

America's Debt to the Jewish Heritage Pt.2

By Charles Feinberg

Adolf Ox, 1858 or Ox, some pronounce it. 1935 developed the New York Times into one of the world's most influential newspapers. David Sarnoff 1891-1971 rose from messenger boy and wireless operator to become head of the prestigious Radio Corporation of America. Among philanthropists have been Nathan Strauss. You all well remember, do you not, from your reading of American history? How, when New York was in that strike, the milk strike, he himself supported the giving of milk to babies throughout that city, Nathan Strauss. Julian Rosenwald, better known as the head of Sears Roebuck. Jacob's ship, Felix warbird, Supreme Court justices have been Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Louis D. Brandeis. This Brandeis said American ideals have been Jewish ideals for 20 centuries. There are Jewish judges on every level across the country. Among noticed Jewish physicians are Dr. Joseph Goldberger who discovered the cause and cure of pellagra. Dr. Casimir Funk, the discovery of vitamins. Dr. Bela Shik, the developer of the test for diphtheria. Dr. Selman Waksman, Nobel Prize winner for work in antibiotics and no one needs to be told about the work of Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Albert Sabin developers or Sabin developers of vaccines against polio. Jews have contributed to art, music, the theater. They have enriched the national cultural life of sculptors, artists, composers, singers, instrumentalists. Arthur Rubinstein for one, and conductors. A high percentage of great pianists and violins are Jews. In the theater they have afforded playwrights, actors, producers, critics, and comedians. They started the movies and their good and bad. Most of them bad, but they started the movies in 1920. Jewish athletes have engaged in boxing, baseball, don't forget Sandy Koufax. Basketball and football. Many congressmen and senators are Jews. Simon Guggenheim,

Benjamin Jonas, Herbert Lehman, Jacob Javits. Also governors of some states have been presidential adviser [inaudible] you remember. Cabinet members, ambassadors, there are a number of outstanding Jewish novelists. In education, they have been in the front ranks with Hebrew elementary schools, high schools, Yeshiva University among the Orthodox in New York, College for Women, Einstein Medical College at Yeshiva and Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, that's a seminary for Orthodox Jew, Jewish theological Seminary of America for conservative Jews, Hebrew Union College with its four locations for reformed Jews. They have places in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles, and Jerusalem Israel and Brandeis University in Massachusetts.

Far out shining, and I mean it friends and I want to take the rest of the time to emphasize America's debt to the Jewish heritage, far outshining all other contributions of the Jews and not to be compared in the least agree with it is the gift blessed God of the Bible. The Scriptures are both the Old and New Testament. Paul the Apostle asked two penetrating questions and follows with two rezoning answers in Romans 3:1 and 2 to quote. "Then what advantage has the Jew, what is the benefit of circumcision." Great in every respect first of all that unto them were committed the oracles of God or they were entrusted with the oracles of God. If the influence of the Bible was powerful in Old England it was even more so in New England in the 17th century. The Bible has entered largely into the language of nations apart from the heroes of the Bible, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, Daniel. Some folks don't know any more about it than to think those are new breakfast cereals by Posten Kellogg, but they're all heroes of the Bible and others.

It has materially entered into the speech of everyday life, hear it. Notice the expression. A land flowing with milk and honey, a still small voice, a tale that is told by the skin of the teeth,

lick the dust, darkness which may be felt, vanity of vanity, the law of the Meads and Persians, the apple of one's eye, eat drink and be merry, take sweet counsel together, grind the faces of the poor, cause the Widow's Heart to sing for joy. Make a covenant with death, heap calls a fire. He weighed in the balance and found wanting, go to the anthol sluggard. Answer a fool according to his folly. A wise son make a glad father, be not righteous overmuch. A soft answer turn to the way round. The race is not to the swipec. Love is strong as death and the multitude of counsellors there is safety. Righteousness, and oh how we need to learn it in 1976, July 4th, and throughout all the years of our national existence. Righteousness exalts the nation.

As literature, the Bible has no peer, nothing written can be comparative. Even apart from the fact that it is an inspired infallible and please in in revelation from God, as literature it has no equal. Madison Peters as well said he's written that wonderful book, out of print now, justice to the Jews, he said it was the Jews who gave us the book of books, the rock of ages upon which is built the foundation of all wisdom. That treasure house from which the children of men have been enriched. That inexhaustible fountain from which the wise drink deep drops of knowledge and inspiration. That great physician doom all the afflicted go for cure. That minister who never ceases to soulless the sorrowful, comforts the comfortless, gives hope to the hopeless, that epitome, condensation all that is good and great and noble and elevating and hopeful in the world. In a word, that connecting link between God and man. The Bible.

All the books of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments he says, with the possible exception of the Book of Job were written by Jews and who can tell how much the poets, philosophers, sages, and thinkers owe to the Bible upon the Bible has been upraise. Have been upraise the lofty domes of thought whose beacon lights guide the world and save it from destruction. The Bible it was that gave us a daunting. A Milton, a Shakespeare and millions of

others who went to it's to seek the source of knowledge, so we can say that indirectly all Christian literature owes an incalculable debt, much owes much to the Jew. The first book printed in the colonies was the Bay Psalm book, a translation of the book of songs. To emphasize the very value of the Bible without discerning its religious influence is to miss the main point, the central factor of the entire question. The culminating point, the culmination crown glory of the Bible. In what do they consist? Unique revelation of monotheism. Nowhere in the history of man. I repeat. I challenge anyone to refute it. Nowhere in the history of man has he ever come to this position, man by his own thinking knows not God says Paul in first Corinthians 1. Has never come to this position through his own thinking and striving. It's first, last, and always that disclosure from God himself. This is a self-revealing God. The Monotheism of the Bible is an uncompromising one, it's an adamant, it is as adamant against polytheism as it is against henotheism one among a number or among [inaudible]. The Bible's monotheism gave Israel an object, capital O, of undivided allegiance without wish there couldn't be a valid idea of God in the world and theology always reacts on morality. Monotheism of the Bible as an ethical one.

It's often forgotten that the prohibition of idols in Israel was a strong preventative against the debased association of the worship of the gods of heathenism. In their most devout moments they carried on practices that were used to put people in jail for. One's concept of God inevitably carries with it, it's a corollary, that he must have similar qualities in his worshipers. The world owes to the Old Testament the highest standard of sexual morality in the world. And is just as up to date as the next centennial. The world owes to the Old Testament at high standards of sexual morality, the highest in the world. The practice of polygamy with its attended agonies so prevalent throughout the ancient world not yet removed from the world today, which I saw last year in summer in South Africa for six weeks. The practice of polygamy throughout the ancient

world and today finds not one sentence of approval or justification in any one of the prophets. Rather the Old Testament stresses loving, lasting, faithfulness to the wife married in youth, moreover in the areas of ethics God reveals himself as concerned in every relationship and activity of life as a logical conclusion. All action must issue in reward for righteousness and punishment proceed. Although the Old Testament doesn't speak explicitly of a future life, we read in first Peter 1:5, "Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ who had gotten us again onto a living hope" it's a new one, "a living hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." The only had intimations, the leap of faith brought Job 19:25 to 27. I know that my redeemer lives. I say although the Old Testament doesn't speak explicitly of future life, Jesus rightly inferred from its lofty teaching that he's not the God of the dead but of the living. What would be the result if the death of Christianity the Jews were not recognized? There is such an example in history from an early heretic from Christian orthodoxy Marcia.

That writer determined not to acknowledge any indebtedness to Judaism at all. You know what happened? He wound up rejecting outright the authority of the Old Testament, everything in the gospel that appeared to him to depend on the religion of the Jews and when he did it he lost monotheism and the sense of unity, coherence, goal in the world, and in the history of mankind all Bible believers on his estimable debt to the Jew, not only for the preparation for the coming of Messiah and savior and his wonderful salvation brought out on Calvary, his finished work there, but for providing us a pattern of worship. I'm amazed how many believers don't know that the pattern, the form of our liturgy the pattern of our worship in our churches goes directly, directly, immediately back to the Old Testament. The practiced worship of ancient Christians is based undeniably on the utterances of Israel. Without equivocation the highest warmest language of devotion is to be traced to the Old Testament in prayer and praise. Israel

has sought and has taught, sought to teach and has taught the world to say, I will magnify the old God my king. I will praise thy name forever and ever. Every day will I give thanks under the, and I will praise him forever and ever. When in our hymnology we recognize God to be the author of liberty, we're expressing sentiments voiced by Emma Lazarus 1849 to 1887 in her sonnet, the new colossus inscribed on the base of all places the Statue of Liberty. She was a Jewish American poetess and essayist. Here's the poem, the new colossus. "Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, with conquering limbs astride from land to land here at our sea washed, sunset gates she'll stand a mighty woman with a torch whose flame is the imprisoned lightning and her name, Mother of Exiles from her beacon hand draws worldwide welcome. Her mild eyes command the air bridged harbor of the Twin Cities spring. Keep ancient lands your storied pomp cry Sheen, with silent lips. Give me your tired, your poor your, huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me. I will lift my lamp beside the golden shore and the golden door."

This tablet with her sonnet to the Bartholdi Statue of Liberty given by France, you remember engraved on it. It's placed upon these walls says the inscription. In loving memory of Emma Lazarus born in New York City, July 22nd, 1849, died November 19th, 1887. Thank God the imperishable Jewish nation is linked in so many ways with our beloved nation the United States of America. In receiving into her bosom the exiled persecuted children of Abraham, our country has received vastly more than she has ever given it will ever be so. God said to Abraham and the son of Abraham, remember that even when he judges the nations of Matthew 25 he's not just the Lord of glory and the king of earth, he is fulfilling the promise given to his earthly father Abraham, the son of Abraham, capital S says, "I will bless them that bless the, come the blessed

of my father. I will curse him that curse him." They depart from the curse and everlasting punishment, prepare for the devil and these engines.

Peters has well reminded us his race is imperishable, republics may rise and fall, nationalities weather and decay, but ever down the stream of time shall sail the bark with Israel until it loses itself in the illimitable vastness of eternity. Yes, God bless America, and he has promised also the Lord will give strength to his people, [inaudible]. The Lord will give strength to his people. [Inaudible], the Lord will bless his people with peace. Do it Lord, for thy name sake.