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"Sabbath of Repentance." September 1952.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN
TEMPLE EMANUEL S'NE JESHURUN
2419 EAST KENWOOD BOULEVARD
MILWAUKEE 11, WISCONSIN

Shabbas Shuvah - 27 Sept 52
"we don't believe in
original sin"

DATE _____

TO:

- 1) Man is going to sin. Nobody is perfect. ^(partly from funeral service)
- 2) God knew this, because among the things he created before the world (in anticipation of a real need) was REPENTANCE. He sort of had it ready, for quick availability. * (See pages 1-4)
- 3) And it was needed right away, because the very first man & woman sinned.
- 4) Curious thing developed from this - The notion of "original sin". Old primer, "In Adam's fall, we sinned all." (page 5, 6)

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- TO:
- 5.) Judaism offers repentance, contrary to the Christian doctrine of grace. Man can extricate himself from sin, by his own moral regeneration.
- 6.) Story of the value of true repentance.
(~~and st~~) (p. 7)
- 7.) Repentance includes a determination to improve in future: (Id saying):
"True repentance has a double aspect; it looks upon things past with a weeping eye, and upon the future with a watchful eye."

DATE _____

8.) TO: The Mishnah (Yoma 8:8-9) gives the authoritative rabbinic doctrine of atonement. Repentance must be genuine.

"If a man says, 'I shall sin & repent, and shall sin again & repent', no opportunity is afforded him for effectual atonement.

If he says, 'I shall sin and Yom Kippur will atone for me,' The Day effects no atonement."

9.) Repentance must be true and in the heart. Isaiah 55:7

"Let the wicked forsake his way
And the man of iniquity his thoughts
And let him return unto the Lord, and
He will have compassion on him."

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TO:

- 10.) Famous saying in Psalm 51
"Create in me a pure heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me."
- 11.) Sentence in The Haftarah for this
Shabbas Shuvah: Hosea 14:3
"Take with you words, and return
unto the Lord."
God does not require gifts or sacrifices,
but sincere confession and penitent words
expressing the resolve to amend.

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TO:

12.) PERORATION

We do not believe in Original Sin
concerning which man can do nothing.

We do believe in the potentiality of
human growth and moral improvement.
Man may fall, but he will rise
again.

Shabbat Shuvah is a stimulus to
man for the building of his character -
for his constant self-ennoblement.

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DATE _____

TO:

Midrash Rabbah I, 4 says six

Things preceded Creation
{ Torah
Throne of Glory
Patriarchs
Israel
Temple
name of Messiah

/ one rabbi
adds a 7th:
Repentance

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TO:

Typical Midrashic twist

Repentance was among the things fashioned
before Creation. why?

Psalm 90, vs. 2, 3

- 2.) Lord Thou hast been our dwelling-place
in all generations
Before the mountains were brought forth
Or ever Thou hadst formed the earth + the world
Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.
- 3.) Thou turnest men to contrition
and sayest, 'Repent, ye children of men'

and goes on to describe how man's life is
3 score + ten

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TO:

Thus, Psalm really ^{simply} describes the
eternity of God and the transcendence of
human life.

But the Midrashic author takes
the first sentence in each verse, and
ties them together consecutively to
"prove" that Repentance preceded Creation.

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TO:

Ginsburg ("Legends of Jews" - I, p. 4) says
7 things were created before Creation:

TORAH lying in lap of God, written with
black fire on white fire

DIVINE THRONE

PARADISE in right side of God

HELL, in left side of God

CELESTIAL SANCTUARY in front of God, with
~~one of the seven~~ argumen
on a jewel

NAME OF MESSIAH

REPENTANCE

Christianity regards "the flesh" as the cause and the seat of original sin and therefore condemns the body as evil incarnate and as opposed and hostile to the spirit. Judaism, however, perceives no antagonism between body and soul but proclaims their harmony. For not "the flesh" is evil and wicked but only the unbridled concession to its desires. Together with the doctrine of "original sin", Judaism also rejects the notion that the body is inevitably and irrevocably the source and cause of sinfulness.

The Jewish creed is that the body, as well as the soul, is potentially pure. "Nothing in the human body is unclean; all of it is pure" (Saadia, Emunoth Vedeoth VI, 17).

As the presupposition and logical justification of Jesus' ministry and sacrificial death, the doctrine of "original sin" is basic and central in Christianity, and is accepted as a dogma by all Christian denominations and sects from the most orthodox to the most reformed. They hold that Adam's fall transmitted to all future generations of mankind, till Kingdom come, an inescapable burden of guilt, "original sin". This load descends on every human being in the very moment he leaves his mother's womb. There is no escape from "original sin", and no mortal can free himself from it by his own effort, according to Christian belief. It is only in "grace", that is to say, in the belief that God gave "His only begotten son" as a sacrifice for mankind's guilt, that the Christian sees the hope of escape from eternal perdition and damnation, the penalty for "original sin."

from Trude Weiss-Rosmarin,
"Judaism and Christianity"

Augustine's theology came mainly from the "Epistles" of St. Paul.

He was at first inclined to think that man and God cooperated in man's redemption; but, remembering his own crises, he came to assign all power to God. He even held that the faith needed for redemption came from God. God is the only independent Being, altogether good. He creates and maintains whatever goodness is in man. [Man is born in sin, and lives in sin, if he lives apart from God; evil is separation from the good. Man is saved by God's election and God's grace; divine election is the only ground of individual salvation. The sacraments of the Church, however, are the channels of God's grace. Original sin in infants and non-Christians must be purged by baptism. The Mass maintains the Christian life. The Church alone administers the sacraments; salvation, therefore, is proved through the Church alone.] The Church is the divine Empire, the City of God; human empires rise and fall, but the Church endures. In 445, fifteen years after the death of Augustine, and nineteen after the publication of his "City of God", the Emperor recognized the Pope as not only first in ecclesiastical honor, but also supreme in civil jurisdiction.

from John Clark Archer, Prof. of Religion,
Yale University, "Faith Men Live By"

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⑦

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TO:

Angel pine - God furnishes him
by sending him to earth to get most
valuable thing.

1. He brings last drop of soldier's blood,
who died for honor NG
2. He brings last breath of nurse
who has died from illness of
patients she helped - noble NG
3. He brings tear of repentance from
man about to commit murder,
but who looks through window,
sees happy home life, repents,
puts down his knife, cries. OK

Sabbath of Repentance

1. Judaism offers repentance (which was created even before man), contrary to Christianity which requires grace. (A)
2. Repentant sinner is even better than Tzedik. (B)
3. Two kinds of sins -
 - a) Sin of Commission. No restitution can be made except repentance. True, fines can be paid - but repentance most valuable. Story of angel (C) (81)
 - b) Sin of Omission - Things we have failed to do. Repentance is required here for the responsibilities we have dodged. This means improvement in future. (D) (82)
- 3a. Repentance not a matter of ritual + form (E)

4. Thus, in Judaism, repentance is a moral matter, involving better conduct. This is only way we can know if it is genuine repentance.

(F)

~~⑤ Repentance not a matter of ritual~~

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5. PERORATION

Sabbath of Repentance builds the character of man. Devoted to the purification of the soul from sin. Judaism was first great religion to stress kinship between ethics and religion.

This Sabbath voices the Jewish call to moral nobility.

Psalms 51

"Create in me a pure heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me

(A)

The Pauline doctrine
That man can do
nothing to extricate himself
from sin (Fall of man,
Original sin) but must
rely on God's grace, is
very un-Jewish.

We believe that
"Repentance is Salvation" (G.F. Moore)

Thus Sabbath of
Repentance is offered to Jew
as means of self-cleansing
self elevation.