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Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men?, 1938.

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PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN?



On
Sunday morning, December 25, 1938

"It shall come to pass on that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea...And the Lord shall be King over all the earth; in that day shall the Lord be One, and His name one.' These prophetic words of Zechariah may be applied to the two great world-religions which emanated from Judaism and won fully half of the human race, as it exists at present, for the God of Abraham. Though they have incorporated many non-Jewish elements in their systems, they have spread the fundamental truths of the Jewish faith and Jewish ethics to every part of the earth. Christianity in the West and Islam in the East have aided in leading mankind ever nearer to the pure monotheistic truth. Consciously or unconsciously, both found their guiding motive in the Messianic hope of the prophets of Israel and based their moral systems on the ethics of the Hebrew Scriptures. The leading spirits of Judaism recognized this, declaring both the Christian and Mohammedan religions to be agencies of Divine Providence, intrusted with the historical mission of cooperating in the building up of the Messianic Kingdom, thus preparing for the ultimate triumph of pure monotheism in the hearts and lives of all men and nations of the world. These views, voiced by Jehuda ha Levi, Maimonides, and Nahmanides, were reiterated by many enlightened rabbis of later times. These point out that both the Christian and Mohammedan nations believe in the same God and His revelation to man, in the unity of the human race, and in the future life; that they have spread the knowledge of God by a sacred literature based upon our Scripture; that they have retained the divine commandments essentially as they are phrased in our Decalogue; and have practically taught men to fulfill the Noahitic laws of humanity. On account of the last fact the medieval Jewish authorities considered

Christians to be half-proselytes, while the Mohammedans, being pure monotheists, were always still closer to Judaism.'"

This paragraph which I have just read to you from the book on "Jewish Theology" by Dr. K. Kohler, President of the Hebrew Union College, admirably sums up the attitude of Judaism to Christianity and to the other great religion, Mohammedanism and you will see that it is not an attitude of controversy but one of appreciation, admiration.

Had the three great religions, Judaism, Christianity and Mohammedanism, remained aware at all times of their common origin, their common task, their common destiny, this world today, I make bold to say, would be a different world altogether. Perhaps the great vision of the prophets that "the living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea.." would be a realized vision today.

I stand of that, in stead of mutual appreciation and cooperation, the rivalries and ~~ex~~ conflicts and the bitter dissents of these religions have filled the earth with the din of their mutual hostilities. The pages of history are filled with the shocking records of intolerance, bigotry, fanaticism leading to wars and extermination. Unfortunately these great religions deflected much of their energies from their ministry of serving mankind, in defense of their particular interests of prestige or power with their partisanship to their organizations.

Now the leaders of the great religions, the truly great leaders of these religions regretted that and are regretting that today. The fault lies not in the religions themselves or in their great founders and teachers but in the lesser men who came to control the organization which ultimately embodied these great men, the lesser men through the ages

who shared the common fraternities of human beings, their clannishness, their bias, their competitive instinct, lust for power, the lesser men who reached out for gain under the guise of spiritual pursuits.

Because of that fact the achievements of religion however great and numerous and significant they were were all nevertheless far short of the great expectations of their founders. The goals of these religions are still far far away. At times it seems as though no progress is being made, as though those goals in themselves are utterly beyond the reach of men.

And our day, my Friends is just such a day. Never have religious confidence reached such a low ebb. Religious ideals today are desecrated as in the days of the crudest paganism. In doctrine, in practice, they are either ignored, denied or derided. And in the case of groups and nations, even more than be human beings.

Look about you this Christmas morning, the year 1938, nearly 2000 years after the Founder of Christianity was born and take stock and see how many of his preachments and doctrines are observed among men and nations and nominally accept him as God and Master. He preached peace, and mercy, humanity. He taught men not to be angry with their brothers, not to speak contemptuously, to forgive and love their enemies. He spoke of all mankind as being of one blood and of every man as being of the divine breed. He emphasized for his followers and disciples a universal Brotherhood of all men in the love of God. This is what the Master of Christianity taught.

But these very things, my Friends, are today being contemptuously rejected in the very lands which are the strongholds of his followers and

disciples, in those countries where thousands and tens of thousands of churches are dedicated to Him and where myriads of ministers and priests officiate at the alters of these churches dedicated to His name and His teachings.

The Pope of Rome, the Head of the Catholic Christian world yesterday complained bitterly and rather helplessly that in the very Holy City of Rome, the Holy City of Christendom, recently the crooked cross supplanted the Holy Cross, that the City of Rome was bedecked with banners carrying the symbol of the anti-Christ, the Swastika in the very heart of the Christian world. This was the complaint of the head of orthodox Christianity today. His Holy Cross has been supplanted by a crooked cross which is the symbol of the negation of everything which in the Christian World the Holy Cross symbolizes.

The Nazis by their own avowal have declared themselves to be the sworn enemies of all that Christianity represents in the world. Christianity a long time ago proclaimed the ideal of the unity of mankind. The anti-Christ in the modern world has proclaimed the ideal of race divisiveness. Christianity speaks of one human family embracing all mankind. The anti-Christ speaks of numerous clans of blood relations mutually exclusive and antagonistic. Christianity proclaimed democracy and cosmopolitanism in the ancient world. The anti-Christ today proclaims dictatorship. Christianity proclaimed no resistance to evil, and pacifism. The anti-Christ who seems to be triumphing over Christianity today proclaims the doctrine of force, militarism, the idea of war and conquest.

No wonder the Nazis hate Christianity and hate the Christmas festival. They would like to convert it into a pagan festival. They hate everything connected with this festival of Christmas because

its practice in Germany today is a sardonic iron practically on all that Nazism stands for in relation to race and nationality. Christmas reminds them, and they do not want to be reminded, of Jews, Judea and many things they would like to erase from the hearts of mankind.

This most important festival in the Christian world in Germany is redolent of Jewish spirit. It speaks of a Jewish background, of Jewish history, in a Jewish idiom, of Jewish names, of Jewish places, of Nazareth, and Bethlehem and Jerusalem which are not Prussian towns. They are towns in Palestine. It speaks of John and Mary and Joseph and Jesus. They are Nordics but Jews.

Matthew takes particular pain in telling of the birth of Jesus, tracing his Judaic ancestry fourteen generations to the Babylonian Exile, then fourteen generations to King David and fourteen generations still further to Abraham. And it rankles in the hearts and spirits of these Nazis that this God of the German folk whom they revere and adore is a Jew and that if he came to Berlin he would be subjected to the Nuremberg Laws, discriminated against as a Jew. He would be held as a vile person, an outcast, and a pariah because his parents and grandparents back forty-two generations were pure non-Aryans. And the Holy Bible from which this great epoch of the birth of Jesus is read is a book written by Jews. The Psalms which are sung in all the churches in all the villages and hamlets in Germany are psalms written by Jews. They don't like that. They would like to burn the Bible if they could just as they burned all other Jewish books. They are afraid to do that. It is too long a part of the reverence and devotion of the German folk. They would like to rewrite the Bible, make of Jesus not a gentle Jew from Nazareth but perhaps a Prussian. They would like to uproot this entire Judaeo-Christian culture from the heart and life of the German people, and given time,

they may even succeed in doing it. They will certainly continue to make the effort. But the two cannot exist side by side. They know it and understand it full well. A people cannot worship in its churches and holy sanctuaries a god who embraces the ideals of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God, of universalism, of peace, of mercy, compassion and beauty and love and universal reconciliation and at the same time to believe in a god of war, of race, a god of blood, a god who hates Jews and other foreigners. Too much of a spiritual dicotomy, if you will, would result from such a situation.

This is why the Nazis must carry on their war on Christianity even as it they must carry on a war on Jews and Judaism. The Christian world has but recently awakend to the realization of the motive behind the Nazi ideology. They thought it was just another anti-Semitic outburst. They did not understand that at the heart of this movement is a renascent paganism, the very paganism which Judaism and Christianity set about to destroy two thousand years ago and which must again be destroy. Now the Christian world is aware of it. Now they understand why the palaces of cardinals are being robbed when according to precedent only synagogs should be robbed and destroyed. Now they understand why the property of the church is going to be confiscated while according to precedent only the property of Jews should be confiscated.

The Nazis do not like Christianity and they do not like Christmas. A brave American a few days ago in the City of Cleveland spoke up and his words echoed around the world. A member of the President's Cabinet spoke the word that had to be spoken and spoke it with forthrightness and vigor. He called the Nazis beasts and they were outraged. And they demanded an apology. And the apology was nor forthcoming. And they decided not to press the matter further.

The spokesman in Berlin said that the Nazi Government had no intention further to press this matter. The reason given was that this is the spirit of Christmas. This the Yuletide season and good will must prevail among men. "And we believe," he said, "in the true Christmas spirit." While he was uttering these words, thousands of Jewish children were fleeing from their homes in the arms of their fathers and mothers driven to distant lands because of the madness and the brutality and the barbarism of these people. They would like to have the world believe that they believe in the true Christmas spirit. While he was uttering these lying words, thousands of men were shivering from cold and atrocities in concentration camps in Germany, torn from their families and for no other reason than that they were related by blood to Him in Whose name Christmas is being celebrated. While he was uttering these words, "We believe in the Christmas Spirit," they were extorting, blackmail and ransom from a helpless community, taking possession of the private possessions of private citizens, innocent men and women who had committed no wrong.

No, they don't know the true Christmas spirit. If the man in Whose name this holiday is celebrated throughout the Christian world were at this moment to speak to the six or seven hundred fellow Jews in Germany I am sure that he would say to them as he said to his disciples long time ago: "Blessed are you whom people abuse. Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and forcibly say everything bad about you."

My dear friends, who are the real friends of this Christmas spirit in the world today? They are those who labor in this desperate hour when the sun is going down, laboring to save for mankind this Jewish-Christian tradition. One of those great spokesmen was Jesus of Nazareth. This tradition, my friends, is desperately hard to maintain.

I sometimes ask myself, why does the Bible repeat so often this thought: "And ye shall teach them diligently to your children. Ye shall speak of them when thou sittest down, when thou standest up, etc..." Because the great teachers understood how difficult it is to maintain an individual and more so a people on the high plane of civilization, how tremendously big is the downward pull into the cesspool of immorality and animalism. This is so with intellectual achievement but is more so with spiritual matters. Once you discover a scientific truth, man learns to apply it. Scientific discoveries made two, three hundred years ago are incorporated, accepted into the life of a people and remains unchallenged, secure until it is disproved. It is not so with spiritual ideals. You may discover a spiritual truth, as many of the spiritual truths were discovered, two, three thousand years ago, and yet they must be re-established and defended anew. "It is easy to go down to Hell." The spiritual life has to be rediscovered and new adjustments made continually and a new strategy made to defend it. That is why it is so hard.

We talk about freedom, the rights of man. These are platitudes. Isaiah, Plato, Socrates knew of them. They are just as new today and as little observed today as they were in the days of Isaiah. Group morality always lags behind private morality. Most of us human beings believe it is wrong to kill a man. It is not so in war. Every normal man believes it is wrong to rob yet most every normal being does not think that it is wrong to rob the territory of your neighbor in conquest. Most of us agree that the enslavement of an individual is a horrible thing yet powerful nations today hold vast populations in serfdom, enslavement. We accept that. Group morality lags far behind individual morality. And that, I suppose, is what the Psalmists really meant when

they used that challenging phrase: "Many nations come to understand that they are like individuals", that they are subject to the same moral laws as are individuals, that they are not allowed to kill, enslave, expropriate, that a million people as a collective body have no more warrent to be cruel, to be vengeful, to rob and destroy than a single individual.

Because moral law is difficult to establish, ^{there} ~~it~~ is no excuse for not exerting ourselves to the utmost to do it.

This brings me to my last thought this morning. At the heart of the Christian saga which is commemorated today just as at the heart of the Jewish saga is a messianic motive. What is it? The belief that a good world is possible, the belief that while there is evil in the world, evil can be overcome, that there will come a day when all wrong will be righted, when the crooked will be made straight, when all hate will be vanished. That Judaism and Christianity share in common.

As far as the moral, intellectual and spiritual life of man is concerned, there are no hard fast laws set. There has always been an optimism which spurs on to a greater challenge of initiative and self-sacrifice. It is this optimism which is needed in this dark hour for Jews and Christians alike. Such men who work for the spiritual values of life are blessed indeed. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are they who are ~~pure~~ pure in heart. Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are the humble-minded. Blessed are the merciful."

The Hebrew word for blessing (Brachah) probably comes from the hebrew word which means a pool of water. That is what was needed most in the dry and parched lands and that ~~which~~ supplies that need is a brachah.

This is what our age needs today. In the dry and parched and desert world today we need humility. We need hunger and thirst after righteousness. We need the peacemaker. We need the merciful. And they who supply that need and they who work to see that those needs of human life are met will indeed be blessed.



1/ (Note). This admirably sums up attitude of Jud. to Chr.
Had 3 remained aware of their common origin - Task - destiny - a
diff. world, indeed! Perhaps vision fulfilled - Earth shall be full -
Instead their rivalries and conflicts ^{pages of history with slandering records, intrigues and dissensions} filled the world with bitterness
and wars, and deflected energies from their ministry of ^{rel. & others}
salvation, to defence of partisan ship, organization, hierarchic pri-
lege and power.

2/ Leaders, all 3 of. have regretted it - are regretting it to day -
The fault was not that, the rel. themselves ^{but the lesser men who came}
to control ^{from turn to turn} the ag. which embodied them - lesser men who shared with
all common frailties their clannishness, bias, competitive instincts,
lust for power + prestige - who reached out for worldly gains under
guise of spiritual pursuits.

3/ Be. of that, achievements of Rel. thru the centuries, while numerous
and significant, fall far below the expectancy of their great founders,
Their great goals are still far, far away. at times it seems
as if no progress at all has been made. that goals are unreal,
needing mirages - beyond reach of men.

4/ Our own day is just such a time! Rel. confidence has reached
a low ebb. Rel. ideals as described as in the days of paganism.
In doctrine & in practice - ignored, or denied, or derided. And in
lines of purpose & values even more so than in lines of individuals.
Look all year this Christmas morning! - when nearly 2000 yrs. after
the Founder, Chr. was born - and see how many of his preachments
are observed among men & nations who nominally acknowledge
Him as their Master!
He preached Peace, and mercy and humility, he taught men not
to be angry with their brothers nor speak contemptuously of them. He
urged men to forgive, and to love their enemies! Manhood is of one
blood! Everyman is of divine breed! A Universal Brotherhood in love & God!

But these very things are contemptuously rejected to-day and despised in the very lands which are the strongholds, the pillars - which boast 10,000 churches dedicated to Him and His gospel - and myriads of priests & clergy ministering at these altars. In Spain - yesterday

5/ Pope justly and helplessly complained that in the very city, Rome - the Holy City, Christendom - the Catholic Cross - Sacristy - had supplanted the Holy Cross, Christendom - Rome hedged itself with the regiment of Antichrist when his rep. on earth to-day visited it.

For Nazism is by their own avowals the antithesis of Christianity. Chr. proclaimed the Unity, Manhood - Nazis - the divisiveness, Race

" " An Human Family - " a world of organized units

" was devoted to universal brotherhood - " clans of blood relatives

" was devoted to universal brotherhood - " clans of blood relatives

" Resist Not Evil - Peace - " Force - Conquest - Militarism

6/ No wonder Nazis hate Christianity - & seek to convert Christmas into a pagan festival. They hate everything connected with Christianity. Its brother in sin to-day is a satanic practical joke - for they removed them of Jews and Judaism and Judaea - seek to wipe out.

This most important holiday in Jew. & in entire Chr. world is redolent of the J. spirit - of ideas, & J. ideas names & places & books.

→ Nazareth & Bethlehem are not German towns but Hebrew and Mary & Joseph & Jesus are not heretics but Jews.

And the Holy Bible from where this great rel. epic is derived was written not by Germans but by Jews. And the Psalms which are sung on Christmas as this day & the Nativity are Hebrew Psalms - Nazis hate it - Yonks - race-conscious must say - Jew had because his God

They would like to burn the Bible - just as they burnt all other J. books - but are afraid - they would like to

How carefully Matthew traces the genealogy 5 Jews - 14 gene.
to Baby. Ex. 6 - 14 gene. to David and 14 more to Abraham
to establish the klan's ancestry, Jews - and that he
sprang from the loins of Abraham - the Jew -

And how this rattles in the hearts of the Nazis - that
the God of these people is a non-Aryan - who
if he appeared in Berlin to-day would be treated as
an outcast and a pariah, branded as vile because
his Semitic blood, because his parents & grandparents,
perish for 42 ^{last} generations were all pure non-Aryans.



Wheeling, W. Va.

WOOL

Borkheimer Brothers

word like to
uproot this entire Judaeo-Ch. culture from the hearts of
the Jewish people. And given time, they might even
succeed. They will make the effort - no doubt! For
the two cannot get side by side! That they know
and understand full well.

7. Letter - Apology - Propt. ~~to~~ Bulkes - Rothmann

"We believe in the True Christmas Spirit". He lived twice
while he was uttering those words - children, exiles;

men - by the thousands - in concentration camps - frost-bitten

Suicide - Extortion - Ransom -

600,000 ^{Jews} blood-relatives, thin after whom Christmas is
named, in whose honor celebrated, whose spirit & gifts
should permeate that festival: - "Blessed are you who people above
you + persecute you - and pray say
everything 'bad' & you"
- Johann - Goodwill-Kerthey

(2) He lived again: for the Christmas Spirit - is every thing
which they have vowed to destroy in the world.

Everything they stand for - is a blasphemy - apostasy!

~~(2) Their "Chr. Spirit" was unbroken yesterday, again in the
blatant, all the battles in war torn Spain - where for
adventures Nazis~~

8. True friends, Chr. Spirit - are those who live in their desperate
times, to whom light is vanishing (that's) as when the air - to
conserve for mankind that Judaeo-Ch. tradition - as when
present spokesman was Jesus, Nazareth

9. That Tradition hard to maintain!

I sometimes wonder why - why - write them - why -
most difficult -

6. re. discovery - applied -

but constant, heart-breaking effort to keep a civilization at a
high level. Pull downward! Gravity!

Facile descensus hominis - Reaspirandum homo habere

Re-actum - Begin all over again!

10/ Group Morality - lower ^{Even more different} To kill a man - In war!

To rob! But conquest! To enslave a man -

- and Bible p. 12:13! -

11/ But no excuse for not doing it - here. it is difficult!
at heart Chr. saga - as at heart of Jud. is the Hebrew
motif - A good world is possible! Peace on Earth is possible!

There is evil - but it can be overcome!

World is sick - But it can be healed -

12/ The way - is justice - love - humility -

Blessed are the humble-minded

" " those who are hungry & thirsty for righteousness

" " the merciful

" " the pure in heart

" " the peace-makers -

But these very things - contempt. rejected - Stoughton - 10.000

5/ Pope - crooked cross - Bedecked with symbols - Anti Christ
For Nazism - by its very arrival
Chr. proclaimed Unity of Mankind - Race Divisions
" " One Human Family - class of blood black
" " America & Corruption - Dent. & Ultra-Nat
" " Resist all evil - Persians - Force - Unstable

6/ No wonder - Nazis hate - Chr. & Christmas - Pagan Festival

Hate every thing connected with them -

His practice in Gen. to-day Sardonie JTG

~~Redeemed~~

Remind them of Jews - Just - Judae - high art

This most important Festival - Redeemed of Spirit

Nazareth Bethlehem - Prussian town

John, Mary, Joseph Jesus

Matthew - rantler - If he came Berlin - 42

Holy Bible - Psalms - Youth - race everywhere

would like to have Bible too - R. W. - Jesus - a

Prussian -