

# THE ART OF THE POSITIVE

ל וַיַּחֵס כָּל־בְּלִב אֶת-הָעָם, אֶל-  
מֹשֶׁה; וַיֹּאמֶר, עֲלֵה גֵעָלָה  
וַיִּרְשְׁנוּ אֹתָהּ--כִּי-יָכוֹל נוֹכַח,  
לָהּ. 30 And Caleb stilled the people toward  
Moses, and said: **'We should go up at  
once, and possess it; for we are well able  
to overcome it.'**

לֹא וְהָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-עָלוּ עִמּוֹ,  
אָמְרוּ, לֹא נוֹכַח, לַעֲלֹת אֶל-  
הָעָם: כִּי-חָזָק הוּא, מִמֶּנּוּ. 31 But the men that went up with him said:  
**'We are not able to go up against the  
people; for they are stronger than we.'**  
*Numbers 13:30-31*

*"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.  
The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty."  
Winston Churchill*

## **"Bat Mitzvah Goes Awry"**

*Stamford Advocate's banner headline for June 16, 2009*

Parashat Shelach 5769  
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman  
Temple Beth El, Stamford CT

## Positive Reframing

The story is told of people witnessing a wagon owner changing the wheels on his cart while wearing his *tefillin*. The onlookers were appalled. How could he be down in the mud, changing a tire, and wearing his *tefillin*? Rav Levi Yitzchak had a different perspective. "Almighty", he said. "Look how holy your people are. Even when they change their wagon wheels, they wear their *tefillin*!"

A facilitator ought to be very fluent in positive reframes. You should be able to come up with a generally positive way of seeing just about anything. Below you will find a sample list of positive reframe statements. Note that these are not statements you directly say as judgments or authoritative declarations. It is new ways of seeing things that you might show people.

It could be worse.  
It is a challenge, not a problem.  
It is a growth experience.  
It only happens to really special people.  
You will have some great stories to tell about that.  
It is just a small part of something much bigger and more important.  
Some people would pay for experiencing that.  
It is a magnificent thing just to be alive.  
The glass is half full, not half empty.  
You will be a lot more able after having resolved this.  
It is an ability, not a limitation.  
Imagine what you would be missing if it were any different.  
It is all communication.  
It is all learning.  
Everything always comes out alright in the end.  
It is part of a global spiritual evolution phenomenon.  
Love resolves anything.  
It is useful in a different context.  
Somebody else would respond differently.  
That it comes up is a sign of positive change.  
It changes faster if you can enjoy it.  
Everything happens for a (good) reason.  
Part of you knows what is going on.  
Any part of you is basically good.  
Life is about having fun and learning.  
Your external situation shows you something about yourself.  
You don't need anything else, your intuition will guide you.  
The universe will help you, if you will let it.  
You have everything you need right here and now.  
You always get what you ask for.  
Wow, that is just great!  
There must be a really important lesson in this.  
What is, IS. It could only be bad if we compare it to something else.  
You are taking part in the planet's growth process.  
It happened exactly as you created it.  
It sure isn't boring.

[illegible]

# Chronicles

## MOSES RETURNS FROM MT. SINAI, SMASHES TABLETS OF THE LAW

### Discovery of Iron May Open New Era

#### Yet Hittites, Who Discovered It, Face Danger of Extinction

(Chronicles News Service)

Experts predict that iron — the new substance discovered by the Hittites — will soon outstrip bronze as the raw material in the production of tools and implements of every kind.

If their prediction comes true, the discovery of iron is likely to open up a new era in the history of man. And yet the once-great Hittite Empire is dwindling so rapidly, it has all but disappeared from the face of the earth.

Observers Amazed  
Foreign observers are stunned by this sudden demise of a nation which for so many centuries has been playing the role of "top dog" in this part of the world. While the fortunes

equal anywhere. Here is a people with a keen will for conquest and, since its discovery of iron, the means to perfect a type of weapon far superior to the bronze implements of its rivals. And despite this tremendous advantage, it appears the Hittites have finally come to the end of the road.

It can hardly be said that they lack a cultural heritage, and that therefore the national fibre is not strong enough to stand up successfully to the present test. On the contrary, they have achieved a very high cultural level — in many different fields.

#### Iron is Found In Meteorites

In all fairness, it must be said that the Hittites are not the only people to know of the existence of iron. The Egyptians and the Babylonians occasionally obtain limited quantities of this metal from rock-like formations that have fallen from the sky. But the Hittites were the first to extract large quantities of iron ore from the bowels of the earth.

And now, with the Phrygians hammering them from the west and the Assyrians moving in from the east, they are being squeezed out of the Asia Minor peninsula — and perhaps right off the map.

It fails to make sense. Here is a people which, for warlike spirit, has no

### Ten Commandments

These are the ten commandments which were inscribed on the stone tablets brought down from Mt. Sinai by Moses:

I AM the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

YOU shall have no other gods before me...

YOU shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...

REMEMBER the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy...

HONOUR your father and your mother...

YOU shall not kill.

YOU shall not commit adultery.

YOU shall not steal.

YOU shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

YOU shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife...nor anything that is your neighbour's.

### Sight of Golden Calf Stuns Leader, Rejoining Camp After 40 Days' Absence

Our leader has returned to us. After an absence of more than 40 days, Moses suddenly reappeared in the Israelite camp yesterday, but the twin Tablets of the Law that had been given to him by God on Mount Sinai no longer were in his hands. He had broken them a few minutes earlier at the foot of the mountain, when his eyes beheld the Golden Calf.

When Moses, upon approaching the camp, espied the multitude dancing wildly around its golden idol, he slowly released his grip on the Tablets of the Law, which crashed to the ground, where they were shattered to pieces.

Moses was accompanied by Joshua bin Nun, his aide, as he re-entered the camp. Joshua, it will be recalled, left the camp together with the leader six weeks ago. He remained at

### Interview With Joshua

By a Staff Reporter

"AS Moses' aide," we said to Joshua bin Nun, as we opened the interview, "you should be in a better position than anyone else to enlighten our readers with regard to the leader's activities in the past few weeks."

"We are particularly interested in obtaining from you an account of Moses' conduct as he descended from Mount Sinai and of his initial reaction to the Golden Calf. But before we go into that, suppose you tell us about the ascent. We all saw you leave the camp together with the leader. How long did you remain at his side?"

A. There was a large cave in the mountainside, not far from the bottom, and there we spent the first night. The master rose very early the following morning, and bidding me await his return in that cave, continued the ascent alone. That was the last I saw of him until last night.

Q. That means he was away for 40 days...

A. That's right.

Q. Were you not concerned about your master's prolonged absence?

A. No.

Q. What happened when he finally came back?

A. At midnight last night the master suddenly appeared in the entrance of

the cave. I had been sleeping, but in a moment I was wide awake and fully alert. It was very strange! (Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

### Miriam Mourns Slain Husband

The Princes of the Twelve Tribes and lesser tribal officials last night accompanied Moses as he paid his official condolence visit to his sister Miriam, who is mourning the death of her husband Chur.

The leaders of the nation denounced, in the most scathing terms, the men who murdered Chur when he opposed the Golden Calf project and demanded that the people wait until Moses returned from Mount Sinai.

Chur had always been a stalwart supporter of Mo-



Moses breaking the Tablets at the foot of the mountain while Moses ascended to receive the Law.

Moses Briefed

Moses' faithful advisors from the tribe of Levi told him at once what had transpired in the camp since Moses' departure. They described the Golden Calf episode as an attempt on the part of the foreign fringe to gain control of the people, kill its present leaders, and later take the people back to Egypt.

Moses saw the need for quick action. Posting himself at the entrance of the camp, he called out:

"Who is on the side of the Lord?"

The entire tribe of Levi responded, and within two hours Moses had them mobilized.

After breaking up into small groups, the Levites charged through the camp with drawn swords, cutting down the calf-worshippers. Three thousand of the traitors were killed.

Destroys Calf

In the meantime, Moses seized the calf — which, incidentally, had been fa-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

### I'm Not to Blame for Idol' Aaron Tells Elders

By a Staff Writer

Moses' brother Aaron insisted before Moses and Israel's Seventy Elders yesterday that the responsibility for the Golden Calf was not his. His role in the perpetration of the abomination, he said, was forced upon him by a mob that had become unruly beyond control.

The real culprits, said Aaron, were the Egyptian rabble-rousers, Yanos and Yabmos, who, together with 40,000 other Egyptians, joined the Israelite camp at the time of the exodus, and who now incited the people to rebel against Moses and against God.

Their idea to make a golden calf had its roots in the worship of the Egyptian bullock-deity, Apis, for which reason they quickly gained a following (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

### Ore Arrives In Caravan

Our Camp Correspondent  
A large camel caravan arrived here yesterday from Midian and unloaded hundreds of sacks filled with a strange-looking dust the like of which we have never seen before.

The sacks were emptied near the tent of Joshua bin Nun, where the dust has accumulated into an enormous heap. The substance is known as iron ore.

It has been learned that the ore is to be melted for the purpose of manufacturing (Continued on Page 4, Col. 7)

### Camp Crime Rate On the Increase

By Our Camp Correspondent

The number of criminal offences being committed in the camp is on the increase. Several more acts of lawlessness have been reported in the last few days.

Two nights ago, 15 sheep were stolen from a sheep-pen belonging to the tribesmen of Manasseh, in the western part of the camp.

A fight broke out yesterday in the northwestern corner of the camp between tribesmen from Benjamin and Dan, with scores of men on both sides sus-

### Babes Burned Alive In Canaanite Ritual

By Our Camp Correspondent

Assyrian merchants passing our camp yesterday gave an account of the most unbelievable atrocities being carried out by the Canaanites.

They were referring, in particular, to a recent religious ceremony in the city of Taanach, where scores of children were actually burned to death, as a sacrifice to the Canaanite deity, the Molech.

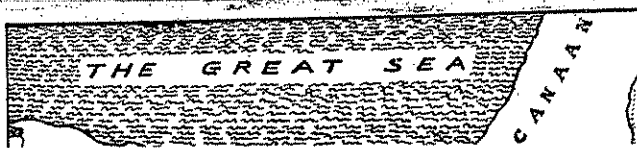
Eye-witnesses among the Assyrians report that thousands of people took part in this human holocaust. First they called

ses and a faithful friend and advisor in times of stress and crisis. During the fateful struggle against Amalek, Moses, Aaron and Chur formed the triumvirate that kept up the people's courage in this dark hour and saw it through to ultimate victory.

### To Our Readers

After an involuntary of rowdies attacked the

### Journey to the Promised Land



# Chronicles

NEWS OF THE PAST

VOL. I, NO.

## SODOM AND GOMORRAH WIPED OUT IN WORST DISASTER SINCE FLOOD

**Burning Sulphur, Violent Blasts, Flames Shooting Up to the Sky...**

Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as a goodly portion of the Valley of Siddim, are visible from a height just east of Hebron (Elonai Mamreth). A few early risers were near this spot when the disaster struck, and it is from one of these eyewitnesses that we received the following account.

I was watching the sun rise behind the hills in the east when it happened. At first there was just the sound — a low, ominous rumble which, in a moment, turned into a deafening roar.

Seeking the source of the sound, I looked up to the heavens. But at that very moment I became aware that something was transpiring in the valley below. I looked — and this is what I saw:

### Two Cities Ablaze

Sodom and Gomorrah were rapidly being devoured by a fiercely burning blaze that seemed to have sprung up from nowhere and was moving in a westerly or northwesterly direction.

(The spot where I was standing soon became a common vantage point for hundreds of Hebronites who had been awakened by the terrific noise and were hurrying to the hill top. Individually and in groups, they arrived and stared, wide-eyed, at the horror below.)

### Jericho Reports Salt Sea Receding

(Chronicles News Service)

**JERICHO, 11 Nisan.**—The waters of the Salt Sea are slowly and steadily retreating southward, threatening to leave the port city of Beth Hoglah "high and dry."

The movement of the sea began early this afternoon. It was supposed at first that the strange phenomenon was merely a "freak low tide." But this hopeful supposition had gradually to be discarded, as it became increasingly evident that this was no movement of the tides — but, rather, a violent and fundamental change in the country's terrain.

The sea is receding, and the eye can actually follow its progress as it makes its way southward, leaving behind it dry land.

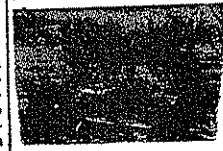
(At the moment, the waters of the Jordan are spreading over the vacated area; but, once the river will begin digging a new bed for itself, most of this

Many of the houses that lay in the path of the flames but had not yet been touched by them had already collapsed, indicating that a violent earthquake had preceded the fire. That also helped to account for the fact that no one was fleeing: The inhabitants of the two

### LOT SAVED!

**HEBRON, 11 Nisan (CNS).** Judge Lot of Sodom and his daughters are safe, it was reliably reported early this evening. They are the only persons known to have come out of the holocaust of Sodom and Gomorrah alive.

The story of their miraculous escape is told by a Zoar man who fled to Hebron when his city was



Portion of Flooded Area

threatened by the waves of the Salt Sea late this afternoon.

At sunrise this morning, watchmen on the northern wall of Zoar noticed a group of people approaching the gates of the city in a half-run. As the figures came nearer, the watchmen recognized Abraham's nephew, Lot. The judge is a well-known figure in these parts. With him were his two beautiful daughters and two unidentified men.

### Visit Unexplained

Asked who the strangers were, Lot replied that only he and his daughters sought entrance to the city, and so, without any further hesitation, the guards opened the gates of the city to their honoured and unexpected guests.

When Lot declined to state the reason for his sudden appearance at Zoar at this unearthly hour, it was supposed that there had been another dispute between him and the men of Sodom.

Speculation on the matter, however, was soon interrupted, as the great holocaust broke over Sodom and Gomorrah.

### LARSA FALLS TO HAMMURABI

RIM-SIN FLEES SOUTH (Sunshine News Agency)

cities must all have been killed or trapped within a few minutes of the outbreak of the disaster.

Meanwhile, the nearby cities of Admah and Zevalm were rapidly being evacuated, their inhabitants fleeing toward the range of mountains which was serving as our lookout point.

It was difficult to make out what exactly was happening inside the cities, because of the heavy black smoke billowing upward toward the darkened sky. The sun had long since disappeared. Earth and sky seemed to have become one, and there were moments when it appeared that the flames were not shooting up to the sky but that, on the contrary, it was the heavens that were pouring fire down upon the earth.

### Balls of Fire

This impression was heightened not only by the frequent flashes of lightning that streaked down into the valley and momentarily lit up the ghastly scene, but also by the appearance of great balls of fire that plunged earthward, exploded with a resounding boom, and then shot up again in the form of belching flames.

Judging from the pungent odour which now began to reach us on the mountain top, I would say that these fire-balls were globs of sulphur....

Further proof that an earthquake had taken place was provided for us shortly before noon, when — to our renewed amazement — we noticed that a large

(Continued on P. 2, Col. 5)

### HYKSOS TAKE EGYPTIAN CAPITAL

(Foreign News Service)

**ZOAN.**— Memphis, capital of northern Egypt and the last serious obstacle to the Hyksos' conquest of the entire country, surrendered to the invader yesterday, after a siege which lasted 7 months.

To all intents and purposes, the capture of Memphis marks the end of Egypt's 20-year resistance against the Hyksos. Thebes, capital of the southern zone, is not expected to make more than a token stand.

### Population Starving

The destruction, during the early weeks of the siege, of the many waterways in the vicinity upon which Memphis depended for its water supply took a heavy toll among the city's inhabitants. Those who are not already dead are in a more or less advanced state of dying.

The starved and plague-ridden population of the long-besieged city must have presented a horrible sight to the conquerors, but it is doubtful whether they were very much disturbed by it, as they went about their systematic work of pillage and destruction.

By order of King Salitu, of the Hyksos, an image of the god Sutekh was set up today in the Temple of Ra, to take the place of the Egyptian deity as top god of the land. (The Egyptian equivalent of the god Sutekh is Seth.)

### Mysterious Blaze-Quake Sweeps Valley of Siddim

(Chronicles News Service)

**HEBRON, 11 Nisan.**— Nature's four basic elements — earth, fire, wind, and water — combined today to bring terror and death to twin-cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, in the worst catastrophe the world has seen since the Great Flood.

The disaster, a deadly combination of storm, earthquake, and flood, struck with a suddenness that provided no opportunity for escape. All the inhabitants of the two cities are believed to have been killed.

### Advancing Waters Threaten Zoar

(Chronicles News Service)

From Zoar, near the southern end of the Siddim Valley, comes word that the population is fleeing the city in panic, following the realization that the waves of the Salt Sea are bearing down on the city.

During most of the day the people remained calm, as, except for a few tremors early this morning, the city (formerly called Bela) had been spared in the general disaster that had overtaken the valley. Zoar was considered safe. A number of refugees from the stricken cities to the north came to Zoar in the course of the day, to seek a haven behind its walls.

Towards evening, however, there came a change for the worse. The men at the lookout posts on the wall suddenly saw something that caused the blood to freeze in their veins:

The waters of the Salt Sea were advancing across the valley, along its entire width, and were rapidly bearing down on the city! Among those fleeing the

city are Lot and his daughters, first of the refugees — and the only ones from Sodom and Gomorrah — to reach Zoar this morning.

Most of the fugitives are seeking shelter for the night in caves in the mountains to the west.

### Valley Sinks

The upheaval caused sudden lowering of earth's level through the Valley of Siddim. In turn, brought waters of the Salt Sea down upon the valley the burning cities.

As this is being written, the waters of the sea, having inundated Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as neighbouring towns Admah and Zevalm, still advancing at war.

Reports from Jericho indicate fundamental changes in that sector, too.

(For further details see eyewitness account this page.)

### EXTRA!

### QUICKLY SOLD OUT

Copies of the Extra Edition put out by Chroni last night on the Sodom and Gomorrah disaster quickly snatched up by eager populace. Our back-riding messengers reached such distant places as Jericho, Shechem, Shemesh, and Gezer.

### Abraham's Conduct Arouses Suspicion Among Hebronites

By a Staff Writer

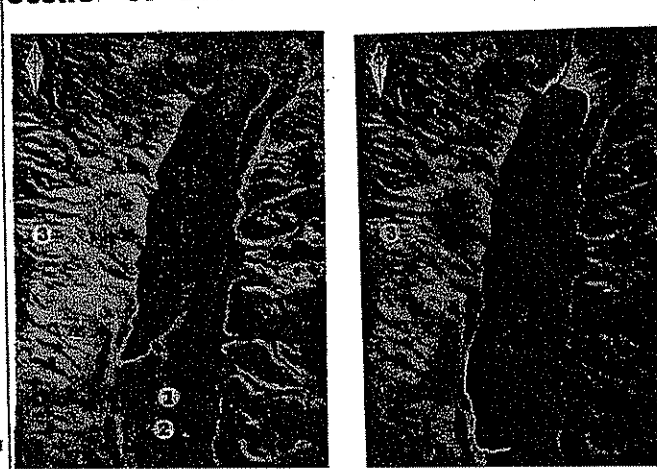
Among those who watched the progress of the catastrophe from the heights around Hebron was Abraham the son of Terach. Some of the other observers of the tragedy are quick to link the Hebrew's name with the disaster that struck the Siddim Valley with such unprecedented violence this morning.

While no one has been able to "put his finger" on any overt act on Abraham's part several people

been quicker to read spot than the younger who hurried there as they heard the first news at sunrise. Abraham must, therefore, have arrived at his vantage some time before — and before anything begun to happen in the valley below.

(2) Three strange, unusually tall in stature and coming at the noon — an unusual for people to travel

### Scene of Disaster — Before and After





# Chronicles

NEWS OF THE PAST

KADESH BARNEA  
4 IYAR, 2580 (1230 B.C.E.)

VOL. 1, NO. 1

## EARTH OPENS, SWALLOWS KORACH; 250 REBELS DIE WITH LEADER

Thousands Look On in Horror As Divine Retribution Claims Lives  
Of Levite and Reubenite Insurgents; Dathan, Aviram Among the Slain

### BULLETIN

KORACH AND THE ISRAELITES WHO HAD JOINED THE REBELLION AGAINST MOSES AND AARON MET THEIR DEATHS THIS MORNING IN A MANNER THAT HAS NO PRECEDENT IN THE HISTORY OF THIS NATION:

WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LOOKING ON IN HORROR, THE INSURGENTS LITERALLY HAD THE GROUND REMOVED FROM UNDER THEIR FEET, AS A YAWNING GAP SUD-

DENLY OPENED IN THE EARTH. THE MEN, WHO EARLIER HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO THE SPOT BY MOSES, DISAPPEARED AMIDST A CLOUD OF DUST (OR SMOKE), AND THE GAP CLOSED AS QUICKLY AS IT HAD OPENED.

NO TRACE OF THE VICTIMS IS TO BE SEEN.

AMONG THOSE KILLED WERE DATHAN AND AVIRAM, THE CHIEF INSTIGATORS FROM THE TRIBE OF REUBEN. (Earlier Story below.)

### 'Then You Shall Understand'

Early this morning, Moses summoned the insurgents from the tribes of Levi and Reuben to the square near the Command Tent. He then assembled the people and spoke these words:

"Hereby you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works and that I have not done them of my own mind:

"If these men die the death of all men; if they be visited after the visitations of all men — then the Lord has not sent me.

"But if the Lord make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth and swallow them up with all their belongings, and they shall be buried alive — then you shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord."

## Amorites Overrun Moab and Ammon

(Canaanite News Agency)

AROR, 3 Iyar — The Amorite hordes that in recent weeks have been sweeping southward through the transjordanic tableland, reached the Arnon River today.

Aror, not far from the northern bank of the Ardon, fell to Sichon, the Amorite king, yesterday. Qeshbon and Kiriatshaim were captured earlier this month.

King Sichon has announced that Qeshbon, half-way between the Yabok and Arnon Rivers, is to be the capital of his newly-won realm. Sichon is now in effective control of the entire Qeshbon district — that is, all the territory between the Yabok and the Arnon.

North of the Yabok rules Og, another Amorite king. His realm extends to the Damascus region in the northeast and to the borders of the original Amorite kingdom in the northwest. The capital of Og's kingdom is Ashtarot.

### Retreat Becomes Rout

As a result of Sichon's southward push, the Moabites and Ammonites have been driven out of much of the territory formerly occupied by them.

The Moabites at first offered fierce resistance, but after Qeshbon fell, their slow retreat turned into a rout. Their ranks have now been re-formed south of the Arnon, where they are expected to make a firm stand, should Sichon decide to continue his drive southward.

Less resistance was en-

### Moses Seeks Pact With Moab, Ammon

(Canaanite News Agency)

HEBRON. — Moses, leader of the Israelites, has sent secret envoys to Moab and Ammon, to try to negotiate a political and military alliance, it has been learned from diplomatic circles here.

The Israelites, their leader proposes, will help the Moabites and Ammonites to drive the Amorite armies out of the territory they have conquered. In return, Moab and Ammon are to allow the Israelites free passage through their respective domains.

It is believed, however, that Moab and Ammon will turn down the proposal. The ruling circles in both nations are known to fear the Israelites more than they do the Amorites.

## REBEL LEADER CHANGES MIND

On ben Peleth, one of the leading figures in the Korach Revolt, has yielded to Moses.

The man appeared at the Tent of Meeting early this morning and requested that Moses be informed that he (On) had changed his mind and was leaving the ranks of the insurgents.

He had come to the conclusion, On said, that it was not the people's welfare that the rebels had in mind; that they were prompted, rather, by the lust for power and "all sorts of personal grudges".

### Will We Leave Kadesh Barnea?

From sources close to Joshua's headquarters it is learned that two patrols have been sent off to scout two possible routes that may be employed in the continuation of our journey: One leads eastward, to Mount Hor; the other southward, to Elath.

Israel has been camping at the oasis of Kadesh Barnea for over a year.

## Amalek Fortifies Scorpions' Ascent

By Our Correspondent

BEERSHEBA. — Israel's attempt, two months ago, to storm Canaan by the southern route has resulted in the fortification, by the Amalekites, of the Maale Akkrabim (Scor-

pions and their allies, the Canaanites of Arad, on the other, came after a succession of developments initiated by the report of our scouts last year.

This report, which pic-

## MANY ECHO REBEL CALL FOR RETURN TO EGYPT

Seething unrest broke into open rebellion yesterday, when 250 Israelites — among them many prominent tribal leaders — renounced their allegiance to Moses and demanded on immediate return to Egypt.

The leaders of the insurrection are Korach Reubenites Dathan ben Eliav, Aviram ben

At a meeting held yesterday morning, the insurgents laid claim to far-reaching rights and powers, both in the administration and in the priesthood.

The keynote in the proceedings was the opposition — common to all those present at the meeting — to the existing order of things and, with it, the determination to "do something about it".

Moderates vs. Extremists  
It soon became evident, however, that there were differences of opinion among the insurgents.

The Levites, it turned out, were concerned mainly with the question of the concentration of power in the hands of Moses and Aaron. They felt less strongly about Moses' management, to date, of Israel's political and military affairs.

The Reubenites, on the other hand, attacked the current administration from the political and military viewpoint as well. They even went so far as to cast doubt on the advisability of having left

Egyptian Press:

'Hebrews Want  
To Go Back'

Words of criticism were also voiced, by the Reubenites, in connection with Moses's handling of the spy-episode and with his "negative attitude" before and during our abortive thrust into Canaan.

### Compromise

Since the more moderate Levite faction did not see eye-to-eye with the Reubenite die-hards, a compromise decision was finally passed, containing

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 7)

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# Chronicles

NEWS OF THE PAST

Vol. II, No. 3

AV 3830 (70 C.E.)

# JERUSALEM FALLS; TEMPLE IN FLAMES

## But the Fight Goes On

In two places, resistance against Rome continues: one is the Upper City of Jerusalem, beyond the Temple Mount; the other, Fort Massada, in the Judean desert southeast of Jerusalem. Here, side by side, are the latest reports on the situation in these two pockets of resistance:

### UPPER CITY HOLDING OUT

Special from the Citadel)

A small band of survivors, led by Commander-in-Chief Simon Bar Giora, has fought its way out of the massacre on the Temple Mount and joined up with the troops of John of Gishala, who are defending the Upper City, where the fight goes on.

Previously, John had asked Titus for terms. He wanted his men to be given the right to leave Jerusalem carrying their weapons with them. Titus refused, insisting on unconditional surrender. This proposition was summarily rejected by John, and the battle went on.

John of Gishala's men witnessed the final assault upon the Sanctuary and saw the flames rise to consume it. They realized then that their cause was lost and were determined to perish in battle. But they resolved to sell their lives as dearly as possible.

#### Calls for Surrender

Titus, however, thought the fall of the Temple would bring the defenders of the Upper City to their senses, since the collapse of resistance throughout the rest of Jerusalem indicated that the war was at an end. For that reason yesterday he renewed his demand for unconditional surrender. This has again been rejected.

Titus as well as our generals know full well what this rejection means. For the Romans it is the certain loss of hundreds of the best of the legionaries in the last moments of a war that is virtually at an end.

In his second call for

### LAST STAND AT MASSADA

There has been no change in the situation around Massada, where a unit of our forces is still holding out against the Romans and continually sending out guerilla expeditions to make the life of the legionaries in the south Judean desert absolutely unbearable.

Resistance is in the capable charge of Eleazar Ben Yair, who claims that with the weapons and arms stores looted from the armories established on this mountain-fortress by King Herod they can hold out indefinitely. Certainly the Romans will never be able to say they have conquered Judea until this gallant band has been subdued, and this will be no easy task.

#### Almost Unscalable

Massada is a rock, not small in circumference and very high, encompassed by valleys of great depth. Its sides rise so abruptly that even a mountain goat cannot get a foothold upon them.

There are two possible places where an ascent might be attempted, but this too is almost impossible in the face of any sort of opposition from above. One track leads up to Massada from the Salt Sea towards the east and the other on the west. On this side the ascent is somewhat less arduous. One of these tracks is called "The Serpent," because it is so narrow and winding, for it breaks off and debouches at the many precipices which stand in its way. Should your foot slip on this trail, there is no alternative but a horrible death on the jagged rocks

(Continued on Page 4)



## YOHANAN BEN ZAKKAI ALIVE; PLANNING LEGAL COLLEGE

(Chronicles News Service)

JAFFA.—Amazing news has just been received from Yavneh, a small village near Jaffa. Notwithstanding the recent reports concerning the death and burial of Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai, it now transpires that the renowned sage and teacher is alive and has, in fact, established an academy of learning in the village of Yavneh.

It appears that the report of the master's death was spread in order to evade the regulations of the Zealots which prohibit anyone from leaving the besieged city of Jerusalem.

Rabbi Yohanan believed that provision had to be made for carrying on the teaching of the Law, no matter what happened to the State. He accordingly made his plans to set up a college of legal studies in Yavneh so that young men could be trained there as Rabbis and Judges against the time when Judah would be independent again. The scheme is reported to have been fully discussed and approved at a secret meeting of the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem.

The Romans, for their part, saw no objection to

young men withdrawing from the struggle and spending their time in studying what to them are obsolete codes, so they permitted Rabbi Yohanan to pass through their lines unmolested. (See *The Emperor and the Rabbi*, on Page 4).

A number of scholars from other parts of Judah and Galilee have joined Rabbi Yohanan in his enterprise.

### Enslaved Youths Leap to Their Death

JAFFA (By Courier).—Seamen returning to Jaffa port tell a tragic story of Jewish heroism which took place on one of the ships transporting captives to Rome.

This "cargo" consisted of a number of boys and girls of the best Judean priestly and noble families. They had been held as hostages earlier in the war and were now being sent to Rome.

When they left Israel they had no idea of what their fate would be; indeed, they had been surprised by their good treatment.

Then one of the captives overheard a conversation

### First Transport of Prisoners Leaves

There were heartrending scenes this morning as the first vast transport of prisoners was led out of Jerusalem en route to the coast to be transported thence to be sold as slaves in commercial centres of the Mediterranean.

There has been no principle of selection. Masses of the people have just been rounded up, driven together in gangs and set moving along the roads. Fathers have been separated from children, husbands from wives and mothers from their babies. The immediate fate of anyone who protests is a savage beating or death by crucifixion on the nearest tree.

It is estimated that 97,000 prisoners have already been taken out of the city.

## Death Toll Over Million

(Chronicles News Service)

JERUSALEM, 10 Av.—Our Temple, which has stood for six hundred years on Mount Moriah as the symbol of Jewish nationhood, unity and freedom, is no more. The Sanctuary perished in flames last night amid scenes of unparalleled savagery and bloody fighting which brought Jewish casualties in the war to over a million killed.

With the fall of the Temple, resistance to the Romans is virtually at an end, and Israel must acknowledge defeat in her four-year-old War of Liberation against Rome.

Some parts of the Temple were still burning this morning. The rest had been reduced to a mass of smoldering rubble.

#### Climax of Offensive

The final assault on the Temple Mount marked the climax of an all-out Roman offensive, which became a foregone conclusion after the legionaries had broken through the city's outer defences, following a half-year siege.

The conflagration, once begun, spread rapidly through the hallowed edifice. As the Jews hurried to extinguish the flames, they were met by advancing waves of greedy Romans eager for booty and anxious to get their hands on the sheets of pure gold that covered so much of

ror, as thousands of charred corpses mark the place of the last desperate resistance of the heroic defenders of the Sanctuary. They are the bodies of Priests and Levites and of old men, and even women and children, who had taken refuge within the innermost parts of the Temple.

As soon as it became known that the Sanctuary was ablaze, they first rushed out to try to quench the flames, but there was no water. Some threw themselves on the fire, hoping to smother it with their bodies. When this attempt failed they turned to face the enemy and shield the Holy of Holies with their bare hands against the Roman steel.

The soldiers of Titus, made savage by long months of siege in the blazing summer heat, and embittered by the prolonged resistance of the Jews exhibited a bestial ferocity. They slashed and mutilated the bodies of the defenders who were weak with long months of hunger and thirst.

#### Doomed 3 Weeks Ago

The doom of the Temple was perhaps already sealed some three weeks ago when the growing rigour of the siege for the first time prevented the regular carrying out of the daily sacrifice in the Temple.

The Romans, by that time masters of all the strategic points in the city, had penetrated well within the walls, and had only to overwhelm the Temple Mount. At first, they did not dare to do so. But two days ago Titus, advised by Jewish traitors that with

(Continued on Page 4)

### OUTNUMBERED, 2-1 The following figures have been released by the authorities: FORCES IN JERUSALEM

Jerusalem	2,400
Zealots	
Galilean	6,000
Zealots	10,000
Sicarii	16,000
Non-party	5,000
Edomites	
Total:	40,000
Defenders	
Enemy Army	80,000

the Temple. Meanwhile the flames gained an inextinguishable hold.

A demonic struggle followed inside the burning building. The crash of burning beams and falling walls did not halt the battle or stop the slaughter. When all who possessed weapons were over-

# Chronicles

NEWS OF THE PAST

Vol. III, No.

ERUSALEM, Wednesday, September 16, 1348 جاد الثاني ٢٤ ١٣٤٨

## 'BLACK DEATH' ON WORLDWIDE RAMPAGE

# Tortured Jews 'Confess' They Poisoned Wells

## GENERAL FAST IN DAMASCUS

1,200 Dead a Day

By Our Correspondent  
DAMASCUS.—While Jews in their thousands are being massacred in Europe by their Christian neighbours on false charges of having brought on the pre-

sent pestilence, Moslems, Jews and Christians here in Damascus fasted, prayed and marched together in a rare demonstration of solidarity in the face of the worst calamity to hit this land in living memory.

Official sources here put the daily toll from the Black Death at 1,200. The three-day fast was proclaimed by the Moslem Governor of Damascus, Seif (Continued on Pg. 3, Col. 2)

## ALEPPO STRICKEN

(Near East News Service)  
ALEPPO.—The Black Death has reached this city in northern Syria.

The first signs were discernible a few weeks ago, but any hopes that it was another disease, or that it would not reach epidemic proportions, have now been shattered.

The count of victims is rising steadily and stands now at about 500 a day.

## DAILY TOLL IN CAIRO: 3,000 DEAD

(By Pigeon Post)  
CAIRO.—The death toll from the Plague in Cairo and the suburb of Fostat has reached more than 3,000 a day, according to reliable local sources. Some estimate the number as high as 15,000 and even 20,000, but these should be taken as peak figures rather than as daily averages.

The Black Death came to Egypt about five months ago and has been raging with growing virulence ever since. At first, it appeared to affect only women and children, but later it spread to all segments of the population.

### Thrown to the Dogs

The dead are taken to burial on boards and on doors that have been removed from their hinges. In the last few days, the situation has reached the point where the bodies are

## ARMY TO HARVEST CROPS IN SYRIA

(Near East News Service)  
DAMASCUS.—Governor Seif ad-Din Ar-gun Sha'ah has alerted the Army of Damascus to stand by for a possible harvesting operation in the coming weeks, in the wake of the present emergency.

Large tracts of farming land in Syria were not sown this spring because the farmers died behind the plough — victims of the Black Death. Elsewhere, the seed was sown, but there is no one to take in the crop, the farmers having died in the Plague in the interim. It is in these instances that the army will be called in to do the harvesting, in an effort to stave off a famine on top of the pestilence already running amok among the population.

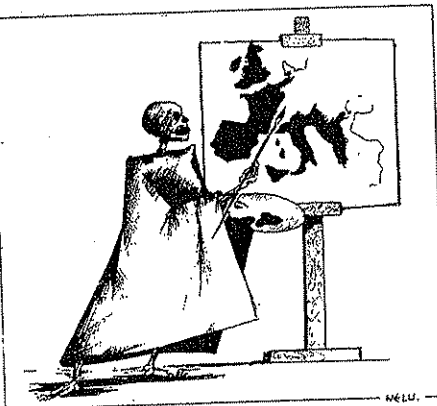
The situation in the cities is the same, with businesses and workshops closing down and commercial life grinding to a halt.

## Wind-Borne Spark... or Revenge?

## FIRE IN MAINZ CHURCH AFTER 6,000 JEWS SLAIN

MAYENCE.—The Jewish community of Mayence (Mainz), one of the oldest in Germany, has come to a tragic end. Over 6,000 Jews were killed — but not without taking with them some 200 of the Christian rioters.

An unusual act of revenge was carried out by a Jew by the name of Baruch. The Jewish quarter was already going up in flames when an ultimatum was issued to the few who



Still Life...

## Expulsion from Alsace

(Continental News Service)  
BANNFELDEN.—After two days of heated deliberations, it was decided last week to expel the Jews from all the towns of Alsace.

The decision was due largely to the influence of Bishop Berthold, who has been conducting a hate campaign throughout the Rhineland, exhorting the populace "in the name of the Church" — contrary to the recent Papal Bull — to "destroy the poison-spreading Jews."

## Strasbourg Jews' Fate Uncertain

(Continental News Service)  
STRASBOURG.—For five days, the local Municipal Assembly has been sitting on the Jewish question without reaching a decision. The Mayor of Strasbourg, Konrad Winterthur, at yesterday's session read out a

letter from the Municipal Councillors of Cologne expressing their solidarity with him and others who were coming to the defence of the Jews. The Mayor also based himself on letters issued by Emperor Charles IV denouncing the antisemitic libel.

The historian Closer created a particular stir by citing the Papal Bull (see Page 3) which hinted at Christian greed and covetousness being the cause of the anti-Jewish allegations. "The Plague is the finger of God, not the hand of the Jews," he contended.

The antisemitic faction has summoned Bishop Berthold to its aid, and he is due to appear before the Assembly today. The meeting is constantly interrupted by the clamour of the excited mob outside, which is kept out by main force.

### 1,200 Dead

In the meantime, everybody is much too busy to do anything about the raging epidemic. Last night alone, some 1,200 people died, and the streets are strewn with corpses.

It is said that the Jews, fearing the Assembly's imminent surrender to the mob, are slipping out of their houses at night to seek refuge elsewhere.

GENEVA.—A special night-rider from Chillon in Savoy, at the other end of the lake on which this city is located, has brought the news that the Jews have finally "confessed" to poisoning the wells and rivers the entire region, spreading the evil of the Black Death.

The crowds that had gathered in front of the Cathedral to welcome the Flagellants who were making their way to the city received this message with loud jubilation. The town square shook to the shouts "Death to the Jews!" "Perdition to the Murderers of Christ!", repeated in an ominous chorus. The mob seemed about to burst into the Jewish Quarter when the sudden arrival of the Flagellants deflected it from its course.

### Five Standing Trial

In the meantime, we have managed to interrogate the night-rider from Chillon and to ascertain the following particulars:

As stated in our issue of New Year's Eve three days ago (Sunday), a group of five Jews, falsely accused of having poisoned the country's wells, is standing trial in Savoy. The accused are a physician by the name of Valavigny from Thonon and the merchants Bandito and Mamson of Ville-Neuve, as well as a woman by the name of Bellieta and her son Aguet of Chillon. The night-rider noted with admiration that, while the

men had succumbed to the terrible tortures inflicted upon them, the woman was still standing steadfast under her ordeal. The president of the court announced, however, that since her son had confessed to having acted at his

## Rome in Revolt

## Pope's Return Again Put Off

(Mediterranean News Agency)

AVIGNON.—With Italy seething in war and revolt, Pope Clement VI has been compelled once more to postpone his planned return to Rome. Avignon thus remains the "temporary" capital of the Papacy, as it has been since 1305.

The feud between Guelphs and Ghibellines and various local uprisings — the latest of which are reported from Bologna, Romagna, Marches and even Rome itself — have turned Italy into a hotbed of anarchy and strife. Four Popes — Clement V, John XXII, Benedict XII and Clement VI, the incumbent — have ruled Christendom from Avignon, chosen for this purpose by Clement V for reasons of personal and political convenience.

Various attempts have been made to return the seat of the supreme office in Christendom to its traditional site in Rome or, at least, to some intermediate point somewhere in Italy. But always, so far, these attempts have had to be postponed because of political developments in the land of the Popes.

## ZURICH REPORTS 10 JEWS BURNED, 1,500 BANISHED

ZURICH.—On the first New Year's day, ten Jews were burned on a huge pyre set up in the town square, on a charge of having spread the Plague and killed a Christian child whose body was found in the courtyard of its own home.

At the same time, the Town Council decided on the immediate expulsion of the 1,500 Jews living in Zurich and their eternal banishment from the city. [A 200-year limit was put on a similar expulsion and banishment order issued in Geneva.]

In Bern, it is understood that a public anti-Jewish trials are to be held here.

mother's behest, she might be expected to breathe down at any moment.

The admission extracted from these Jews reads follows:

"We met in the far near Chamberg with a secret Jewish tribunal from Spain, with a view spreading the disease throughout the entire The three members of court were Jacob Pasci Rabbi Peyret and wealthy merchant Abay Jacob Pascate informed that he had been appointed by the top leadership, the Jewish people, the leaders of Zion in Toledo, execute their very against the whole of Ch (Continued on Pg. 2, Col

## ESTIMATED TOLL: 3 1/2 M

(Chronicles News Service)

An estimated three to four million persons have been carried off, so far, by Plague now ravaging the continent of Europe and own region.

This may be stated the basis of, the report that have been coming during recent months, scores of cities through this area, from Damascus here in the East, to 1 mouth (England) in West.

These reports are not nearly incomplete, not ways up-to-date and always reliable: hence approximation. It is evident, however, that spread of the deadly disease is still growing in intensity and scope, and we therefore expect a high casualty figures, in areas, for some time come.

(Continued on Pg. 3, C

## Jews on the Offensive!

## 11-Flagellants Dead In Clash With Jew

(Continental News Service)

COLOGNE.—Much astonishment greeted the news of the recent clash between some 100 Flagellants, about to cross into the Jewish Quarter of

ed along with them. [The Flagellants, a group of Christians who have elevated practice of public self-flagellation to a kind of religious ritual by me

# Chronicles

NEWS OF THE PAST

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ERUSALEM, Sunday, August 5, 1492 ש"ס ה'תקצ"ב 8 אב 1492

## Columbus Sails West... for India

SETS OUT WITH 3 VESSELS, 88 MEN AND BLESSINGS OF THE SPANISH CROWN

By Our Correspondent in Spain

PALOS, Spain, August 3.—With Admiral Christopher Columbus in supreme charge, three vessels sailed from Palos harbour at dawn this morning, headed out across the Ocean of Darkness in quest of the western sea route to India and the lands of the Far East.

For Columbus, the event marked a personal triumph of no mean proportions, after ten years of nerve-racking negotiations and royal inquiries — now in Lisbon — in Madrid — endless delays and obstacles, and a series of heart-breaking disappointments and personal tragedy.

At the sailing time, on the plea that they preferred the risks and dangers of this expedition to the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition. The other two ships are caravels. The 50-ton *Pinta*, with 18 men, is under the command of its owner, Martin Alonso Pinzon; while the *Nina*, weighing some 40 tons, and also

manned by a crew of 18, is commanded by Martin's brother Vicente Yañez. All the vessels have been stocked by the Spanish Government with provisions for six months, but they will stop off, nevertheless, at the Canary Islands, for additional supplies and water, and any repairs that may prove necessary.

3,000 Miles West?

The voyage was finally sanctioned by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, in an official agreement signed and sealed on April 17 of this year. Under the terms of the agreement, Columbus was granted substantially what he had originally demanded, namely:

(1) the ranks of "Admiral of the Ocean" and Viceroy in all islands, seas and continents that he may discover;

(2) one-tenth of any precious metals that may

Postponed — because of Tisha B'Av?

Columbus' voyage was postponed by one day. Originally scheduled for August 2 — by a strange coincidence, the same day on which the last Jew had to leave Spain — the momentous journey to the Unknown West was re-scheduled, at Columbus' request, for August 3.

Some say this was no coincidence at all. August 2 was Tisha B'Av, the Jews' annual day of mourning for the destruction of the Temple and the loss of Jerusalem. It is reported that, among Columbus' crew, there are several Jews or former Jews, who felt that the Fast Day of Tisha B'Av was hardly an auspicious day for the start of so momentous a venture — and they may have persuaded their Captain to put off the departure by one day.

be found within his admiralty.

As Columbus (or Cristobal Colon, as he is called in Spain) has declared on many occasions, he fully expects to come upon the shores of India after a westward voyage of about 3,000 miles, and from there he intends to visit China and Japan, about which he has gathered a large store of data and other knowledge through Marco Polo's famous Book. Among Co-

Ovadiah of Bartenura:

## Emergency Aid for Spanish Refugees

By a Staff Writer

Rabbi Ovadia of Bartenura (Italy) yesterday called upon Jerusalem's Jewish community to lead the country in absorbing the expected flow of refugees from Spain.

Addressing a Saturday crowd of over 1,000 at the Nahmanides Synagogue in Jerusalem, Rabbi Ovadia, leader of the Jewish communities in the Holy Land, discussed the implications of the Spanish holocaust. His sermon was taken from the consolation prophecies of Isaiah.

Redemption at Hand?

"However heavily the Jews of Spain may have sinned," he said, "their punishment exceeded their deserts. Even those who

converted, voluntarily or by force, have died a martyr's death. It may well be that they have expiated our sins, and that the Day of Redemption is at hand."

"The first refugees from Spain have already arrived," he declared, "yet we have as yet done nothing to take care of their basic needs. There are no jobs available, and many of them are forced to live on handouts. Worse still, many have no roof over their heads. Housing must immediately be provided for them."

The Rabbi pointed out that Rabbi Moshe Barim-Ve'arba was on his way to Turkey to collect funds for local scholars. He suggested that these funds be shared with the Spanish refugees.

Mishna Commentary

Rabbi Ovadia of Bartenura himself came only seven years ago but was soon acknowledged as the leader of the entire Jewish community. He first made his home in Hebron. With the growth of the Jerusalem community, however, which by now comprises 200 families, he was asked to move here and take up the post of Rabbi. Rabbi Nathan Shulav of Egypt put his Jerusalem residence at his disposal.

Rabbi Ovadia is now working on an extensive commentary on the Mishna.

## NO QUOTA IN TURKEY

Says Bayezid

(Near East News)

CONSTANTINOPLE. — By

Personal Tour

Considering that the Jewish community of Constantinople

Expelled by Royal Edict

# LAST OF 300,000 JEWS QUIT SPAIN

## Deadline Timed to Coincide With Anniversary of Temple's Destruction

BARCELONA. — On the same day on which the Temple in Jerusalem, symbol of the Jewish people's national and spiritual independence, was twice laid waste, and on which, in the year 135, Beitar, the last stronghold of Bar-Kochba's freedom fighters, fell to the Romans, the greatest and most populous Jewish community in the Diaspora — the thousand-year-old community of Spain — came to an end.



Jewish delegation and Torquemada at the Spanish Court

Abrabanel Offered 300,000 D.

## Final Rescue Attempt Foiled by Torquemada

NAPLES.—Informed circles here state that, shortly before the signing of the expulsion edict, Don Yitzhak Abrabanel, after many previous efforts, had offered the Spanish royal couple 300,000 ducats for the 300,000 Jews due to be driven out.

## 'BURN THEM TO ASHES'

Says German Inquisitor

(Central European News)

COLOGNE.—Jacob Sprenger, head of the Dominican Order in Germany and its most popular Inquisitor, stated in the course of his last sermon at the local cathedral that, although the Inquisition has no executive functions and merely hands proved heretics over to the secular authorities, the ultimate goal is that the condemned should be

The deal was evidently about to be accepted by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, when Torquemada began literally waving his huge cross about.

"Judas Iscariot sold Christ for thirty pieces of silver," he screamed. "Your Highnesses are about to sell Him for 300,000 ducats. Here He is: take Him and sell Him!"

Putting down his cross on the table in front of the King, he got up and left.

The King was still in two minds, but the Queen shook her head. The offer was turned down without a further word being spoken.

The three-month term during which 300,000 Jews were supposed to "leave Spain forever" or convert to Christianity was over on July 31. At the last moment, it was extended to August 2, to coincide with the Jewish national mourning day, Tisha B'Av — the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av.

Signed by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (commonly known among the Jews as "Jezebel," after the infamous Biblical queen) in the Alhambra Palace in Granada on March 31, the expulsion order was published only on May 1, apparently through the intervention of the two Jewish Cabinet Ministers, Abraham Senior and Don Yitzhak Abrabanel. (Text of Edict — P. 3.)

Two Days' Grace

The exodus began at the end of May and was supposed to be completed by July 31, but at the last moment two days' grace were granted. The last refugee ships left Valencia and Barcelona on the ninth of Av. Several thousand refugees who had embarked on pirate ships were returned to Barcelona, where their stay was extended by special permit.

Thus it was not until August 2, 1492, the Ninth of Av, that the church bells of Castile and Aragon rang their joyous peal and Thomas Torquemada, the Grand Inquisitor, could conduct his thanksgiving prayers in the Cathedral of Saragossa.

The exact number of refugees cannot yet be ascertained. Don Yitzhak Abrabanel's estimate is about 300,000.

On the other hand, Abraham Senior, who was baptized three weeks ago and now bears the name Fernando Nunez Coronel, sets their number at only 200,000. According to him many thousands decided at the last moment to be baptized so as not to lose their property or have to part from their relatives who had preceded them into the Church or had married non-Jews.

Conversions Decline

From Jewish sources it is reported that Senior's figures are unreliable. He is obviously interested in boosting the number of those who submitted to baptism, to help justify his own conversion. In actual fact, it appears that after the publication of the expulsion order the number of conversions declined. No more than 10,000 Jews converted under this threat — a negligible number considering the widespread assimilation of the Spanish community during the past hundred years.

## Jews Leave With Song and Dance

VALENCIA. — During the past two weeks, this port city has been the scene of an unusual spectacle. Over 12,000 Jews embarked here bound for North Africa, with the Christian population gleefully looking on with obvious expectation at the departure of the "infidels."

Not so.

In their provisional quarters along the shore — in boats and in tents — the refugees organized communal singing and dancing that went on all night.

## PORTUGAL OFFERS HAVEN TO 120,000 DEPORTEES

By Our Correspondent

LISBON. — So far, 120,000 Jewish refugees from Spain have been offered permanent haven in return for the sub-