

## Role of Judaism: Class 2

Role that Judaism played between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming straight-forward:

- Adam fell, ruptured the relation between God and Man, God knew He would restore it better than ever through the Incarnation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the MHT as a Man. If God was going to Incarnate as a Man, it would be in a particular people, at a particular point in time, in the womb of a particular woman – the people would have to be prepared beforehand
- They would have to be separated from pagan tribes around them who worshipped demons (Ps 96)
  - A lot of the attributes for which Jews are criticized were put there by God to have this effect, in hindsight appear elitist, exclusionary -- Laws of kashrut, ritual purity, circumcision
  - Learn about and worship the 1 true God, the uncreated Creator of all that is
  - Know about the Creation of Man, his Fall, the seriousness of sin, the need for redemption, the coming of a Redeemer
  - Taught to adhere to sufficiently high moral code that Incarnation would not be a sacrilege
  - Receive Divine Revelation to recognize Him when he came and spread the knowledge of His redemption throughout the world

### **Why did God choose the Jews?**

Many answers:

- Had to choose someone, whoever it was we'd be asking why them?
- God seems to choose the weakest and most insignificant for special missions to show it is Him, not them:
  - St. Bernadette: "The Holy Virgin chose me because I was the most ignorant of creatures"

- Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque: “Oh that’s simple, if I could have found anyone more insignificant than you, I would have chosen her instead.”
- The fact God’s choice of the Jews was related to their insignificance is made explicit in the Old Testament:

“Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem... On the day you were born, your naval string was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you nor rubbed with salt nor swathed with bands. ... And when I passed you by, and saw you weltering in your blood, I said to you in your blood, live! ... Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood, and anointed you with oil. I clothed you with embroidered cloth and shod you with leather. I swathed you with fine linen and covered you with silk ... And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor which I had bestowed upon you, says the Lord God.” (Ezekiel 16)

Also a positive reason why God chose the Jews -- to reward Abraham for the extraordinary fidelity he showed in his willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mount Moriah. The story is told in the book of Genesis:

- After these things God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!...” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took his son Isaac, and went to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “I see the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will himself provide the lamb for the sacrifice, my son.” When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. Then Abraham put forth his hand,

and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

And Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place "the LORD will provide". And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies, and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." (Genesis 22:1-18, condensed)

- Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac was reciprocated by, God's willingness, two thousand years later, to sacrifice His only-begotten Son on the very same mountain, just a few hundred yards away, at the spot known as "Calvary".
- "Take your son, your only son, whom you love"(Genesis 22:2) was echoed two thousand years later in "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ... [His] beloved Son" (John 3:16, Matthew 3:17). As the son of Abraham climbed the mount with the wood on his shoulders for his own execution, so too did the Son of God.
- Abraham's utterance "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering" (Genesis 22:8) was prophetic far beyond anything he could have known, referring not only to the provision of the ram "provided" by the Lord, but referring far more profoundly to the only truly acceptable sacrifice, the "Lamb of God, who took away the sins of the world" (John 1) -- God's own Son offered on the altar of Calvary. Shofar – ram caught by horn – blown to remind God of his promise! Isaac's sacrifice in Judaism is root of Messianic promise

- Tempting to say that the Jews failed, but nothing could be further from the truth
  - Chosen to bring about the Incarnation, be His first disciples and apostles, and spread the Gospel throughout the world
  - Has been done -- 2 B Christians (out of 6 B)

But what about Jews failure to recognize Christ when he came?

- Conversion of Jews dearest to Jesus' heart:
  - Mt 10:5-7 : These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
- and right before crucifixion, at "Dominus Flevit"
  - Mt 23:37: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

Other side to this mystery, brought out by St. Paul, (will start with short extract, go back to it at end).

- Rom 11:7-26:
 

"Israel failed to obtain what it sought. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that should not see and ears that should not hear, down to this very day....let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see... I want you to understand this mystery, brethren: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles come in, and so all Israel will be saved"

  - Blindness of Jews not entirely due to their stubbornness, but part of God's plan that their eyes be veiled until the proper time, "when the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled"

What is this time of the Gentiles being fulfilled?

- Luke 21: 24-7 “they [the Jews] will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led captive among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”
  - Jesus lays out a timeline...Fall of Jerusalem/Dispersal of Jews/Return of Jews/ Time of Gentiles fulfilled/ Conversion of the Jews/2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. Happened literally in 70 AD, till 1967. ( “Roaring of sea and waves”...) etc.

We know the conversion of the Jews fits in here from scripture and CCC – alluded to by St Paul “all Israel will be saved”. Made explicit in CCC #674: “The glorious Messiah’s coming is suspended at every moment of history until his recognition by ‘all Israel’ ...(Rom 11:20-26; cf. Mt. 23:39).”

- Mt 23:37-9: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, `Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'”

So we see a hint of the fact that the Jews have a role to play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, too – they must be around, and they must convert. We know this from scripture, but also from History.

Most dramatically in our day – the Holocaust

Direct expression of diabolical will – why should the devil be so interested, if no role left to play?

Holocaust can be seen as an attempt to about 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming -- a direct expression of the diabolical will.

#### Occultism:

- Hitler was “certainly consecrated to Satan.” (Gabriela Amorth)
- Hitler’s first public platform/springboard into public life was the Thule Society, and occult society in Mucnich. The Nazi party started as the working-man’s branch of the Thule Society. Thule/superman myth
- Director of Thule Soc in the days of Hitler was Dietrich Eckart, who bragged he “initiated Hitler into the Secret Doctrine, opened his centers of vision and given him the means to communicate with the powers.” Define initiation. Hitler dedicated Mein Kampf to Eckart.

#### Eugenics

- Hitler named Chancellor of Germany Jan 30, 33; on June 2, 1933 (4 months later) announced the formation of the Expert Committee on Questions of Population and Racial Policy, July passed a law for compulsory sterilization of carriers of hereditary diseases including feeble-mindedness, alcoholism, and epilepsy – about 400,000 sterilized
- 1939 instituted program to euthanize disabled children by drugs or cessation of feeding – about 275,000 .
- Continual flowing back between Hitler’s eugenics experts and Margaret Sanger’s Birth Control League.
  - Director of the primary German Eugenics institute –Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Geneology in Munich -- was Dr. Ernst Rudin, contributor to Sander’s BCR
  - Sanger Board member Lothrop Stoddard had written “The Rising Tide of Color against White World Supremacy” (1920), Goebbels complained to Hitler about its prominence in Nazi school textbooks

If the Holocaust came straight from Hell, and was about exterminating the Jewish people, why should Satan care so much about exterminating them?

- He knows too about the relationship between the conversion of the Jews and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
  - If no Jews, no 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
  - If no conversion, no 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

The largest source of theological understanding of the role of the Jews between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is found in Romans 11:

1-2 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

- This is the assertion that the election of the Jews continues. Election continues, but doesn't mean that the salvific covenant through Jewish sacramental system continues. Can't, after Temple destruction, anyway.

7 What then? Israel failed to obtain what it sought. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that should not see and ears that should not hear, down to this very day." And David says, "Let their ...eyes be darkened so that they cannot see..."

- Mysteriously, their blindness was given them by God

11 So I ask, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

- Somehow, their failure to recognize Christ was necessary for Christianity to spread to the Gentiles. Would have been seen as a form of Judaism, first for Jews. 1<sup>st</sup> Church Council 51 AD (Acts 15) illustration.

12 Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

- Later, the veil will be lifted and the Jews will come into the Church, bringing an even greater blessing! What's this life from the dead? Apostasy of the Gentiles:
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ...Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first
  - Lk 18:7-8: Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?"
  - Catechism of the Council of Trent: (from Article VII of the Creed): The Sacred Scriptures inform us that the general judgment will be preceded by these three principal signs: the preaching of the Gospel throughout the world, a falling away from the faith, and the coming of Antichrist.
  - 2 Tim 3: But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, fierce, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding the form of religion but denying the power of it.
- Entry of the Jews will be "life from the dead"

16 If the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the richness of the olive tree, do not boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. You will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. ...And even the others, if they do not persist in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and



grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree.

- The Jews are the cultivated branches, the Gentiles the wild shoots grafted in. When they are, they will be even better suited to Christianity than the Gentiles

25 Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brethren: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles come in, and so all Israel will be saved;

As regards the gospel they are enemies of God, for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy.

For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever.

Amen.