

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Vol. VIII, No. 9

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Cheshvan 17, 5705

Loyalty Viewpoint

IS JUDAISM AWARE OF ITS CRISIS?

by Rabbi Zev Zahavy

I

Simple questions are often most difficult to answer. He who propounds: "If a religion can work, why then does the world continually find itself in a messy situation?", might be content to agree with Rousseau's adage—"G-d makes all things good, man meddles with them and they become bad."

Why did Judaism flourish in the lives of our fathers and why is it neglected today? Judaism of yesterday was the richest life experience of the young child. The Almighty was a constant guiding light and the determining factor even in the most insignificant events of daily life. The Jew was not a confused individual, but rather was he definite and certain that there was logical significance in the cosmic plan, which was carefully supervised by the Divine merciful hand.

Today, we have all raised ourselves to the rank of "philosopher emeritus." We no longer desire to know Jewish Laws, but rather "Reasons" for them. There is hardly a Jew who does not feel capable of judging the "truths" of Judaism. Yet, there is hardly a Jew who can honestly admit having read through the entire Bible, let alone acquiring a knowledge of the Mishna, Talmud and the vast storehouse of Jewish Law. Today, our bulging intellects reject any notion of Divine inspiration unless it can satisfy our "rational" faculties. The questions thrust at Judaism's teachers become more superficial and irritating instead of more puzzling and confounding. We Jews must begin to realize that this attitude of haughty toleration of our faith is jeopardizing the security of our survival.

Nevertheless, one objective fact to be realized in our religion, is that however often it is threatened with destruction, through some uncanny means it rises again. This rise and fall in the influence of Israel's faith upon its people is directly a result of the world attitude.

(Continued on page 2)

WOMEN'S LEAGUE DONOR LUNCHEON

Bible Class Resumed

Interesting plans are being formulated for the annual Donor Luncheon of our Women's League which is to be held at the Savoy Plaza Hotel, Fifth Avenue at 59th Street on Monday afternoon, December 4th at 12:30 o'clock. Reservations at \$12.50 per person may be made through the office TR. 7-8281 or by applying to the Luncheon Treasurer, Mrs. Saul Bergman, 40 West 77th St., Phone EN. 2-2642.

Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein will again conduct the Bible Class, beginning with Monday afternoon, November 6th at 2:15 o'clock at our Synagogue House. His course this year is "The Women Who Have Made Jewish History." A regular meeting and Social Hour will follow.

The Hostesses of the afternoon will be Mrs. Joseph Buchsbaum and Mrs. Max E. Sanders.

All the women of the Congregation are cordially invited to attend.

SABBATH NOON CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS VITAL QUESTION

The next session of the Young Folks Sabbath Afternoon Conference will take place tomorrow at 4:15 P.M. in the Club Room of the Synagogue. The subject of discussion, led by Adelaide Gottlieb, will be "Should Jews Hold High Office." Marilyn Wohl will act as hostess for the afternoon.

We invite all girls above the age of sixteen and boys above the age of seventeen to come and air their pro's and con's.

YOUNG FOLKS AFTERNOON SERVICE

At the Sabbath Afternoon Mincha Service conducted by the Young Folks of the Synagogue, Hillel Meyers will read the Torah, Seymour Bernstein will read the Service, and Shepherd Levmore will speak.

CONDOLENCE

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to our member Harry A. Goidel upon the passing of his brother.

JOSEPH SETTEL, Chairman Metropolitan Opera House Concert



Joseph Settel

The date has been set — Sunday evening, January 28, 1945 — when all of the friends of the W.S.I.S. will flock to the Metropolitan Opera House to enjoy the delightful melodies and arias of the world's foremost opera singers.

Our Director Joseph Settel has once again been appointed as chair of this huge and gala affair. As in the past, Mr. Settel is making painstaking efforts to have the event a huge success. Prices are within the reach of all, ranging from \$1.50 to \$8.50. Make your reservations at the Synagogue Office TR. 7-8281.

TALMUD TORAH NOTES

Added Prayer Services For Children

A new innovation in our Talmud Torah is the Daily Prayer Services by the children in our Talmud Torah who congregate daily in our Synagogue to recite the Mincha and Maariv Service. Each day a different boys acts as Cantor.

We have also introduced a Friday evening Junior Congregation Service which begins at 5:10 P.M. The girls light the Sabbath candles before the service and all enjoy the Kiddush at the conclusion.

In addition, our regular Saturday morning Jr. Congregation takes place at 10 A. M. and a "Children's Pleasure Hour" meets for an afternoon of songs, Sabbath stories, and refreshments.



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Nov. 3, 1944

Rabbi H. S. Goldstein *Editor*
Rabbi Zev Zahavy *Ass't Editor*
Morris Jablow *Managing Editor*

SODOM FALLS AGAIN

Due to its iniquity the ancient cities of Sodom and Amarah, suffered complete destruction from heavenly fire and brimstone.

Modern Sodom, the Nazis—whose grandiose notions of racial supremacy, filled the world with terror and bloodshed, will soon meet a similar fate. Sodom is about to fall again—but we must now be determined that it shall never rise anymore.

The recurring annihilation of modern Sodom should arouse our desire to put away evil forever. In the universal realm we must strive for wholehearted international cooperation. In the particular scope, the individual must demolish his desires for personal selfish interests. The true Jew need not be told to practice this attitude.

Instead of expending our energies by repeatedly building "Sodom," let us at long last determine to construct an edifice of sincere concern for the welfare of our neighbors, fellow-nations and fellow-peoples.

Z. Z.



"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

186th COMMANDMENT

The Laws Concerning the Slaughtering of Holy Things Outside of the Sanctuary.

by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

I

We are commanded in Leviticus, Chapter 17, Verses 3 and 4, "No man of the House of Israel who slaughtered an ox or a lamb or a goat outside of the Holy place hath shed blood and that man shall be cut off from among his people."

This chapter commands that the sacrifices should be offered in one central place. It was feared that the offering of sacrifices outside of the Divinely selected shrine might lead to disruption and end in disintegration the life of our people have proven

how dangerous it is not to have one national centre. By establishing a separate place of ownership outside of Jerusalem Jerboam caused the breaking up of the unity of Israel which finally resulted in its succumbing to the onslaught of the surrounding nations. The separation gave rise to different customs and different manners which helped to alienate one part of the people from the other. Fratricidal wars like that of Judah against Ephraim and Ephraim against Judah followed and eventually both sides were weakened and fell an easy prey to the merciless conquerors, of Syria, of Assyria and of Babylon. This is a lesson for us in modern times. Today with the introduction of Reform, (through the Conservative party, which is the entering wedge for departure from tradition and authority), and the ultra reform movement consisting of a variety of sects, we have split Israel into parties. This splitting up of Judaism into various sects, all of them separated by varying degrees, from historic (orthodox) Judaism, is the gravest detriment to the perpetuation of our people.

LOYALTY VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 1)

We therefore find Judaism's prestige conforming to the rhythmic and historic alternation of world religion. The fact is that during the recurring cycles of belief and disbelief, mysticism and naturalism, faith and science, religion sooner or later returns to power. If religion can survive so many deaths then surely it must be Divinely empowered to serve a vital function in the life of man.

There never was a greater necessity for Judaism than there is today. The world situation and man's need for Divine assurance has never been more acute.

What are these natural forces that make Judaism a vital requirement in our lives today? It is simply the fact that the human soul needs our faith as never before. Science, in all its might and glory can explain only partly the riddle of the universe, but not wholly or completely. Science has excited man's curiosity but has left him alone and forlorn, powerless

and fearful in an overwhelming universe of mysteries.

Faith takes man into its bosom of comfort and certainty. Has the scientist definitely given enough thought to the psychological requirements of the human soul? The soul is lonely and weak. It searches for a power that may comfort it in pain, bereavement and defeat. The soul hopes to seek continuance and is unwilling to believe that it can be snuffed out. It refuses to believe that it can be eternally separated from all those it holds so dear. The human soul wishes to think that in some future state it may find the happiness and peace which slip by so elusively in this earthly sojourn. It is the human soul which offers up the prayers of praise and blessings of gratitude for the bounties man derives from the earth and sky, for food, shelter and good children, for life itself. The human soul finds greatest happiness in its belief and so today we need our faith more than ever before.

(Next week—How Shall We Face the Crisis?)

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Evening	5:33
Weekly Portion: Vayera	
Friday Evening Service	5:40
Friday Evening Jr. Cong.	5:10
Saturday Morning Service	9:00
Junior Congregation	10:00
Sabbath afternoon Pleasure Hour for Children	3:00
Sabbath afternoon Young People's Conference	4:15
Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class	4:30
Ein Jacob Class	4:30
Mincha Service	5:30
Maariv may be said	6:08
The Sabbath terminates	6:20
Sunday morning Service	6:45, 8:45
Tuesday Election Day Morning Service	6:45, 8:45
Daily Services:	
Mornings	6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha	5:35

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FROM OUR SOCIAL STAFF

W.S.I.S. Social Activities are once again buzzing. All clubs have already met and are now planning for a busy season. Some of the events scheduled for next Saturday and Sunday evening are:

1. Blue N' White meets Nov. 4th, Room 6 for election of officers followed by discussions, games, and dancing.

2. Detinu is becoming more cultural minded.

3. International Club meets every Saturday evening at 7:30 P.M. At the next meeting there will be an hour of discussion and a ping-pong contest.

4. Alumah meets every Saturday evening. At the next meeting there will be Jewish Current Events to be followed by dancing and refreshments.

New Junior and Senior groups are being formed. There is a club in our Synagogue for all age levels. Come down and be convinced.

SCOUT NOTES

There is room for new members in our Boy Scout, Sea Scout and Air Scout units of our Synagogue troops. Meetings Tuesday night.

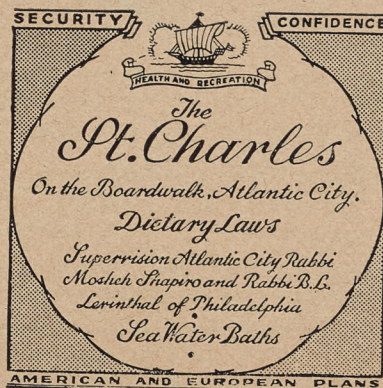
Our Girl Scouts will be glad to welcome new applicants at its Tuesday evening meeting.

Cub Pack No. 23 is forming new Dens. All youngsters from 9 to 12 who are interested in joining should apply promptly.

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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

by Morris Jablow

Recently a parent of one of the boys who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in our Synagogue had a conversation with me, which in my opinion is worthy of repetition in this column.

"My son joined the High School class in your Talmud Torah, and after attending a few sessions, he has become so enthusiastic that I too am elated. My son now does not subscribe to the usual conception of a boy who has just become Bar Mitzvah, that he is through with Hebrew studies. On the contrary, he is firmly convinced that he should continue his studies in Hebrew so as to acquire a better insight into the rich field of our literary heritage. In addition to his class, he has become an avid reader of many books dealing with Jewish History. I am greatly cheered by this changed attitude, and have great hopes for his future as a Jew."

I wish that you, our readers, would impress your children with this viewpoint. They would discover a new and satisfying way of improving their minds and enriching their store of knowledge.

Getting Personal

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Roth for a "swell" Kiddush in honor of their 60th anniversary which was preceded by a short but delightful toast to the synagogue by Mr. Roth.

For a real uplifting spiritual thrill we invite you all to drop in some afternoon and witness our Talmud Torah children as they conduct the daily Minchah Service. We are preparing an intelligent praying young generation.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Goldfarb upon the marriage of their daughter, Gertrude, to Samuel L. Walkers . . . Mazel Tov to Mr. and Mrs. Irving Shapiro, who were the recipients of a little bundle of joy. It's a boy . . . We were mighty pleased to see Seaman Joseph Karpf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Karpf at Sabbath Services . . . Congrats to Gaby Goldstein upon being invited to teach Plastics in the Extension Department of the University of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts . . . Young Alan Mirken attracted a flock of his friends, who came to hear him recite the Haftarah Shabbos morning. "Pop" Wartels must have been beaming inwardly at the excellent recital . . . Birthday greetings to our directors: Harold Kaplan, Samuel W. Siegel, and Morris Steinberg as well as to our young Herbert Reichlin . . . We are happy to hear of Bernard Levmore's recent promotion to Captain. Lots of luck . . . Congratulations to Pfc. and Mrs. Paul Shapiro upon their first wedding anniversary. . . We hope Mrs. Samuel Silver is enjoying her stay at Little Rock, Arkansas but we certainly do miss her . . . Glad to see Director Maurice Greenstein on Shabbas. Hope to see him more often . . . Among our usual congregants we missed Mr. and Mrs. Julius Bayer . . . Happy to see our Director Jack Berlin's usual smile last Saturday. Incidentally he has already requested his Met. Concert tickets . . .

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