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Religion - bulwark of a free society, 1953.



## RELIGION - THE BULWARK OF A FREE SOCIETY

Thoughtful men have rediscovered the truth that faith in God is the strongest bulwark of a free society. Human freedom began when men became conscious that over and above society and nature, there is a God who created them, who breathed His spirit into them, who fashioned them in His likeness, and that they are, therefore, possessed of intrinsic and independent significance and are endowed, as individuals, with original and irrevocable rights and authority. When in the long past men challenged the authority of kings or magistrates or restrictive customs and traditions, they did so in the name of some higher mandate derived from the spirit of God within them, in the name of some moral sanction which emanated from their relationship to God. Men became free when they acknowledged a higher authority than that of state, class, system or ruler.

Friends of democracy have somehow forgotten the religious origin of the whole democratic dogma in the modern world. They have forgotten that political freedom came to the Western World as a result of a long struggle for religious freedom and not vice versa.

Modern democracy was born in the struggle for religious freedom in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The demand for spiritual liberty soon expressed itself in demands for other forms of liberty. Peasant revolts followed. Political and economic rights were demanded by humble people. By what authority? In whose name did they speak? In the same name and by the same authority as the ancient prophets of Israel presumed to challenge the kings, the noblemen and the powerfully rich of their day. They spoke in the name of God, in the name of a revelation from God!



Independent

# Woman

JULY, 1953

A. Devaney. New York

## The Mature Woman at the Crossroads

by Edythe Kennedy

## Guardian of Our Gold

by Lillian A. Chord

## Nike in the Philippines

by Eileen Gribbin

## Want a Job in the Country?

by Elizabeth G. Meier

VOLUME 32

NUMBER 7



An imposing sight which greeted Federation officers, in New York last month for Board meeting, was the view of Atlas and Rockefeller Center



# Religion—bulwark of a free society

THOUGHTFUL men have rediscovered the truth that faith in God is the strongest bulwark of a free society. Human freedom began when men became conscious that over and above society and nature, there is a God who created them, who breathed His spirit into them, who fashioned them in His likeness, and that they are, therefore, possessed of intrinsic and independent significance and are endowed, as individuals, with original and irrevocable rights and authority.

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Democracy shrivels when its religious source dries up. Modern man has come to understand that mankind's way back to freedom is the way which leads forward to God.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*The writer of this month's inspirational message, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Rabbi of The Temple in Cleveland, Ohio, won national acclaim for the eloquent prayer which he offered at President Eisenhower's inauguration*



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