

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. XI, No. 9

Friday, November 7, 1947

Cheshvan 24, 5708

FAITH AND REASON

The Thirteen Principles of Faith
By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein
IX

"I firmly believe that this law will not be changed, and that there will not be any other law given by the Creator, blessed be His name."

In this article we pronounce our belief in the immutability of the Law. Over and over again the phrase "an everlasting statute" *חוקת עולם* occurs in the Pentateuch. It is true that the Hebrew term *עולם* is used in the Bible in the sense of "a very long time," but in the phrase *חוקת עולם* the word *עולם* cannot have that meaning. Some indication would have been necessary to inform the people, when the laws would cease to be in force. On the contrary, the test of a prophet addressing his brethren in the name of G-d, as a Divine messenger, consists in the harmony of his words with the precepts of the Pentateuch. A prophet who, speaking in the name of G-d, abrogates any of the laws of the Pentateuch is a false prophet. "If there arises in the midst of thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder come to pass whereof he spake unto thee, saying 'Let us go after other gods and let us serve them': thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet. . . . Ye shall walk after the L—d your G-d, and keep His commandments, and ye shall serve Him. And that prophet shall be put to death; because he hath spoken rebellion against the L—d your G-d. (Deut. xiii. 2-6).

There is also an express commandment given: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it." (Ibid. iv. 2). But the fact that the laws were given by G-d as "an everlasting statute for all generations" makes all philosophical speculations on that point superfluous. Persons who address us in the name of G-d as His messengers, and bid us turn away from the laws commanded in the Pentateuch, are impostors, who, knowingly or unknowingly, give forth their own opinions as Divine inspirations. There occur, however, in the Talmud and the Midrash sayings which seem to imply a future alteration of the Law;

(Continued On Page Two)

DAVIDSON AT FIRST FORUM MONDAY NIGHT Rabbi Goldstein to Begin Talks On Jewish Philosophy



IRVING DAVIDSON

Irving Davidson, universally liked humorist, will be the first of the speakers to address Rabbi Goldstein's Class and weekly Forum, which meets every Monday evening at 8:30 o'clock.

Mr. Davidson is a recognized authority and lecturer on Jewish wit and humor, and Jewish oddities. You cannot hear him too often. He always has a new set of stories of Jewish wit. You will spend an enjoyable evening, and imbibe the wisdom of Jewish Philosophy presented popularly by Rabbi Goldstein.

Rabbi Goldstein will begin his class in Jewish Philosophy at 8:40 promptly.

CONDOLENCE

Our heartfelt sympathy to our member, Abraham M. Druckman upon the loss of his mother,
MRS. JUDITH DRUCKMAN

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Henry Blankfort, Samuel Diamond, Charles Hirschhorn, David Kerman, Mrs. S. Kushin, Mrs. David Minchenberg, Mrs. Rose Solins, Max Spitzer, Pincus Wassertheil, J. Yabrow.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE Will Be Presented at Our BENEFIT PERFORMANCE AT METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE Sunday Eve., Dec. 21, 1947

Our friends are urged to make reservations for tickets for this extraordinary event, as soon as possible. Tickets are priced from \$2.50 to \$20.00 each.

MEN'S CLUB HOSTS FOR BREAKFAST, SUNDAY, NOV. 16

Beginning with Sunday, November 16, we are planning to inaugurate Sunday Morning Breakfasts which will be open to senior students of our Hebrew School and to all those who were Bar Mitzvah in our Synagogue. The Breakfast will also be open to any adult who is accompanied by a boy. The prayer service, at 9 o'clock, will precede the breakfast and guest speaker. An enjoyable time will be had by all who attend.

If you and your children would like to be our guests, kindly send in your reservation to Rabbi Reichel, or phone TR. 7-8281.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

There is a Club for Every Age
at the W. S. I. S.

Friday night at 8 o'clock:

Mr. Eric Freudenstein leads a Study Circle for Young people of college age in the Book of Psalms, followed by refreshments.

Saturday afternoon at 3:30:

A newly organized group for boys (8-12) led by Alex Bistrizky.

Girls groups (8-12) led by Mrs. Reichel and Miss Dolly Weiland.

Sunday afternoon at 2:00:

Junior Girl's Play Group (8-12) led by Miss Irma Friedman.

Sunday afternoon at 2:30:

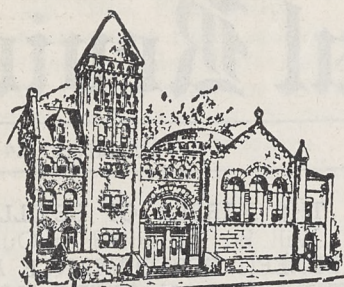
Junior Boys (9-12); Intermediate (13-15).

Sunday evenings at 8:00:

Young People's League; Blue'N White.

BUDDY FRIEDMAN POST, J.W.V.

Mr. Leonard Feinstein, Commander of the Buddy Friedman Post of the Jewish War Veterans, announced that the next meeting of the Post will be held on Wednesday evening, November 12. Nomination of officers will be on the agenda.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein**Editor**
Rabbi O. Asher Reichel ..**Ass't. Editor**
Morris Jablow**Managing Editor**

IT MAY BE TOO LATE

Children, when young and innocent, are the unadulterated clay with which the kind of world envisioned by our Sages and Prophets, and longed for by the House of Israel, can be moulded. Once the clay is baked, however, little can be done afterwards, to refashion it.

It is because of our children that the royal bard of Israel can give us hope for humanity — when he exclaims: "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings has Thou founded strength." (Psalms 8:3)

In the child, G-d continually gives mankind a chance to make good its mistakes.

When will our modern parents realize that the wisest insurance for their children's future happiness, is through their early religious nourishment. Alas, many of our elders awaken to this truth when it is already too late.

May Jewish parents plan before it is too late to educate their children in G-d's way, while they can still be moulded, not only as a duty, but as a privilege and a blessing.

O.A.R.



"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

301st COMMANDMENT

Not To Do Servile Work On the Seventh Day of Passover

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

We observe the second day not because of the question of correctness it is written in Leviticus, Chapter 23, Verse 8, "On the seventh day, ye shall do no manner of servile work."

We do not observe the second day because of the question of correct date, for today we have astronomically correct calendars, and we know the exact days upon which the holidays will fall, particularly Passover, Shevuos and Succos. Before we had the fixed calendar, the new month was determined and calculated by the evidence brought by witnesses who sought out and saw the new moon. Those who lived in, or near the Holy City itself, certainly knew when the holidays of Passover, Shevuos and Succos occur-

red, because they knew the correct day for Rosh Chodesh, in due time. In Jerusalem itself, because of the possibility of the late coming of the witnesses, two days for Rosh Hashonah served, even in Biblical times. Today, although we have the calendar perfected, nevertheless, the two day observance of all the holidays has been maintained, — first, because of Minhag and second, because the Rabbis of today represent a lower court and the lower court cannot overrule the higher one. If it is a matter of doubt of the day, even on the second day of Yom Tov, we would not be permitted to bury the dead by Jews. We have also the law that an egg laid on the first day of Yom Tov is permitted to be eaten on the second day of Yom Tov. If it were a question of doubt, then it would not be permitted to be eaten or touched on the second day of Yom Tov. However, an egg laid on the first day of Rosh Hashonah is forbidden to be eaten or touched on both days of Rosh Hashonah, because both days have the same sanctity. The observance of the holidays prevailed at all times and refers to males and females. Anyone who did some work premeditatedly on Yom Tov other than for baking, cooking and drinking received stripes.

FAITH AND REASON

(Continued From Page One)

e.g., "In future all prayers will cease except that of thanksgiving; in future all sacrifices will cease except that of thanks-offering" (Midrash on Ps. c.). In these sayings their authors simply intended to emphasize the duty of thanksgiving; even in the state of physical and moral perfection, when there will be a perfect immunity of sin, so that there will be nothing to be atoned for through sacrifice, however, the duty of offering prayers and sacrifices of thanksgiving will still remain in full force.

In sayings of this kind the time to which they refer is not defined. "The future" may mean the time of the Messiah, or what we are used to call **עולם הבא** "the future life." However, a new revelation, or the abrogation of the Law or part of it is **nowhere** mentioned.

On the contrary, it is emphasized in the Talmud that the Torah has been given to Israel in its entirety, and nothing has been reserved for

a second revelation. "The Law is not any longer in heaven," it is entirely in the hands of man. The only authority recognized in the interpretation of the Law was that based on knowledge, tradition, and common sense.

R. Abraham ben David, in his book Emunah-raham, finds in various passages of the Bible indications that the Torah was to remain in force permanently. Thus Isaiah and Zechariah, speaking of the remote future, refer respectively to the celebration of Sabbath and New-moon, and to the celebration of Sukkos. Again, in refuting the claims of Christians on behalf of Jesus, and of Mohammedans on behalf of Mohammed, to a Divine mission to substitute a new covenant for the old one, Rabbi Abraham argues thus: "The divinity of the old covenant, or the Torah, has been admitted by both Jesus and Mohammed; we need not prove it. But the Divine authority asserted by them for its abrogation or change is not admitted by us; it must be proved; and since no proof has been given, it must be rejected" (Fifth Principle, chap. ii.).

UNVEILING

The monument of
TESSIE S. DUNN
 wife of our member, Edward H. Dunn, will be unveiled Sunday, November 9th, at 2:30 p.m., at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Brooklyn.

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WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Evening 4:27
 Weekly Portion: Chaye Sarah
 Prayer for New Month . . . KISLEV
 Friday Evening Service . . . 4:40
 Friday Evening Youth Study Circle in Book of Psalms . . . 8:00
 Saturday Morning Service . . . 9:00
 Junior Congregation . . . 10:00
 Rabbi Hurwitz's Talmud Class 3:30
 Mr. Isaac Allen's Talmud Class 3:30
 Mincha Service . . . 4:30
 Reader of Torah: Jean Paul Weil
 Reader of Service: Gideon Goldman
 Speaker: Morton Kamerman
 The Sabbath Terminates . . . 5:15
 Sunday Morning Service . . . 6:45, 8:45
Daily Services:
 Mon., Tues. and Wed. Mornings
 6:45, 8:00, 8:30
 Thursday and Friday Mornings
 6:30, 7:45, 8:15
 Mincha . . . 4:40

HAVE YOU JOINED**OUR LAYMEN'S INSTITUTE?****Monday evenings**

7:45 Elementary and Conversational Hebrew — By Miss Ursula Breuer

8:40 Jewish Philosophy — By Rabbi Goldstein

Tuesday evenings

8:00 "Prophets" — by Dr. S. Hoenig

9:00 "Jewish History" — by Dr. S. Hoenig

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WOMEN'S LEAGUE**OPEN MEETING****Maurice Schwartz, Guest Speaker**

All the women of the congregation, and their friends are cordially invited to attend the Open Meeting of our Women's League, which is to be held at our building this Monday afternoon, November 10, at 2:00 P.M.

We will have the rare privilege of in Jerusalem itself, because of the renowned artist, Maurice Schwartz, now playing in "Shylock and his Daughter."

Mr. Schwartz will tell us about the historical significance and psychological effect upon Jew and non-Jew of Shakespeare's "Shylock."

A Social Hour will follow.

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GETTING PERSONAL

Rabbi Reichel participated together with members of the N.Y.C. Board of Education in the groundbreaking ceremonies for the first public school to be built in Manhattan since the pre-war days. . . . Our Director Julius Bayer left for Hot Springs to join his wife, and our Treasurer and Mrs. Samuel Silver. We hope the treatment there will do them lots of good. . . . We were happy to see Oscar Bloom back at our services after his recent illness . . . and we are glad to report that Mrs. Harry Ward is back home and doing very nicely. . . . Although Denise Merkin has moved further uptown, we are sure that her heart is still with us. . . . Heartfelt wishes for a r'fuch shlaymo to Jack Geller. . . . We missed Leopold Hirsch and Jacob Kaplan. However, we were happy to see Mrs. Jacob Kaplan and Lenore. . . . We understand that little Jean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Horowitz, has a violent "crush" on Cantor Yavneh . . . even the little ones go for his davening. . . . We were happy to welcome Jack Rakevitch of the Jewish Community Synagogue in Helsinki, Finland, who was a guest of Justin Bayer, at our services. . . . Congratulations to our member Simon H. F. Goldstein upon the excellent forums he is conducting in his neighborhood. . . . Although we missed our beloved president, Lester Udell, he was well represented by his daughter, Maxine, who is one of our most regular attendants, together with her brother, Arthur Udell. . . . By the way, we missed Arnold Moskowitz. . . . Mose Goodman forewent a trip to Asbury Park in order to attend services last Shabbos. We appreciate it, Moe, and so does the L—d. . . . Many thanks to him and Joseph Schwartz for their constructive suggestions. . . . We extend our greetings for a Happy Birthday to our Directors Jack Berlin and Harold Kaplan, and to Eugene Bergman, Sylvia Livingston Bernstein, Henry Kaufman, Belle Redlich, and Mrs. Max Stokar. . . . Flash, our Director G. Richard Rubenstein has just returned from an extensive trip thru Czechoslovakia, France and Germany. . . . Felicitations to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hirschhorn upon the engagement of their son, Marvin, (who was Bar Mitzvah in our Shul), to Gloria Golden. . . . Congratulations to our member, Harry A. Goidel, Grand Master of Odd Fellows, in whose honor a dinner was tendered by the N.Y.C. Universal Lodge. . . .

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