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The Jewish Impact on Civilization, Part I, 1963.

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THE JEWISH IMPACT ON CIVILIZATION

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WHEN THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL FIRST APPEARED ON THE SCENE, THE ANCIENT WORLD WAS ALREADY VERY OLD AND FAR ADVANCED. EGYPT AND BABYLONIA HAD ALREADY DEVELOPED HIGH MATERIAL CIVILIZATIONS AND BUILT GREAT EMPIRES. THEIR ARTS AND LITERATURE HAD REACHED A FAIRLY HIGH DEGREE OF DEVELOPMENT. DISCOVERIES OF THE WORKS OF ART IN THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMEN IN EGYPT DATE FROM ABOUT THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY BEFORE THE COMMON ERA, APPROXIMATELY THE TIME WHEN THE HEBREWS ENTER RECORDED HISTORY. AND THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT WERE BUILT A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE THAT TIME.

OUR ANCESTORS WERE RATHER LATE ARRIVALS ON THE STAGE OF HISTORY.

I CALL ATTENTION TO THIS FACT TO HELP US TO EVALUATE PROPERLY THE ACTUAL ROLE WHICH ISRAEL PLAYED IN THE ANCIENT WORLD.

THE GENIUS OF OUR RACE EVIDENCED ITSELF NOT SO MUCH IN THE CREATION OF NEW HITHERTO UN-KNOWN VALUES, BUT IN THE TRANSVALUATION OF OLD VALUES. THE ORIGINALITY OF OUR PEOPLE IS TO BE DISCOVERED NOT SO MUCH IN THE CREATION OF SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING -- A FEAT, BY THE WAY, WHICH NO PEOPLE HAS

EVER PERFORMED -- BUT IN RE-MOLDING OLD FORMS INTO NEW, IN THE PURIFICATION AND SUBLIMATION OF EXISTING VALUES, IN THE REFINEMENT OF A CULTURE WHICH IT FOUND.

THE LAND OF CANAAN INTO WHICH OUR PEOPLE MIGRATED IN THE FIFTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CENTURIES WAS THE HOME OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLES WHO SHARED A COMMON LANGUAGE AND RELIGIOUS TRADITION. CANAAN, OR PALESTINE AS IT WAS ~~L~~ATER KNOWN, WAS A MAIN ARTERY OF TRAFFIC IN THE NEAR EAST, A CARAVAN HIGHWAY WHICH CONNECTED GREAT EMPIRES -- EGYPT ON THE NILE AND ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA ON THE TIGRIS AND THE EUPHRATES.

FROM EARLIEST TIMES PALESTINE WAS THE ENTREPOT OF PEOPLES, A CLEARING HOUSE OF CULTURES, AS WELL AS THE BATTLE-GROUND OF EMPIRES.

WHEN OUR ANCESTORS ENTERED CANAAN THEY CAME IN CONTACT WITH THESE PEOPLES AND CULTURES, WITH THEIR DIFFERING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, PRACTICES AND WAYS OF LIFE, AND THEIR IMPACT UPON THEM WAS TREMENDOUS.

THEY ENCOUNTERED A MORE ADVANCED CIVILIZATION THAN THEIRS. IT IS A RULE IN HISTORY THAT THE LOWER CIVILIZATION ALWAYS SUCCUMBS TO THE HIGHER CIVILIZATION, EVEN IF THE LOWER CIVILIZATION IS REPRESENTED BY A CONQUERING PEOPLE. IF THE TRIBES OF

ISRAEL HAD NOT POSSESSED SOME NATIVE STRENGTH OF THEIR OWN, SOME SUPERIOR ENDOWMENTS OF THEIR OWN, THEY WOULD HAVE SUCCUMBED TO THE CIVILIZATION OF THE PEOPLES OF CANAAN. THEY WOULD THEN HAVE BECOME JUST ANOTHER PEOPLE LIKE THE PHILISTINES, THE AMMONITES, THE AMMORITES OR THE EDMITES, PEOPLES WHO LIVED IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WORLD, HAD THEIR DAY, AND CEASED TO BE.

BUT, THESE TRIBES, THE BENE ISRAEL, POSSESSED SOMETHING INHERENT WHICH DID NOT YIELD TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT, WHICH MADE OF THEM A PEOPLE WHICH IN TIME FASHIONED A CIVILIZATION WHOSE RARE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MANKIND ECLIPSED THE MORE ADVANCED MATERIAL CIVILIZATIONS BOTH OF THE NILE AND THE MESOPOTAMIA.

THEY WERE A HARDY PEOPLE, THESE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, A VIGOROUS AND VITAL STOCK. SIR GEORGE ADAMS SMITH, WRITING OF "THE HEBREW GENIUS AS EXHIBITED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT", STATES:

"THE SHEER VITALITY OF THIS BREED, BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL, HAS BEEN SO INTENSE AND, DESPITE DEMORALIZATIONS AND DISASTERS SUFFICIENT TO HAVE SHATTERED OTHER PEOPLES, HAS BEEN SO ENDURING AS TO IMPLY SOURCES OF BLOOD AND OF BRAIN UNCOMMONLY RICH AND VIGOROUS. THAT FIRE NEVER DIED OUT OF THE NATION. THOUGH OFTEN SLUMBERING IT WAS READY, ALMOST ALWAYS, TO FLARE UP AT THE BREATH OF A PROPHET. TO WHATEVER SOURCE

WE MAY ASCRIBE THOSE INSPIRATIONS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE FUEL NECESSARY TO THEM, THE SHEER HUMAN MATERIAL INDISPENSABLE FOR THEIR DISPLAY TO THE WORLD AND THEIR TRADITION TO LATER AGES, WAS OF MARVELLOUS STRENGTH AND EXHAUSTLESS POWERS OF REPLENISHMENT AND ENDURANCE. "

THE GIFT WHICH THIS GROUP OF TRIBES POSSESSED TO A DEGREE SUPERIOR TO THAT OF ANY OTHER PEOPLE IN THE ANCIENT EAST WAS NOT SCIENTIFIC OR MILITARY OR PHILOSOPHIC OR AESTHETIC. OUR ANCESTORS EXCELLED IN NONE OF THESE. THEY MADE NO EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT OR MILITARY TECHNIQUE OR PHILOSOPHIC THEORY OR TO ART, EXCEPT TO LITERARY ART. IN LITERARY ART THEY DID DISPLAY RARE EXCELLENCE. THE EMINENT SCHOLAR AND ARCHAEOLOGIST, PROFESSOR HALL, IN HIS CLASSIC, "ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE NEAR EAST", WRITES:

"IF THE PALESTINIANS AS A WHOLE LACKED ARTISTIC ORIGINALITY AND COULD BUILD NOTHING BUT BARE WALLS, IF THEY LACKED IMAGINATION AS REGARDS THE WORKS OF THEIR HANDS, IF THEIR SENSE OF THE BEAUTY OF FORM AND LINE IN MATERIAL OBJECTS WAS BLUNT AND POOR, YET WE KNOW TO WHAT HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS OF IMAGINATION AND IMAGERY THE POETS AND PROPHEETS OF ISRAEL COULD ATTAIN, DOWERING THE WORLD WITH A POESY, A MUSIC AND FRENZY OF WORDS, THAT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST POSSESSIONS OF OUR CIVILIZATION FOR ALL TIME. "

BUT IT IS IN THE REAL^m OF RELIGION THAT THE REAL GENIUS OF THE RACE MANIFESTED ITSELF. THE CREATIVE ORIGINALITY OF THIS PEOPLE IS TO BE FOUND IN ITS AMAZING SENSITIVENESS TO ETHICAL VALUES, AND IN ITS REMARKABLE SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS INSIGHTS.

TO BE SURE, ALL THE PEOPLES OF ANTIQUITY WERE RELIGIOUS. THEY ALL HAD THEIR TEMPLES AND SHRINES, THEIR RITUALS AND CEREMONIES. RELIGION TOUCHED THEIR LIVES AT ALMOST EVERY POINT, AND YET, AMONG NO PEOPLE DID RELIGION BECOME SO MUCH A FACTOR IN THE PROGRESSIVE UNFOLDMENT OF THE INNER LIFE OF MAN AS AMONG THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

ALL PEOPLES POSSESSED CODES OF ETHICS AND LAWS TO GUIDE THEM, BUT AMONG NO PEOPLE DID THE ETHICAL IDEAL ASSUME SUCH A CHALLENGING AND CREATIVE ROLE AS AMONG THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES AMONG ALL ANCIENT PEOPLES WERE SUPREMELY IMPORTANT AS MEANS OF PRESERVING SOCIAL STABILITY AND SECURITY, AND OF INSURING HAPPINESS IN AN AFTER-LIFE. IN ISRAEL, THE ETHICAL MOTIVE IN RELIGION BECAME THE DRIVING IMPULSE FOR A CONTINUING PROGRAM OF SOCIAL REFORM, FOR THE BUILDING OF AN EVER MORE PERFECT SOCIETY.

OUR FOREFATHERS ENTERED THE ANCIENT WORLD, POSSESSED OF A VERY SIMPLE FAITH IN A CREATOR AND GUARDIAN GOD WHOM THEY

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CALLED YAHWEH. THEY TRACED THEIR RACIAL ANCESTRY TO ABRAHAM WHO WAS THE FIRST TO WORSHIP THIS GOD. MOSES, WHO LED THEM OUT OF EGYPT IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY, WAS BY THEM REVERED AS THEIR TRUE NATIONAL LEADER AND TEACHER WHO GAVE THEM A CODE OF BASIC MORAL INSTRUCTION -- A TORAH -- WHICH BECAME THEIR EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH YAHWEH. THE RELIGION WHICH THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM INTO CANAAN WAS NOT BURDENED WITH EXCESSIVE RITUALISM, WITH AN HIERARCHY OF PRIESTS, WITH THE POMP AND CEREMONY OF CULT AND SACRIFICES, SUCH AS THE CANAANITES POSSESSED AND THE OTHER SEMITIC PEOPLES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD. THEIR FAITH WAS A SIMPLE FAITH WHICH RESISTED AND WAGED WAR UPON THE ELABORATE CULTS OF THE PEOPLES WHOM THEY CONQUERED WITH THEIR MANIFOLD SUPERSTITIONS AND IDOLATRIES.

IN THE CENTURIES WHICH FOLLOWED THEIR ENTRANCE INTO CANAAN, THERE ^{also} AROSE AMONG THEM A SUCCESSION OF UNIQUE PERSONALITIES, KNOWN AS PROPHEETS, WHO INTERPRETED THE CODE OF MORAL INSTRUCTION WHICH MOSES HAD GIVEN THEM -- THE ORIGINAL TORAH -- AND TAUGHT THEM MANY OTHER SPIRITUAL TRUTHS WHICH WERE DESTINED TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT OF MANKIND.

OF THESE PROPHEETS, THE EMINENT PROTESTANT THEOLOGIAN, CORNILL, SAID:

"THE WHOLE HISTORY OF HUMANITY HAS PRODUCED NOTHING WHICH CAN BE COMPARED IN THE REMOTEST DEGREE TO THE PROPHECY OF ISRAEL. THROUGH PROPHECY ISRAEL BECAME THE PROPHET OF MANKIND. LET THIS NEVER BE OVERLOOKED NOR FORGOTTEN: THE COSTLIEST AND NOBLEST TREASURE THAT MAN POSSESSES HE OWES TO ISRAEL AND TO ISRAELITIC PROPHECY."

THESE PROPHETS TAUGHT THEM TO REJECT THE SUPERSTITIONS OF THE HEATHEN ABOUT THEM, TO ABANDON ALL FORMS OF NATURE WORSHIP AND THE INDECENT RITUALS WHICH ACCOMPANIED THEM. THEY TAUGHT THEM NOT TO WORSHIP GOD IN AN IMAGE. GOD IS SPIRIT AND, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE WORSHIPPED ONLY IN THE SPIRIT. THEY TAUGHT THEM NOT TO THINK OF GOD AS A FORCE OR PHENOMENON OF NATURE, AS THE SUN OR THE MOON OR THE STORM OR THE FIRE, BUT TO THINK OF HIM AS THE CREATOR AND RULER OF ALL THE FORCES AND PHENOMENA OF THE UNIVERSE.

AND, LASTLY, THEY TAUGHT THEM TO THINK OF GOD NOT ONLY AS THE SOURCE OF ALL PHYSICAL PHENOMENA BUT ALSO AS THE SOURCE OF ALL SPIRITUAL PHENOMENA, AS THE SOURCE OF MORALITY, OF GOODNESS AND JUSTICE AND TRUTH AND LOVE. THEY TAUGHT THEM THAT GOD IS TO BE WORSHIPPED NOT THROUGH SACRIFICES BUT THROUGH THE JUST INNER LIFE, THE GOOD LIFE OF THE SOUL. THEY MADE RELIGION AND MORALITY SYNONYMOUS. THEY GAVE MANKIND THE EXALTED NEW CONCEPTION OF ETHICAL MONOTHEISM.

OUR ANCESTORS POSSESSED NOT ONLY A SIMPLE FAITH IN AN UN-
SEEN GOD OF JUSTICE AND COMPASSION WHICH WAS DESTINED TO USHER
IN A NEW ERA IN THE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS OF THE HUMAN RACE, BUT
THEY ALSO POSSESSED A STRONG SENSE OF FREEDOM AND HELD HIGH
THE DIGNITY OF MAN.

OUR ANCESTORS LOVED FREEDOM. EVERY MAN KNEW HIS RIGHTS
AND WAS JEALOUS OF HIS RIGHTS. HE WAS JEALOUS ALSO OF HIS DIG-
NITY AS A HUMAN BEING.

WHEN THEY ENTERED CANAAN, THEY ENCOUNTERED A MATERIAL
CIVILIZATION WHICH WAS RICHER BY FAR THAN THEIRS, BUT WHICH
HAD BECOME CORRUPT BECAUSE OF THE INEVITABLE FACTORS WHICH
ALWAYS ATTEND RICH AND LONG ESTABLISHED CIVILIZATIONS.

ANCIENT PEOPLES WERE RULED LARGELY BY DESPOTS AND TYRANTS.
THE MASSES POSSESSED NO RIGHTS WHATSOEVER. KINGS WERE WOR-
SHIPPED AS DIVINE BEINGS. THEIR SUBJECTS WERE THEIR SLAVES.
AMONG THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, ROYALTY WAS INSTINCTIVELY ABHORRED.
WHEN THEY CAME INTO CANAAN AS CONQUERORS, THEY HAD NO KINGS
AND FOR CENTURIES THEY POSSESSED NONE.

IT WAS ONLY WHEN A GRAVE EMERGENCY AROSE, BROUGHT ABOUT
BY THE INVASION OF THE POWERFUL PHILISTINES IN THE ELEVENTH
CENTURY, THAT THEY TURNED TO THEIR PROPHET SAMUEL AND SAID,
"SET A KING OVER US". SAMUEL THE PROPHET, WHO REPRESENTED THE

TRUE GENIUS OF THE RACE, TOLD THE PEOPLE, "WHY DO YOU WANT A KING? A RULER WHO WILL OPPRESS YOU, EXPLOIT YOU, MAKE YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SERVANTS AND SLAVES? YOU ARE FREE MEN. HOLD ON TO YOUR FREEDOM!" BUT THE PEOPLE, IN THEIR FEAR OF THE PHILISTINES AND THEIR CHARIOTS OF IRON INSISTED: "GIVE US A KING!"

WHEN THEY FINALLY GOT THEIR KINGS, THEY REFUSED TO SURRENDER ^{to them} THEIR JEALOUSLY GUARDED PERSONAL RIGHTS ~~TO THEM~~. WHENEVER THEIR RULERS OVER-STEPPED WHAT THEY REGARDED AS THEIR LEGITIMATE FUNCTIONS AND PREROGATIVES, THE PEOPLE REBELLED AND DETHRONED THEM. THEIR PROPHETS WERE NEVER AFRAID TO SPEAK UP AGAINST ROYALTY. NATHAN DEFIED KING DAVID, AND ELIJAH DEFIED KING AHAB, AND JEREMIAH DENOUNCED KING ZEDEKIAH. THE KINGS OF ISRAEL WERE MADE TO REALIZE THAT THEY WERE SUBJECT TO THE SAME UNIVERSAL MORAL LAW OF GOD AS WAS THE HUMBLEST AMONG THEIR SUBJECTS.

THIS LOVE OF FREEDOM WAS A NEW NOTE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD. IT WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR LEGACIES OF ISRAEL TO MANKIND. THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL HAD SUFFERED A LONG AND A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE WITH SLAVERY IN EGYPT. WHEN THEY ESCAPED FROM EGYPT THEY CARRIED WITH THEM AN UNENDING HATRED OF ALL FORMS OF HUMAN BONDAGE, ~~WITH~~ A PASSION FOR FREEDOM AND A REVERENCE FOR THE

DIGNITY OF MAN. THEY INSISTED UPON THE RIGHTS OF EVERY HUMAN BEING, THE RIGHTS OF THE LABORER, THE CITIZEN, THE POOR.

THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF THE WIDOW, THE ORPHAN, THE POOR, THE DENIED AND THE DISPOSSESSED OF THE EARTH. NOWHERE IN THE LITERATURE OF MANKIND DO YOU FIND SUCH ELOQUENT CHAMPIONING OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL MEN -- EVEN THE LOWLIEST OF GOD'S CHILDREN -- AS YOU FIND IN THE PAGES OF THE BIBLE. THIS EXALTED CONCEPTION OF THE RIGHTS AND STATUS OF MAN IS ONE OF ISRAEL'S SUPREME LEGACIES TO MANKIND.

IN TIME, ISRAEL CAME TO EMBRACE WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF ITS HIGH REGARD AND LOVE FOR MAN NOT ONLY ALL ISRAELITES, OF WHATEVER STATION IN LIFE, BUT ~~OF~~ ALL MEN. JUST AS THEIR GOD CEASED TO BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL ALONE AND BECAME THE GOD OF MANKIND, SO THEIR REGARD FOR MAN EXTENDED BEYOND THEIR OWN KITH AND KIN AND EMBRACED ALL MANKIND.

THIS, TOO, WAS REVOLUTIONARY. IN THE ANCIENT WORLD A MAN WHO BELONGED TO ANOTHER PEOPLE, AN ALIEN, WAS POTENTIALLY AN ENEMY. EVEN THE GREEKS, THE MOST CIVILIZED OF ALL ~~ANCIENT~~ *the* *of antiquity* PEOPLES, CONSIDERED EVERY OTHER PEOPLE AS BARBARIAN. THE STRANGER WAS NOT LOVED. THE STRANGER WAS AN ENEMY.

ISRAEL INCLUDED WITHIN ITS CONCEPT OF JUSTICE AND LOVE THE STRANGER AND THE SOJOURNER. "YE SHALL NOT OP^PRESS THE STRANGER FOR YE WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT."

FROM THIS EXALTED CONCEPTION OF HUMANITY AND BROTHERHOOD FLOWED ISRAEL'S VISION OF UNIVERSAL PEACE, THE VISION OF A GOLDEN DAY YET TO COME WHEN NATIONS WOULD BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES AND THERE WOULD BE WAR NO MORE. ISRAEL ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO THE FUTURE, TO A BETTER DAY TO COME, TO A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH. THE ANCIENT WORLD IN ITS SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK WAS STATIC. IT WAS EITHER SATISFIED WITH THINGS AS THEY WERE OR HAD RECONCILED ITSELF TO CONDITIONS AS THEY WERE. IN ISRAEL THERE WAS ALWAYS A FERVENT, AND IRREPRESSIBLE OUT-REACHING FOR A BETTER WAY OF LIFE. IT WAS NEVER SATISFIED WITH THINGS AS THEY WERE. IT ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO A NOBLER ORDER OF SOCIETY, TO A TIME WHEN EACH MAN WOULD DWELL UNDER HIS VINE AND UNDER HIS FIG-TREE AND NONE WOULD MAKE HIM AFRAID.

IF I WERE, THEN, TO SUM UP THE ROLE OF ISRAEL IN THE ANCIENT WORLD, I WOULD SAY THAT IT REVOLUTIONIZED THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. IT REFINED AND PURIFIED THEM AND GAVE BACK TO MANKIND A NEW SET OF CONCEPTS TOUCHING GOD AND MAN, AND MAN'S RELATION TO HIS FEELOW-MEN. IT GAVE TO MANKIND A NEW TEXT AND CHARTER OF HUMAN DIGNITY, JUSTICE, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FREEDOM.

BY THE MIDDLE OF THE FIFTH CENTURY BEFORE THE COMMON ERA, THESE MAJOR IDEALS HAD BEEN FULLY DEVELOPED BY THE SPIRITUAL

LEADERS OF OUR PEOPLE, FROM THAT TIME ON, FROM THE TIME OF THE RESTORATION OF JUDEA, AFTER THE BABYLONIAN EXILE, THE BEST EFFORTS OF OUR PEOPLE WERE DEVOTED TO TWO TASKS. THE FIRST WAS TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM PHYSICAL DISINTEGRATION AND ASSIMILATION. AND THE SECOND WAS TO DEVELOP A TECHNIQUE WHICH WOULD ENABLE A MAN IN HIS EVERY-DAY LIFE TO REALIZE THESE EXALTED IDEALS WHICH THE PROPHETS HAD SET UP, TO DEFINE A DETAILED PROGRAM OF ^{human} CONDUCT. THE BEST MINDS OF ISRAEL APPLIED THEMSELVES TO THESE TASKS. THE PROBLEMS WHICH THEY FACED WERE THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF SURVIVAL AND EDUCATION.

THE PROPHEPIC ENTHUSIASM OF THE EARLIER CENTURIES IS NOW ABATED. THE HEROIC MOOD IS GONE. THE AGE OF THE GIANTS IS OVER. SAGES, SCRIBES AND RABBIS ARE NOW THE SUCCESSORS OF THE ^{earlier} PROPHETS. BUT, WHILE THE PROPHEPIC AGE IS ENDED, THE FAITH AND THE MORAL IDEALS OF THE RACE CONTINUE. THEY ARE CONSERVED AND DEFENDED BY A DEVOUT AND LOYAL PEOPLE WHICH WAS PREPARED, WHEN CHALLENGED, TO POUR OUT ITS VERY BLOOD IN THEIR DEFENSE AS THEY DID DURING THE TERRIBLE MACCABEAN STRUGGLE IN THE SECOND CENTURY.

WHEN ISRAEL REACHES THE THRESHHOLD OF THE COMMON ERA, AFTER FIFTEEN CENTURIES OF CREATIVE EXISTENCE, IT IS BY NO MEANS AN OLD AND DECADENT PEOPLE. ITS RELIGION IS NOT AT ALL A SPENT AND EXHAUSTED FAITH. IT IS STILL VITAL AND CHALLENGING. ~~DURING~~

at this time Palestine is still ~~the~~ a cross-road of empires, and one of the great centers of international thought and religious syncretism in the eastern world. During

THE ONE HUNDRED YEARS WHICH PRECEDED THE COMMON ERA AND THE ONE HUNDRED YEARS WHICH FOLLOWED IT, THE JEWS CARRIED ON AN ACTIVE MISSIONARY PROPAGANDA THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN WORLD AND MADE THOUSANDS OF CONVERTS TO JUDAISM EVEN AMONG THE NOBILITY OF THE ROMAN WORLD.

CHRISTIANITY, WHICH BEGAN AS A JEWISH RELIGIOUS SECT, APPEARED AT THIS TIME NOT BECAUSE JUDAISM HAD OUTLIVED ITSELF, BUT BECAUSE JUDAISM WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WAS STILL ABLE TO INFLUENCE ~~OTHER~~ CIVILIZATIONS AND ~~OTHER~~ FAITHS WITH WHICH IT CAME IN CONTACT.

CHRISTIANITY AT THE OUTSET WAS NOT A REVOLT AGAINST JUDAISM, OR THE TORAH OR THE TEMPLE OR THE PRIESTHOOD OR THE RABBIS. NOR DID IT REPRESENT A NEW PROPHEPIC UPSURGE IN JUDAISM.

CHRISTIANITY WAS A JEWISH MESSIANIC MOVEMENT WHICH CAME *and especially that carried away by mystical ideas* WHEN IT DID COME BECAUSE THE PEOPLE, AT THAT TIME WERE EXPECTING THE ADVENT OF THE THOUSAND YEARS OF PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS -- THE MILLENNIUM -- WHICH WAS TO PRECEDE THE END OF THE WORLD. MEN WERE IMMINENTLY AWAITING THIS MILLENNIUM WHICH CARRIED WITH IT THE END OF THE RULE OF ROME, *which was* ABHORRED BY THE PEOPLE, AND THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

THIS MILLENNIUM WAS TO BE USHERED IN BY ONE WHO WOULD BE ANOINTED BY THE LORD, THE MESSIAH, THE CHRIST. HIS CHIEF TASK

WOULD BE TO WARN THE PEOPLE OF ITS COMING SO THAT THEY COULD PREPARE THEMSELVES, THROUGH REPENTANCE, CLEAN THEMSELVES OF THEIR SINS, AND BE WORTHY TO ENTER THE BLESSED KINGDOM OF GOD.

JESUS, A GALLILEAN JEW, BELIEVED IN THE IMMINENT APPROACH OF THE END OF THE WORLD. HE WENT THROUGH THE CITIES OF GALILEE PROCLAIMING: "PREPARE YE, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND."

-Judea is now a Roman province, under a Roman procurator,
WHEN JESUS WAS PUT TO DEATH BY THE ROMANS, WHO SAW IN HIM

AND IN THE OTHER MESSIANIC PRETENDERS WHO APPEARED AT THAT TIME, DANGEROUS REBELS AGAINST ROME, AND WHEN HIS DISCIPLES REALIZED THAT THE MILLENNIUM HAD NOT YET COME AND THAT THE MISSION OF JESUS, WHOM THEY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE MESSIAH, HAD NOT BEEN FULFILLED, THEY NEVERTHELESS PERSISTED IN THE BELIEF THAT JESUS WAS RESURRECTED AFTER HE WAS CRUCIFIED AND THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO COMPLETE HIS WORK. THEY CONTINUED TO HOLD ONTO THEIR MESSIANIC FAITH.

THERE SOON AROSE IN ^{*the city of*} TARSUS IN ASIA MINOR, A JEW WHOSE NAME WAS SAUL, OR PAUL, WHO WAS NOT A PALESTINIAN BY BIRTH, WHO HAD NEVER SEEN JESUS IN LIFE, WHOSE TRAINING WAS MORE GREEK THAN JEWISH, WHO WAS ALSO CONVINCED OF THE IMMINENCE OF THE END OF THE WORLD. ^{*He was also convinced*} THAT JESUS WAS THE APPOINTED MESSIAH AND THAT HE WOULD SOON RETURN TO COMPLETE THE WORK WHICH HE HAD BEGUN.

PAUL MADE THE BELIEVE^f IN THE MESSIAHSHIP OF JESUS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH FOR ALL THOSE WHO WISHED TO JOIN THE NEW MESSIANIC OR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. PAUL WAS NOT CONTENT TO PREACH HIS FAITH TO JEWS ALONE. HE PREACHED IT BOTH TO JEWS AND NON-JEWS, TO ALL PAGANS IN THE GRAECO-ROMAN WORLD. PAUL SOON REALIZED THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO PERSUADE NON-JEWS TO JOIN THE MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP IF THEY WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED, AS A PRIOR CONDITION, TO ACCEPT AND OBSERVE ALL THE LAWS OF THE TORAH WHICH WERE BINDING UPON OBSERVANT JEWS, SUCH AS THE DIETARY LAWS, THE ABRAHAMITIC RIGHT OF CIRCUMCISION AND THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH. HE, THEREFORE, SET THESE LAWS ASIDE AS FAR AS PAGAN CONVERTS TO THE MESSIANIC FAITH WERE CONCERNED.

AS A RESULT OF THE ABANDONMENT OF THESE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF JUDAISM BY PAUL AND HIS FOLLOWERS, A RUPTURE TOOK PLACE WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO THE COMPLETE SEPARATION OF THIS MESSIANIC JEWISH SECT FROM THE MAINSTREAM ~~STREAM~~ OF AUTHORITATIVE JUDAISM.

THERE IS, OF COURSE, MUCH IN CHRISTIANITY AS IT DEVELOPED IN ^{Later times} ~~THE COURSE OF TIME~~ WHICH IS NOT JEWISH IN ORIGIN. THERE IS MUCH IN IT WHICH MAY BE TRACED TO THE MYSTERY RELIGIONS OF THE GRAECO-ROMAN WORLD. THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS NOT JEWISH. IN FACT,

IT IS ANTI-JEWISH. JEWISH THOUGHT HAD REJECTED IT A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE. THE DOCTRINE OF THE SACRAMENTS IS NOT JEWISH. NOR IS THE DOCTRINE OF MEDIATION, THE NEED OF A MEDIATOR BETWEEN MAN AND HIS GOD. THESE CAME INTO CHRISTIANITY FROM OTHER SOURCES. BUT THE CORE, AND HEART OF CHRISTIANITY IS COMPLETELY JEWISH.

JESUS WAS A JEW. AND IF HIS PERSONALITY AND ^{LESS} TEACHINGS HAVE BEEN A FORCE IN THE MOULDING OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, AS UNDOUBTEDLY THEY HAVE, AND IN INFLUENCING THE LIVES OF UNTOLD MILLIONS, THEN HE IS A GIFT OF ISRAEL TO THE WESTERN WORLD.

CHRISTIANITY IS INCONCEIVABLE WITHOUT THE BIBLE. EVERY PAGE OF IT, WHETHER OF THE OLD OR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, IS THE WORK OF JEWS AND THE IMPACT OF THE BIBLE UPON THE LIFE, LITERATURE AND ART OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WESTERN WORLD IS, OF COURSE, INCALCULABLE.

THE ETHICS OF CHRISTIANITY ARE JEWISH ETHICS. THERE IS NOT AN ETHICAL TEACHING IN THAT REMARKABLE COLLECTION KNOWN AS "THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT," WHICH DOES NOT FIND ITS COUNTERPART AND ITS ORIGINAL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE TEACHINGS OF PACIFISM AND OTHER WORLDLINESS WHICH ARE NOT ^{basically} ~~ESSENTIALLY~~ JEWISH. BUT THE ESSENTIAL ETHICS OF CHRISTIANITY, JUSTICE, ^{peace, the equality of men} ~~RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOVE, THESE ARE THE~~

TRADITIONAL JEWISH IDEALS.

RIGHTFULLY, THEREFORE, MAY CHRISTIANITY BE CALLED A
DAUGHTER RELIGION OF JUDAISM.

ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTION TO CHRISTENDOM IS, THEREFORE, VAST
AND ITS IMPACT UPON WESTERN CIVILIZATION TRULY MONUMENTAL.

In so far as Christianity dominated the thought
of European peoples for 1500 years, it, may well
be said, that it was Jewish ~~thought~~ spiritual
and ethical thought which conformed that world.
Its impact upon civilization was second to
none.

