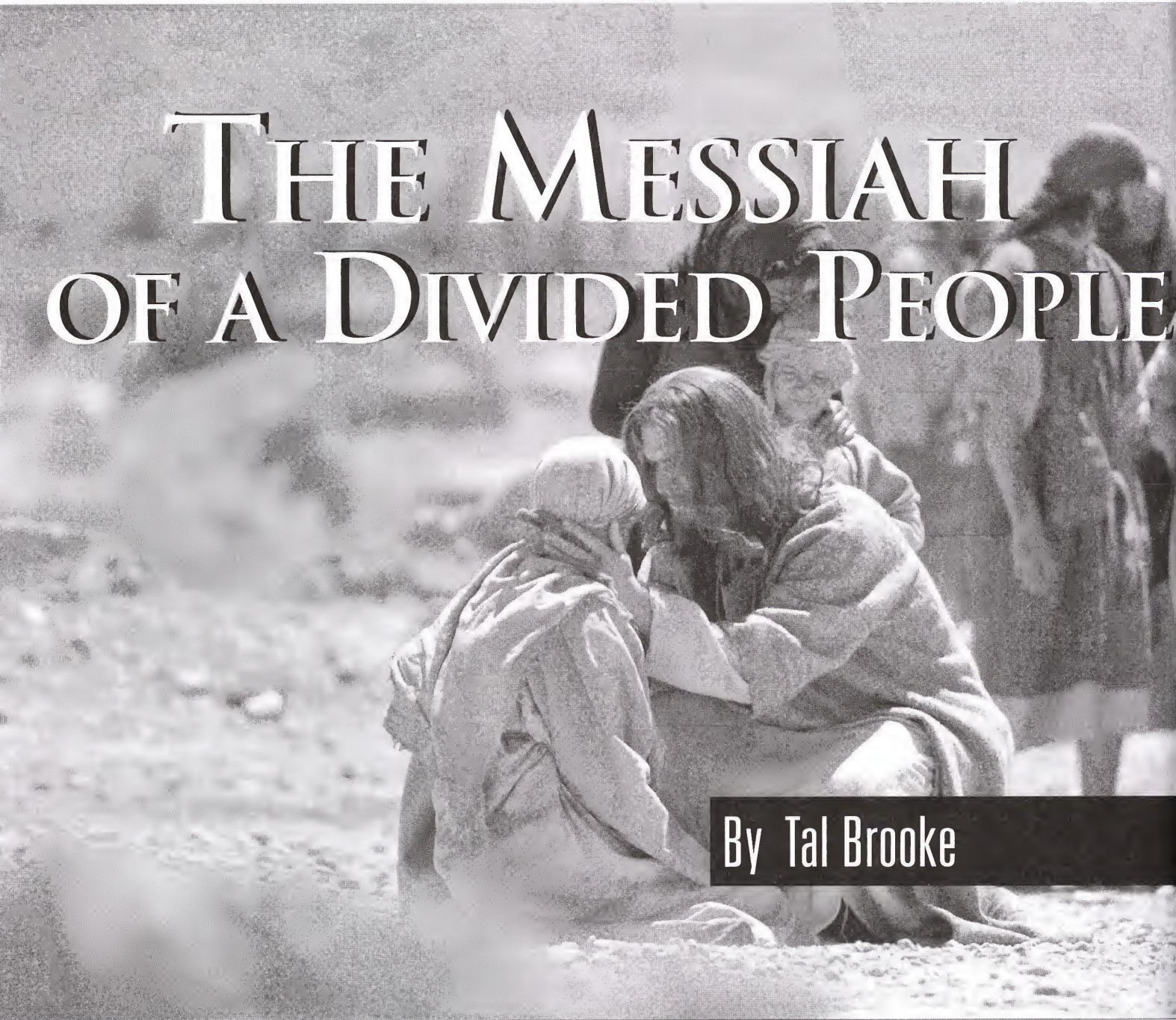
The Two Israels

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THE MESSIAH OF A DIVIDED PEOPLE

A black and white photograph showing a woman in a headscarf embracing a child in a crowded, outdoor setting. The woman is in the foreground, hugging the child from behind. In the background, other people are visible, including a man with a beard and a woman in a headscarf. The scene appears to be a public gathering or a market.

By Tal Brooke

HE rode into Jerusalem, and on that day fulfilled a whole constellation of Messianic prophecies. He had loved the multitudes, and on that day they turned out to celebrate their joy at His arrival. They were his beloved and blind sheep in need of a shepherd. Even then they were victims. Quite possibly these ordinary descendants of Abraham have been the greatest victims in history.

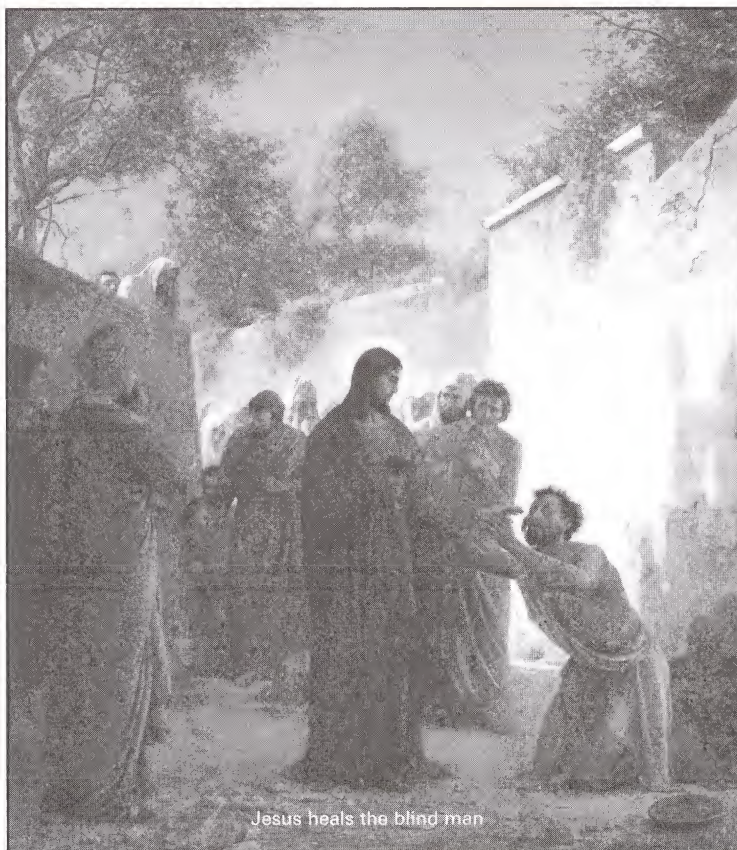
At the same time, he had displayed vehement and violent wrath with another group. He seemed to tolerate just about anything but this one group.

Compassion, Forgiveness and Grace

He was brought to deep compassion by the plight of the ordinary people of Israel. There was a goodness, purity, and self sacrifice evidenced in countless ordinary Jewish people like the devout old widow who paid all she had into the temple treasury, giving her last and only widow's mite. He saw the coin drop into the temple treasury and declared it a greater gift than the ostentatious gift of the rich man. The widow's faith in God moved her not to outward display but deep sacrifice done in secret.

Then there were the two men who went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee,

and the other a publican. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, 'saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.' Christ declared, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased;



Jesus heals the blind man

and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Luke 18: 10-14)

Then there was Mary and Martha of Bethany, filled with a deep love for God and anxious to serve and learn in any way they could. These people sensed the grace of God that they knew they needed, without which they could never approach a standard of righteousness sufficient for God. These were the self-confessed needy who loved goodness and virtue. They were the lovable and noble sons and daughters of Abraham, the true remnant whom God loved.

He could pardon a prostitute, a tax collector, indeed, a Roman army officer. He was patient with endless human foibles, errors, and sins. That is why his wrath with this one group seemed so out of character with his normal loving behavior. Of course, there was John the Baptist before him, standing on the banks of the River Jordan. John, Baptizing patiently, until some members from among this group appeared, and looked on coolly from the river's edge, observing the religious mood. Then even John called out, "You generation of vipers, how can any of you escape the coming judgment?"

For three full years Christ had walked up and down the land displaying boundless love, supreme wisdom, and miraculous powers, even raising the dead. He had divided the land in two. Christ was loved by the ordinary multitudes, the common Jewish people, the faithful ordinary people who wanted to obey and please God. Many became his early church. But there was this other group.

Vehement Opposition, Prophetic Judgment

But there was this other group that opposed him. They were an elite, educated minority who held sway over Israel as the spiritual leadership. And they opposed him from the moment Jesus Christ announced that he was the Messiah. These were the guardians of the temple, and the guardians of the traditions of the Elders. They were the Sadducees, Scribes, and Pharisees, the Elders of the Sanhedrin, and the elect families of the priesthood. Since the Babylonian exile, this elite had held spiritual command. They expected unswerving loyalty from the common people, the citizens.

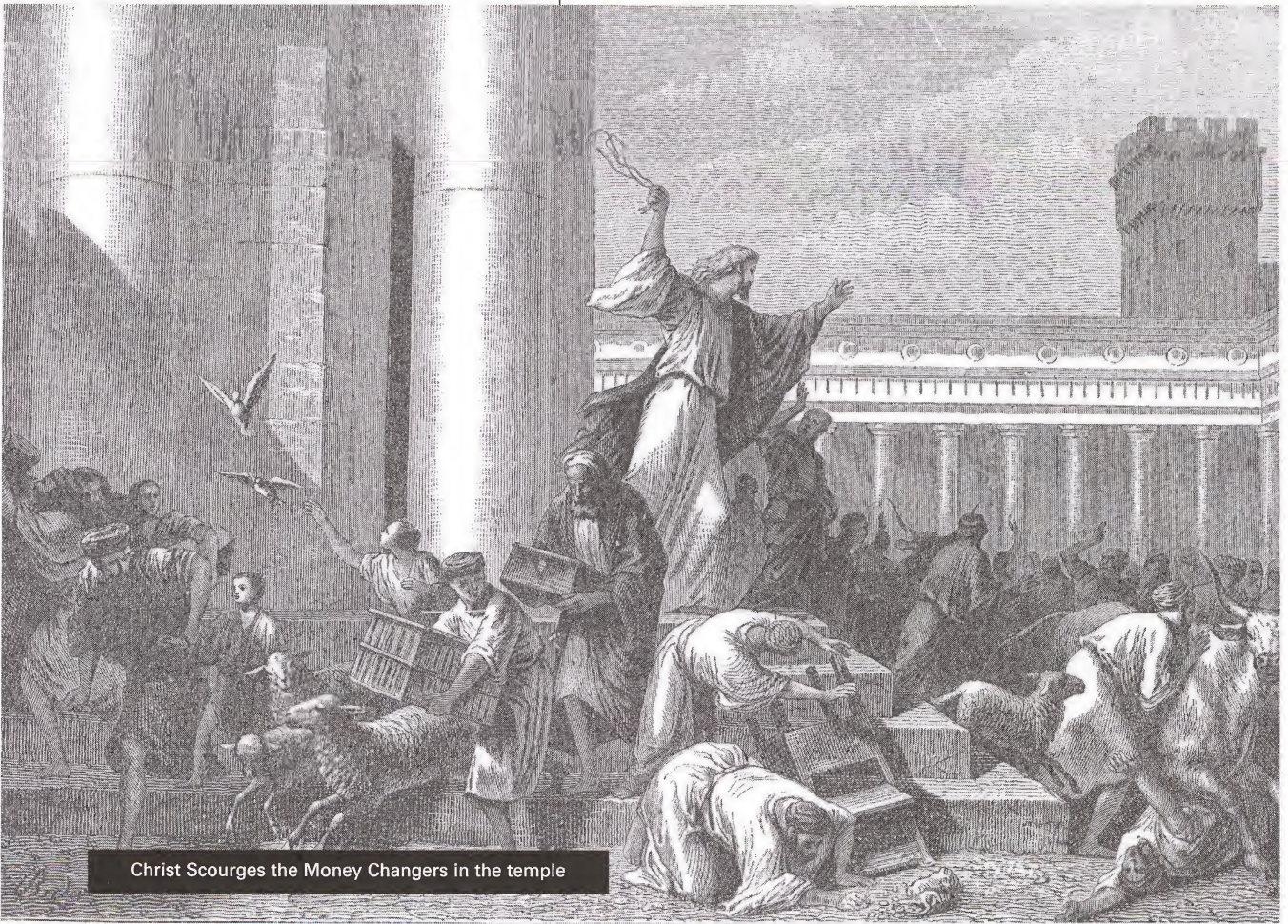
It was with this leadership, at the helm of the nation Israel, with whom Christ acted in a way extraordinarily unlike his usual loving, patient manner. Indeed he cursed them with burning words of judgment as they in turn pronounced his ministry and miracles as being of the devil. His response was that they had committed the unforgivable sin by charging that the work of the Holy Spirit was Satanic while not only rejecting him as Messiah, but even standing in the way for the common people to enter into the promised kingdom of God. They put the full thrust of their authority behind preventing the masses under them from having access to Christ and entering the gates of heaven. They used the full force of their office as a blinding power over the faithful to obscure Christ from his own people.

Christ issued a prophetic and forensic judgment over the leadership of Zion because they were responsible for the tragedy of millions, by keeping them from entering the gates of the promise. Not just in the ancient world, or during the diaspora, but telescoping on through

history right up to this day. It was a cosmic judgment. As such, the Elders were acting as supreme conspirators against God. Their spiritual blackness was terminal. Jesus used overpowering words - "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44)" And, "I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. (Rev 2:9)" The Synagogue of Satan!?!

When someone speaks greatly out of character, he is either not in his right mind (as has been suggested in the movie, *The Last Temptation*, when He was judged to have "brain fever,") or what he is saying has stunning and dramatic significance. Since these are the very words of Christ, the Word Incarnate, who never played with language manipulatively, arbitrarily, or made light of things, these particular words of wrath stand out as columns of liquid fire. These judgments were pronounced with terrible deliberation and carried terrible truth. They were not calculated to "win friends and influence people." Nor were they to be lightly tossed aside by those who pay lip service to inerrancy (who never mention them).

Had Jesus been cunning, as they were, and played the appeasing role of Messiah-politician-psychologist, he would have tried to win their allegiance by using their vanity to flatter his way into their graces. In fact, he would have ignored the common people, and come to them first. The rest would be a cinch. He would promise them a piece of the action and pledge to kick the Romans out of Israel. Caiaphas the High Priest would then announce from the Temple steps: "Behold, it is He, the One we have all been waiting for." Then He would have won the common people as well as the leadership. But Jesus had already survived that temptation in the wilderness: Messianic expediency was what the temptation was all about. Integrity and burning truthfulness rather than cunning had to be the way of the Messiah. That was true for Moses and the Prophets. 'Don't seduce people with flattery to manipulate your way.' That was what Korah



Christ Scourges the Money Changers in the temple

did when he used the democratic voting method to stage a revolt against Moses. The Kingdom of God was not a democracy. A terrible choice was sometimes required - God's way or apostasy.

The Money Changers and the Temple

The day after He rode into Jerusalem, He mounted the steps of the temple. He was in a boiling rage. He took a braided whip, and lashed the money changers out of the temple as he overturned their tables. Their presence was a sign of supreme apostasy - that they would bring the market to the Hallowed place, desolating it. Surely this was an abomination. Christ saw the activities of this group from God's viewpoint, down the long centuries.

The profits of the money changers went to the family of the high priest. It was a family run business, an insider's market. It was unconscionable. It was a dare in the face of God, the

fruits of spiritual blindness. And nor would the evils of the money changer end there. Christ knew that as well. It heightened his sense of outrage. For they would one day dare God by financing and setting up the Messiah of their choice.

The day after, Christ faced the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes for his final confrontation with them as the spiritual leaders of Israel. He repudiated them and then pronounced woes upon them. These leaders filled with boiling fury as he told them: "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites: because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites: for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves." (Matt 23:13-15)

The woes exposed their pride in putting

their traditions above even the direct revelation of God through Moses and the Prophets, who were God's true instruments. Their weighty oral tradition was a nest of human cunning that had supplanted God's words, while the Rabbis claimed to occupy the seat of revelation. Christ had said, "Ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition...Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." (Mark 7:9-13) Christ exposed this spiritual cancer with words of woe, for this tradition had blinded the common people. In good faith they had believed a lie. Even down the centuries, when the doctrines of Judaism turned and shifted, they faithfully followed suit. The horror of it all was that they were the victims of their own leaders, whom they vested with almost absolute power over themselves.

Finally, he delivered his parting words of woe to the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees. This is God speaking—directly to those who deliberately stood in His way:

You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you going to escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly, I say to you, all this will come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood, under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Matthew 23: 33-39)

As He left the Temple, after pronouncing woes upon them, He predicted the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem within a single generation of forty years. It all came horrify-

ingly true in 70 AD, when the Roman General (and future Emperor) Titus began his 7-month siege of Jerusalem, which he concluded by burning the city and brutally massacring its inhabitants. As Jesus continued his Olivet Discourse, He predicted the world conditions that would prevail in the far future preceding his return (it would be "as the Days of Noah"). Within a week of those pronouncements, the Elders who opposed him (and whom He had condemned) would have him up on a cross. And they turned out a mob of supporters for the trial -- when His worldly judge (Pontius Pilate) queried the assembled crowd for mercy, "Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children." (Matt 27:25)

Christ had told his followers repeatedly that His kingdom was not of this world. He even told Pontius Pilate when he stood before him during His final moments on earth that if his kingdom were of this world, "legions of angels" would have been sent to his defense. Such was the challenge that Barabbas and the other zealots presented— let Messiah take dominion of the world now and overcome this captivity under Gentile rule! And herein is the secret of why so many Jews rejected their Messiah during this turbulent period of the Roman empire. They were looking for the Christ of the Second advent who would come to judge the world. They were not looking for the Suffering Servant Messiah, the *Ebed Yabweh*, whom Isaiah, in Isaiah 53, depicted with such haunting language.

The Elders of the Sanhedrin did not want the Messiah "who went as a lamb to slaughter" to bring salvation to men. As a captive nation under Roman rule they wanted a zealot Messiah, armed and ready to do battle, destroying the caesars and beheading the Roman armies while installing Zion as the throne of the nations. Then they, as the elite hierarchy of rightful leaders, would be directly under the Messiah overseeing the entire world. This was, and remains, their aim and expectation. They would be the world's five star generals and judges. Jerusalem would be the center of the World Court. And they could tell Caesar to roll over like a dog. They could walk into the city of Rome and take anything they wanted. They could occupy the

palace, they could execute judgment on the multitudes of the treacherous. The world would finally be theirs as they believed Isaiah had promised them. And these Elders would rule the entire earth from Zion. This remains the goal.

But when the warrior Messiah did not come, the Elders of Zion were enraged. The last thing they were in the mood to hear was a gospel of spiritual purity; one that taught meekness, humility, and love, as embodied supremely in the Sermon on the Mount. And when the Elders heard these words of peace and reconciliation, they turned on Christ in fury.

Because this hoped for Messiah-deliverer was not there when the Elders expected him - the timetable of the Book of Daniel filled them with Messianic expectation, for the Seventieth week was right upon them and no later! - they were all the more enraged when Jesus appeared as the Suffering Servant Messiah of Isaiah 53. He would have made their sins "white as snow," justifying them before a holy God, but they would not have Him. The taste of blood in their mouths, from their bitterness at being under gentile rule for so long, made them blind to the light that had come into the world.

But there was another reason they did not want to recognize Christ. All their power was at stake. The Elders were a closed guild who controlled the synagogues, the Sanhedrin, and the Temple, and they wanted no competitors, especially one as inimical to their cause as Jesus Christ. As the prophet Daniel had said prophetically, the Messiah king was "cut off from among his people." Now the words of Daniel were completely fulfilled that day on the Cross as the sky blackened and as the huge temple curtain tore down the middle.

Instead, the Elders were instrumental in putting to death their own Messiah, thus making Him "the stone that the builders rejected." They had brought him to Pontius Pilate after putting him on trial in the Sanhedrin as well as the residence of the High Priest. Suddenly, over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament were coming true before their eyes - and they couldn't even see it. And after they as a nation were dispersed in 70 AD, the Elders de-canon-



ized the Septuagint Bible with those three hundred prophecies because it was all too clear that they were pointing to Jesus Christ, an embarrassment and repudiation that they could not - and would not - endure. And this was an embarrassment. The "stiff-necked" prevailed. They would prove they were right even if it involved re-writing the Bible.

Indeed, the Septuagint, the supreme work of the 70 Jewish scholars four hundred years before the time of Christ, that careful classical translation from Hebrew to Greek, which was the equivalent of the ancient world's King James Version, was now forbidden among the Jews because its translation of the prophecies too clearly pointed to Christ as the long awaited Messiah. Too many Jewish converts had been in the synagogues using it to proof-text Christ as the Messiah. Renowned scholar, FF Bruce, educated at Aberdeen and Cambridge Universities and former Rylands professor of Exegesis at the University of Manchester, commented on the fate of the Septuagint in his classic work, *The Spreading Flame*: "The Septuagint, which had originally been produced by Jews for Jews, was entirely abandoned to the Christians. For Greek-speaking Jews a new Greek translation was commissioned, which should represent as closely as possible the text and interpretation of the Hebrew scriptures established by Rabbi Akiba

and his colleagues.” [F.F. Bruce, *The Spreading Flame*. (Exeter: The Paternoster Press, 1958) p. 266.] Rabbi Akiba purposely blunted scores of prophecies, in contrast to the eloquent Jewish Septuagint. Indeed, Rabbi Akiba was one of the many Rabbinic heroes mentioned in the *Babylonian Talmud* which claims Moses in heaven saw Rabbi Akiba, yet unborn, expounding upon the Torah in a wondrous manner. (Menachoth 29B).

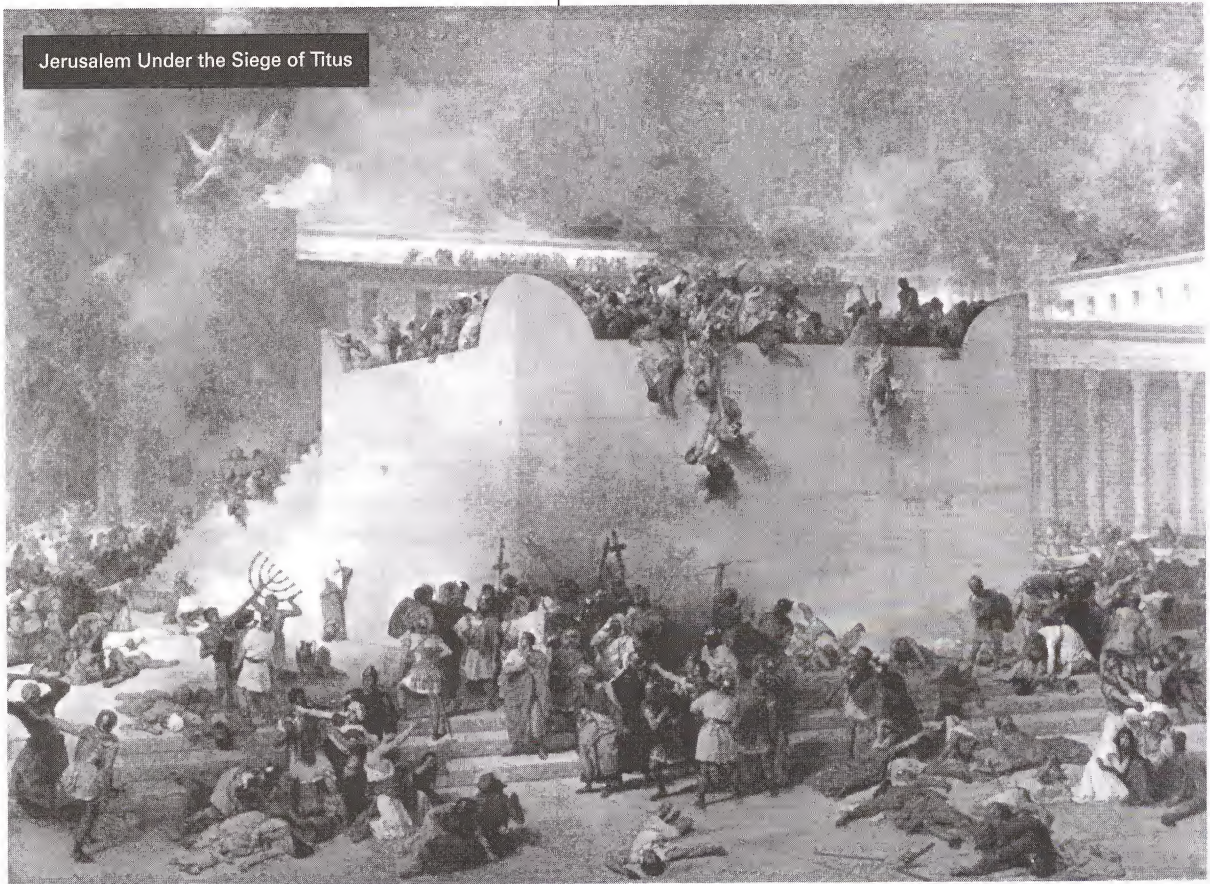
From Jerusalem into the World

By the time the lineage of the Elders became medieval Rabbis, now dispersed across Europe, the Suffering Servant Messiah of Isaiah 53 would no longer be interpreted as a single man, but as collective Israel as a dispersed people—now seen as the *Corporate Suffering Messiah*. Herein was the new isogesis of a grand prophetic passage. Israel, by guaranteed blood line, no matter what they did (or failed to do), became the chosen people. Like Korah of old, the Rabbis could give the people a stamped guarantee “not to worry.”

And there was more.

Their suffering during the diaspora in the gentile world was not a sign of God’s judgment, but rather a prelude to their divine exaltation; it was merely preparation for their as the corporate messianic people. This was one way of making sense of something that was a terrible embarrassment: the destruction of their land, their city, their Temple, and consequent captivity. The Elders, being natural lawyers, had an answer for everything. Not Christ, but they corporately were now seen as the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. It was a great way to explain their suffering and loss at the destruction of their nation and its temple in 70 AD. To explain away this, they had to resort to usurping Messianic imagery corporately and thus sink into a deeper spiritual blindness, as Paul had pointed out. This would appeal to their vanity as a chosen people while putting God’s seal of endorsement on anything they did. All this at a time when outward events certainly looked like God was judging them as a nation. Quite a theological *coup*. Judgment becomes blessing through metaphysical alchemy.

Jerusalem Under the Siege of Titus



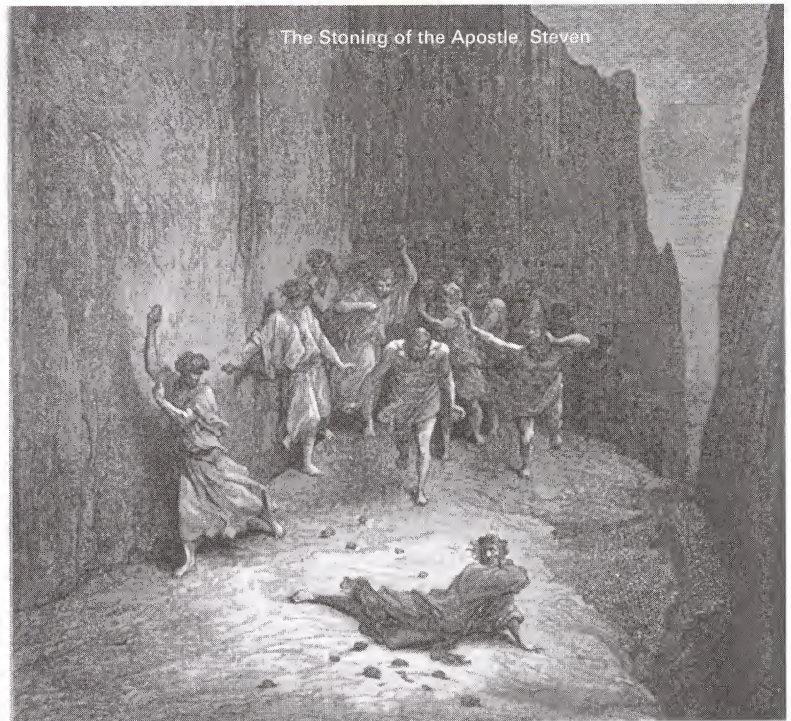
Israel had fulfilled Daniel and cut off its Messiah. Forty years later, in 70 AD Titus entered Jerusalem and savaged it. And as Christ had predicted to his disciples (in Matthew 24), when they gawked at the regal splendor of the temple, “not one stone shall be left atop another.” True to that word, when the Roman soldiers were sacking it, the inner temple caught fire, the gold melted and ran between the seams of the rocks. The Romans unearthed them all, leaving not a stone standing atop another. Jerusalem was left desolate, just as Jesus Christ had predicted after he pronounced the woes upon the Elders in the Temple. The outward state of the Temple now mirrored the spiritual desolation of Israel. This was God’s divorce by divine decree, from ethnic, national Israel. “The Israel of God” would continue in a new way.

Unlike the days of King David, when God enabled Israel to win any war, they lost the Jewish wars. And Israel had been through this before - with Babylon and Assyria. It was an all too familiar pattern, which fit far more within the rubric of the judgment of God (for their apostasy as a nation) than some kind of disguised blessing.

Surely the people might rightly ask, “How do we know we have God on our side if He allowed our Temple to be destroyed?” In the face of such visible judgment and within a very generation’s span of Christ’s crucifixion, the people of Israel could next legitimately ask, “Have we been misled by our leaders? Could the Elders be wrong? Have we as a people displeased and angered God?”

At the destruction of the Temple, the priesthood was suddenly out of office with no temple left for ritual sacrifice, so the Elders refocused their plan. Leadership was now a one party system. As professor FF Bruce notes: “The synagogue was the means through which the rabbis or acknowledged teachers of the law exercised their deep influence on the people, and most of these rabbis belonged to the party of the Pharisees. And it was precisely this party, because of its relative detachment from the temple order, that proved its capacity to survive the catastrophe and reorganize the life of Israel.” [Ibid., p. 261.]

The truth was that God had originally made



the nation Israel stewards of a great light. But they had hidden this wealth from the gentile nations, choosing instead to feel exclusive because of their spiritual heritage. Instead of sharing this spiritual wealth they lauded themselves for having inherited it, even though God had told them that it was given them by grace and not because of any inherent worthiness on their part. But to them, the fact that they were the caretakers of this light among the nations obviously implied a supreme worthiness. They were the spiritual Brahmins of the earth, no matter what happened. And they were guaranteed this status through all of time. At least that is how the Pharisical Rabbis saw it.

Even though the highest angel Lucifer could fall from grace, as well as Adam and Eve, and so many others once close to God, yet somehow they as a people were now exempt from this fate no matter what. What a delightful feeling to feel chosen no matter what. Even though, across history, the closest of relations had been separated: even brothers were separated—Cain and Able, Jacob and Esau, Noah’s sons, among others. And, in fact, even the best of God’s servants were judged for their own sins, King David for adultery, and before that, Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land due to disobedience. But no, the Rabbis evolved a creed of irreversible chosenness, regardless of this past. Now their chosenness



The Massive Temple Curtain Tears down the middle the moment Christ dies.
The Messiah is "Cut Off," Fulfilling the words of Daniel

was locked up tight— ‘not to worry.’” Chosenness connected, not to a holy submission to God’s word, but a *carte blanche* rabbinical pronouncement on the sacredness of their ethnic heritage.

This sense of chosenness had a vast binding power on the Jewish people once the dispersion had taken place. Likewise, tradition and ethnic sentimentality had a great binding power over them as well. And the feeling of being different and separate deepened this ethnic solidarity. Above all, persecution was supreme in cementing an edifice of Jewish ethnic solidarity. For this reason the rabbis, at times, welcomed persecution as a fortifier and motivator of the people. They would remain the chosen without their messiah. And God would rubber stamp their acts through history – no matter what.

Imagine the ancient prophet Jeremiah telling his scattered captive people in Babylon that they were chosen no matter what they did

or believed? That their captivity was a sign of God’s deeper approval? Such advice was more likely to come from the deceiver. Indeed as Jeremiah told them, the very reason they were exiled to Babylon was because of their rebellion and unfaithfulness to God! Way back in the early days of Moses, God warned what dispersion meant. It meant God’s judgment, his displeasure with a broken covenant of a wayward people.

But the Pharisaical rabbis would have interpreted the Babylonian captivity as an initiation of suffering in order for “the chosen” to earn the world’s preceptorship. Of course the sharp words of Isaiah and Jeremiah about God’s using Babylon to judge them as a nation for their apostasy would have repudiated this self-flattering fantasy at the time. Both Isaiah and Jeremiah would have turned the guns of prophetic judgment on these same rabbis, the same way Christ did. For the sin of the Elders was that they had used their cleverness to obscure reality from the people. They were prodigious rationalizers and excuse makers. They could use the art of argument like magic.

In truth, Israel had fallen into apostasy and “played the harlot” a great many times before the time of Christ. Apostasy from God is often called “whoredom. In Jeremiah 3, Israel is called a harlot 4 times; In Ezekiel 16 the words harlot, whore, whoredoms are used in relation to Israel a total of 17 times. Ezekiel 23 surpasses even this, using the words 25 times. Scores of wicked kings came and went, erecting mountain and hillside altars to Ashtoreth, Molech, and other gods time and again. At times Israel had even sacrificed the babies of its first born on the altars of Molech. Human sacrifice! All this, mind you, after Moses had stood before God at Sinai. In the end the only remedy was to drag them off in chains to Babylon where they might repent and at least have a pure remnant.

After Sinai they had fallen many times before the era of Christ! And their sin was not that they “mixed with gentiles” but that they abandoned God’s carefully recorded Word for another teaching in order to act out and live as they wanted. God’s Torah had been mixed with spiritual poisons in an alternative system.

One might further ask, were not these from among the very people whose ancestors—after

seeing an event as titanic as the parting of the Red Sea, and the miracles of Moses, and countless providential acts by the hand of God—then go on and make an idol of a golden calf? Indeed this rebellion, as soon as Moses was out of their company and before the burning bush? What greeted Moses when he descended with the ten commandments was the sight of the sons of Israel dancing around the golden calf—the very ones who beheld the Red Sea part by the Hand of God.

Indeed, the history of Israel reads like a yo-yo going up and down between obedience and apostasy. Yes, there was always a remnant of the truly righteous, thank God! But the nation by no means was exempt from falling. When it should have become humbled by all this repeated falling away and judgment, gaining a healthy self-critical discernment, an inward vigilance of conscience, the nation instead became more hard hearted and proud. Its heart was so hard by the time Christ walked the earth that a large majority refused to even hear his words.

Christ's words to the Pharisees were that their forefathers had persecuted God's messengers repeatedly and stoned the prophets. Their spiritual pride was supreme delusion. That very pride, like a cancer, would harden them against their own Messiah. If their ancestors had rejected God's messengers of old, they would bring this pattern to fruition by rejecting and killing the very Messiah Himself as Daniel clearly predicted.

God had told Moses that if they apostatized they would be afflicted with every trial and tribulation imaginable. Not as the suffering servant, but under judgment for apostasy; a scattering more severe than Babylon of old, which was an early warning to follow the Mosaic covenant.

Once the Jews were dispersed after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, their new, corporate Messianic task became one of molding the gears of world history back towards Zion, but under the Sanhedrin. Their day, they were promised, was yet to come. Then they would be vindicated as the chosen people. Such a hope sustained generations of Jews through the inquisitions of Spain and the ghettos of Warsaw. But they would be vulnerable

to ongoing deception. If they would not accept the grace-filled Messiah sent of God, then they would have another leader who might be a fully evil tyrant.

The Prophet Daniel describes the final despot: "*Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.*" (Daniel 11:37 KJV). The statement: "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers" is very likely a description of the lineage of only one group in the ancient world, the nation Israel, which believed in the monotheistic God of the Patriarchs, the God of the fathers - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. That this despot might emerge from out of those who call themselves "the chosen" indeed would be a supreme irony from the viewpoint of Satan, who was once God's most chosen among the angelic order. He would delight in this terrible symmetry.

Seventy years Israel had spent in Babylon during its original captivity hundreds of years before the time of Christ. What few know is that only one tenth of the Jews in Babylon returned to the promised land to rebuild the temple. When the Jews fled after the Temple's destruction in 70 AD, they joined the majority of Jews still in Babylon. They remained there until the eleventh century, a full thousand years, until the Jews were expelled.

The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia says: "...in the second century C.E. Babylonia had become a bulwark of Judaism...The former land of exile had become a land of refuge." *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, Ed. Isaac Landman (New York: Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, Inc. 1939) "Babylonia", pp. 13,14] The encyclopedia goes on to say, "...Palestine had been merely a place of veneration, while Babylonia become the center of Jewish life and learning. Babylonian Jews no longer looked to Palestine for instruction; even the heads of the schools at Tiberius were Babylonian Jews." [Ibid., p.16]. After 658 AD "Babylonia was the spiritual center of Judaism, and its influence brought many Babylonian customs into general use...." [Ibid., p. 17]

The ancient city of Babylon had long ago been destroyed when that first seventy year exile had ended five hundred years before

Christ. But the Chaldean culture was never uprooted. Now new waves of Jews would join the majority of the world's Jews after the Temple's destruction, once again to drink from the waters of Babylon – Jews who had rejected their Messiah, who no longer had a temple. So who did they turn to for guidance? The Elders were solidified and at the helm.

It was during this second Babylonian exile of a thousand years that the *Babylonian Talmud* was written, then canonized in about 500 AD. The *Babylonian Talmud*? Indeed, 6,000 pages of the oral traditions of the Pharisees, the Mishna, fully became scripture, now fully supplanting the Old Testament. This oral tradition had become a revelation in itself. Now it became the supreme binding law over the Jewish people and would remain so down the centuries even to this day. The Talmud announced to the Jewish people: "My son, give heed to the words of the scribes rather than to the words of the law (Torah/Old Testament)." - Erubin f21b. In this statement, the Pharisees have just supplanted the words of God through Moses. The tradition of the Elders held supremacy. The Talmud also said, "He who transgresses the words of the scribes sins more gravely than the transgressors of the words of the Law (Torah-Old Testament)." - Sanhedrin 10, 3f88b.

The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, in its article on "Pharisaism," says that: "The Jewish religion as it is today traces its descent without a break through all the centuries from the Pharisees. Their leading ideas and methods found expression in a literature of enormous extent, of which a very great deal is still in existence. *The Talmud* is the largest and most important single piece of that literature...and the study of it is essential for any real understanding of Pharisaism." [Ibid., p. 474.]

The Second Millennium After the Temple's Destruction

All of the major Jewish encyclopedias are trusted by Jews and are written by, for, and about Jews. *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* in its article about "Authority" declares just how central the Talmud is to

Judaism: "Thus, the ultimate authority for Orthodoxy is the *Babylonian Talmud*. The Bible itself ranks second to it in reality, if not in theory." [Ibid., p. 637.]

Celebrated Rabbi Isaac Wise, who collaborated with Levi Frumkin (nee Michael Rodkinson) in *What Is The Talmud?*, stated:

"The Talmud then, is the written form of that which in the time of Jesus was called the Traditions of the Elders, and to which he makes frequent allusions." [Michael Rodkinson (Levi Frumkin), *What Is The Talmud?*, (Chicago: New Amsterdam Book Co, 1894) p. 70.] In Jesus' day it was still the Oral tradition. Five hundred years later it was all written down. But the amazing thing is that this central revelation of Judaism has been totally out of reach for non-Jews right up till this last century. Almost no gentile has really had an inkling as to what Judaism is really about. They have imagined and filled in the gaps of their ignorance — with images of Jews pouring over the Old Testament, not another scripture supplanting the Old Testament. *The Talmud* has been a shrouded volume and almost totally inaccessible.

It was not until 1935 that a team of Rabbis headed by Rabbi Dr. Epstein translated the Soncino Edition of the *Babylonian Talmud* printed in London by the Soncino Press. And even this edition cannot be brought within reach of the average person. *The Talmud* has been, for all these centuries, quietly taught in closed rooms. It has remained in its ancient language, out of reach to non-Jews as a mysterious ethnic right. The chosen people fully became a ghetto within other populations; they married separately, lived separately, and they spoke in a tongue which only they understood. All non-Jews could do was imagine what they were learning, maybe simple tales of David and Goliath? Not quite. Unfortunately, many modern Jews are embarrassed by its contents or as ignorant of its teachings as Christians (A sobering look at what has become of the Jewish ghetto of today appears in a probing film by the Jewish Coen brothers entitled, *A Serious Man*).

The Jesus of the Other Bible

World renowned professor Bruce Manning Metzger of Princeton fame (who Oxford University had been trying to get for decades), taught a course in 1984 on the life of Christ. I took the course and was present for his lectures, since Metzger was one of my advisors. In the first lecture of the series, Professor Metzger commented on ancient extra-Biblical sources which mentioned Jesus, thus corroborating that he was a real-world historical figure. Naturally, there was Josephus, Tacitus, and Pliny. He also included the *Babylonian Talmud*. He noted that in the Book of Sanhedrin, Jesus is referred to as "*Ben Pandira*, "the bastard son of the Roman soldier." Metzger stated that according to the Talmud, Jesus was able to perform miracles through magic he learned in Egypt. Then he died a humiliating death, after which his body was left on a refuse heap. Dr. Metzger, had been able to read the Talmud as adeptly as any rabbinic scholar, having 5 PhDs and being fully conversant in numerous ancient languages including, Hebrew, Syriac, and Aramaic. His matter-of-fact revelation in class that day stunned me more than I can say because I saw at a glimpse the implications.

Not surprisingly, the *Babylonian Talmud* includes far more passages about Jesus than Professor Metzger mentioned that day. Christ is often referred to with indirect code names such as "Balaam" which editorial notes in the Soncino edition as well as several Jewish encyclopedias clearly reveal as referring to Jesus. *The Jewish Encyclopedia* reveals that "... a the pseudonym 'Balaam,' [was] given to Jesus in Sanhedrin 106b and Gittin 57a." [*Jewish Encyclopedia*, "Balaam", p. 469.] These passages are fully consistent with the wrath of the Pharisees in Jesus day. This portrait of Christ is one reason that evangelism to the Jewish people has been such a closed door. He has been caricatured, defiled and forbidden.

In the 1935 Soncino translation of the *Babylonian Talmud*, the following are some of the key references to Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus "practiced sorcery and led Israel to apostasy."—Sanhedrin 43a;
2. Jesus was "a bloody and deceitful

man."— Gittin 56b;

3. Jesus "was a fool, and we do not pay attention to what fools do." Sanhedrin 67A;

4. Jesus' mother "played the harlot with carpenters"— Sanhedrin 106b;

5. Jesus is "taken as as one of the three worst enemies of Judaism"— Gittin 56b, 57a;

6. That accepting Christianity is "the unforgivable sin" and that incest is "a light sin" compared to Christianity— Abodah Zarah 17A;

7. Jesus has "no portion in the world to come."— Sanhedrin x.2,90a; and

8. Jesus' eternal fate for "mocking at the words of the Sages" is that he is presently "boiling in hot excrement"— Gittin 56b.

Here is what the Babylonian Talmud teaches: Christ was a bastard, a sorcerer, a deceiver who was an immoral fool, now suffering eternal punishment, boiling in hell in excrement.

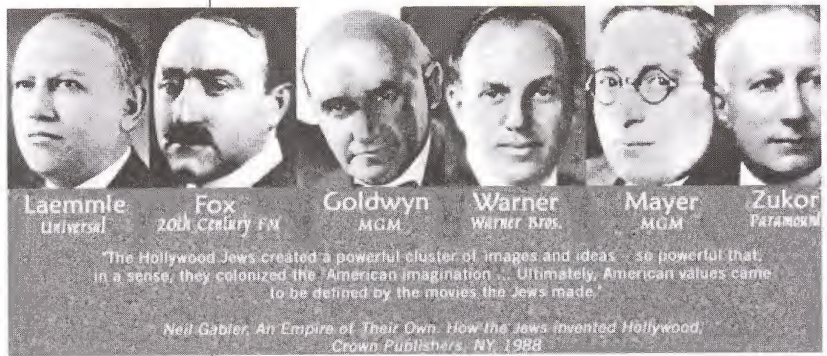
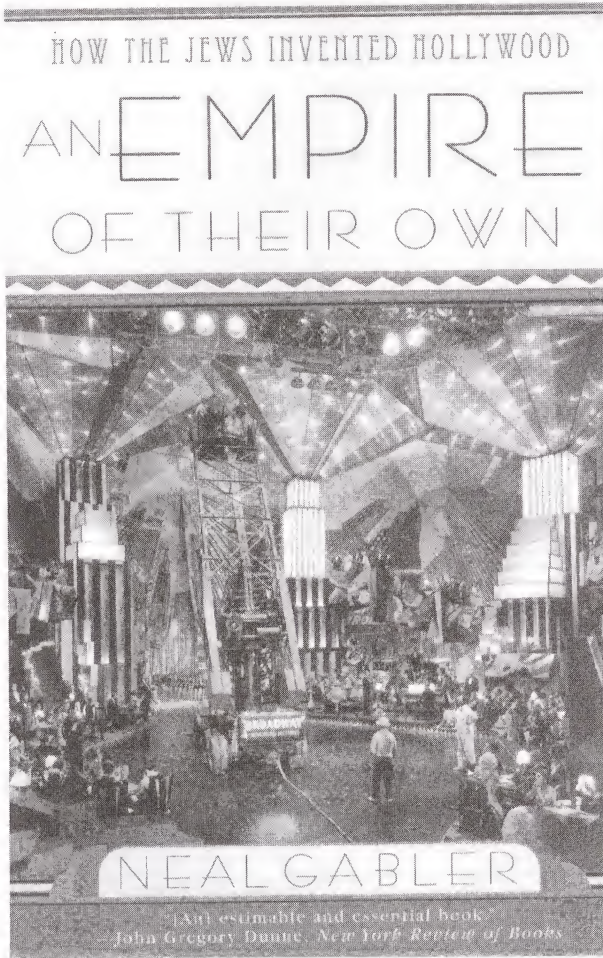
Now God can look the other way and—"wink, wink"—declare that, 'they are my Chosen no matter what,' as the dispensational church teaches in staggering blindness, or this blasphemy is something coming out of an abyss destined to take the world downward into terrible darkness that can only bring judgment.

So where are things headed?

An Empire of Their Own

An Empire of Their Own, is a book about how a group of Eastern European Jewish immigrants founded and ran the Hollywood studios, "the industry that largely defined American values and images." The Jewish author, Neal Gabler, knows exactly of what he speaks. Gabler is a Hollywood insider and Senior Fellow at the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center.

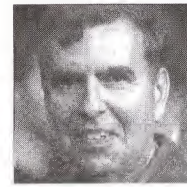
Over the years there have been accusations and counter accusations as to who really controls Hollywood. Non Jews have been typically accused of anti-Semitism if they dare state that Jews founded and control Hollywood. Tremulous voices reminiscent of Alan Dershowitz shout with shocked outrage into the media microphones. But when one of their



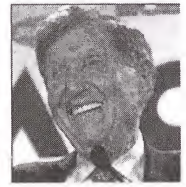
Michael Eisner
Walt Disney Television
Touchstone Television
Buena Vista Television



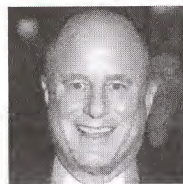
Joe Roth
Touchstone Pictures
Hollywood Pictures
Caravan Pictures



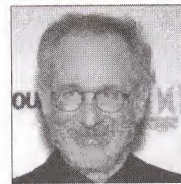
Gerald M. Levin
CEO
Time Warner
Warner Bros. Records



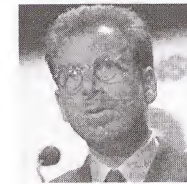
Sumner Redstone
Viacom, Inc.
Prentice Hall
Simon & Schuster



Ronald Perelman
New World Entertainment



Steven Spielberg
Film Director



Edgar Bronfman, Jr.
Universal Pictures/MCA



Peter R. Kann
Wall Street Journal

own writes the definitive book about the original and still-reigning studio bosses, all criticism is silenced. The book has sold widely. I bought a copy soon after it came out, and it is easily bought on Amazon.

Of course the Jewish encyclopedias say the same thing, bragging to their people in the hinterland how culturally powerful they have really become, for a mere 2% of the population. To call it 'disproportionate influence' would be an understatement.

The Encyclopedia Judaica, written by and for Jews, in its article on "Motion Pictures" reveals:

"Since the early years of motion pictures, Jews have played a major role in development of the Industry and have been prominent in all branches." (p. 446.) In a detailed history of the industry, The Encyclopedia article reveals that Paramount, Twentieth Century Fox, Universal, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Warner Brothers, and Columbia were all founded and controlled by

Jews. *The Encyclopedia Judaica* summarizes this with the concluding statement:

Thus all the large Hollywood companies, with the exception of United Artists (a distributing company established by Hollywood actors who feared that the big producers would restrict their artistic freedom), were founded and controlled by Jews. In addition, the first bank to finance the film industry was the Jewish-owned Kuhn, Loeb, and Co., in 1919. [Editorial note: Kuhn, Loeb, and Co. also financed the Bolshevik Revolution the previous year when Levi Braunstein (Now named Trotsky) took a fortune from New York City into Russia (ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA, (New York, Macmillan Publishing, 1971), p. 449.)

The Encyclopedia Judaica outlines an almost identical monopoly of the television and radio industry, including the founding of NBC radio and television by David Sarnoff, CBS by William Paley, And ABC by Leonard Goldenson.

Might this have something to do with the endless litany of prime time specials and discussions on the Holocaust, the horrors of prejudice and the need for “diversity” (from a one-way direction), and exalting the liberal agenda as the only acceptable option for a civilized society? And then there is this whole other genre of media productions: challenging Christian beliefs, ‘explaining away’ events the Bible describes as acts of God, discrediting the Bible’s assessment of Jesus, and portraying endless Christian embarrassments – not to mention actively mocking Christianity and heaping contempt on its believers.”

A corporate president is responsible for the acts of his company. If some high profile Christian took over as president of a movie studio and approved and financed a shocking movie about a perverted Rabbi supervising snuff films and child porno rings, the Anti-defamation league would bring the full force of the media down on him for being the Christian instrument of a campaign of anti-Semitism. World opinion itself would be mobilized, engaged, and directed against him – and the torrent of outrage would not quiet down for a long, long time.

But, by contrast, if Jewish heads of MCA Universal or any other big studio allow caricature of Christ to be made into a full blown movie epic, there is a whimpering silence from the Christian quarter. They know that even if they dare to complain they will be accused of being Anti-Semitic. Is it only in America that this double standard exists to this degree? And if so, how did we reach this degree of national double-think?

Willem Dafoe, who had played a volatile murderer, counterfeiter and drug-dealing criminal psychopath in William Freidkin’s, *To Live and Die in LA*, as well as another depraved anti-hero in *Platoon* (shown here) was the actor chosen to play Christ in the ground-breaking film, *The Last Temptation*. His staple look is a hostile, mocking, sneering instability, ever bordering on violence.

The Jesus of *The Last Temptation*—a psychotic, fantasizing perversions of all kinds while being guided by voices—is a Hollywood milestone of *Chutzpah*. Films such as this (and *The Last Temptation* is just one among many)



will turn millions away from the gates to the Kingdom of Heaven, making their perpetrators “twice the sons of hell,” to use Christ’s words. Christ’s warnings about this are there for a reason, as, as this onslaught of anti-Christianity mounts.

Dafoe (allegedly getting his start in Hollywood by appearing in porno films) has the perfect face of a psychopath, ideal for his role in Freidkin’s film. Rent the DVD. Those who now see that same face as Christ can’t help but know this is a leap beyond caricature.

So who were the captains of MCA Universal Pictures when *The Last Temptation* of Christ was released? The studio heads were named by a modest-sized crowd of orderly Christian protesters outside the Hollywood studio getting up the courage to name names on posters and interviews:

Presiding over MCA Universal pictures at the time were: Lew Wasserman, MCA Chairman of the Board; Sidney Sheinberg, MCA President; Gary Goldstein, National Promotion and Field Operations; and Simon Kornblitt, Vice President of Marketing. It took those in Hollywood decades to get America to the point of producing this very intentional movie.

Has the plan been to obliterate Christianity to make the world a more tolerable place for Jews? as a 1500 year old compendium of teachings known as the *Babylonian Talmud* reaches out from the minds of its ancient authors to hold sway over its invisible Chosen subjects in the 21st century.

The best analogy for the Talmudic definition of the chosen (as opposed to the gentiles)

can be found in India today. The Brahmin caste and the lowly Harijan untouchables are said to exist in outwardly similar human bodies, but a vast ontological gulf puts them on an entirely different order of being like comparing an ant to an eagle (it makes South Africa's apartheid mild by comparison).

Mocking the Multitude

Director and producer Mel Brooks (born Melvin James Kaminsky) was so outraged about the manner in which some Christians protested outside MCA Universal pictures, mentioning all the Jewish names (which they've been put on notice is never to do), that he threatened to do a spoof on Christ in support of his fellow Jewish Hollywood producers (The holocaust is that trump card that can be invoked at any time to silence every critic to shame). If you are a great enough victim, then you are above the law—checkmate!

One telling Talmudic passage says, "Ye are my flock, the flock of my pasture are men. You are thus called men, but the goyim (gentiles) are not called men." (Kerithoth 6b, the Pranaitis translation, p. 53). Gentiles are not entitled to the full rights of men but need to be controlled in every aspect of their lives like domestic cattle. The Jewish Encyclopedia has really had to whitewash some Talmudic statements like Rabbi Simeon ben Yohai revealing, "Even the best of the goyim should be killed." (Abodah Zarah 26b, Tosephoth, Pranaitis Translation, p. 82.) Hostility to Christians has been veiled . . . up until now.

So weakened, perplexed and intimidated have Christians become in the face of this merciless onslaught, that all they feel they can do is grit their teeth, squeeze their eyes shut and pray that these media giants don't once again trample their Lord underfoot—that they had better not open their mouths, lest they be accused of anti-Semitism by watchdog groups like the Anti-Defamation League.

In a broader context apart from the church, America is being led into a terrible trap. The general masses seem increasingly lethargic and stupefied as they watch football and drink beer. Having lost their Christian foundation—giving them meaning and hope—most of the dispos-

sessed masses feed off the entertainment industry like ancient Romans. They are cattle on the way to slaughter and don't even know it, thus fully justifying their contemptuous description as "goyim" (cattle).

"The Synagogue of Satan" is how Christ revealed this clever, powerful group directing things behind the scenes. If Christ is "the Word of God incarnate," then this is not a casual reference to be conveniently skipped over. It is huge in its implications. It also makes sense of the dark passage of history taking the world downwards without resistance.

I have felt this rapid descent in the air of America since 9/11, a land of opportunity that once honored Christ, turning into a police state.

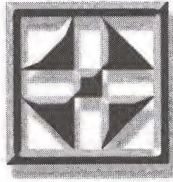
Doubtless there is a behind-the-scenes battle going on right now to condemn these controversial words of Christ to silence. A UN decree banning this as "hate speech" would be one way to nullify the real message of the New Testament, shrinking it down to what is acceptable from that day on, as the offended edit and re-edit till there is almost nothing left.

So be warned. As the public is backed into a corner without giving any resistance, this move to ban offensive language in the word of God is certain. Then those who have bibles stashed away would be criminalized as though the bibles were assault weapons. Then what was once the subject of alarmist tracts fifty years ago would suddenly become a reality in what was once the land of free speech.

The trap has been set and will spring shut, and when it does, freedoms that were once taken for granted will be gone. America will have morphed from a once self-described Christian Republic to a colonial vassal-state in the "Great Babylonian" New World Order, where where the martyrdom of Christians may become as real and routine as it was in ancient Rome under Nero, Caligula and Domitian, bringing the very future horrors we read in Revelation.

Meanwhile, if you think the entertainment industry is powerful to mold the collective mind, you need to know that it is simply an extension of the power of the global banking cartels, which own the central banks of Europe and the US. They finance the propaganda, and

they help direct popular opinion. They are the real power driving the earth and they can make presidents and kings dance like marionettes. Who do you think is pulling *their* strings?



DEAR READER: I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO GAIN PERSONALLY BY PUBLISHING THIS ARTICLE AND EVERYTHING TO LOSE. I HAVE BEEN SITTING ON IT FOR 20 YEARS. CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE BEEN STRATEGICALLY BLINDED TO THIS TERRIBLE DECEPTION, DURING A TIME OF APATHY AND MORAL COWARDICE, NEED TO BE MADE ACCOUNTABLE. I TAKE ON THIS PERSONAL RISK OUT OF CONSCIENCE AND TO HONOR MY LORD. IT REVEALS A PATTERN I SAW YEARS AGO. THE OPPOSITION I MIGHT PERSONALLY TAKE ON HARDLY MAKES IT WORTH IT BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH. I WILL STAND BEFORE HIM, AS WILL YOU. —TAL BROOKE



And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Revelation 20:12

WE ON OUR END ARE ANTICIPATING THE ONSLAUGHT OF SHOCKED CONDEMNATIONS FOR THIS ARTICLE FROM CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES EMBARRASSED BY THE WORDS OF CHRIST OR TOO TERRIFIED TO DEFEND SCRIPTURE THAT STANDS OUT AS EVEN MORE SHOCKING IN THE PRESENT AGE OF POLITICAL CORRECTNESS. ORWELLIAN TERMS LIKE "HATE SPEECH" HAVE ENTERED THE PUBLIC LEXICON. DAMAGE CONTROL WILL PATRONIZE OUR LORD'S WORDS AS THOUGH COMING FROM "THE RELATIVE

STASHED AWAY IN THE ATTIC WHO DIDN'T REALLY MEAN WHAT HE SAID." CULTURAL RELATIVISTS WILL CONSIGN THE SAME WORDS AS NOT MEANING WHAT THEY SAY. CHRISTIAN VOICES WILL BE DISAVOWING AND BACK-PEDDLING FROM EVERY DIRECTION, BACKING THEMSELVES INTO A DEEPER TRAP.

OPPOSITION FROM THE POWERFUL CABAL USING THEIR TRILLION DOLLAR MEDIA EMPIRE TO DEMONIZE US, COULD DO SO BUT IT WOULD RISK GIVING US UNWARRANTED ATTENTION, THUS SPREADING THE CONTROVERSY FAR AND WIDE AND GETTING THE TRUTH OUT THAT WAY. THINGS HAVE A WAY OF GOING VIRAL.

MANY CHRISTIANS SITTING ON THE FENCE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO FOR MUCH LONGER WHILE THOSE ASHAMED OF CHRIST WILL WALK AWAY. WE WHO ARE REAL BELIEVERS FACE HARD CHOICES GIVEN THE VELOCITY AND COURSE OF WHERE THINGS ARE GOING, AS I SAID IN MY BOOK ONE WORLD. TAL BROOKE

Tal Brooke is the President & Chairman of SCP. He has authored nine books and his work has been recognized in Marquis' Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in America. He has won three first-place EPA awards in the nationwide contest. A graduate of the University of Virginia and Princeton, he has spoken at Cambridge, Oxford, Princeton, Sorbonne, Berkeley, the University of Virginia, and the University of Edinburgh. Tal Brooke was converted in India.

"To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize."

- Voltaire

