

# The Shepherd of Israel

# רעה ישׂראל

PUBLISHED TO BRING TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE KNOWLEDGE  
OF THEIR TRUE SHEPHERD AND MESSIAH — THE LORD JESUS CHRIST



Subscription Price  
50c. a Year.

VOL. 40 - No. 3  
NOVEMBER, 1956

## What Was God's Purpose For the Am Segula?

By Ex-Rabbi Asher Levi

**I**N the Old Testament we read:

God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant (Genesis 9:27).

It was to the sons of Noah that God made known His intentions that through the seed of Shem there should come all material blessings to the world. Because of this in the realm of science and the field of ethics, in finance, in medicine, in astronomy, in music, in all these essential elements of civilized life, God has used the Jew as the means of blessing and enlightenment.

Over three thousand and two hundred years have passed since the Jewish nation stood at the nether part of Mount Sinai to receive the Law through Moses, when the Almighty proclaimed the Jewish nation as a "chosen people"—*Am Segula*. This title does not mean that they are superior to other people on earth; rather it signifies that they have been chosen from all other people to bring the light of God into the darkness, to keep the torch of justice and kindness aflame, to teach the laws of mercy, of brotherly love, of holiness and godliness.

Obviously, we must realize that the survival of Israel throughout the ages cannot be attributed to Israel's strength or power, because Israel was always a small nation, without empire, without territories. Not even its reputed fame as to finances and

commerce could be brought in as an explanation of their existence, because the overwhelming masses of Israel are even now living in dire poverty. But the answer is found in Deuteronomy, chapter 7, verses 7-8:

The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

So, then, it was God's covenant-keeping character that brought about the preservation of the People of Israel through all the dark centuries. So, in spite of continuous persecutions, expulsions, and extortions, Israel is still living and we may dare to say that we shall never die.

We Christian Jews are very conscious of and very grateful for the precious covenant: the Torah, given to us at Mount Sinai. It is the basis of the New Testament; the New Testament is its fulfillment. As someone has well said:

The New is in the Old contained;  
The Old is by the New explained.

So, both of them are one book, which teaches us how man should serve the true God by being made like Him, and thus lead a godly life. Everything else should be of lesser importance and may need to be

sacrificed towards this end. Wealth, career, desire for fame, lust for power; anything that interferes with this objective to lead a God-like life must be rejected. If a man chooses to refuse this teaching of the Old and the New Testaments, he is not freer than he would have been had he accepted it. On the contrary, he still serves, not the exalting ideal of Godliness, but a degrading, selfish, personal life.

My friends, let us examine now what God has brought to the world through the people of Israel. Through the people of Israel God gave to the world the Bible, a revelation of Himself. It was the true inward heart of the Jewish nation that came forward to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as the flower and the ultimate goal and hope of all Israel. These were the Jews who became martyrs because of their faith in true Judaism, which means the acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ, as Messiah and Saviour.

The Jews also contributed much to civilization, which they have extended into several spheres. In the sphere of culture they have given mankind poets and thinkers, artists and musicians, statesmen and philanthropists.

In addition to all, and above all these material blessings, the Jews have given mankind the Messiah, who was born from among the Jews of the virgin Mary, in the city of Bethlehem, just as was predicted by the prophet Micah. Now, if we Jews believe in Moses, we must believe also in Messiah. Because in the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 18:15, God told us as follows:

The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.

God promised that a prophet would be born from among the Jews, and He commanded that everyone should listen to Him; and at various times in the Bible God told the people of Israel more about the Messiah.

Therefore, we Jews first have to believe in Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of Israel

### What Say the Rabbis of Messiah?

Would you like to know why the 53d chapter of Isaiah is not read in the Synagogues today and why the Rabbis have eliminated the reading of it from the Haftorah in the Sabbath services?... Did you know that the Musaf Prayer of Yom Kippur corresponds almost word for word with Isaiah 53? Study this matter for yourself... For 5¢ in stamps you may have our folder, "An Astonishing Yom Kippur Prayer." Write us for it.

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## THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

and the Saviour of all mankind. We know that the early Church of Christ was made up mostly of our Jewish people. And we realize that all the apostles were Jews, who were the followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. For me, the most interesting apostle of Christ was Paul, whose name in Hebrew is known as *Shaoul-Ish-Tarsus*, who was a great scholar and disciple of Raban Gamaliel. His name stands out as one of the greatest Jews that ever lived.

We remember, from the Bible, that Paul was the bitterest and most zealous persecutor of the Jewish followers of Christ. He dragged the Christian Jews in chains to prison. Then, suddenly, a great change took place in Paul's life. He accepted Christ, and the zealous persecutor became the most devout follower and the greatest propagator of the Christian faith. Everywhere he preached the Gospel of Christ. He carried it to Rome, to Spain, and beyond Spain. Finally he died a martyr's death, and he died as he had lived—for Christ.

### THE ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME

The brilliant example of the life of Apostle Paul has influenced me much and gave me the courage to accept the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. I wish and pray that all the Jewish people should follow the same example to accept the Messiah by reading the Bible intelligently, to realize how Jesus has fulfilled all prophets' predictions; and then the words of Isaiah shall be realized:

O house of Jacob come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord . . .

Before concluding, I wish to tell you a story which we read in the Talmud, *Berachot 61*—told by Rabbi Akiba:

There was once a fox, walking beside a river; as he walked up and down, he observed a multitude of fish swimming back and forth. The fox being very hungry devised a plan whereby he could catch some fish. This is the conversation that took place: The fox spoke to the fish very cunningly, saying, My friends, what are you so excited about? You are all day swimming up and down the river. Why do not you come out of the water, and we shall live together, like our forefathers did? The fish being wise to the cunning language of the fox, answered him: You are supposed to be the smartest animal on the earth. But we say that you are the most ignorant, because you ask us to come out of the water to enjoy life with you, where we will have no protection. No, we prefer living in the water, because at least it provides us shelter and protection against our enemies that would catch us. Yes indeed, it would be foolish of us to abandon our subterranean home.

We Hebrew Christians, my friends, can be likened to the fish; like them, we too live our entire life here, on earth, in a continuous fight against our enemies. But, like the fish, we do not abandon our wonderful refuge and shelter, which gives us our Lord Jesus Christ, in our daily life. Let us live close to Him, read the Holy Bible and pray much to our Heavenly Father, for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Psalm 91 gives us this assurance:

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

## One Promised Messiah

ONE Messiah has been promised in Scripture, not two. What is there set forth is the two-fold character of His work, that both suffering and glory would be His portion. This the Rabbins have overlooked. As a result confusion arose over Zechariah 12:12, "And the land shall mourn, every family apart." In the Talmud there is a discussion on this text.

Tract Succah says:

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R. Dosa and the rabbis differ: One holds that it was for the Messiah the Son of Joseph, who was killed. It would be right according to the one who holds that it was for Messiah the Son of Joseph, because he explains as supporting him the passage (Zech. 12:10): "And they will look up toward me whom they have thrust through, and they will lament for him, as one lamenteth for an only son. . . ." The rabbis taught: The Messiah b. David who (as we hope) will appear in the near future, the Holy One, blessed be He, will say to him: Ask something of me and I will give it to thee, as it is written (Psa. 2:7-8) . . . But as the Messiah b. David will have seen that the Messiah b. Joseph who preceded him was killed, he will say before the Lord: Lord of the Universe, I will ask nothing of Thee but life. And the Lord will answer: This was prophesied already for thee by thy father David (Psa. 21:4-5).

The rabbis were right that Messiah should be thrust through and that Israel would mourn because of Him (Zech. 12:10). They were also right regarding the promise of life for the Messiah after He was pierced, for it is written in Psa. 16:10 R.V., "Thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol; neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption." Furthermore, they were right about the order; that the one would precede the other, for the begetting of Messiah out of the grave (Psa. 2:7) precedes the giving of the nations to Him for His inheritance (Psa. 2:8). But they should not have made two Messiahs, for all these Scriptures apply to the same one.





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Subscription Price 50c. a Year.

VOL. 40 - No. 3 NOVEMBER, 1956

וואס איז גאטס ציל מיט דעם עם סגולה?

הרב אשר לוי

מיר ליינענן אינם תנ"ך:

דערברייטערן זאל גאט יפתן, און ער זאל רוען אין די געצעלטן פון שם; און כען זאל זיין א קונעכט ביי אים. (בראשית 27:8)

צו נחם קינדער האט גאט באקאנט געמאכט זיינע אבזיכטן אז דורך שם'ס זאמען זאלען קומען אלע ערדישע ברכות פאר דער וועלט. צוליב דעם איז דער ייד שטענדיק באנוצט געווארן פון גאט פאר ברכה און פאר אויפקלערונג סיי אין וויסענשאפט, אדער אין עטיק, פינאנץ, מעדיצין, אסטראנאמיע און מוזיק.

שיין פאריבער דריי טויזנט און צוויי הונדערט יאר זינט דאס יידישע פאלק איז געשטאנען פארן בארג סיני אום אויפצונעמען די תורה דורך משה רבינו, און דאן האט דער אלמעכטיקער פארקוינט דיקט אז דאס יידישע פאלק איז אן „אויסדערוויילט פאלק“ — עם סגולה. דידאזיקע באצייכנונג באטייט נישט אז זיי זענען העכער פון אלע פעלקער פון דער וועלט; עס באצייכנט נאך אז זיי זענען אויסדערוויילט געווארן פון אלע אנדערע פעלקער אום צו ברענגען דאס ליכט פון גאט אין דער פינצטערניש, צו האלטן דעם פאלק פון גערעכטיקייט און פריינטשאפט, צו לערנען די דינים פון בארמהערציקייט, פון ברירעליכע ליבע, פון הייליקייט און פון פרומקייט.

גאט געגלוסט צו אייך און אייך אויסדערוויילט, וואָרעם איר זייט דאָס ווייניקסטע פון אלע פעלקער. נייערט ווייל גאט האָט אייך ליב, און ווייל ער היט די שבועה וואָס ער האָט געשווירן אייערע עלטערן, האָט אייך גאָט אַרויסגעצויגן מיט אַ שטאַרקער האַנט, און האָט דיך אויסגעלייזט פון דעם הויז פון קנעכשאַפט, פון דער האַנט פון פרעה דעם קעניג פון עגיפּטן.

אזוי זען מיר אז עס איז געווען צוליב דעם וואָס גאט היט אָפּ דעם בונד אָט דאָס איז געווען די אורזאך פון דער באַהיטונג פונם יידישן פאלק אין אלע די שוואַרצע יאָרהונדערטן, און טראָץ אלע פאַרפאַלגונגען, רדיפות און באַצווינגונגען, לעבט נאָך דאָס יידישע פאלק, און מיר זיינען זיכער אז מיר וועלן נישט אונטערגיין.

מיר יידן משיחיים זענען באַוווּסטויניק און דאַנקבאַר פאַר דעם טייערן בונד: די תורה, וואָס איז געגעבן געוואָרן אויפן באַרג סיני. דאָס איז דער באַזיס פונם ברית הדישה; דער ברית הדישה איז די דערפילונג פונם תנ"ך. ווי עמיצער האָט עס געזאָגט:

דער תנ"ך אַנטהאַלט דעם ברית חדשה דער ברית חדשה קלערט אויף דעם תנ"ך

ביידע זענען איין בוך, וואָס לערנט אונדז ווי אזוי אַ מאַן זאָל גאָט דינען אז ער זאָל זיין ווי ער איז און אזויאָרום פירן אַ פרום לעבן. אלעסאַנדרע איז נישט אזוי וויכטיק און מיר דאַרפן זיין גרייט עס אויפצואַפּפערן פאַר אָט דעם ציל. רייכט טום קאַריערע, פאַרלאַנג פאַר כבוד, גלוסטונג פאַר מאַכט; יעדע זאך וואָס שטערט דעם ציל פון פירן אַ געטלעך און פרום לעבן מוז ווערן פאַרוואָרפן. אויב עמיצער וויל פאַרוואָרפן דידאזיקע לערע פונם תנ"ך און ברית הדישה, ווערט ער נישט דאָרדך מער פריי ווי אויב ער וואָלט עס אָנגענומען. פונקט

פאַרקערט, ער איז נאָך אַלץ אַ קנעכט, נישט צו דעם דערהויבענדען אידעאל פון געטלעכקייט, נאָך צו אַ דעגראַדירענדן, ענאָיסטישן, פערזענלעכן לעבן.

פריינט, לאָמיר זיך איצט פאַרטראַכטן איבער דעם וואָס גאָט געבראַכט צו דער וועלט דורך זיין פאלק ישראל — דורך דעם פאלק האָט גאָט געגעבן דער וועלט די ביבעל, די אָפּענבאַרונג פון גאָט. עס איז געווען דאָס אמתע אינערלעכע האַרץ פונם יידישן פאלק וואָס איז געקומען און אָנגענומען דעם האַר ישוע המשיח אַלס די בלום פון דעם ענטגילטיקן ציל און האָפּנונג פון גאַנץ ישראל. יידן זענען עס געווען וועלכע זענען געוואָרן מאַר-טירער פאַר זייער גלויבן אין דעם אמתן יודאישן, וואָס הייסט דאָס אָנגעמען דעם האַר פאַר משיח משיח און דערלייזער.

יידן האָבן אויך בייגעטראָגן צו דער ציוויליזאַציע, און זיין האָבן עס אויסגעברייטערט אין פאַרשידענע ספּערן. אין דער ספּערע פון קולטור האָבן זיי געגעבן דער מענטשהייט פּאָעזיע און דענקער, אַרטיסטן און מוזיקער, שטאַטסמענער און פירלאַנטראַפּיסטן.

און צו דעם אלעמען און נאָך מער ווי אלע מאַטעריעלע ברכות, האָבן די יידן געגעבן דער מענטש-הייט דעם משיח, וועלכער איז געבוירן געוואָרן אַ ייד פון דער יונגפרוי מרים, אין שטאָט ביתלחם, אזויווי עס איז פאַרויסגעזאָגט געוואָרן דורך דעם נביא מיכה. נון, אויב מיר יידן גלויבן אין משה רבינו, מוזן מיר אויך גלויבן אינם משיח, וואָרעם אינם תנ"ך, אין דברים י"ח:15 האָט גאָט געזאָגט פאַלגענדעס:

אַ נביא פון צווישן דיר, פון דייע ברודער, אזוי ווי איך, וועט דיר אויפשטעלן גאָט דיין האַר; צו אים זאָלט איר זיך צוהערן. גאָט האָט צוגעזאָגט אז אַ נביא וועט געבוירן ווערן פונם יידישן פאלק, און ער געביט אז יעדער