THE CALL OF ISRAEL

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By DAVID GOLDSTEIN



PLEA FOR THE KINSMEN OF CHRIST

Prayer

FOR THE CONVER-SION OF ISRAEL

God of goodness, Father of mercies, I be-seech Thee by the immaculate Heart of Mary, and through the inter-cession of the Patriarchs and Holy Apostles to cast a look of compassion upon the Children of Israel, that they may be brought to the knowltheir only of edge Savior Jesus Christ, and that they may partake of the precious fruits of the Redemption. Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Nihil Obstat:

PATRICK WATERS, PH.D.

Imprimatur:

Desciolitian

WILLIAM CARDINAL O'CONNELL Archbishop of Boston

Front Page Design

The Morgan Dovit, Star of the House of David, from which Jesus the Messiah came: The Cross upon which the Messiah died for the Children of Israel.

THE CALL OF ISRAEL (Reprinted from "The Sign," Union City, N. J.)

By



DAVID GOLDSTEIN

The Call

Hearken! Once more the Divine call of the Messiah has gone forth: "Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," tell them that "the Kingdom of God is at hand." This time the call comes to us through the Messiah's Vicar, Pope Pius XI, in his 1934 intention—"the Conversion of the Jews." Will this call be in vain? Are our ears stopped, our eyes held, our hearts hardened to the plea that we bring His own unto Him?

Here is our opportunity, for there are more Jews in our continental United States than in any other country in this world, the number given in our Government Report being 4,228,029. This

means that more than twenty-seven per cent of the 15,630,000 Jews in the world reside within our American borders. Here is our responsibility, for the call commands that Catholics in America bring, relatively, a greater number of the lost sheep into the Fold of the Good Shepherd than the Catholics of any other nation.

Converts From Judaism

Are we who have the Temple, Priest-hood and Sacrifice that superseded the Jewish Temple, Priesthood and Sacrifice to be outdone in bringing Jews to their Messiah by those outside the Temple who are utterly devoid of a Priest-hood or a Sacrifice? Not if we hearken to the call of Pope Pius XI. Protestant churches in the United States claim to have over twenty thousand converted Jews within their various denominations and it is estimated that about eighty thousand or more have joined the Christian Science Church. Besides that, an untold number are to be found in the spiritualist camp as well as among Theosophists, Rosicrucians and other cults that deny the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. How many are there in the Catholic Church, the Messiah-made Kingdom, to which they logically belong? Surely not more than one per cent of the number in the sects and cults. Either lack of zeal or improper method of approach or both must be the

cause of Catholic failure to make headway among Jews. Undoubtedly the Catholic Church has the principles, practices and historic background for a soul-stirring appeal to the children of Israel to come in and enjoy the religious inheritance that awaits them and which was foretold long centuries ago in the inspired words of Moses, the patriarchs and prophets.

Disunion

When, in the history of modern times, has the order to "go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" held out a better opportunity for Catholics than today? Never! Many discerning leaders among Jews are bemoaning the lack of unity in the Judaic world, though they fail to realize that it is due to their departure or open denial of the faith of their fathers, a faith that no one among them teaches with any authority or can define to the satisfaction of any considerable group of Jews. Rabbi David Max Eichon of the Sinai Temple, Springfield, Mass., said recently that present day Judaism "is unable to unite on any single issue."

And I heard Rabbi Landman of New York (Editor of *The American Hebrew*) say at the Harvard University Seminar of the Calvert Associates in a genial manner, though seriously, that "there is only one thing that two Jews can agree upon. And that is how much the third Jew should give for charity."

The Rabbi was speaking of religious as well as secular unity. The apparent unity one witnesses at large mass meetings or in written protests issued from time to time is Hebraic rather than Jewish, that is, racial rather than religious, and it manifests itself only in times of persecution like that which Hitlerism is inflicting upon the Jews today.

Pope Innocent III Protects Jews

"The Jews have a right to our protection. They are the living witnesses of the Christian Faith. Christians should not exterminate or oppress them, because they have not lost the knowledge of the law,"

said Pope Innocent III in the thirteenth century when he came to the defense of the Jews though, as he said, they fail to "acknowledge Christ through the hardness of their hearts."

Unfortunately those thirteenth century y words that I have italicized can only be said of a diminishing number of the Jews of our twentieth century times, s for they are losing more and more "knowledge of the Law. Smaller and smaller is the number of Jews becoming who utter the pathetic act of faith of Maimonides: "I believe with a perfect faith in the com-

"I believe with a perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and though he tarry I will wait for his coming. This heart-rending appeal of the Orthodox Jews for the coming of the One who had already trod the highways of Judea and Galilee over nineteen centuries ago, when He made His bloody journey back to His heavenly home, is giving way, unfortunately, to denying belief in a personal Messiah and substituting therefor a belief in an abstraction termed 'the Messianic age."

The Messiah

In addition to the misconception embodied in the Maimonides' prayer of the diaspora, that assumes the Messiah is yet to come, and, on the other hand, the denial that there is a Messiah to pray for, there are in our country a large number of the kinsmen of our Lord who are indifferent to both Orthodox and Reform Judaism, many of them being without any knowledge of the meaning of a predicted Messiah. The fear expressed by Theodor Herzl, the father of Modern Zionism, that wage-earning Jews were departing from their religion to enter the Army of Socialism is a fact today seen in the Jewish trade unions of the United States which have nearly all officially endorsed Socialism and propagate its teachings. Besides, Jews educated in our non-religious institutions of learning are imbued with the notion that pantheism and rationalism alone can stand the test of right-reason and science. They are utterly ignorant of Catholic principles, history, or practices, partly because no effort equal to the opportunity has been made by Catholics to bring the knowledge of the profundity of Catholic teachings to them.

Synagogue Affiliation

Regular synagogue membership is very small in the United States. The last Report of Religious Bodies, issued

by the Department of Commerce, an-nounced that the Church Membership of Jewish congregations totals 4,081,202. That is because the Director of the Statistical Department of the American Jewish Committee reported the whole "Jewish" population of 1926—panthe-ists, agnostics, atheists, and Communists included-to be affiliated with synagogues. In my Campaigners For Christ Handbook I have credited synagogues with a membership of seventeen per cent of the Jewish population, tak-ing the synagogue membership figures in the 1916 Report of Religious Bodies as a basis of reckoning. Yet I believe that an exact tabulation would prove that not more than seven per cent of the Hebrews in the United States are members of synagogues, that is less than three hundred thousand are members of Jewish congregations and not more than one-third of that number F are synagogue-attending Jews. American born Jews who have synagogue affiliations join Reform rather than Orthodox congregations. They resent the Orthodox, they have a hostile feel-ing towards their hirsute, dietary, and suppliant customs and practices such as rarely enters the hearts of Christians. Commenting on Orthodox Judaism in The Reflex, Dr. S. M. Malamed says that

"all the oppression of all the anti-Semitic governments combined cannot equal the oppression of rabbinic Judaism in the destruction of the Jewish soul and mind. Rabbinic Judaism is choking the Jews to death intel-lectually and spiritually."

Dr. Solomon Goldman in his book, A Rabbi Takes Stock, says that

"the end of almost a century of religious conflict in Jewry finds neither Orthodoxy nor Reform with any victory to record: both so impoverished in spiritual and intellectual resources that neither can hope to meet the new challenges of our own day."

And Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, who seems to speak the loudest for Judaism as he knows it, says in The Agony of Israel: "Religion! Are we not becoming its destroyers rather than its guardians? There is something which calls itself religion current in certain smug circles of Jewish life here and in other lands. For the most part it is nothing more than a poor pulseless imitation or simulation of a decorously unvital mysticism. And save for this there is little, if any, so-called religion in the household of Israel, Orthodoxy being almost as dead as Reform."

Claiming Jesus

Along with this departure from the Judaism of old there has developed an attempt to claim Jesus as the greatest Jew that ever lived

"minus the theology of Jesus," which is being termed Paulineism. Rabbi Ernest R. Trattner in his As a Jew Sees Jesus contends that

"the silence of the Jews on Jesus through the ages has been not so much a conspiracy on their part as a feeling of strangeness with the Christ set in the trappings of the Christian religion. With the tearing away of the myths that grew up about Jesus, intelligent Jews are beginning to recognize the Jew Jesus, in pro-

portion as the Christians are turning away from their conception of Jesus the Son of God, and consequently immortal." Unsound though this denial of "the Emanuel, God with us"

may be, it carries with it an opportunity never afforded to Catholics in the ages that have passed. It enables Jews to be approached with Catholic claims that the bitterness in the hearts of Orthodox Jews towards Jesus made almost impossible.

Jews Talented

Jews are intellectual, therefore when they sincerely claim Jesus as their own, as a growing number of them are doing even among non-synagogue Hebrews, we may hope to lead them to a proper concept of the claim. Much opposition to Jews is due to their being greatly talented and often using those talents in a non-religious if not an anti-religious way. Their talents along with their great ambition and their natural projectiveness causes the number of them who enter the professions, who lead in a commerce, finance and radicalism, to be exceedingly far above the percentage of the total population Jews represent. These talents elevated and this admirable projective quality tempered through what awaits them in the Catholic Church intellectually, esthetically, mystically, and sacramentally would lead them to glorious achievements that they are unable to attain so

long as they stand against the Law as Moses, the patriarchs, and prophets intended it to be understood and its fulfilment to be realized.

How To Approach Jews

So long as Jews can be approached with things Catholic so long is there an opportunity to win them and so long is there a responsibility on the part of Catholics to respond to the call to convert them. First, they must be sympathetically induced to study the Old Testament in the light of Catholic teachings. Secondly, they must be shown that the acceptance of the prophecies and their fulfilment as understood by the Catholic Church is not a denial of the faith of their fathers. On the contrary, it means upholding belief in the basic teachings embodied in the Judaism of their fathers of old and the realization of the Divine promises set forth in the Old Testament which were intended first for the children of Israel, the kinsmen of the Messiah.

I have endeavored to make plain in the thirty-six pages of my *Campaigners For Christ Handbook* which are devoted to the Jews:

- A—That the Jewish belief in the Messiah is realized in Jesus, the Christ, who came in the time, place, and manner foretold in the Old Testament.
- B-That the Priesthood instituted by the Messiah, according to the Order of Melchisedic, has by Divine ordinance

taken the place of the Jewish Priesthood of Aaron—which is no more.

C—That the unbloody Sacrifice of the Mass, predicted by Malachy, has superseded the bloody Sacrifice formerly offered to God by the High Priests in the Temple in Jerusalem.

D—That the Catholic Church, born in the Synagogue, is the Messianic Kingdom, the old Theocracy restored but universalized.

Thirdly, there must be brought to the mind of Jews the historically established fact that the abolition of their Priesthood of Aaron, which functioned by Divine Sanction, the destruction of their Temple and the consequent failure to reinstitute their old sacrifice, which the Orthodox Jews of today pray for, are all a part of the Divine plan out-lined in the Old Testament. They must be brought to the realization that the persecutions that they have had to face and are still enduring are exhortations, so to speak, of their God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to induce them to accept the new Priesthood and the Sacrifice of the Mass instituted at the Passover service in the Upper Chamber in Jerusalem. When Jews come to the recognition of themselves as they are, when they cease rejecting their Messianic King, their afflictions will end, their eyes will be opened, their ears unstopped, their hands strengthened, as Isaiah tells them (chapter 35):

"The redeemed of the Lord shall return, and shall come into Zion with praise, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

Let us win the Jews by our prayers and good works.

Whenever we meet any of the children of Israel who fail to recognize Jesus as the Messianic Son of David let there go forth from our hearts the loving appeal of Christ upon the Cross—"Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Meet Jews with the realization of our indebtedness to them. They gave us Moses, Abraham, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Job, Daniel, the Mother and sons of the Machabees, John the Baptist and other patriarchs, prophets, and spiritual heroes whom our Church loves to honor.

Bear ever in mind when contacting them that they gave us the Old Testament and all the writers of the New Testament, two of the world's most sublime collections of writings which our Church holds to have been inspired by Almighty God.

Remember always that from the Jews came Jesus the Christ (Messiah) in whose veins flowed the blood of Israel's kings: that they gave us the holiest of all holy women, Mary the Virgin Mother of Jesus; Joseph the foster father of our Lord; the twelve Apostles, eleven of whom suffered and died for Christ; that from them came the first 8000 members of our Church.

Remember that we are morally obligated to bring the children of Israel into their inheritance. Therefore invite them to come to Mass, to Vespers, to Missions and on Retreats. Give them Catholic literature. Help them to understand that Catholic Christianity is Judaism realized, extended, elevated, and glorified.

These are the things that should be stressed, these are the things that should be done by those who hearken to the call of Pope Pius XI for the conversion of the Jews. These things should be stressed because the Son of David is exhorting His kinsmen through persecution to become part of His Mystical Body—the Catholic Church—that He established for all peoples including the stray members of His Israelitic family.

Come—Bring Joy

The Jews of today have their annual feast called Purim which is celebrated in commemoration of their deliverance, through Esther, from the plot laid by Haman to destroy them. The Jews of today celebrate the Passover annually in remembrance of their emancipation from Egyptian bondage. If Catholics would only respond to the call of Christ through His Vicar, if Catholics throughout the land would join with the Confraternity of Prayer for the Conversion of Israel, if Catholics would carry the message of salvation to the Jews with

whom they associate, the Children of Israel would have the sublime privilege of adding another feast to their Purim and Passover festivities. It would be a feast of emancipation such as they have never before enjoyed, the feast their Messiah instituted at the Passover gathering with His Jewish disciples and His Jewish Virgin Mother in the Upper Room where He turned the unleavened bread and the juice of the vine into His Body and Blood for their spiritual upbuilding and their abidance in His eternal home.

Come let us bring joy to the kinsmen of our Lord; let us bring joy to our Holy Father; let us bring joy to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Messiah, by responding to the intention of Pope Pius XI—"the conversion of the Jews."

Please help this call for the lost sheep of the house of Israel by saying the prayer printed on page 2 and by making a financial contribution towards the circulation of this pamphlet.

READ

The

CAMPAIGNERS FOR CHRIST HANDBOOK

By DAVID GOLDSTEIN

The Boston Pilot says:

"The chapter on the Jews shows a first hand acquaintance with the road that leads from the Law of Moses to the Church of the Messiah. It gives the terminology which David Goldstein holds is necessary to become acquainted with in order to correctly visualize the status of the various elements among the lost sheep of the House of Israel who designate themselves as Jews. Its divisions on Einstein, Spinoza, the Rabbi Wise Family, the Inquisition, the Prophesies and their Fulfillment, etc., are alone worth the dollar and fifteen cents for which the CAMPAIGNERS FOR CHRIST HANDBOOK is sold."

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