

THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

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JOSEPH HOFFMAN COHN, *Editor*

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Were the Writers of Israel's "Declaration of Independence" Telling the Truth?

By Rev. Daniel Fuchs, a Jew who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, our Messiah, through Whom alone will we ever secure true independence

WE Jews make much boast of our "achievements." But sometimes we take credit for that which does not belong to us. An example is the preamble to the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel. Let us quote this preamble:

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious, and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world.

Much time and thought must have been spent in the composition of this preamble. We have only one criticism—it is not truthful! What these words possess in beauty, they lack in accuracy.

Was the Land of Israel the birthplace of the Jewish people? Abraham was not born in Palestine—he came from Ur of the Chaldees! For four centuries the family grew in Egypt and was finally welded into a nation by the persecutions of Pharaoh.

When did the Jewish people "achieve independence" in the land of Israel? When they first conquered the land, they were a free nation! They had just been redeemed from slavery in Egypt by the power of God, when in obedience to Him they applied the blood of the Passover lamb over their doorposts.

But what did they do with their freedom? Almost immediately they prostituted their liberty and began to follow after the idols of their neighboring nations. With each successive relapse into idolatry God sent judgment. The Book of Judges reads like a ride on a roller coaster. Beginning with the victories of Joshua at

the height of their power, our fathers apostatized into idolatry; and the result was judgment. In the midst of judgment they repented. God in the midst of their sorrow sent a deliverer, and they were liberated again. With every liberation they relapsed again into idolatry. God sent judgment; they repented. Up and down, up and down, they went. But each time of recovery brought them to a lower peak. It was a faithful few under Gideon who preserved the liberty that God had given them.

FROM JUDGMENT TO JUDGMENT

At the time of the monarchy it was the same sad merry-go-round. Our fathers persisted in their idolatry. God sent judgment. He sent the prophets to warn. But minor judgments were not enough; the prophets were rejected, stoned, cast into miry dungeons. The result was the Babylonian captivity. Once more our fathers repented, once more God gave them a chance. They returned to the land, but not as freemen. Medo-Persia was conquered by the Grecian Alexander the Great. We were given religious liberty; but again we Jews apostatized. The Greek way of life was more attractive than the faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Once more persecution arose, this time under Antiochus Epiphanes. Once more God heard the cry of our people, and once more it was a faithful few under Judas Maccabeus that wrought deliverance for the people. Incidentally, the century following this was the only century from the Babylonian captivity to the twentieth century during which our people "achieved independence."

Our newly achieved independence was

short-lived. In our prosperity we turned our backs once more upon God. Two corrupt candidates for the high-priesthood appealed to Pompey for a decision. Rome made its decision and enforced it by garrisoning an army in Jerusalem. Rome did not attack Jerusalem. Our fathers deliberately and willfully chose the decision of Pompey rather than the Will of God. Instead of achieving independence, we achieved slavery!

"CULTURE?" WHAT KIND?

We continue in our examination of this preamble. "Here . . . they created a culture of national and universal significance." How wonderful we are! There's no argument about it!

Now, we do not question the value of Jewish contributions to civilization. The first book of Moses tells of Noah's blessing upon Shem, the progenitor of Abraham:

Blessed be the LORD GOD of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem. Genesis 9:26,27.

In fulfillment of this marvelous prophecy there is no question but that Japheth (the Gentiles) is dwelling in the tents of Shem. In this age when Jews and Gentiles alike can come into fellowship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, Gentile believers in the Lord Jesus Christ gladly acknowledge that everything they have spiritually has come to them through the Jew. The Messiah was a Jew, the Scriptures were given by God through the Jew.

But when did we create a culture of universal significance? The mission of the Jew is religious, not educational. God called us that we might reveal the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to the world. The epitome of our contribution to civilization is not our contributions to science, law, philosophy, and art. Our one contribution to the world is one of God's choice. God has revealed Himself through the Scriptures, and the instrument He chose has been the Jew. It has been a matter of His choosing, not of our genius.

THE BIGGEST BLUNDER OF ALL!

It is in the matter of the written Scrip-

To Both the Houses of Israel!

Ever since the advent of so-called Reformed Judaism, the Jewish people have been divided into two sects, as it was in the days of Rehoboam the son of Solomon. This division leads only to bewilderment and confusion.

Would you know more about why Jews are so hopelessly divided? Mail us 5¢ in stamps and ask for a copy of our booklet, "To Both the Houses of Israel."

THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL, 236 West 72d Street, New York 23, N. Y.

tures that we must now question the veracity of the writers of the new Declaration of Independence. "Here we wrote and gave the Bible to the world." If the geographical location of the writers of the Bible is an argument for the existence of the new state, we had better give the land of Israel back to the Arabs! Moses wrote the Torah, of all places, in Arabia! He never entered the land of Palestine! The Book of Job was written in Uz, a country northeast of Egypt. Daniel received many of his visions in Babylon, and Esther was written in Persia.

But who wrote the Bible? Was it the Jews? The New Testament in succinct language accurately states the fact:

What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way; chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. Romans 3:1,2.

"Unto them were committed." There is no suggestion that Jewish genius discovered the truths of the Scriptures. The Jews did not invent the Bible. It was revealed to them by God Himself. What was the attitude of the Jews toward this revelation? Did they honor and obey it? No! The sad fact is this, our history of our nation can be summed up in a few words:

They have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewn them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:13.

If we are so proud of the Bible we "gave to the world", why do we not pay a little attention to its precepts?

WHO GAVE THE BIBLE TO THE WORLD?

Did the Jews give the Bible to the world? Is it not a fact that we kept it from the world? How many converts have been made to Judaism in the last century? Are we not proud of the fact that we keep our religion to ourselves? Do not our rabbis shout, "We do not proselyte"? Yet in spite of all this we ar-

rogantly boast that we gave the Bible to the world!

There were some Jews who gave the Bible to the world. In the first century of the Christian era, a group of Jews believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah. These Jews were the first Christians. They compassed land and sea, they went over the whole world with the message of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These were the Jews who gave the Bible to the world! They were the ones who proclaimed that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Messiah of Israel and the hope of the world! Let us face the facts squarely. The people of Israel boast that Jews gave the Bible to the world. But what have the Jews done to those real Jews who should have a place of honor for this wonderful deed? Instead of honor they received scorn. They have been despised and persecuted. We actually call these greatest Jews, Meshumuddim, apostates! Is this justice? If we glory in the achievements of the Christian Jews, should we not at least accept them into our fellowship as loyal Jews?

It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the relationship of the Jews to the Christian Jews. We do desire to show that it is very important for all Jews to consider their relationship to the Scriptures of which they say they are so proud. Obedience to the Word of God is more important than a discussion of its authorship. The Scriptures teach of the Being, and the Holiness, of God, of the sinfulness of man; of the coming of a Redeemer, the Messiah, who is to redeem Israel from her sin. These Scriptures prove that this Messiah is the Lord Jesus Christ. Search your Scriptures, find out who the Messiah is. Then trust in Him. We are proud of our Scriptures, we glory in Him who is revealed in the Bible as our Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Trust Him and write your Declaration of Independence from sin.

Why Do You Missionaries Bother Us?

By H. Koser

"WHY do you missionaries come around here and bother us?" shouted a Jewish man. "Why come to us Jews? Don't you know that we are a righteous people? We are the only people who truly follow God with a perfect heart! Why don't you go to the Goyim and try to convert them? We don't need you!"

There is a Jewish idiom which goes something like this: "To talk oneself into a sickness is worse than to really suffer from a sickness." This man was deliberately blinding his eyes to the truth. For when I asked him why it was that such "righteous people, who were the only ones who followed God with a perfect heart", needed to fast on Yom Kip-

pur; and why it was that during the ten days of repentance beginning with Rosh Hashanah they fast and pray that they might not be classified among the wicked, and thus eternally doomed, he walked away in anger.

There is another idiom which says, "None so blind as those that will not see." This man didn't want to know the truth. He asked why we, as missionaries, come to the Jewish people. The answer is found in our own Bible. For we read,

I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked

man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye shall speak saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die. O house of Israel? Ezekiel 33:7-11.

We are watchmen sent to warn you. "Flee from the wrath to come." But this poor purblind man cries, "We follow God with a perfect heart!" If he only read his own Bible he would know that he is a sinner, as are all men.

Does this sound like a people who follow God with a perfect heart?

The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no not one. Psalm 14:3,3.

Solomon, the son of David, the wisest man in all the world wrote,

There is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not. Ecclesiastes 7:20.

Jeremiah, the weeping Prophet of Israel, wrote,

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it? I the Lord search the heart. Jeremiah 17:9,10.

Isaiah the Prophet wrote,

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2

Does this sound like a righteous people? Israel, how much longer will you be deluded? When will you open your eyes and heart and believe God?

God said, "Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin." You have sinned, whether you will admit it or not. For God says so, and He is not a liar! Therefore knowing that we are sinners, sin must be atoned for. It is not fasting once a year that will save you. For we read,

It is the BLOOD that maketh an ATONEMENT for the soul. Leviticus 17:11.

Have you acknowledged yourself as a sinner? Have you come to God for cleansing? God's Word tells us,

The blood of Jesus Christ (your Messiah) cleanseth us from all sin. I John 1:7.

Moses cried, "Be sure your sins will find you out." Numbers 32:23. Amos the Prophet cried, "Seek the Lord and ye shall live." Amos 5:6. Hosea the Prophet wrote, "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in Me is thine help . . . O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity." Hosea 13:9, 14:1.

O Israel, the sands of time are sinking fast, soon it will be too late. God cries to you, "Today, if ye will hear my voice, harden not your heart." Psalms 95:7,8.

האבן די שרייבערס פון ישראל'ס דעקלאראציע פון אומאבהענגיקייט

געזאגט דעם אמת?

רעה ישראל

The Shepherd of Israel

א מאנאטליך בלאט צו ערקלעהרען צו ישראל דעם אמת'דיגען משיח

PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO GIVE ISRAEL A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUE SHEPHERD, THE MESSIAH

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ותקמת עליהם רעה אחד

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האבן די שרייבערס פון ישראל'ס דעקלאראציע פון אומאבהענגיקייט געזאגט דעם אמת?

פון דינאל פוקס

א איד וואס גלויבט אין ישוע המשיח וועלכער אליין דערמעגליכט א מענטשן צו דערגרייכן די אמת'דיגע אומאבהענגיקייט.

נביאים. אבער וואס האבן זיי געטוהן מיט זיי ווען זיי האבן אויפגעהויבן זייערע שטימען צו פרעדיגן און צו ווארענען דאס פאלק? מע האט זיי גע'רודפ'ט און געפייניגט און פאר'מיאוס'ט. מאנכע פון זיי האט מען אפילו געשטייניגט. גלות בכל איז געווען דער רעזולטאט פון דעם אלעם.

אין זייער לידן האט ישראל נאכאמאל תשובה געטוהן, און נאכאמאל האט גאט אין זיין רחמנות זיי ארויסגעהאלפן און זיי צוריקגעבראכט אין זייער לאנד. אבער איינז איז ישראל נישט מעהר געווען אומאבהענגיג פאליטיש. אונטערטעניג זיינען זיי געווארן צוערשט צו די מעדיער און פערזער. דער נאך צו די גריכן, ווען אלעקזאנדער דער גרויסער האט באזיגט די פערזער און האט איבערגענומען זייער רעגירונג, און צולעצט צו די רוימער.

רעליגיעזע פרייהייט האבן אידן נאך געהאט אונטער די גריכן און רוימער. אבער זיי האבן בע'נוצט די דאזיגע פרייהייט, ווי פריהער, נאכצולויפן די גוי'שע געצן און נישט צו דינען דעם גאט פון אברהם יצחק און יעקב.

נאך פאר א קורצע צייט נאך'ן זיג פון די מכבים (די מאקאביער), אדער די השמונאים, ווי אנדערע רופן זיי, האט ישראל טאקע געהאט אויך פאליטישע זעלבסטשטענדיקייט. אבער דאן איז א שטרייט אויסגעבראכן צווישן צוויי קאנדידאטן פאר'ן אמט פון כהן גדול, און די אידן אנשטאט צו לאזן גאט ענטשיידן וועמען ער וויל עס זאל איהם דינען אלץ כהן אין בית המקדש, האבן זיי געמאכט אן אפיל צו האדרישן גענעראל פאמ' פויאוס, ער זאל מאכן די פשרה צווישן זיי. דאס האט פאמפויאוס געטוהן מיט פארניגן, אבער ער האט אויך אריינגעשטעלט א דיוויזיע רוימישע סאלדאטן אין ירושלים זיי זאלן זעהן אז זיין פסק זאל דורכגעפיהרט ווערן. דאס איז געווען דאס ענד פון דער אידישן אומאבהענגיקייט. די רוימער האבן נישט געוואלט אוועקציהן פון ירושלים, און ארץ ישראל איז געווארן א פראווינץ פון רוים. אזוי אנשטאט צו דערגרייכן פרייהייט אין ארץ ישראל, האבן די אידישע פאליטיקער דערגרייכט רוימישע שקלאפעריי.

שיון א נאציע לאנג איידער זיי האבן עראבערט דאס לאנד. באפרייט האט זיי גאט פון פרעה'ס שקלאפעריי, ווען זיי זיינען געווען געהארבאט צו איהם שפרענגענדיג דאס בלוט פון קרבן פסח אויף די טירן פון זייערע הויזער.

און אזוי זיינען זיי זעלבסטשטענדיג געווארן, וואס אבער האבן זיי געטוהן מיט זייערע גאט געשענקטע זעלבסטשטענדיקייט? שנעל האבן זיי זיך געכאפט צו די געצן פון די אומות ארום זיי, און האבן זיי פלייסג אָנגעהויבן צו דינען. דאס איז געשעהן אין דער צייט פון די שופטים כאלר נאך'ן טויט פון יהושע בן נון.

שטראפן האט גאט געמוזט זיי דערפאר און געשיקט אויף זיי גרויסע צרות. דאך באלד איז אן ערלייזער געקומען, ווייל גאט האט געהאט מיטלייד מיט זיין פאלק, און זיי ארויסגעהאלפן פון זייער נויט. אבער ווען ס'איז זיי גוט געווארן האבן זיי זיך נאכאמאל אריינגעלאזט אין געצנדינעריי, און נאכאמאל האט זיי גאט געמוזט שטראפן, און נאכאמאל זיי ווידער ארויסגעהאלפן פון זייערע לייצען. אזוי איז עס מיט זיי געגאנגען ארויף און אראפ, אהן אויפהער ביז צו דער צייט פון די מלכים.

דיזעלביגע געשיכטע האט פאסירט דורך די פעריאדע פון די מלכים, וואס האבן געהערשט איבער ישראל. שטענדיג האבן זיך אונזערע אבות פארליבט אין די גוי'שע געצן און זיי נישט גע'וואלט אפלאזן. האט זיי גאט געשיקט נביאים זיי צו ווארענען. שטאלצירן טוהן אידן מיט זייערע

זעהר שטארק ריהמען מיר זיך מיט אונזערע דערגרייכונגען. פילע מאל אבער נעהמען מיר זיך דעם קרעדיט וואס נאך באלאנגט נישט צו אונז. א ביישפיל דערפון איז די אינטראדוקציע צו ישראל'ס דעקלאראציע פון זעלבסטשטענדיקייט. די שרייבערס פון איהר האבן דארט אזוי געשריבן:

ארץ ישראל איז דער געבורט-ארט פון אידישן פאלק. געבוירן געווארן אטדא איז זייער גויסטיגע, רעליגיעזע, און נאציאנאלע אידענטיטעט. דא איז האבן זיי דערגרייכט זעלבסטשטענדיקייט און געשאפן א קולטור פון נאציאנאלער און אוניווערזאלער בעדייטונג. געשריבן און געגעבן האבן זיי אטדא די ביבל צו דער וועלט.

אודאי האט דאס גענומען נענוג צייט און מיה דיזאזיגע אינטראדוקציע אויסצוארבייטן. זי איז טאקע זעהר שיון און פראכטפול. נאך איין חסרון האט זי. זי איז פשוט נישט אמת.

קודם כל פרעגן מיר אויב ארץ ישראל איז טאקע געווען דער געבורט ארט פון אידישן פאלק? אברהם דער שטאם-פאטער פון די אידן איז גע'בוירן געווארן נישט אין פאלעסטינע זאגנערן אין אור כשדים, א לאנד הונדערט מיילן אוועק פון ארץ ישראל. אברהם'ס פאמיליע האט זיך דערנאך געוואלגערט פיר הונדערט יאהר אין גלות מצרים, און איז דארט געווארן א פאלק, נאך איידער זיי זיינען אריינגעטראטן אין פארשפראכענעם לאנד ארץ ישראל.

וואו האט דאס אידישע פאלק דערגרייכט זעלבסטשטענדיקייט? ווען זיי זיינען ערשט גע'קומען קיין ארץ ישראל? ניין! געווען זיינען זיי