



OUR MONTHLY SERMON

"ACCEPT MY LAW"

By Rev. M. I. Cohen B.A. (Lond.)

(Minister of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation).

the Jewish people from its inception. The Hebrews were closely associated with the richly variegated and multifarious life of the Semitic world of antiquity. They were akin in race, language, culture and religion to many other peoples. Yet the difference between their destiny and that of their neighbours was so great, and their contribution to human thought was so remarkably diverse, that we must believe in an original specific Hebraic genius.

The spirit of Abraham was renewed century after century in a race of prophets, who gave the world its Bible. When Deutoro-Isaiah sought to comfort the Jewish captives in Babylon, he reminded them that Abraham was only one when he started a new era in human life. He pointed to the passage of the empires which had followed that of Nimrod. "They that trust in the Lord shall renew their strength." "They that war with Thee shall be as nought." "Fear not thou worm Jacob, for I am with thee." Abraham was the promise or that philosophy of history which spoke of the ultimate brotherhood of Man, of the downfall of tyranny and exploitation, and of the triumph of justice. Those who produced the Bible and this philosophy of history were continually called upon to oppose force by the weapons of the spirit.

To dare to say "Not by power and not by force, but by My Spirit" was inevitably to collide with the "Big Battalions." To-day the archaeologists are digging up the ruined sites of ancient Babylon, and seeking to reconstruct a picture of that glittering civilisation which prevailed so haughtily and mightily when Abraham walked alone in ancient Ur. They copy the figures of the Arch of Titus to place in the museums of the new Judea, and the history of the past gives us fresh courage, renewed faith and unexpected power when we are again called upon to choose between God and Baal, and to face the pretensions of the Nimrods of each succeeding age. Whatever may be the fate of individual Jews, historic Israel can and will exist only as the people of Abraham, as the heirs to the Hebrew tradition.

Whether we rebuild our land, or face deadly and powerful foes out-

side the land, we are borne up by a Power manifested uniquely in our history, which is destined finally to end the long travail of the ages, the martyrdom of man, and to bring the Messianic age of human longing. When this Faith again becomes conscious in Israel, when we all see once more the "Great Hand" at work in human story, then the dawn of a new era will have arisen for ourselves and for all men. The spirit of creation will overcome the spirit of destruction, for the forces of cruelty, and falsehood and hatred are opposed to the moral order of the Universe. An old legend represents God at Sinai saying to Israel, "Accept my Law, or this shall be your grave." They that reject the Law of Sinai dig their own spiritual graves. The Empires pass; the purpose of the Lord abideth for ever.

City Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Society

The City Hall will be attractively decorated on Wednesday night, the 1st of December, when the above society is holding its annual ball. Charles Berman and his personal band will be in attendance, and dancing will be from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets are obtainable from the joint hon. secretaries, Miss R. Tobias, Miss P. Bulk, and Mr. R. Lewenthal. (Phone 44-5050).

A YOUNG FLYING OFFICER

From the Waterberg district, Transvaal, comes the news of the success of one of the South African Jewish young men in the Royal Air Force.

He is David Isadore Morris, son of Mr. R. M. Morris, of Nylstroom. He left for England to join the Royal Air Force, being accepted on August 1 of this year. In under two months he received his commission as Acting Pilot Officer and is now about to proceed to Abu Sueir, in Egypt, with the bombing squadron of the Royal Air Force. Pilot Morris has just attained the age of 21 years. He received his training at the De Havilland School of Flying at Hatfield, and at Cambridge, England.

PLAYS AND VAUDEVILLE

In Aid of National Fund

The entertainment, arranged by the Berea branch of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, will take place at the Library Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 16th and 17th inst., and will include the presentation of two one-act plays and vaudeville items.

In addition to the artists, whose names were mentioned in last week's issue of the paper, the sisters Dolly and Fay Vogelman and Nellie Weinstock will also take part in the performance. The programme will include Jewish folk songs, piano accordion duet, crooning trio, acrobatic dancing, a comedian, jazz pianist, etc., besides a one-act comedy and one-act drama. The organiser of the entertainment is Mrs. M. Kentridge.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and seats should be booked in advance at Messrs. Polliacks.

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