

THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

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THE GREATEST JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS

By RACHMIEL FRYDLAND

GREAT INDEED are Jewish contributions to humanity and its civilization. In literature, law, history, philosophy, art and science, Jewish people are always in the forefront. When we open a magazine or newspaper we find Jewish authors in the list of best-selling books. Jewish scientists and men of letters are prominent among the recipients of the much coveted Nobel prizes.

We could not apprehend atomic science or realize moon flights without the brilliant Jewish man, Albert Einstein. Medicine would be deprived of advancement without Dr. Jonas Salk, discoverer of the polio vaccine and Dr. Paul Ehrlich, discoverer of salvarsan. Great too were Jewish contributions in the field of physics by Chaim Weizmann and Fritz Haber. In history, we can boast of Josephus, Neander, and Graetz. Yet all these and many other vital achievements pale in significance before the three contributions of greatest import for all mankind and valid for all centuries.

MONOTHEISM

The first of these is monotheism.

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Do you believe in one God Who was worshipped through sacrifices in the Temple in Jerusalem? We believe in Him, and confess together with all of Israel saying: "Shema Israel, Hear, O Israel, the LORD thy God is one LORD." A sincere Gentile believer in God will always be grateful to the Jewish people for being the first to reject the man-made gods and worship one God.

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If you are an educated person, one of the books in your library no doubt is a Bible. The word "Bible" is derived from the Greek, *Biblia* meaning "books" for it is not one single book but a collection of sixty-six books bound together into one volume. It contains law, history, poetry, and prophecy. It begins by telling us that God is in existence and acting in history preparing creation for man, the chief object and highest being of the physical universe. God in His greatness condescends and reveals Himself to man. He established a relation with man by means of a covenant, the *berith*. If a man is obedient to God, then God grants man life and prosperity. After this covenant was broken, a new covenant was made with Noah, then with the patriarchs, and later with Israel at their exodus from Egypt. At that time God gave to Moses and Israel the universal Ten Commandments.

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to mankind, the entire Bible of Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament.

THE HOPE OF MANKIND

The third contribution is the hope of mankind.

Noble souls have always appreciated the Jewish people's contributions to mankind, while ingrates have rejected or even persecuted them to their own detriment.

The great event which took place nineteen hundred years ago far exceeds all others. At that time Jesus, *Yeshua Hamashiach*, was born of a young Jewish virgin in Bethlehem of Judea, just a few miles south of Jerusalem. He grew up in the town of Nazareth in the district of Galilee. When He went through the cities and villages dressed in Jewish garb with the *talith*, the people longed to touch the *tzitzith*, the hem of His garment, to be made whole from their physical and spiritual sickness. His words and conversations were in Aramaic. Today this is a dead language, yet the whole world at the present time is familiar with His words and teachings, for He became the hope of mankind. In our generation learned men and women go to savage tribes to study their primitive languages in order to be able to translate the words of this Man of Galilee to them. Individuals and nations who receive Him and follow His teachings rejoice in blessings and prosperity. Wherever He has been rejected there is darkness and death. Surely, our greatest contribution to mankind is the very Savior of mankind itself!

For generations most of our people ignored Him, but today this has greatly changed. Many of our Jewish leaders now write and speak words of praise for Him Who was, as the prophet Isaiah says, "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not" (53:3). The Jewish historian, Heinrich Graetz, writes of Jesus:

High minded earnestness and spotless moral purity were his undeniable attributes . . . the gentle disposition and humility of Jesus reminds one of Hillel, whom he seems to have taken as his particular model (History of Jews, Vol. II, pg. 149).

Dr. J. M. Jost, another Jewish historian, also wrote words of admiration of Yeshua:

Spotless walk, unselfish love for mankind. Thousands of Jews adored Jesus, their teacher and friend

(History of Judaism Vol. I, chapter 12).

Albert Einstein, world famous scientist, in an interview for the Saturday Evening Post, said of the Lord Jesus, "I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Naz-

arene . . . Jesus is too colossal for the pen of phrasemongers, however artful (referring to Emil Ludwig's book on Jesus). No man can deny the fact that Jesus existed, nor that his sayings are beautiful. Even if some of them have been said before, no one expressed them so divinely as he."

Dr. Claude Montefiore, President of the Jewish Religious Union, says of Him: "The most religious Jew that has ever lived, to whom the sinner and the outcast, age after age, have owed a great debt of gratitude."

A PERSONAL WORD TO YOU

What does this mean to you? Have you studied the life of the Lord Jesus? Are you also convinced that He was a divine person? If so, He invites you to receive Him as Messiah and your personal Redeemer from sin. One of His first Jewish followers records for us these words:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12).

Saul, or as he was called the apostle Paul who was a disciple of Rabbi Gamaliel, wrote about the Jewish people to the believers in Messiah at Rome:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:9-13).

Thousands of Jewish people have called upon the Name of the Lord; millions of Gentiles, also. Although the majority of our people are still standing aside merely admiring Jesus, the Messiah, we know that soon they will look to Him, for we read in the Bible:

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Romans 11:26).

We hope that you will deeply consider these matters. God has chosen our people for great things. However, true greatness comes through faith and by receiving into your life this greatest Jew and greatest man, the Lord Jesus, the Messiah. Please write us a letter of comment or request for information. We look forward to hearing from you.

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