

THEMSELVES VIVIDLY TO MY MIND, THE FIRST OF THESE BEING FROM MICAH 5:2: "BUT THOU, BETHLEHEM EPHRAIM, THOUGH THOU BE LITTLE AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF JUDAH, YET OUT OF THEE SHALL HE COME FORTH ONTO ME THAT IS TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL; WHOSE GOINGS FORTH HAVE BEEN FROM OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING."

THE OTHER PASSAGE IS THE WELL KNOWN PREDICTION IN ISAIAH 7:14: "THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN; BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL."

THESE THREE PASSAGES IMPRESSED THEMSELVES SO FORCIBLY ON MY MIND THAT I CRIED OUT: "O LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND ISAAC, AND JACOB THOU KNOWEST THAT I AM SINCERE IN THIS THING. (IF JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD, REVEAL HIM TO ME THIS NIGHT, AND I WILL ACCEPT HIM AS MY MESSIAH.) NO SOONER HAD I SAID THIS THAN ALMOST UNCONSCIOUSLY I FLUNG MY PHYLACTERIES INTO A CORNER OF THE ROOM, AND IN LESS TIME THAN I CAN TELL IT I WAS ON MY KNEES PRAYING IN THE SAME CORNER.

MY FIRST PRAYER TO JESUS I SHALL NEVER FORGET. IT WAS AS FOLLOWS: "O LORD JESUS CHRIST, IF THOU ART THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD, IF THOU ART THE SON OF GOD, IF THOU ART THE JEWS' MESSIAH FOR WHOM WE THE JEWS ARE STILL LOOKING; AND IF THOU CANST CONVERT SINNERS AS CHRISTIANS SAY, THOU CANST CONVERT ME, FOR I AM A SINNER, AND I WILL PROMISE TO SERVE THEE ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE."

THIS PRAYER OF MINE, HOWEVER, WENT NO HIGHER THAN MY HEAD. THE REASON WAS NOT FAR TO SEEK. I HAD TRIED TO MAKE A BARGAIN WITH JESUS, THAT IF HE WOULD DO WHAT I ASKED OF HIM, I, ON MY PART, WOULD DO WHAT I THEN HAD PROMISED HIM. I ~~REMAINED~~ REMAINED ON MY KNEES FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR, AND WHILST SO ENGAGED DROPS OF SWEAT CAME RUNNING DOWN MY FACE. MY HEAD ALSO FELT HOT, AND I PUT IT AGAINST THE WALL OF MY STUDY TO COOL IT. I WAS IN AGONY, BUT I WAS NOT CONVERTED. I AROSE AND PACED TO AND FRO IN MY ROOM. THEN THE THOUGHT CAME TO ME THAT I HAD GONE TOO FAR ALREADY, AND I VOWED I WOULD NEVER GO ON MY KNEES AGAIN. I BEGAN TO REASON WITH MYSELF, "WHY SHOULD I GO ON MY KNEES? CANNOT THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, WHOM I HAVE LOVED, SERVED AND WORSHIPED ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, DO FOR ME WHAT CHRIST IS SAID TO DO FOR THE GENTILES?"

THE MORE I REASONED THE WORSE I FELT, AND BECAME INCREASINGLY PERPLEXED. IN ONE CORNER OF THE ROOM LAY MY PHYLACTERIES WHICH STILL POSSESSED A MAGNETIC INFLUENCE OVER ME. I INSTINCTIVELY TURNED TOWARDS THEM, AND I FELL ON MY KNEES AGAIN, BUT COULD NOT UTTER AN WORD. MY HEART ACHED, FOR I HAD A SINCERE DESIRE TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH CHRIST, IF HE WAS THE MESSIAH. I CHANGED MY POSTURE TIME AFTER TIME. ALTERNATELY KNEELING AND THEN WALKING ABOUT THE ROOM FROM A QUARTER TO TEN UNTIL FIVE MINUTES TO TWO IN THE MORNING. AT THAT TIME LIGHT BEGAN TO DAWN ON MY MIND, AND I BEGAN TO BELIEVE IN MY SOUL THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS REALLY THE TRUE MESSIAH. ONCE MORE I FELL IN MY KNEES; BUT THIS TIME MY DOUBTS WERE GONE, AND I BEGAN TO PRAISE GOD, FOR A JOY AND HAPPINESS HAD PENETRATED MY SOUL SUCH AS I HAD NEVER KNOWN BEFORE. I HAD FOUND THE TRUE SHILOH, THE RULER OF ISRAEL, IMMANUEL - "GOD WITH US" - I HAD BELIEVED THE REPORT OF ISAIAH CONCERNING THE TRUE MESSIAH - JESUS - WHO WAS "DESPISED AND REJECTED OF MEN; A MAN OF SORROWS, AND ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF. HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSION. HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; THE CHASTISEMENT OF OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM; AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED" (ISA. 53:5) I HAD LOOKED ON HIM, WHOM THEY HAD PIERCED, AND I KNEW THAT I WAS CONVERTED AND THAT GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HAD PARDONED MY SIN. I NOW FELT THAT NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILED ANYTHING, NOR UNCIRCUMCISION, BUT A NEW CREATURE.

I AROSE FROM MY KNEES AND, IN MY NEW-FOUND HAPPINESS, THOUGHT THAT MY DEAR WIFE WOULD AT ONCE SHARE MY JOY WHEN I TOLD HER OF THE GREAT CHANGE WHICH HAD COME OVER ME. WITH THAT THOUGHT ~~DEEPEST~~ DEEPEST IN MY MIND, I RUSHED OUT OF MY STUDY INTO THE BEDROOM (FOR MY WIFE HAD RETIRED TO REST, ALTHOUGH THE LIGHT WAS, NOT TURNED OFF); I THREW MY ARMS AROUND HER NECK, BEGAN TO KISS HER EAGERLY SAYING: "WIFE, I HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAH." SHE LOOKED ANNOYED, AND PUSHING ME FROM HER, COLDLY ASKED, "FOUND WHO?" "JESUS CHRIST, MY MESSIAH AND SAVIOUR," WAS MY READY REPLY. SHE SPOKE NOT ANOTHER WORD, BUT IN LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES WAS DRESSED AND HAD LEFT THE HOUSE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS THEN TWO IN THE MORNING AND BITTERLY COLD, AND WENT ACROSS THE STREET TO THE HOUSE OF HER PARENTS, WHO LIVED IMMEDIATELY OPPOSITE. I DID NOT FOLLOW HER, BUT DROPPED ON MY KNEES, IMPLORING MY NEWLY FOUND SAVIOUR THAT MY WIFE MIGHT ALSO HAVE HER EYES OPENED AS I HAD, AND AFTERWARDS WENT TO SLEEP. ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING MY POOR WIFE WAS TOLD BY HER PARENTS THAT IF SHE EVER CALLED ME HUSBAND AGAIN SHE WOULD BE DISINHERITED, EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE SYNAGOGUE, AND ACCURSED. AT THE SAME TIME MY TWO CHILDREN WERE SENT FOR BY THEIR GRANDPARENTS, AND TOLD THAT THEY MUST NEVER CALL ME FATHER AGAIN; THAT I, IN WORSHIPPING JESUS, THE IMPOSTER, WAS FULLY AS BAD AS HE WAS.

FIVE DAYS AFTER MY CONVERSION I RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE SURGEON-GENERAL AT