

PART II: A Jew, a Christian and the Emperor

HOW A PICTURE AND PROVIDENCE CHANGED HISTORY

By Shira Sorko-Ram

The picture that helped establish the State of Israel!

Picture 1: Theodore Herzl “happened” to meet the Kaiser—the Emperor of Germany—along the highway going to Jerusalem. The Kaiser saw Herzl whom he had privately met and stopped to greet him. Herzl’s photographer snapped a picture of this earth-shaking moment in Jewish his-

tory. But when Herzl saw the picture, he was aghast. The head of the white horse the Kaiser was riding was cut off, and only the leg and foot of Herzl could be seen. Somehow the photographer had missed the whole event! Though a good photographer he was not, he was a magnificent improviser.

Picture 2: He took another photo of Herzl on a plain white roof and photoshopped

Herzl into the picture. But wait! He also needed a whole horse. Never mind. Yes! In 1898 he took the Kaiser off the white horse and put him on the black horse. **Picture 3:** And Voila! A photo of what really happened in that chance—but critically significant—moment went around the world. Now read the whole story!

Theodore Herzl, today considered the Father of the Modern State of Israel, had just hosted the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, with 202 delegates in 1897. The Zionist movement was birthed and began to breathe.

Herzl exulted in his diary, “Today I have founded the Jewish state...certainly in 50 years.” God clearly used his mouth to prophesy the exact date of Israel’s birth—the U.N. voted Israel into existence in 1947.

His faithful Christian friend, Reverend William Hechler, was at his side, opening doors to European royalty, officials and statesmen that Herzl, a Jewish journalist, could only have dreamed about.

But Herzl was battered with resistance from every possible direction. Almost from the beginning of Christianity, the anti-Semitism in Europe was more than deeply ingrained in the Catholic religion and drove sustained hatred towards everything Jewish. It was an integral part of Catholic doctrine and culture, and had transmitted itself into the Anglican and Lutheran Protestant churches.

The Pope expressed his opposition to the Zionist plan, warning that the Jews could harm the holy sites. The Russian Czar, who had recently enlarged his Empire to include Jews in Eastern Europe, proceeded to oversee the destruction of Jewish communities at will. Many of these poverty-stricken and persecuted Russian Jews were the first to flee to their ancient homeland.

But the Jews of Western Europe were adamantly against the Zionist movement. They had recently received more freedom by their European governments than in many centuries, and felt quite content with their status and prosperity.



Rev. William Hechler, closest associate and faithful friend of Theodore Herzl, with Hechler’s four children.

They had no interest in campaigning for the right to move to the Ottoman Empire’s barren Palestine. In fact, the wealthiest European Jews were the strongest opponents of this “wacky” vision, and feared that Herzl’s Zionism could actually cause anti-Semitism to flare up again.

THE ODD COUPLE

Fighting against all these elements, there couldn’t have existed more of an odd couple than these two: Theodore Herzl, the thoroughly secular Viennese journalist described by *The London Daily Mail* as “Tall, black bearded, handsome, a fine figure of a man, a brilliant orator, infinitely dexterous in debate, and able to address his audience in three languages...”

By his side was William Hechler, a 50-ish prophetic Bible scholar and Christian lover of Zion, working as

a chaplain at the British embassy in Vienna. Herzl portrayed Hechler as “an improbable figure ...I think I detect from certain signs that he is a believer in the prophets.”

At first, Herzl was not sure if he was for real or a fake. But Hechler had cultivated many friends in high places, and immediately began introducing Herzl and the vision of a Jewish state in Palestine into his large circle of royalty, and statesmen of influence.

Hechler firmly believed he had found the Jewish leader he had hoped and prayed for so many years, to lead the Jewish people back to their homeland, and he dedicated himself to Biblical Zionism and to Herzl until his hero died.

Herzl’s goal was to get the endorsement of a European ruler for his Zionist movement, believing that then the Jews, especially the rich who were now resisting him, would endorse and underwrite his vision.

Primarily with help from Hechler’s close friend and former employer, Archduke Frederic of Baden, the chaplain sought an audience for Herzl with the highest ruler on the European continent—Kaiser Wilhelm II, Emperor of the German Empire and Kingdom of Prussia.

Under the passionate tutorage of Hechler, the Duke had become a strong advocate of a Jewish state for the Jewish people. Providentially, he happened to be an uncle of the Kaiser.

The Duke agreed to write the Kaiser, asking for an appointment for Herzl. He sent along Herzl’s book, “*The Jewish State*,” plus Hechler’s theological essays which explained God’s promises

in the Bible to return the Jews to their ancient homeland before the return of the Jewish Messiah, Jesus.

THE KAISER ANSWERS

Though the Kaiser showed interest in Herzl’s vision, he wrote back to his uncle, revealing the utterly dark anti-Semitism that inundated Europe’s Christian heritage.

“...I have looked at the writings of Pastor Hechler ...The Zionist idea should be followed up, for one should not miss the opportunity to weaken Jewish power [!!] But I do not forget that the Jews killed Jesus, and that God has made them pay for this crime. If the German subjects show astonishment that the Emperor can support a Jewish movement, I suppose one could remind them of what is written in the Gospel: ‘Love your enemies and do good to those who persecute you.’ There is also this precept of Christ: ‘Make friends with unjust riches!’”

(This is the same Kaiser who became embroiled in World War I, plunging the whole of Europe into unspeakable carnage.)

This aside, the Kaiser now declared himself ready to receive Dr. Herzl! He would be leaving on October 16, 1898, for a pilgrimage to Palestine by way of Constantinople with a visit to the Sultan. He was making this historic visit to Ottoman-controlled Jerusalem and said he was amenable to asking the Sultan to grant the Jews a chartered company in Palestine under German protection.

They did meet in Constantinople, and Herzl again pleaded with the Kaiser to intercede with

the Sultan, who as the absolute Ottoman ruler of Palestine, could make this dream come true. The Jews, Herzl promised with a strong dose of positive thinking, would pay for the land.

They planned to meet a second time in Jerusalem. Herzl was beyond thrilled. He wrote in his diary:

“It was then that I had the magic-forest sensation of meeting the unicorn which said with a human voice ‘I am the fabled unicorn.’”

THE DAY THE WORLD CHANGED

What happened, no one could have predicted. Herzl decided to visit an agriculture settlement, Mikveh Israel, where the Kaiser would be passing by. Herzl recorded the scene in his diary:

October 29, 1898

“At nine o’clock a commotion on the highway, which was lined with a ‘mixed multitude’ of Arab beggars, womenfolk, children and horsemen, heralded the approach of the Imperial party. Fierce-looking Turkish cavalry galloped by at breakneck speed, hurling threatening glares and brandishing still more threatening rifles at the crowd. Then the advance couriers of the Emperor. And riding among a grey-clad group, including several ladies, the Kaiser himself.

The Kaiser recognized me at a distance. It gave him something of a start, he reined in his horse where I stood, and pulled up across from me. I moved forward a pace or two and when he leaned down past the neck of his horse and held out his hand to me, I stepped close to the mount and stretched up my own hand.

He laughed and darted one of his imperious glances at me:

‘How are you?’

‘Thanks, Your Majesty; I am having a look at the country. And how has Your Majesty found the journey?’

‘Very hot! But the country has a future.’

‘It is still sick,’ I said.

‘Water is what it needs,’ he said, bending down, ‘much water.’

‘Yes, Your Majesty, irrigation on a large scale.’

He repeated: ‘It is a land with a future.’

Then he held down his hand to me again, and cantered off. The Empress, too, had ridden forward and gave me a smiling nod. Among the retinue I recognized the Court-Marshal Eulenburg, [a pro-Zionist “convert” of Hechler] who greeted me

Kaiser Wilhelm II, German Emperor and King of Prussia, considered the most powerful European ruler during Herzl’s lifetime.



affably. Then the Imperial procession once more got under way...

The spectators at Mikveh Israel were altogether dumbfounded. Some of them asked who it had been. The Rothschild administrators looked sullen and annoyed [because although Rothschild had poured millions of pound sterling into creating agriculture settlements, he opposed the Zionist movement to establish a Jewish state].”

WHAT HERZL DIDN'T KNOW

The entire roadside meeting had lasted perhaps two or three minutes.

But Herzl was unaware of what actually happened. Neither he nor Hechler knew that when the Kaiser had discussed with the Sultan the idea of a German protectorate to establish a Jewish homeland—a Jewish homeland to be purchased with Jewish money—the Sultan had completely rejected it.

So when they met outside of Mikveh Israel, the Kaiser had already abandoned any plans to support Herzl's enterprise.

When Herzl met with the Kaiser again in Jerusalem, it became clear to the Jewish leader that he had failed. The Kaiser was very vague, his entourage very cold. Herzl and his Zionist delegation did not get German or Ottoman support for the establishment of the Jewish state. They would have to find another way.

To be fair, the Kaiser had approached the Sultan about the Zionist project several times. But the Sultan, Caliph of the Muslims, refused to surrender a single meter of Muslim land to non-believers, and certainly, not to Jews. It was over.

A MIRACLE HAPPENS

Herzl had failed with the Germans but he had succeeded on the world stage of public opinion! It was tantalizingly recorded by the media with amazement. In three or four minutes, it happened!

Up until this Kaiser/Sultan fiasco, the Zionists were considered a pipedream.



Frederick I, Grand Duke of Baden, uncle of the Kaiser, who hired William Hechler as tutor for his children, and through Hechler's teaching became a strong proponent of the Biblical promise to return the Jewish people to their homeland.

No major European power would recognize the “crazy Jewish Zionists.”

But the world press saw those couple of minutes very differently. Their eyes registered a meeting between the greatest ruler in the world and the unchallenged leader of Jewish Zionism. In the twinkling of an eye, Herzl's vision became legitimate.

The headlines in *The London Daily Mail* Friday on November 18, 1898

clearly proclaimed the new reality.

“IMPORTANT RESULT OF THE KAISER'S TOUR/SULTAN AND EMPEROR AGREED IN PALESTINE/BENEVOLENT SANCTION GIVEN TO THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT

The article continued:

“One of the most important results, if not the most important, of the Kaiser's visit to Palestine is the immense impetus it has given to Zionism, the movement for the return of the Jews to Palestine. The gain to this cause is the greater since it is immediate, but perhaps more important still is the wide political influence which this Imperial action is likely to have.

“It has not been generally reported that when the Kaiser visited Constantinople, Dr. Herzl, the head of the Zionist movement, was there; again when the Kaiser entered Jerusalem he found Dr. Herzl there. These were no mere coincidences, but the visible signs of accomplished facts.

“At the end of last month the Sultan gave his first official [audience] to a Zionist deputation headed by Dr. Herzl who is no stranger to Abdul Hamid. Almost at the same time the Kaiser, who was in Constantinople, also received Dr. Herzl, and promised to receive a Jewish deputation in Palestine...”

The Daily Mail continued:

“It is hardly necessary to urge the importance of these proceedings. The actions of the Sultan and the Kaiser are not dictated by sentiment but by statesmanship...”

“The Jewish Question had long engaged the earnest attention of Europe's statesmen. Year by year, it has become more acute. If Dr. Herzl's forthcoming efforts are as successful as the former

ones the long-sought solution is found.”

The New York Times wrote similarly long and highly favorable articles about the great significance these meetings with the Kaiser and Sultan were to the Zionist vision of creating a state for the Jews.

But the Sultan and the Kaiser had not at all agreed to sanction the Zionist movement or Herzl. It did not matter. The world press got it wrong and that is what mattered. The world press saw the events at Mikveh Israel as extraordinarily successful for Zionism, Herzl and the Jewish people. And that was how they reported it worldwide.

The effect was electric around the world. Herzl, the Jew, Herzl, the Zionist, was recognized by the Kaiser, so they reported. Simply and miraculously: Herzl and Zionism were legitimized.

It was historic. It was the first public recognition of Theodor Herzl, a Jew, by the head of a major world power. It was Herzl's public legitimization as a major player on the stage of world politics.

Herzl never lived to see his dream fulfilled. Tired, ill and weakening, he became absolutely frantic for an immediate solution as he watched the indescribable suffering of Russian and Eastern European Jews under the terrible Czar.

Even the English became interested in the Russian pogroms, and the British Colonial Secretary made an alternate suggestion to Herzl—that the Jews find a safe haven in Uganda! He offered Herzl 5,000 square miles of what today is Kenya.

Desperate for a solution, any solution for the Jewish problem, Herzl brought the subject of Uganda forward for a vote in the sixth Zionist Congress in 1903 and the motion to explore the possibility was passed! However, the Russian representatives in the Congress began weeping and walked out of the hall.

The issue of Uganda was the only matter on which Hechler strongly disagreed with Herzl. He knew with every fiber of his being that God had promised the Jewish people a return to their own ancient homeland. Herzl died be-

fore there was any resolution. However, just the idea bubbling to the surface of a homeland for the Jews helped focus British politicians to the need for a Jewish homeland, ultimately resulting in the Balfour Declaration.

From the first days of their acquaintance, to the Zionist Congresses, to Herzl's death, Hechler was at Herzl's side. Hechler suffered the setbacks with Herzl but never abandoned his faith that God would return His people to the Promised Land.

As Herzl lay dying, he feared all of his last years had been in vain, that he had been an unprofitable servant.

He had bankrupted his family, ruined his marriage, ruined his relationships with his children, and destroyed his health for Zionism and the Jewish people.

He died of a broken heart. He was 44 years old.

Yet, exactly 50 years after Herzl made his prophetic statement that in 50 years, there would be a Jewish state, that statement was fulfilled.

The new state of Israel had barely emerged as victor of the battle waged against her by five armies intent on destroying her, when the Israeli Knesset decided to fulfill the last wish of Theodore Herzl.

An Israeli plane brought Herzl home on August 16, 1949, and the pilots flew his bones over the whole State of Israel before laying him to rest in the Mt. Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem.

HECHLER FADES INTO OBSCURITY

Hechler's 25-year position as the Anglican chaplain at the British Embassy in Vienna ended not long after Herzl's death. He traveled back to Palestine and continued in his efforts to promote Zionism in the Christian world. But the Jewish world had little to do with him anymore.

We can only imagine the unspeakable joy he experienced when he heard with his own ears

that Britain viewed with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people in 1917.

The British Zionist community in the 1920's did agree to give Hechler, the old man, a small pension of ten pounds a month. On the silver anniversary of Herzl's death, a memorial book of remembrances was created. Hechler wrote a small article for it in 1929.

WHERE WAS HECHLER BURIED?

Two years later, Hechler died at Mildmay Hospital in North London. When friends went to gather up his papers and charts he had spent a lifetime producing, his German landlord said they had burned everything up. He was buried in an unmarked grave.

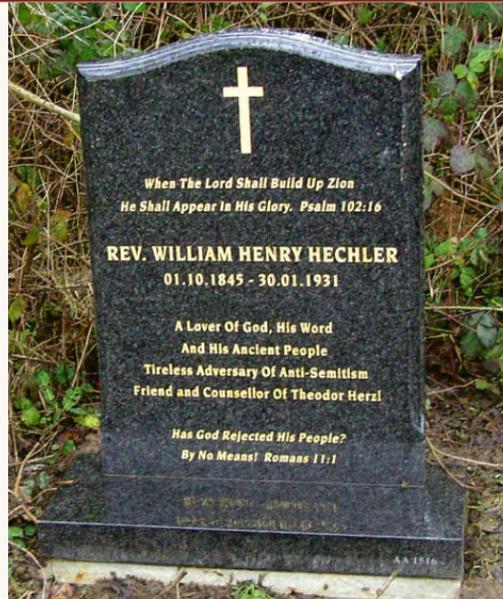
In fact, nobody seemed to know what cemetery he was buried in when Jerry Klinger, a Jewish history buff,

Theodore Herzl, father of modern Israel, looking over the balcony of his hotel in Basel, Switzerland, possibly during the Sixth Zionist Conference (and his last) in 1903. He died a year later.



writer and founder of the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation, heard of his existence through reading Herzl's diaries.

He began wondering about this person of whom Herzl wrote so much. Where was he buried? Klinger said, "My goal was simple. I wanted to stand by Hechler's gravesite and say thank you." Through the scholar Rev. David Pileggi, at Christ Church in Jerusalem, Klinger began searching cemeteries in London.



THE GRAVE IS FOUND

Klinger found the cemetery and looked at the undistinguished patch of earth. "Before me," he wrote, "was the resting place of a man, without whom Zionism and Israel might never have come into being. Before me was the resting place of a man that was owed something much better."

Jerry Klinger arranged a stone dedication on the 80th anniversary of Hechler's death, January 30, 2011. Because that date was also Holocaust Memorial Day, Christians asked that the dedication be a day later.

Ironically, Hechler, before he died, had warned the Jewish world of a major catastrophe that was coming if they didn't complete Herzl's vision and return to Palestine. But Hechler, while alive, was snubbed as a crazy old man by most Jews.

On January 31, 2011, TV film crews and newspaper correspondents recorded the event as both Christians and Jews, including Israeli officials, gathered at Hechler's gravesite to dedicate the modest but proper tombstone selected for Reverend Hechler. The text carved into the dark grey stone was chosen by Jerry Klinger:

The Tombstone erected over Rev. William Hechler's unmarked grave, presented by Jerry Klinger, founder of the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation, on the 80th anniversary of the pastor's death.

*"When The Lord Shall Build Up Zion, He Shall Appear in His Glory, Psalm 102:16
Reverend William Henry Hechler
1.10.1845 – 30.01.1931
A Lover of God, His Word
and His Ancient People
Tireless Adversary of Anti-Semitism
Friend and Counselor of Theodor Herzl
Has God Rejected His People?
By No Means! Romans 11:1*

AN AFTERTHOUGHT

There is a bigger story here than even what this article presents.

Satan has read the Bible and knows God has promised that the Jews in the last days would return to their homeland and to their God. Therefore Satan has worked for centuries to make sure that doesn't happen. As every Israeli knows, somehow and for some reason there is a Haman in every generation.

He planted Jew-hatred (anti-Semitism)

deeply within the European religion. He made sure the whole of the Holy Land remained securely in the hands of Muslim rulers for centuries, full of Islamic hatred against the Jews. And he worked his plans toward the total destruction of Jews through pogroms, inquisitions and ultimately the Holocaust.

But God raised up two men. One, an intelligent, educated Jew, a natural leader with a heart that suffered greatly for his own people. The second, a prophetic Bible scholar, with a deep faith and longing to see his Messiah return and an overwhelming love for the Jewish people. It had been revealed to him through Scripture that God's plan was not only to offer salvation to the world, but to keep His ancient promise to Abraham by bringing His beloved descendants back to the Land of Israel and to the God of Israel.

These two men were actually fighting the whole world. They readily offered their lives a living sacrifice to this cause. Their stubbornness, their passion knew no end. Prayers from the second man went up three times a day to heaven. But what could two men do?

By the strangest coincidence, a chance meeting of the Jewish leader with Europe's royal leader was turned into a massive media success that touched the political world and established a future State of Israel. The god of this world's centuries-long preparation to destroy the Jewish people failed again. God uses whom He will. ■

For more information:

www.jewishmag.co.il, link: goo.gl/YThBNS; www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org, link: goo.gl/1BRS99; www.jewish-american-society-for-historic-preservation.org, link: goo.gl/ijjPDy; www.jewish-american-society-for-historic-preservation.org, link: goo.gl/2BpsZ8; *The Prince and the Prophet* by Claude Duvernoy



*And I saw heaven opened:
and behold, a white horse, and He who
sat upon it is called Faithful and True
and His name is called the Word of God.*

Revelation 19:11,13

Bringing Yeshua, THE WORD OF GOD MADE FLESH, TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

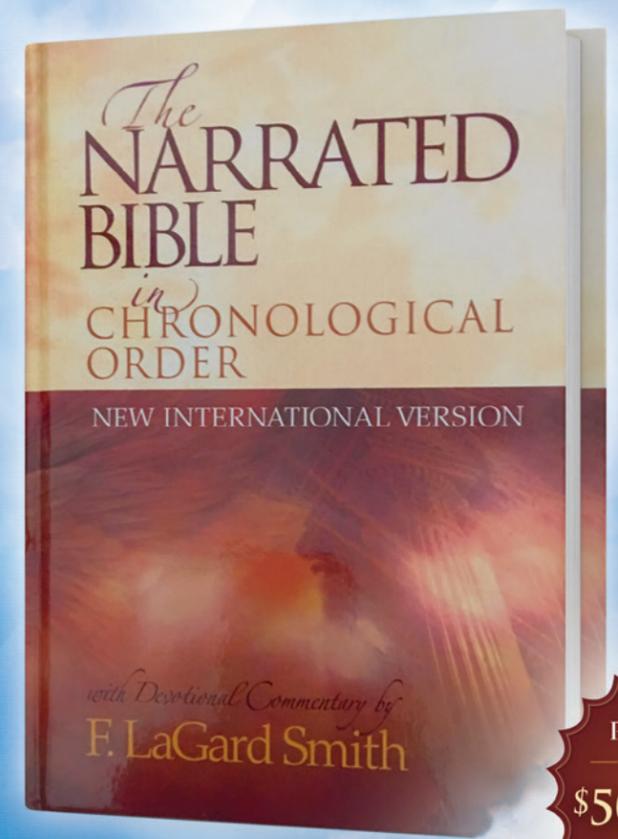
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\$235,901**

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TO OUR
\$500,000*
GOAL

FEEDBACK

FROM ISRAELI YOUTH
WHO ATTENDED MJAA
LAST YEAR



The conference encouraged me to focus on His calling for me in Israel.



I rejoiced to realize that there are so many people who believe like I do, in Israel and in the world. It really encouraged me.

It opened many doors and thoughts about the future. I understood that I am proud of belonging to the body of the Messiah, and I desire that everyone would know about our faith!



I realized the importance and the privilege of being part of Israel.

The Israeli panel strengthened me in the unity we have as a large family.



MAOZ PARTNERS WITH THE
MESSIANIC JEWISH ALLIANCE
TO BRING 23 ISRAELI
BELIEVERS TO THE YEARLY MJAA CONFERENCE

I was strengthened in my faith, motivated to become more active in my congregation back home.



I was surprised by the contribution of Maoz to so many believers in Israel.



I made lifelong friends with other Israeli believers on the trip.

This is our 2018 Group getting their visas for the Messianic Jewish Alliance Conference in Grantham, Pennsylvania U.S.A., July 1-8.





CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S SECOND

70TH
ANNIVERSARY

MAY 14, 2018

A SECOND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION?

In 1948, Israel declared her independence. According to the Hebrew (moon) calendar the date was the 5th of Iyyar, 5708. That date fell on May 14, 1948, according to the Gregorian Calendar.

Israelis continue to celebrate Independence on the **5th of Iyyar** every year—which this year fell on April 19. But lots of people around the world celebrate Israel's Independence every year on **May 14!** That's why President Trump picked May 14, 2018 as Israel's 70th Birthday.

SO LET'S ALL CELEBRATE (AGAIN) !!!