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"The Meaning of Judaism in a Cosmic Sense." 1979-1980.

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"THE MEANING OF JUDAISM IN A COSMIC SENSE"

An Address Delivered By

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

to the

New York U.J.A. Federation

Invitational Mission

AMERICAN JEWISH

Jerusalem, ISRAEL

ARCHIVES

12 October 1979



אויב' ענדג א'י' בקר י'מ י'ש' : א'י'א ק'מ'ר א'ה'נ'א א'ל צ'מ'ר ;  
א'י'א א'ל'י'ו ק'י'ג ב'ש'מ'א מ'ל'אכ'מ'א א'מ'ר ע'ש'ד , א'י'ל'מ ג'ל'מ ק'ש'מ'א מ'ל'א מ'ל'אכ'מ'א  
א'מ'ר ע'ש'ד ; א'י'ג'ק א'ל'מ'י'ע א'מ'ר א'מ'ר ב'ק'ש'מ'א , א'י'ק'צ'ע א'מ'ר , ז' א'ז'מ  
מ'ל'א מ'ל'אכ'מ'א , ו'א'ג ב'ד'א ו'א'ל'י'מ א'ש'מ'ר .

"AND IT WAS EVENING, AND IT WAS MORNING, THE SIXTH DAY; AND THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH AND ALL THEIR HOSTS WERE COMPLETED; AND THE LORD FINISHED BY THE SEVENTH DAY ALL THE WORK WHICH HE HAD DONE, AND HE RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL THE WORK HE HAD DON, AND HE SANCTIFIED THE SEVENTH DAY, FOR ON IT HE RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK, WHICH THE LORD HAD CREATED AND DONE."

AMERICAN JEWISH  
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SO SAY WE EVERY SABBATH EVE BEFORE WE BLESS THE WINE, AND IN THUS HALLOWING THE SABBATH, WE ARE REALLY HALLOWING THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE, WHICH ULTIMATELY PLACED YOU AND ME ON THIS EARTH. CREATION -- HOW DID IT HAPPEN? THERE ARE STORIES IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS WHICH OUR FATHERS SANG AROUND THE CAMPFIRES IN THE WIND-WHIPPED JUDEAN DESERT AND THE SOFT SAMARIAN MOUNTAINS, IN THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI AND THE ROLLING HILLS OF MOAB; THE SHEPHERDS<sup>SANG</sup> AND THE WARRIORS AND THE WEAVERS AND THE TILLERS, ~~ALL SANG~~ AS THEY TOLD THE ANCIENT POEMS AND SAGAS WHICH HAD COME DOWN THROUGH ALL THE CENTURIES FROM THEIR FATHERS WHO BROUGHT THE STORIES OF HOW THE ONE AND ONLY GOD -- EL SHADDAI, ~~AND~~ DONOY TSEVAT<sup>D</sup> -- HAD CREATED THE EARTH AND MAN AND BEASTS AND FLOWERS OUT OF THE CHAOS OF NOTHINGNESS. THESE HEBREWS OF OLD WERE GIANTS OF MIND AND SOUL FOR THEY WRESTLED WITH THE FACT OF THEIR EXISTENCE, AND CAME TO PERCEIVE, AS NO OTHER CONTEMPORARY DID, THAT THE FORCE WHICH CREATED THEM WAS NOT IN A STONE OR A TREE, NOT IN THUNDER OR THE SUN, NOT IN FIRE OR THE WIND, NOT IN A BULL OR A CAT, BUT RATHER IN A UNITY OF ALL FORCES AND ALL POWERS WHICH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIFE AND NATURE. THIS UNITY THEY CALLED GOD, NOT GODS,



AND THEN SPENT A THOUSAND YEARS TRYING TO DEFINE THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THAT GOD AND TO THEIR FELLOW HUMANS. THE HEBREW SAGA OF THE CREATION OF THE WORLD FULFILLED MAN'S NEED TO UNDERSTAND HIMSELF AND HIS ENVIRONMENT.

THERE IS ANOTHER STORY OF CREATION WHICH TELLS OF A HUGE EXPLOSION 20 BILLION YEARS AGO THAT SENT <sup>GASES SWIRLING THROUGH EMPTINESS.</sup> ENERGY DRIVING ATOMS TO AND FRO IN THE BLACKNESS, DUST CLINGING TO MOTÉ OF DUST, MAGNETISM AND GRAVITY PULLING THROUGH THE SPACES WITHOUT END, FOREVER AND EVER, OVER BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF YEARS UNTIL GALAXIES AND CONSTELLATIONS AND STAR SYSTEMS SLOWLY FORMED. BECAUSE OF THE INCREDIBLE DISTANCES OF TIME AND SPACE, THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING AS YET WHETHER WE ARE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE -- BUT IT IS ALREADY REASONABLY CLEAR <sup>THAT</sup> WE ARE ALONE IN OUR LITTLE CORNER. THIS TINY PLANET HAS BEEN SPEEDING, TRAPPED IN ITS ORBIT FOR MORE THAN 4 BILLION YEARS, AND DURING MOST OF THIS TIME, THE SPACESHIP WE CALL EARTH WAS FORMING ITSELF, CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE AND WATER AND CONTINENTS AND MINERALS AND FINALLY LIFE. ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO THE DINOSAURS CAME AND WENT (THEY DIED OUT ABOUT 60 MILLION YEARS AGO) -- AND ONLY A FEW SECONDS AGO A MAN-LIKE CREATURE APPEARED (ABOUT  $\frac{1}{2}$  MILLION YEARS AGO) -- AND ONLY A <sup>MILLISECOND</sup> ~~MILLI-SECOND~~ AGO, FULLY-DEVELOPED MAN INVENTED WRITING (JUST 5,000 YEARS AGO) AND HISTORY BEGAN. THE HUMAN BEING FINALLY BECAME IMMORTAL, BECAUSE AT LAST HE COULD PRESERVE KNOWLEDGE BY WRITING IT DOWN AND IT WOULD ENDURE BEYOND HIS DEATH, PASSED ON TO NOURISH FUTURE GENERATIONS. AMONG THE <sup>VERY</sup> FIRST HISTORIC MEN WERE THE HEBREW TRIBES -- AND OF ALL MEN WHO STOOD AT THE BEGINNING, WE ARE THE OLDEST SURVIVORS. ALL OTHERS HAVE PERISHED OR METAMORPHOSED.



IN THIS INSIGNIFICANT SPECK OF SPACE CALLED THE SOLAR SYSTEM TUCKED INTO THE EDGE OF A MINOR GALAXY CALLED THE MILKY WAY, THERE ENDLESSLY SPINS THIS TINY PLANET, 800 TIMES SMALLER THAN SATURN, 1,000 TIMES SMALLER THAN JUPITER, THE ONLY PLANET POSSESSED OF LIFE. WE ARE ALONE, AT LEAST UNTIL WE REACH OTHER STAR SYSTEMS, AND IN OUR LONELINESS ON THIS SPACESHIP EARTH, WE THINK OF THE MIRACLE OF DUST AND GASSES AND CHEMICALS CULMINATING IN MAN. IT IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE TO REALIZE THAT AFTER MAN PASSED THROUGH ALL HIS MILLIONS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTIONARY STAGES OF PRE-HISTORY AND FINALLY REACHED THE HISTORIC PRESENT, OF ALL THE TRIBES AND NATIONS WHO WERE FORMED AND STRUGGLED AND DISSOLVED, WE, THE HEBREWS ARE THE OLDEST, IN TERMS OF BEING DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF OUR ANCESTORS, SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE, LIVING IN THE SAME LAND. WHO ARE WE? WHERE DO WE FIT IN THE SCHEME OF PURPOSE?

WHERE ARE WE -- HEBREWS, JEWS, ISRAELITES -- GOING?

NOT LONG AGO, LAND WAS COVERED WITH ICE, BUT FINALLY THE LONG AGE OF ICE EASED ITS GRIP -- BEGAN TO RETREAT NORTHWARD -- AND WARMING WINDS SWEEP ACROSS SOUTHWESTERN ASIA, CARRYING SEEDS OF WILD WHEAT AND BARLEY. SMALL BANDS OF HUNTERS ROAMED THE STEPPES AND HILLS STALKING DEER, GAZELLES, WILD SHEEP AND GOATS -- SEARCHING FOR WHATEVER SUSTENANCE NATURE COULD PROVIDE. THEY DIFFERED LITTLE FROM THEIR HOMINOID PREDECESSORS WHO HAD WANDERED OVER PARTS OF AFRICA AND ASIA FOR <sup>TWO OR THREE</sup> ~~HALF~~ A MILLION YEARS. THE TIME WAS <sup>JUST YESTERDAY.</sup> ABOUT 10,000 B.C. AND AS THE ICE RETREATED ONE OF THE GREAT REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES WAS ABOUT TO OCCUR. MAN WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE FROM A FOOD-GATHERER TO FOOD-PRODUCER; FROM HUNTER TO FARMER; FROM NOMAD TO SETTLER. BUILDING SETTLEMENTS, STAYING IN ONE PLACE, WAITING FOR THE CROPS TO MATURE WOULD LIBERATE HIM FROM ETERNAL WANDERING AND OPEN THE



FUTURE OF CIVILIZATION. THE FIRST SETTLERS WERE CALLED NATUFIANS AND THEIR HOME WAS IN THE CAVES OF THE CARMEL RANGE, SOUTH OF HAIFA. "ABEL WAS A KEEPER OF SHEEP AND CAIN A TILLER OF THE GROUND," SAYS THE BIBLE. NEITHER ONE WAS A WANDERING HUNTER. BY 8,000 B.C.E. BESIDE A SPRING NEAR THE DEAD SEA, THE FIRST TOWN TOOK ROOT. STONE WALLS AND A TOWER 30 FT. HIGH PROTECTED A POPULATION OF ABOUT 2,500 SOULS IN THIS TOWN CALLED JERICHO -- <sup>JUST A FEW MILES FROM HERE --</sup> THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS INHABITED SITE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

FOOD WAS GROWN BEYOND THE NEEDS OF THE MOMENT AND STORED FOR THE FUTURE. THUS MAN COULD TURN AND LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND HIM, BEGIN TO FASHION TOOLS, THEN ARTIFACTS, THEN COOKING UTENSILS AND CLOTHING AND BUILDINGS AND ORNAMENTS AND RELIGIOUS OBJECTS -- AND THE MARCH OF CIVILIZATION WAS BEGUN.

BY THE YEAR 5,000 B.C. THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION HAD SPREAD EASTWARD TO THE TIGRIS-EUPHRATES VALLEY AND THERE ANOTHER GREAT INNOVATION SHAPED THE FUTURE: WATER WAS DIRECTED FROM THE NATURAL CHANNELS OF THE WIDE RIVERS INTO A VAST IRRIGATION NETWORK WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE FIRST GREAT EMPIRE OF HUMAN HISTORY -- SUMER. ITS FERTILE SOIL BORE GREAT CITIES, UR, FROM WHICH ABRAHAM'S FAMILY SPRANG, AND BABYLON AND MANY OTHER POPULOUS CITY-STATES THAT FORMED THE WORLD'S OLDEST CIVILIZATION.

TOWNS PROLIFERATED, THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM SPREAD, KINGS EMERGED, TRADE ROUTES OPENED, SHIPS RANGED UP THE RIVERS, WOOL WAS WOVEN, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WERE TRADED; POTTERY WAS FIRED; WARS WERE FOUGHT EVERY SPRING.

IN ANOTHER RIVER VALLEY TO THE WEST, THE NILE, THE SAME PATTERN WAS EMERGING -- AND MEN SWARMED OUT OF THE DRY SAHARA INTO THE LUSHNESS OF THE NILE VALLEY TO BECOME THE FORERUNNERS OF THE FANTASTIC EGYPTIAN DYNASTIES SOON TO BE BORN.



FOR TWO MILLENIA, DURING THE PERIODS KNOWN AS NEOLITHIC AND CHALCHOLITHIC, THE TWO RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS GREW AND FLOURISHED, BUT HAD LITTLE CONTACT OR INFLUENCE, ONE UPON ANOTHER.

SUDDENLY, AROUND THE YEAR 3,000 B.C., THE SINGLE MOST EXPLOSIVE FACT IN MAN'S HISTORY OCCURRED, AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS THE TAMING OF FIRE -- PERHAPS MORE<sup>SO</sup>: THE INVENTION OF A SYSTEM OF WRITING BY WHICH TO RECORD EVENTS, TRANSACTIONS, PLANS. THIS IS THE TRUE BEGINNING OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT AND IT TOOK PLACE ONLY 5,000 YEARS AGO. (IS IT CONCEIVABLE? FOR HALF A MILLION YEARS A HUMANOID FIGURE IN NATURE'S EVOLUTIONARY SCALE HAD ROAMED THE EARTH, AND ONLY 5,000 YEARS AGO DID HE LEARN TO PUT HIS THOUGHTS DOWN IN SYMBOLS SO THAT HE COULD COMMUNICATE ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE BEYOND HIS OWN MORTALITY.)

THE EVENT OCCURRED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN SUMERIA AND IN EGYPT. IN SUMERIA IT WAS A CUNEIFORM SCRIPT -- I.E., <sup>TRIANGULAR SHAPED SIGNS</sup> WEDGES<sup>A</sup> IMPRINTED INTO SOFT CLAY TABLETS, OR CARVED INTO STONE, AND A NUMERICAL SYSTEM BASED ON 60 WHICH PERSISTS UNTIL TODAY IN OUR SYSTEM OF SECONDS AND MINUTES. IN EGYPT IT WAS PICTURES, CALLED HIEROGLYPHS, DRAWN ON PAPYRUS, OR CARVED INTO STONE. WHAT A FANTASTIC COINCIDENCE THAT MAN'S LEAP FORWARD SHOULD TAKE PLACE FROM THESE <sup>TWO</sup> WIDELY SEPARATE CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION AT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME. THE INVENTION OF AN ALPHABET WAS TO WAIT ANOTHER 1500 YEARS, WHEN THE PHOENICIANS CREATED A SERIES OF LETTERS, REPLICATED LATER IN THE HEBREW AND GREEK ALPHABETS, WHICH FORMED WORDS -- THUS REPLACING THE CLUMSY WEDGES AND PICTURES, TRANSFORMING WRITING INTO A SIMPLIFIED AND UNIVERSALLY AVAILAB~~LE~~ SKILL.

THINK OF HOW NEAR WE HUMANS ARE TO OUR HISTORIC BEGINNINGS. EVERY CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT OF MODERN MAN HAS BEEN CONCEIVED AND EXECUTED AND TRANSMITTED IN THIS MERE BLINK OF <sup>FIVE MILLENIA</sup> TIME -- ALL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES, GOVERNMENT AND LAW, ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING, EMPIRES AND ARMIES, CITIES



AND MACHINES, POEMS AND RELIGIONS -- ALL, ALL ARE ONLY 5,000 YEARS OLD. IF WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO MIGHTILY, THIS NEAR TO OUR BEGINNINGS, HOW FAR ARE WE FROM OUR TRUE POTENTIALITIES? WHAT WILL MAN HAVE DONE 5,000 YEARS FROM NOW? WHAT PROFOUND CONQUESTS OF TIME AND SPACE AND MIND AND BODY WILL HAVE TAKEN HIM TO WHAT ABSOLUTELY INCONCEIVABLE HEIGHTS OF CREATIVITY?

*finish  
omit  
start  
again*

THE RETREAT OF THE ICE WAS ONLY 10 MILLENIA AGO, AND OF THE 5,000 YEARS THAT MAN MAY BE SAID TO HAVE A WRITTEN HISTORY, THE HEBREW TRIBES HAVE BEEN ON THE STAGE FOR ALMOST FOUR THOUSAND. THE OTHER ORIGINAL PLAYERS HAVE LONG SINCE DISAPPEARED. THIRTY EGYPTIAN DYNASTIES ARE RECORDED, THEN THE PHAROAHS SLOWLY DWINDLED IN POWER AND SIGNIFICANCE. THE SUMERIANS AND AKKADIANS AND BABYLONIANS AND ASSYRIANS HAVE LONG SINCE BLOWN TO DUST. WE ARE STILL HERE. WHAT MAGIC LIES IN US? WHAT SECRET SUSTAINS US? WHO ARE WE? WHY ARE WE HERE? IS IT PURE ACCIDENT -- OR WERE WE CHOSEN FOR SOME PURPOSE?

THE SECRET OF OUR SURVIVAL LIES IN THE SENSE OF SELECTION. REVELATION AND CHOSEN-NESS ARE THE HALLMARKS OF OUR DESTINY. EITHER GOD CHOSE US OR WE CHOSE HIM. PERHAPS THAT IS SAYING THE SAME THING. AND IF THE CONCEPT OF GOD IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE ONE FOR POST-HIROSHIMA AND POST-AUSHWITZ MAN, THEN TRANSLATE IT INTO THE PHRASE "HISTORICAL DESTINY." IF YOU CANNOT BELIEVE THAT WE WERE CHOSEN BY GOD, THEN PERHAPS YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT THE HEBREWS, BY THEIR OWN FLASH OF GENIUS INSIGHT, CHOSE TO BELIEVE IN A MORAL UNIVERSE, AND BY THIS INSIGHT WERE SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS WHO ACCEPTED BLIND DETERMINISM AS THE FATE OF MAN. ANCIENT MAN WAS AFRAID OF HIS GODS AND TRIED TO PLACATE THEM WITH ALL MANNER OF SACRIFICES AND GIFTS. ONLY HEBREW MAN SPOKE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, MORAL CONDUCT, ETHICAL IMPERATIVE. THE HIGHEST DUTY WAS TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF ONE'S FELLOW HUMAN, EVEN MORE SO THAN ONE'S OBLIGATIONS TO THE LORD.



WHEN THE PROPHET ISAIAH POSED THE QUESTION -- WHAT SORT OF WORSHIP DOES GOD REALLY WANT? -- HE OFFERED GOD'S OWN ANSWER -- "THIS IS THE SACRIFICE THAT I DESIRE: THAT YOU LOOSE THE FETTERS OF INJUSTICE, BREAK EVERY YOKE AND SET FREE THOSE THAT ARE CRUSHED... ~~IT IS~~ THAT YOU SHARE YOUR FOOD WITH THE STARVING AND BRING THE HOMELESS POOR INTO YOUR OWN HOMES, COVER THE NAKED AND NOT IGNORE THE NEEDS OF YOUR OWN KIN." THE PASSAGE IS SO BASIC TO THE JEWISH RELIGION THAT IT IS READ ON THE HOLIEST DAY OF THE YEAR -- YOM KIPPUR.

THUS, THE HEBREW PEOPLE, LIVING AT A TIME OF BRUTALITY, SAVAGERY, TORTURE, LIVING AT A TIME WHEN HUGE EMPIRES WERE FORGED ON PILES OF CORPSES, LIVING AT A TIME WHEN THE GODS WERE INDIFFERENT TO MAN'S FATE, CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE UNIVERSE QUITE DIFFERENTLY AND DEFINED IT AS A PLACE WHERE MAN'S GREATEST GOOD WAS TO ACHIEVE A SENSE OF MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THAT MAN COULD DO SO. BELIEF IN MAN'S GOODNESS, HIS ABILITY TO OVERCOME THE EVIL SIDE OF HIS NATURE, IS CARDINAL IN HEBREW THOUGHT.

THIS IDEA ~~burned~~ BURNED IN ABRAHAM, WHO LEFT THE RIVER VALLEY OF HIS BIRTH, CAME ACROSS THE CLEANSING DESERT, BROKE WITH HIS PAST BY BREAKING HIS FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD IDOLS, AND TURNED TO THE NEW LAND WHICH WOULD BE THE HOLY GROUND OF HIS PEOPLE DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY. THE TIME WAS 1,750 B.C.E. FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS HE AND HIS SONS AND THEIR SONS STRUGGLED TO SHAPE THEIR IDEAS AND VALUES, FALLING INTO SLAVERY IN EGYPT, THE EGYPT OF DARK TOMBS BURIED DEEP INTO HEAVY MAUSOLEUMS OF STONE CALLED PYRAMIDS, UNTIL THEY SUDDENLY SPRANG FORTH INTO FREEDOM, LED BY MOSES TO THAT BLINDING ENCOUNTER AT THE MOUNTAIN WHICH SHAPED THEM INTO THE GOD-INTOXICATED NATION WHICH WAS DESTINED TO TEACH MORALITY TO THE WORLD.



WHEN THE COMMANDMENTS OF MORALITY WERE ENGRAVED ON THE STONES IN THAT 13TH CENTURY B.C.E, WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE REST OF THE WORLD? MONGOLS FROM SIBERIA, THE ANCESTORS OF THE INDIANS, WERE EXTERMINATING BISON IN THE WESTERN PLAINS OF AMERICA AND DRESSING IN THEIR SKINS; PICTS AND DRUIDS ON THE ENGLISH ISLAND WERE PAINTING THEMSELVES BLUE AND BUILDING STONE FORMATIONS TO WORSHIP THE SUN; GERMANIC TRIBES IN NORTHERN EUROPE HUDDLED IN CAVES; ROMAN AND GREEK CULTURE WAS NOT TO BE BORN FOR YET HUNDREDS OF YEARS; THE CHINESE HAD INVENTED PAPER BUT <sup>CONFUCIUS WASN'T</sup> ~~THE GREAT~~ <sup>TO BE BORN FOR ANOTHER 800 YEARS</sup> ~~DYNASTIES STILL LAY IN THE FUTURE.~~ MOSES AND THE HEBREWS WERE ALSO A ROUGH-LOOKING, ROUGH-SPEAKING TRIBE, BUT THEY WERE INFUSED WITH AN INCREDIBLE SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG, AND BELIEVED THAT THEIR ACTUAL PHYSICAL SUCCESS OR FAILURE, IN CROPS, IN WAR, IN WEALTH AND IN HEALTH WOULD DEPEND ON OBEYING GOD'S WORD WHICH DEMANDED JUSTICE TO BE DONE BY ALL MEN TO ALL MEN. THE HEBREWS INVENTED MORALITY -- AND THUS PROPOSED AN ETHICAL UNIVERSE IN WHICH THE POOREST AND MEANEST <sup>MAN</sup> COULD HOPE TO LIVE OUT HIS LIFE UNAFRAID. IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE BURST OF GENIUS -- REPRESENTING DOWN TO THIS DAY THE RAISON D'ETRE OF THE HEBREW PEOPLE. JUSTICE, JUSTICE SHALT THOU PURSUE, SAID ISAIAH. -- AND IF YOU WERE ASKED TO SUM UP JUDAISM IN ONLY ONE WORD, THAT'S THE WORD: JUSTICE. תצב - base of הצב.

OUT THERE IN THE BURNING SINAI DESERT, THE NATION WAS BORN AND IN TURN GAVE BIRTH. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT MORE THAN 600,000 MEN OVER THE AGE OF 21 WENT FORTH FROM EGYPT IN THE EXODUS, TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR FLOCKS. THIS WOULD HAVE MEANT AN OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE HORDE OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. BEN GURION, WHO STUDIED THE BIBLE ALMOST EVERY DAY OF HIS LIFE, AND WHO KNEW THE OASES OF THE DESERT INTIMATELY, BELIEVED THAT THE TRUE NUMBER <sup>WAS</sup> OF 600 MEN -- WHICH MEANT THE TOTAL POPULATION WAS ONLY A FEW THOUSAND. <sup>THAT MAKES MORE SENSE.</sup> WATER WAS SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE FOR MORE. ~~WHAT~~ WHAT A MIRACLE THAT WE ARE HERE TODAY FROM SUCH A TINY BEGINNING.



WHEN MOSES DIED AFTER THE 40 YEARS OF WANDERING, JOSHUA TOOK THE HANDFUL OF WARRIORS, CROSSED THE JORDAN, CONQUERED JERICHO (TROY FELL TO THE GREEKS THE SAME YEAR) AND THE TWELVE TRIBES BEGAN TO SUBDUE THE REST OF THE PROMISED LAND AND SETTLE IN. THE PHYSICAL STRUGGLE CONTINUED FOR 200 YEARS, AS DID ALSO THE RELIGIOUS STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE MONOTHEISM THEY HAD LEARNED FROM MOSES AND THE IDOL WORSHIP OF THE CANAANITES AMONG WHOM THEY WERE SETTLING. IT WAS A FIERCE STRUGGLE. GRADUALLY THE PHYSICAL VICTORY WAS WON, AND UNDER THE KINGS DAVID AND SOLOMON, ISRAEL REACHED HER GREATEST TERRITORIAL GLORY (ALTHOUGH STILL ONLY A SPECK ON THE MAP BETWEEN THE MAMMOTH EMPIRES OF EGYPT AND ASSYRIA ON BOTH SIDES OF HER). ALSO GRADUALLY THE SPIRITUAL VICTORY WAS WON, AS THE GREAT PROPHETS ISAIAH AND AMOS AND MICAH ESTABLISHED THE ETHICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CODES WHICH PREVAILED OVER THE ORGIES AND IMMORALITIES OF THE MANY CANAANITE BAALIM ON THE HIGH PLACES.

THE TEMPLE WAS BUILT, THE MONARCHY FLOURISHED, CIVIL WAR DIVIDED THE KINGDOM, THE TORAH WAS WRITTEN, A VISION WAS ESTABLISHED -- AND THEN THE WHOLE EDIFICE CRASHED UNDER AN ASSYRIAN ATTACK WHICH TOOK TEN TRIBES OFF INTO A LOST CAPTIVITY AND A LITTLE MORE THAN A 100 YEARS LATER, A BABYLONIAN ATTACK WHICH DESTROYED THE FIRST TEMPLE, <sup>in 586 B.C.E.</sup>

WITH HELP FROM THE PERSIAN KING CYRUS, AND MOTIVATED BY THE SURVIVALIST INSTINCT WHICH IS THE HALLMARK OF OUR PEOPLE, A FEW HUNDRED STRAGGLED BACK TO REBUILD THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE. IT WAS HARD -- TOOK A LONG TIME -- STONE UPON STONE. THEN A CONQUEST BY THE GREEK SUCCESSORS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT LAID THE JEWS LOW AGAIN; RESCUE CAME FOR A SPELL IN THE FORM OF THE MACCABEEAN HEROES WHO SUCCESSFULLY DEFIED THE GREEKS; AND FINALLY SUBJUGATION ONCE AGAIN, TOTAL, COMPLETE THIS TIME TO THE UNBEATABLE POWER OF THE ROMAN LEGIONS, WHO DESTROYED THE SECOND TEMPLE, <sup>in 70 C.E.,</sup> BURNED THE CITY TO THE GROUND AND SOWED IT WITH SALT SO THAT IT SHOULD NEVER RISE AGAIN.



THE WANDERING JEW WENT FORTH INTO THE WORLD AGAIN IN A WIDESPREAD DISPERSION WHICH WAS TO LAST ALMOST 2,000 YEARS, RIGHT DOWN TO OUR OWN CENTURY. BROKEN, IMPOVERISHED, DISHEARTENED, CARRYING NO BAGGAGE EXCEPT THE BIBLE AND THE BOOKS OF THE LAW, CALLED MISHNA, THEY SCATTERED<sup>AS</sup> FAR WESTWARD ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN<sup>AS GIBRALTAR,</sup> NORTHWARD UP INTO ASIA MINOR, AND EASTWARD TO BABYLONIA. THE GREATEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPED THERE, AND FOR ALMOST A MILLENIUM THE CENTER OF GRAVITY OF THE JEWISH WORLD LAY IN TWO ACADEMIES IN WHAT IS TODAY IRAQ, WHERE THE TALMUD WAS GRADUALLY WRITTEN DOWN, THOUSANDS OF PAGES DURING HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

*AROUND THE YEAR 900,* AS THE BABYLONIAN COMMUNITY BEGAN TO DWINDLE IN POWER AND SIGNIFICANCE, THE CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE SHIFTED THOUSANDS OF MILES WESTWARD TO SPAIN, AND FOR THE NEXT 500 YEARS WE ENJOYED A GOLDEN AGE IN WHICH POETRY, MEDICINE, PHILOSOPHY AND MATHEMATICS FLOURISHED. IT WAS A BRILLIANT ERA, YET IT CAME TO AN END, FOR WE WERE CAUGHT IN THE FIERCE STRUGGLE BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM. WHEN THE FINAL BATTLE WAS FOUGHT IN GRANADA IN 1492, KING FERDINAND AND QUEEN ISABELLA DROVE THE MOSLEMS OFF THE SPANISH PENINSULA, BACK INTO NORTH AFRICA FROM WHENCE THEY HAD COME, AND TWO MONTHS LATER EXPELLED THE JEWS AS WELL. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, SAILING TO THE NEW WORLD IN AUGUST OF THAT YEAR, NOTED IN HIS DIARY THE WEEPING AND WAILING COMING FROM THE JEWISH REFUGEE BOATS IN THE HARBOR<sup>OF</sup> CADIZ.

WE SCATTERED AGAIN, THIS TIME LIKE POPCORN, TO MANY DIFFERENT PLACES: MOROCCO, HOLLAND, ITALY, TURKEY, BUT ONCE AGAIN IN THE MYSTERIOUS PATTERN OF OUR HISTORY, BY WHICH A LARGE COMMUNITY BEGAN TO FORM IN ANOTHER PLACE WHILE ELSEWHERE A PREVIOUS COMMUNITY WAS DISINTEGRATING, A NEW FUTURE WAS DEVELOPING IN POLAND AND RUSSIA. AND HERE AGAIN FOR THE NEXT HUNDREDS OF YEARS WE THRIVED, IN PHYSICAL POVERTY AND PERSECUTION, YET IN A SPIRITUAL SPLENDOR OF SORTS, SHIVERING IN THE COLD WINDS OF ADVERSITY, YET WARMED BY THE GLOW OF THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE STUDY-CHAMBER AND THE SABBATH CANDLES AND THE TIGHTLY HUDDLED FAMILY LIFE.



THE EVENTS OF THE CENTURIES WERE MARKED BY INCREDIBLE PERSECUTIONS FROM WITHOUT AND AN IRON RESISTANCE FROM WITHIN. MOSLEM FANATICS RAMPAGED ACROSS THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF NORTH AFRICA IN THE FLUSH OF THEIR MISSIONIZING ZEAL IN THE 8TH & 9TH CENTURIES; CRUSADERS IN HEAVY ARMOR BURNED JEWS ALIVE IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES IN THE RHINE RIVER VALLEY IN THE 11TH CENTURY; SPANISH INQUISITION BISHOPS CARRYING THE CROSS TORTURED MARRANO JEWS IN TOWN SQUARES IN THE ~~12TH & 13TH CENTURIES~~; DRUNKEN RUSSIAN COSSACKS ON HUGE HORSES SLASHED THEIR WHISTLING SABERS INTO SOFT FLESH DURING POGROMS OF THE 16TH AND 17TH; ON AND ON WENT THE ENDLESS MINDLESS COLD-BLOODED PIOUS SLAUGHTER. YET ON AND ON WENT THE JEWISH PEOPLE, STUBBORNLY REFUSING TO DIE. THE HISTORIAN ARNOLD TOYNBEE WHO SAID WE HAD DIED A LONG TIME AGO, AND THAT WE ARE TODAY ONLY A "FOSSIL OF AN ANCIENT SYRIAN CIVILIZATION" OBVIOUSLY NEVER READ OUR HISTORY. WE TOOK THE BLOWS STOLIDLY, Poured COPIOUS BLOOD, MOVED ON FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY, ALWAYS RETAINING PRIDE IN OUR TRADITION, FAITH IN OURSELVES, AND TEACHING OUR HERITAGE TO EACH NEW GENERATION OF CHILDREN AS SOMETHING WORTH PRESERVING NO MATTER THE PRICE. THE TWIN WEAPONS OF OUR SURVIVAL WERE EMIGRATION AND EDUCATION.

A PEOPLE DIES AS A RESULT OF CONQUEST FROM WITHOUT OR WEARINES FROM WITHIN -- A LACK OF FAITH -- A LOSS OF BELIEF IN ITS DESTINY. ROME FELL, NOT TO THE SUPERIOR WEAPONS OF THE GERMAN INVADERS FROM THE NORTH -- BUT BECAUSE ROME HAD GROWN WEARY, DECADENT, CORRUPT, CYNICAL AND HAD LOST FAITH IN ITSELF. CONVERSELY, WE JEWS WERE ALWAYS CONQUERED FROM THE OUTSIDE BY SUPERIOR FORCE OF ARMS, BUT THIS NEVER CAUSED OUR DEFEAT, SINCE WE RETAINED THE INNER CONVICTION OF OUR CHOSEN DESTINY -- TO SURVIVE AND GIVE LIVING TESTIMONY TO OUR FAITH IN MAN AND HIS MORAL UNIVERSE. HOW OBSTINATE TO BELIEVE IN MAN, WHEN MEN OF ALL NATIONS AND IDEOLOGIES WERE BUSY HACKING US TO PIECES. THIS IS THE BRILLIANCE OF OUR EXISTENCE.



THE FINAL MIGRATIONS HAVE BEEN THOSE OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES. ONCE AGAIN WITH THAT MYSTERIOUS FORESHADOWING OF HISTORY WHICH HAS OCCURRED SO OFTEN, OUR GRANDFATHERS BEGAN TO MOVE FROM EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE, IN THE MIDDLE AND LATER 19TH CENTURY, TOWARD AMERICA IN THEIR MILLIONS AND TOWARD PALESTINE IN THEIR FEW THOUSANDS, ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY SENSED THAT NEW CENTERS WOULD HAVE TO BE BUILT UP TO REPLACE THOSE WHICH WOULD LATER BE DESTROYED. IT WAS NOT A CONSCIOUS, PLANNED OPERATION BUT RATHER AN INSTINCTIVE YEARNING TOWARD SAFETY AND SURVIVAL.

BY THE TIME THE HOLOCAUST DESCENDED WITH ITS SEARING FIRE AND CHOKING GAS TO BURN OUT THE SIX MILLION IN POLAND AND RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA AND ALMOST ALL OF EUROPE, AMERICA AND PALESTINE HAD ARISEN AS NEW STRONGHOLDS.

WE JEWS BURNED IN THE HEAT OF A THOUSAND OVENS -- AND THE WORLD WAS COLD. WE GAGGED IN THE GAS OF A THOUSAND CHAMBERS -- AND THE WORLD WAS SILENT. A MILLION BULLETS THUDDED INTO INERT FLESH UNTIL IT WAS NO NOVELTY AND A THOUSAND BULL-DOZERS HEAVED THE FROZEN, STARVED AND MANGLED BODIES INTO GAPING HOLES IN THE EXHAUSTED EARTH. THE SOIL COULD NOT SHRIEK IN PROTEST. IT COULD ONLY ACCEPT AND SWALLOW THE AWFUL REFUSE. THE SMOKE DISSOLVED IN THE SKY. THE ASHES WERE SCATTERED ON THE WINDS. THE BONES DISAPPEARED -- AND WHEN THE WHOLE HIDEOUS MESS WAS OVER -- MANKIND WAS INDICTED FOREVER. THE MARK OF CAIN WAS BURNED INTO THE BROW, NOT ONLY OF JACKBOOTED NAZIS WHO WERE THE ACTIVE CRIMINALS, BUT OF EVERY SINGLE HUMAN BEING ON EARTH WHO HAD FAILED TO PROTEST.

NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE IN THE ENTIRE RECORDED HISTORY OF THE HUMAN RACE. THE HUMAN ANIMAL IS A FIGHTING ANIMAL -- WORSE THAN ABSOLUTELY ANY OTHER -- AND THE RIVERS OF BLOOD SPILT DURING MILLENIA IN WARS OVER LAND OR GOLD OR RELIGION OR TRADE, SPILT THROUGH TORTURE AND INQUISITION AND GLADIATORIAL COMBAT, SPILT THROUGH HATRED AND GREED AND FEAR AND PRIDE, HAVE BEEN FAR GREATER THAN ALL THE RIVERS OF WATER ON ALL THE CONTINENTS. BUT, NEVER IN ALL THE FANTASTIC EPISODES



WHICH HAVE MARKED MAN'S INCREDIBLE EAGERNESS TO HARM HIS BROTHER, HAS THERE BEEN ONE TO MATCH THE MURDER OF THE JEWS IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY.

ONE HOPES THIS MAY BE THE END OF THE WANDERINGS. THE PESSIMISTS SAY THAT THERE IS NO SAFETY ANYWHERE. EVEN THE PRECIOUS DEMOCRACY OF AMERICA WILL ONE DAY SHATTER, AND WE JEWS WILL BE ETERNALLY DOOMED TO WANDER. OTHERS, MYSELF AMONG THEM, FEEL THAT THE SUCCESSFUL RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THIRD JEWISH COMMONWEALTH IN THE FORM OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL, AND THE TIGHT LINKS WHICH THAT STATE HAS WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN JEWS HAVE RADICALLY ALTERED THE COURSE OF HISTORY. IF THE STATE OF ISRAEL GROWS LARGER AND STRONGER AND SAFER; IF THE TIES BETWEEN AMERICAN JEWRY AND ISRAEL GROW DEEPER IN EVERY WAY; IF THE GOVERNMENTS OF AMERICA AND ISRAEL REMAIN COMMITTED TO A HIGHER DEFINITION OF DEMOCRACY IN A WORLD WHERE THE NUMBER OF DEMOCRACIES GROWS SMALLER EACH YEAR, SO THAT THESE TWO <sup>NATIONS, AT LEAST,</sup> APPRECIATE EACH OTHER MORE AND MORE, THEN PERHAPS THE AGES OF PERSECUTION AND MIGRATIONS ARE INDEED FINISHED AND THE WANDERING JEW WILL COME TO REST.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALL OUR HISTORY, WE HAVE TWO POWERFUL CENTERS OF JEWISH LIFE, NOT ONE. BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY, IN A SHORT 20 YEARS, THE JEWISH POPULATIONS OF ISRAEL & THE U.S. WILL BE EQUAL AT ABOUT 5½ MILLION; OR PERHAPS THE ISRAELI WILL BE LARGER, DEPENDING ON THE INROADS OF ASSIMILATION IN AMERICA. AT ANY RATE, EACH WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO ADD SUPPORT TO THE OTHER. EVEN TODAY, IT IS NOT A ONE-WAY STREET. AMERICAN AND DIASPORA JEWS GIVE MATERIAL SUPPORT -- BUT ISRAEL GIVES BACK PRIDE TO EVERY JEW IN THE WORLD. LATER, ISRAEL MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE EVEN MORE THAN PRIDE, SHOULD IT EVER BE NECESSARY, JUST AS SHE GIVES CITIZENSHIP TODAY TO JEWS STILL INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION.



WE STARTED WITH ABRAHAM, ALMOST 4,000 YEARS AGO ON THE BANK OF THE EUPHRATES AND HAVE ARRIVED TODAY AT THE BANK OF THE HUDSON AND THE MISSISSIPPI, THE SEINE AND THE VOLGA, AND, ABOVE ALL, THE JORDAN. YOU, EACH ONE OF YOU, HAS BEEN PART OF THIS VAST TREK. THIS UNBELIEVABLE PAGEANT IS YOURS. KNOW FROM WHENCE YOU HAVE COME; KNOW BEFORE WHOM YOU STAND; THEN YOU WILL KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING.

WE SURVIVED, AND THIS IN ITSELF IS A GREAT VIRTUE, BUT MERE SURVIVAL IS THE MARK OF MANY SPECIES. WHAT WAS ACHIEVED; WHAT WAS OUTSTANDING, DURING OUR SURVIVAL FOR WHICH WE FOUGHT SO TENACIOUSLY; WHAT VALIDATES OUR CLAIM TO UNIQUENESS? THE RECORD YIELDS AN AWESOME AFFIRMATION:

1. WE INVENTED MONOTHEISM, LEADING MANKIND OUT OF ITS PRIMITIVISM.
2. WE SPAWNED TWO OTHER GREAT RELIGIONS, WITHDRAWING, PERHAPS INCORRECTLY, FROM MISSIONIZING OUR OWN, AND YET OFFERING ALTERNATIVE MODELS TO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS.
3. WE INVESTED A CERTAIN LAND WITH HOLINESS -- AND SO ISRAEL ~~ISRAEL~~ IS CALLED TODAY, THE HOLY LAND TO ALL THREE GREAT FAITHS.
4. WE CREATED A HOLY BOOK IN A HOLY LANGUAGE -- AND BOTH ARE ALIVE TODAY, A CENTRAL SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO MUCH OF THE HUMAN RACE.
5. WE LINKED ETHICS IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR TO GOD -- AND THUS CREATED THE MORAL FORCE UPON WHICH THE WESTERN WORLD IS FOUNDED. TRUE, THE GREEKS GAVE ART AND PHILOSOPHY -- THE ROMANS GAVE ROADS AND GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION -- BUT OF ALL THE CONTRIBUTIONS, JUSTICE AND MORALITY ARE THE HIGHEST.
6. WE CONCEIVED THE IDEA THAT ALL MEN ARE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW, WHICH IS THE BASIS OF <sup>THE</sup> POLITICAL DEMOCRACY <sup>OF THE WEST TODAY.</sup> NOT EVEN THE KING WAS ABOVE THE LAW, THUNDERED THE PROPHET NATHAN TO KING DAVID, ORDERING HIM TO RULE THE PEOPLE WITH A COPY OF THE TORAH ON HIS LAP.



7. WE BECAME THE CIVILIZING PARENT OF THE WESTERN WORLD, FOR WHICH WE EARNED ITS DEEP HATRED; JUST AS FREUD TAUGHT THAT CHILDREN HATE THEIR PARENTS WHO TRY TO CURB THE NATURAL ANIMAL-LIKE INSTINCTS OF THE VERY YOUNG BY TELLING THEM WHAT THEY MAY AND MUST NOT DO. THERE IS AN EXCRUCIATING BALANCE OF LOVE AND REBELLION BETWEEN CHILD AND PARENT. THE SAME IS THE CASE BETWEEN THE JEW WHO REPRESENTS SUPER-EGO, CONSCIENCE, AND THE OTHERS WHOSE ID AND EGO WISHES TO FLOURISH UNIMPEDED. EVERY MAN LIVES IN TENSION WITH HIS CONSCIENCE -- I.E., HIS JEW.

ON THIS POINT, THERE ARE <sup>TWO</sup> ~~THE~~ OBSERVATIONS TO BE MADE, WHICH, IF PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD, EXPLAIN MUCH OF THE WORLD'S CONDUCT TOWARD US, AND OBLIQUELY GIVE US AN INSIGHT INTO OUR REAL ROLE.

A METHODIST MINISTER, STANLEY HIGH, AN EDITOR OF READERS' DIGEST, ONCE SAID TO ME THAT THE REASON WE JEWS WERE PERSECUTED WAS NOT BECAUSE WE HAD ALLEGEDLY KILLED CHRIST, BUT RATHER BECAUSE WE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO HIM. WHAT A FLASH OF TRUTH! BY GIVING BIRTH TO CHRIST, WE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPOSITION OF MORAL STANDARDS UPON AN OTHERWISE AMORAL SOCIETY RESULTING FROM THE SPREAD OF HIS ESSENTIALLY JEWISH TEACHINGS THROUGH THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD ~~OF THE WORLD~~ OF THE FIRST FEW CENTURIES. CHRIST (I.E., WE) SAID THAT MURDER WAS WRONG, SLAVERY WAS WRONG, EXPLOITATION OF THE POOR AND THE ORPHAN AND THE WIDOW WAS WRONG, WORSHIP OF CAESAR WAS WRONG. AND SO DOWN THE CENTURIES THE CIVILIZING PRESSURES WERE RESISTED BY PEOPLE WHO PREFERRED TO LIVE BY BARBARIC STANDARDS AND DEEPLY HATED, IN A PSYCHOANALYTIC SENSE, THE FATHER FIGURE WHO IMPOSED MORAL CONDUCT.

THE SECOND OBSERVATION STEMS FROM A PERCEPTION OF ADOLF HITLER'S MOTIVATIONS. TO BUILD HIS THOUSAND YEAR REICH, AND TO BASE IT ON THE



TEUTONIC GODS OF ODIN AND WOTAN, SO ADMIRER IN THE WAGNERIAN OPERAS HE SO ADORED -- TO MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR HIS FORM OF BARBARISM -- HE WAS <sup>OBLIGED</sup> ~~OBLIGATED~~ TO WIPE OUT CHRISTIANITY, BUT IN ORDER TO DO SO, HAD TO DESTROY JUDAISM FIRST. WE ARE THE GERMAL SEED FROM WHICH ALL GOODNESS FLOWS AND THEREFORE WE HAD TO BE DESCRIBED AS THE ENEMY OF ALL TRUE GERMANIC VALUES. THE JEWISH CHRIST TAUGHT THAT THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH, BUT THIS WAS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF <sup>Germanic</sup> ~~HIS~~ NIETSCHIAN DOCTRINE THAT THE SUPERMAN SHALL RULE. THE JEWISH CHRIST TAUGHT THAT MAN SHOULD TURN HIS OTHER CHEEK -- (GENTLE JESUS, MEEK & MILD, -- READ THE WORDS OF THE HYMN →) AND HITLER HAD TO UPROOT THIS IN ORDER TO REPLACE IT WITH THE DOCTRINE THAT POWER BELONGS TO THE STRONG. THE JEWISH BIBLE TAUGHT THAT A MAN SHOULD HONOR HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, BUT HITLER ~~WANTED-~~ <sup>TAUGHT</sup> ~~TO TEACH~~ HIS YOUTH TO SPY ON THEIR PARENTS AND REPORT THEM TO THE GESTAPO FOR ANY DISLOYALTY.

THERE IS TRUTH, OF COURSE, IN THE COMMON ANALYSIS THAT HITLER NEEDED A SCAPEGOAT TO OFFER <sup>TO THE</sup> ~~A~~ FRUSTRATED DEFEATED GERMAN PEOPLE, AND THAT THE MANY-CENTURIES OLD ANTI-SEMITISM IN GERMANY MADE THE JEWS AN EASY MARK. BESIDES THEY WERE PROMINENT, VISIBLE, AND A TEMPTING PREY TO BE LOOTED. BUT WHY BURN THEIR BOOKS AND THEIR SYNAGOGUES? THE ANSWER LIES IN HITLER'S OFT-STATED DOCTRINE THAT THE JEWS WERE LIKE RATS WHO CARRIED A PLAGUE CALLED THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION AND MUST THEREFORE BE EXTERMINATED. THUS IN A <sup>WEIRD</sup> ~~WIERD~~ PERVERTED WAY HERE WAS TESTIMONY ONCE AGAIN TO THE TRANSCENDENTAL ROLE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS A FORCE FOR MORAL GOODNESS. HIS INSANE NEED TO WIPE US OUT WAS EVEN STRONGER THAN HIS DESIRE TO WIN THE WAR, AND HE ULTIMATELY LOST BOTH. THE WESTERN DEMOCRATIC WORLD BEAT BACK HIS ASSAULT AND THE JEWISH WORLD EMERGED, ALBEIT GRAVELY WOUNDED, RENEWED AND REINVIGORATED TODAY THROUGH ITS CREATION OF THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF ISRAEL.



SO, THE STORY HAS UNFOLDED. THIS PEOPLE HAS SURVIVED -- A MOST ANCIENT PEOPLE -- A GENIUS PEOPLE -- A CREATIVE, ARTISTIC PEOPLE -- A PEOPLE SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND THE UNIVERSE, EVEN UNTO EINSTEIN, AND TO TOUCH GOD, AS DID YEHUDA ~~Ha Levi~~, Ha Levi.

YOU ARE THIS PEOPLE, YOU ARE AN UPPER MIDDLE-CLASS JEW FROM NEW YORK, OR MARRIED TO ONE. YOU PLAY BRIDGE AND BACKGAMMON, TENNIS AND THE STOCK MARKET, YOU SEE ALL THE PLAYS AND READ ALL THE BOOKS, YOU ARE WIDELY TRAVELLED AND SUPER-SOPHISTICATED, YOU ARE BLASE NEW YORKERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY -- AND YET YOU ARE 40 CENTURIES OLD.

YOU ARE A SHEPHERD IN ABRAHAM'S TRIBE.

YOU ARE A HEBREW SOLDIER IN DAVID'S ARMY.

YOU ARE A REFUGEE WEEPING BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON.

YOU ARE A POET IN SPAIN'S GOLDEN AGE.

YOU ARE A SELLER OF HERRING IN A POLISH SHTETL.

YOU ARE A NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IN MATHEMATICS OR MEDICINE.

YOU ARE ANNE FRANK WHOM THE NAZIS MURDERED.

YOU ARE A FREE HEBREW SABRA IN ISRAEL TODAY.

YOU ARE THIS PEOPLE AND YOU HAVE A DEEP UNAVOIDABLE RESPONSIBILITY TO IT. YOU ARE LEADERS AND CANNOT SHIRK YOUR DUTY. NAY, YOU MUST ACCEPT IT PROUDLY AND HAPPILY.

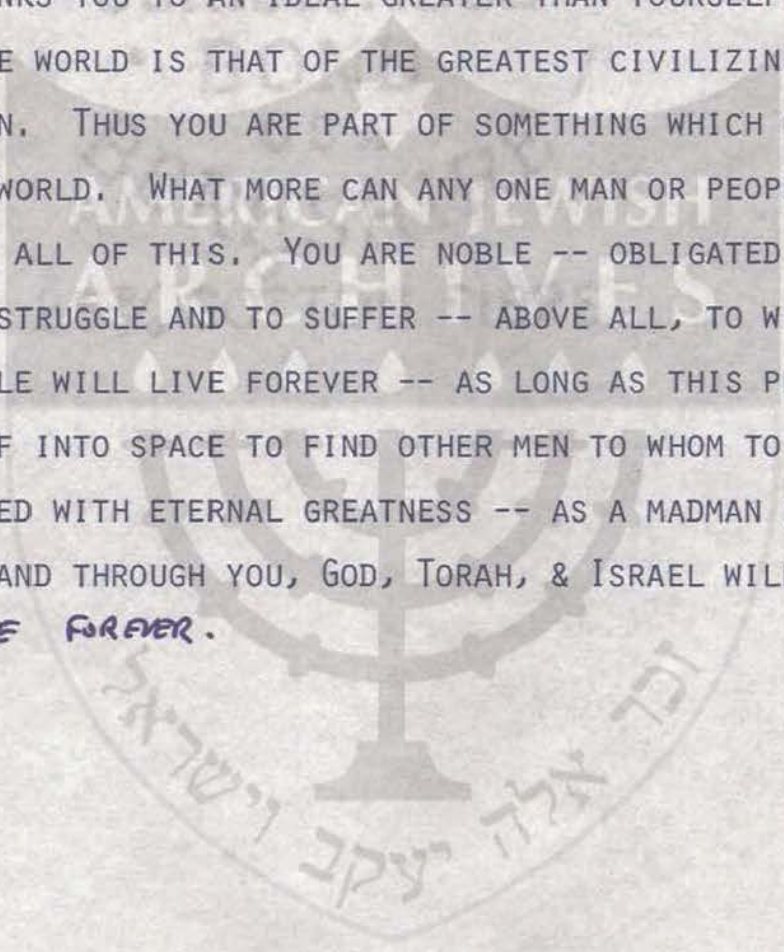
YOUR ARE THIS PEOPLE AND YOU MUST PROTECT IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT AND POWER. YOU MUST TEACH ITS VALUES TO YOUR CHILDREN. YOU MUST LEARN ITS LANGUAGE -- HEBREW. YOU MUST BUILD ITS LAND -- ISRAEL. YOU MUST EXPAND ITS COMMUNITIES -- NEW YORK. YOU MUST RESCUE ITS SONS IN DANGER -- RUSSIANS OR ANY OTHER.




AND YOU MUST DO ALL THIS OUT OF THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR SONS  
IN THE FUTURE WILL JUDGE YOUR DEVOTION TO THE TRADITION OF THE PAST BY  
THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF YOUR DEEDS, NOT YOUR WORDS. YOU WILL PROTECT  
YOUR HERITAGE AND IT WILL PROTECT YOU. THE VALUE OF JUDAISM TO YOU IS  
THAT IT GIVES YOU AN IDENTITY -- AND PROVIDES A MEANING TO YOUR LIFE,  
BECAUSE IT LINKS YOU TO AN IDEAL GREATER THAN YOURSELF. THE VALUE OF  
JUDAISM TO THE WORLD IS THAT OF THE GREATEST CIVILIZING MORAL FORCE MAN  
HAS EVER KNOWN. THUS YOU ARE PART OF SOMETHING WHICH GIVES VALUE TO YOU AND  
TO THE WHOLE WORLD. WHAT MORE CAN ANY ONE MAN OR PEOPLE DESIRE?

YOU ARE ALL OF THIS. YOU ARE NOBLE -- OBLIGATED -- ELEVATED --  
COMMANDED TO STRUGGLE AND TO SUFFER -- ABOVE ALL, TO WITNESS. THROUGH  
YOU THIS PEOPLE WILL LIVE FOREVER -- AS LONG AS THIS PLANET SPINS -- AND  
<sup>soon</sup> WILL SHOOT OFF INTO SPACE TO FIND OTHER MEN TO WHOM TO TEACH OUR MESSAGE.  
YOU ARE TOUCHED WITH ETERNAL GREATNESS -- AS A MADMAN IS TOUCHED BY  
HIS DREAM -- AND THROUGH YOU, GOD, TORAH, & ISRAEL WILL BE ETERNAL.  
MAY YOU LIVE FOREVER.

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United Jewish Appeal  Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Joint Campaign

220 West 58th Street • New York, New York 10019 • (212) 265-2200

Ernest W. Michel  
Executive Vice President  
and Campaign Director

November 1, 1979

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
American Friends of Jerusalem Academy  
75 East 55th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Herb:

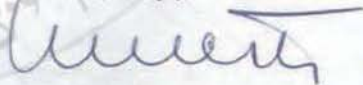
As per our discussion, enclosed is a check in the sum of \$1,500.

Permit me just to say that I reread your speech and it is one of the finest, most thoughtful presentations on what we are all about that I have ever read. We will be making a brochure out of it for distribution to as large a group of our leaders and contributors as is possible. Again, Herb, it is a masterpiece!

It was really a special delight having you and Francine with us.

Warmest personal regards and good wishes.

Cordially,



EWM:G  
encl.



Post-Glacial Period	10,000 B.C.	
Neolithic		5500 -- 4000
Chalcolithic		4000 -- 3150
Early Bronze I (beginning of writing)		3150 -- 2900
II		2900 -- 2600
III		2600 -- 2200
Middle Bronze I		2200 -- 1950
IIa		1950 -- 1750
IIb	(Hammurabi & Abraham)	1750 -- 1550
Late Bronze I		1550 -- 1400
IIa		1400 -- 1300
IIb	(Moses & Exodus)	1300 -- 1200
Iron Age I	(Joshua & Judges)	1200 -- 1000
II	(Saul, David, Solomon)	1000 -- 800
III		800 -- 586





## CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION: Four River Valleys

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Tigris-Euphrates Valley Civilization    | 3100 -- 1200 B.C. |
| 2. Nile Valley Civilization                | 3100 -- 1090 B.C. |
| [Aegean Valley Civilization]               | 3000 -- 1100 B.C. |
| 3. Indus Valley Civilization               | 2500 -- 1500 B.C. |
| 4. Yellow River Valley Civilization--China | 1500 -- 1027 B.C. |
| Phoenician Empire                          | 1200 - 842        |
| Assyrian Empire                            | 910 - 612         |
| Hellenic Age                               | 750 - 338         |
| Chaldean Empire                            | 612 - 539         |
| Persian Empire                             | 539 - 330         |

Hunting -- Nomad

Farming -- Villages -- Towns -- Civilization

Invention of writing -- 3000 B.C. -- Beginning of History

### I. Middle East Civilization

1. Birthplace Sumer -- southern Mesopotamia (now Iraq) -- cuneiform writing in 3100 independent city-states -- no central government
2. Ca. 2300 -- Sargon of Akkad conquered Sumer -- Epic of Gilgamesh.
3. Ca. 1750 -- Hammurabi conquered Akkad, called region Babylonia, wrote code of laws
4. Phoenicians created alphabet which developed into Hebrew, Greek & ultimately Western; and colonized Mediterranean
5. Hebrews spread idea of one God, ideals, morality, Bible.
6. Assyrians -- cruel -- Sargon II conquers Israel 722
7. Chaldeans -- Nebuchadnezzar II conquers Judah 586 -- Babylon
8. Persians -- roads, government, justice

### II. Egyptian Civilization

1. Many Kingdoms united under Menes ca. 3100 Hieroglyphics ca. 3000 Gizeh Pyramid around 2500
2. Pharaohs ruled until 1090 (with exception of Hyksos period 1720 -1570); pyramids; papyrus; merchants



### III. Indus Valley

1. Began about 2500 B.C. in West Pakistan; brick buildings with sewage system.
2. Aryans invaded from north about 1500, and Indus civilization disappeared

### IV. Yellow River

1. Earliest Chinese records date only from 1500 -- well-organized government; writing.

### V. Greeks

1. Philosophy; government (democracy); sculpture
2. Crete was center 1600 -- 1100 (1400 -- Height of Mycenaean culture)  
Trojan War 1200 First Olympics 776
3. Greeks defeated Persians 479
- \* 4. Golden Age of Pericles 461-431. Aeschylus, Euripides, Socrates
5. Peloponnesian Wars 431-404
6. Defeat of Greece by Philip of Macedon 338

### Critical Periods

Egypt  
Hyksos invaded -- 1720 - 1570

-----  
XIX Dynasty -- Ramses II  
1290 -- 1224

Hebrews  
Abraham

-----  
Moses -- Exodus  
1280 -- 1250

Babylonia  
Hammurabi 1728 - 1686

Troy ( in Homer's epics) destroyed ca. 1200 (time of Joshua)



Irving Bernstein

Executive Vice Chairman, United Jewish Appeal

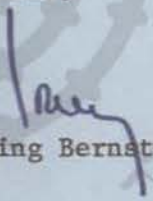
January 31, 1980

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
American Friends of Jerusalem Academy  
75 East 55th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Herb:

I just read the address you gave at San Antonio.  
It is on par with your memorable speech to Young  
Leadership many years ago and the one that moved  
us so deeply at Yad Vashem.

As ever,

  
Irving Bernstein

IB:th