

hands, the map I happened upon in the mercy and ministry call of Hashem as a young man, the treasure map that is real, and eternal, and leads us to the buried Pearl of Great Price.

Mt 13:44 is a parable about a treasure buried by someone in a field, then found by someone else, who immediately reburies or hides it in that field so he can go and sell everything he has in order to purchase that priceless field, the great worth of which he has just discovered. The treasure I found in 1970 I have not reburied but, in the mercy of G-d, the eternal treasure once found in the *New English Bible* in 1970, is now eternal treasure rediscovered in *The Orthodox Jewish Bible* in 2002. And what a treasure it is! It is worth more to me now than then, a treasure of such weight of glory, a priceless *matmon* (Hebrew for “treasure” in Genesis 43:23). Is it true that it costs you everything? Yes, I have known poverty as an open-air minister for 30 years; but I was being tested during that pre-publication “trial period” to see how priceless the Bible was to me before G-d would grant me the privilege and trust me with translating it. Trials can be tests before privileged promotion.

And what a privilege! And how unworthy we are. As we prepare to publish, I have begun to go over every verse, making sure not one is missing from the **OJB**. And as my eyes and fingers go over ancient Bible manuscripts, I have the feeling a miser must have when he counts his gold coins. But we are not being miserly with the Word of G-d; we are making it available free-of-charge on the Internet at <http://www.afii.org> to enrich the whole world and you are helping us.

G-d checked this Bible Society ministry into that [afii.org](http://www.afii.org) Website on Labor Day weekend 1995, just as He checked me into the Wishing Well Motel in Boynton Beach Florida on Labor Day weekend 1978, even though I was homeless and had only 23 cents. After that, G-d checked this ministry into its first New York City office on Labor Day weekend 1981. Now this weekend, Labor Day weekend 2002, I am writing this as a Preface to the **OJB** as I send this Holy Bible manuscript in for publication! What Labor Day miracles! And what a privilege to labor for Hashem! And on our Website people all over the world are starting to print their own personal copy of the **OJB**. Baruch Hashem for meeting us just now, at the perfect time, with His rich store of technology that He has readied for His time! Little did I know what G-d was planning for my life when, as a young man in 1970, a very lost young prodigal son, my hand reached curiously for the brand new hard-bound copy of the *New English Bible* just published in England and gleaming at me with its bright red jacket cover and crisp clean pages! How blessed I have been in that one never-to-be-forgotten encounter in a Bookstore with the Bible, when G-d had humbled me to the point that I was willing and teachable at last to see what He might have to say to my contritely broken life. In Walter Elwell’s definitive *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, (Second Edition, p.765-766), there is an article “Messianic Judaism,” which refers to my book on the subject. Consequently, this translation, the **OJB**, when it appears, will be seen to arise out of the mainstream of believers and not the cult fringes or the heretical periphery. This too is the L-rd’s doing. If you think not, visit my house in Oakland City, Indiana, sometime, and, while there, ask yourself just how such a translation as this could have ever come forth from such an unexpected place without an unspeakable amount of help from the L-rd (1C 1:27). But I also thank the L-rd for his unsung workers who helped me format this translation on computer, an extended list that space will not allow room for, but whose names are inscribed in the Sefer HaChayyim referred to in *Moshiach’s Letter through the Shlichah Sha’ul to the Brit Chadasha Kehillah in Philippi*, chapter 4, verse 3. May the Holy Name of Eloheinu be praised forever! And may you, standing there looking at this Bible in that “Read-More Bookstore” where you are, yes, may you also have a wonderful adventure just as I have had in my life with the Word of G-d. And may a great blessing overtake you, too, such that you also shall not be able to outrun it. And, most importantly, may Hashem bless you in Moshiach Tzidkeinu ad olam! Omein!

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Brooklyn, New York
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