

What The Christian Owes the Jew

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Chapter One - THE REMARKABLE JEW

Comparatively few Christians realize how much they owe the Jew. It is my aim to set forth in succeeding pages enough history of the Jews to cause the doubting, indifferent Christians to realize that the followers of JESUS CHRIST are indebted to the Jewish race almost beyond belief.

I have preached scores of radio sermons during the past sixteen years in which I have pointed out the importance of the Jew's contribution to our civilization and culture and his destination in the light of Biblical prophecy. This treatise is largely a compilation of the highlights of several radio messages.

I shall endeavor to make clear that, as a race, and as individuals, the Jew is most remarkable.

Also, that these industrious, clever people, scattered in every country known to man, are GOD's chosen people.

Furthermore, it shall be shown that all colossal efforts, both past and present, to destroy the Jew are doomed to failure.

Likewise, it will be made clear, I trust, that GOD's greatest sign is the Miracle of the Jews.

Then I shall deal with the subject of What is Happening to Israel and the Holy Land Today [1950].

In conclusion, I shall endeavor to tell the ultimate destination of the Jew, or What Will Happen to Israel When CHRIST Returns. The sum total should make clear what the Christian owes the Jew.

A Jew is a person who believes in the religion called Judaism. Also, a person is a Jew who does not practice Judaism, if he is born of Jewish parents. Jews have many things in common besides the Jewish religion, one of which is their long history.

Abraham is known as the father of the Jewish people. Born in Mesopotamia about 2,000 B.C., he left his homeland and traveled to Canaan, the country we now call Palestine. He was known as

Abraham the Hebrew and that is one reason why his descendants are sometimes referred to as Hebrews instead of Jews. One of the first men to worship the One GOD was Abraham. His grandson, Jacob, also was called Israel. The twelve tribes which later made up the Jewish people were the descendants of Israel's twelve sons. Hence, the Jews are often referred to as the Children of Israel, or Israelites.

For a long time the Jews were slaves of the Egyptians. Their great leader, Moses, led them out of bondage about the year 1400 B.C. Jews to this day celebrate the festival of the Passover each year in memory of their being set free from slavery. For forty years the Jews wandered in the desert between Egypt and Palestine. They fought many battles and endured cruel hardships. During that time they received, at the hands of Moses on Mount Sinai, the Ten Commandments from GOD.

Following the death of Moses, Joshua led them across the River Jordan into Canaan. They conquered that land, but it took them more than 200 years. During this time their leaders, called judges, were such men and women as Gideon, Deborah and Sampson. Later, the great prophet Samuel became the leader of his people. He and others who came after him tried to keep the Jews loyal to the worship of the One GOD. There were many idol worshipers who tried to win the Jews to their religion.

When the twelve tribes united to form a monarchy, Saul was chosen as the first king. Then followed David, who led the Jewish armies against the Philistines, and who wrote many of the Psalms. His son, Solomon, built the first temple at Jerusalem for the worship of GOD. When Solomon died, political and economic differences split the kingdom. Ten tribes formed an independent country in the northern part of Palestine called the kingdom of Israel. The two other tribes of Benjamin and Judah formed the kingdom of Judah in the south. These people were known as Judeans and the word Jew comes from this term.

Followed then the destruction of the northern kingdom by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. The southern kingdom of Judah lasted only a short time longer. The Babylonian armies captured Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and burned down the Temple. Many Jews were left in Judea but some were taken to Babylonia as captives. These Jews spent many years as captives or slaves in Babylon. Ezekiel the prophet encouraged them to look toward the day when they would return to their homeland. In 538 B.C. the Persian emperor, Cyrus, allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Ezra and Nehemiah were great leaders of the following period during which they helped strengthen the Jewish religion and nation.

Under the Persian rule the Jews enjoyed great independence, and even after Alexander the Great defeated the Persians in 332 B.C., they continued to live in comparative freedom. After the death of Alexander the Ptolemies of Egypt took over rulership of Palestine and they continued the policy of Alexander. The Jews lived in comfort and peace for the most part until 168 B.C., when the Syrian ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes, attempted to force them to cease worshipping the One GOD. Refusing to bow down to idols, Jewish patriots under the leadership of Judah the Maccabee defeated the Syrian emperor's army. Once again the Jews set up a kingdom under the Maccabees and this lasted for about a hundred years.

Quarrels between rival parties weakened the Jews until they were forced to accept Roman rule in 63 B.C. Roman puppet rulers governed Palestine in such cruel fashion that the Jews revolted in

68 A.D. The revolution failed, however, for the Romans captured Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple in 70 A.D. This put an end to an independent Jewish state until modern times.

Even before the Romans had destroyed Jerusalem, Jews had left the land of Israel to settle in other countries. After the destruction of their native land they scattered to the four corners of the earth, still loyal for the most part to their religion.

The history of the Jews in Europe during the Middle Ages is one of persecution and suffering. Religious bigotry and intolerance was rampant and the Jews were oppressed. Many innocent Jews were massacred during the Crusades, sometimes under the name of religion. In many countries laws were passed which kept Jews from owning land, in others they were forced to live in segregated sections of cities called ghettos.

After several hundred years of unhappiness in Europe the lot of the Jews started to improve. The French and the American revolution spurred people to more interest in the rights of liberty which belong to every man. By the middle 1800's they were recognized as free and equal citizens over much of Western Europe. One of the outstanding Jewish leaders in the battle for freedom was Moses Mendelsohn, the philosopher. Once the Jews were given the privilege of sharing fully in the life of the countries where they resided, they began to make contributions to the scientific and literary progress of mankind. From those days until the sordid era of Adolf Hitler the Jews played an important part in the development of European culture.

Jews have had an active part in the development of the United States ever since the discovery of America. Several sailed with Columbus on his first historic voyage, and according to accounts of that voyage, the man who acted as interpreter for Columbus, Luis de Torres, a Jew, was the first member of the expedition to set foot on American soil. Long years of suffering had given these oppressed people a keen appreciation of freedom, so that when the Revolutionary War got under way they were eager to win American independence. Many fought with Washington and one of the great patriots was Haym Salomon, who contributed his entire fortune to the cause of the colonial army.

Although some discrimination against Jews still exists in the United States, yet the religious persecution of Europe has never been allowed to exist in this country.

Individually and as a people, the Jews have given much to our civilization and culture. Almost the entire Bible was written by Jews and it was the Jewish prophets Isaiah and Hosea who, almost three thousand years ago, proclaimed the goal of universal peace and brotherhood.

JESUS was a Jew. Likewise, the apostles and most of the early Christians were Jews. Many notable achievements have been made by Jews in all fields of human endeavor.

The Jew was miraculous in his origin. He was miraculous in his universal dispersal and he is miraculous today in his greatness.

In World War I a Jew did perhaps as much to win that epic struggle as any other one person. His name is Dr. Chaim Weizmann. This great chemist and Zionist leader discovered synthetic acetone which was used in making ammunition. Some think he actually won the war for the allies. He was elected president of the world Zionist organization in 1920. In 1948 he became

provisional president of the new state of Israel in Palestine.

In World War II Lise Meitner, a Jewish woman scientist, is given credit for publishing the first notes on uranium splitting which made the atom bomb possible. She had fled from Hitler's Reich to Copenhagen. Otto Hahn, German chemist, had been repeating experiments performed by his onetime colleague, Lise Meitner. He succeeded in identifying barium. When Meitner saw his report she guessed that the huge uranium atom had been broken in two nearly equal fragments. She passed this idea on to Denmark's great atomist, Niels Bohr, who was just about to leave for Princeton. Bohr told United States experimenters about it and they rushed to their atom-smashing machines and quickly confirmed it. This was in 1939. Then it was that Meitner, the Jewess, published her uranium-splitting report. She called it fission, a new term for physics, although it was commonly used in biology.

But it was Albert Einstein, recognized as the greatest living scientist, who wrote what is perhaps the most important equation ever devised by man. Stripped of its scientific terms, it means simply that energy is equal to mass multiplied by the square of the velocity of light. Without trying to get too deep into scientific discussion, it can be said that Einstein's theory of relativity and his momentous equation actually made possible the production of the atom bomb. Einstein is a Jew. So, a Jew and a Jewess made the greatest contributions to World War II, in the opinion of many scientists.

And it was only a few days before these lines were written [1950] that Einstein offered the world a new theory seeking to unlock the mystery of the relationship between gravitation and electromagnetism. The theory was disclosed at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in New York. The United Press dispatch which announced this, on Dec. 27, 1949, stated: "It is a complex theory that Einstein says he has not used laboratory experiments yet to verify it. If it proves correct, it should enable scientists in time to solve many riddles of nature." The dispatch goes on to say: "It was Einstein's first theory concerning relationship between energy, mass and light, proclaimed back in 1905, that ultimately pointed the way to atomic energy."

So, we see that the Jew in modern times is in the forefront of scientific, and cultural achievements. He also excels in the fields of literature, medicine, history, philosophy, astronomy and philanthropy.

Disraeli, England's master statesman, was a Jew, Sarah Bernhardt, foremost actress of her day, was a Jewess. Others are Bernard Baruch, American financier, philanthropist and friend of presidents; Dr. Simon Flexner, American pathologist and director of laboratories, Rockefeller Institute of medical research for thirty-two years; His brother, Dr. Abraham Flexner, educator and author; Irving Berlin, American composer of popular songs; Walter Winchell, columnist and radio commentator; Jack Benny, comedian; Walter Lippman, leading newspaper columnist; August von Wassermann, German bacteriologist and discoverer of the "Wassermann Test." The list is almost endless. Henry Morgenthau, Sr., American diplomat, and his son Henry Morgenthau, Jr., who was secretary of the treasury under Franklin D. Roosevelt. We could go on and on naming outstanding Jews who have wielded great influence in modern times. The top men in the entertainment world -- stage and motion pictures, particularly, are Jews, as well as many of the biggest bankers of the world. We do not mean to imply that all those we have mentioned, such as Winchell and Benny, are in the same category of greatness as Einstein,

Flexner and Baruch, but we are trying to show that they are, at least, leaders in their fields of endeavor.

~ end of chapter 1 ~
