

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

A. Where Are the Hittites?

B. Sibling Rivalry

C. Life Before Death

A. The Unfinished Symphony

Where Are the Hittites?

“I stumbled upon a mystery without a solution, a mystery so immense that I gave up trying to find an explanation because the whole mystery defied belief. The mystery was the survival of the Jews....I couldn't understand how these people had endured as the great people who they were. It was this mystery that drew me back to God.”

Anne Rice



“Why does no one find it remarkable that in most world cities today there are Jews but not one single Hittite, even though the Hittites had a great flourishing civilization while the Jews nearby were a weak and obscure people? When one meets a Jew in New York or New Orleans or Paris or Melbourne, it is remarkable that no one considers the event remarkable.”

Walker Percy

The Merneptah Stele (c.1210 B.C.E)

THE FIRST MENTION OF **“ISRAEL” AS A PEOPLE**



**“ISRAEL IS LAID WASTE,
HIS SEED IS NOT.”**

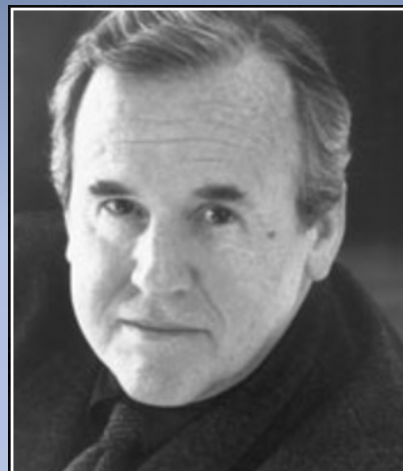
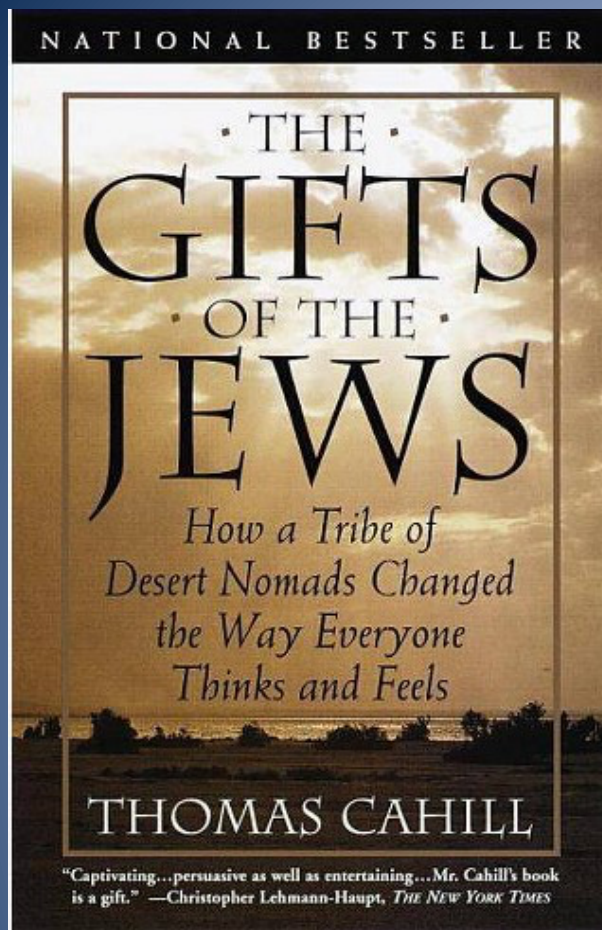
“The name Israel is included among the list of defeated peoples, hence the name Israel stele, referring not to a country but to a tribe of the same name.”



Cairo Museum, Egypt

BUT THE MORE THE
EGYPTIANS OPPRESSED
THEM, THE MORE THE
ISRAELITES MULTIPLIED
AND SPREAD, AND THE
MORE ALARMED THE
EGYPTIANS BECAME.
EXODUS 1:12

“Jewish history is not merely a story of Jews enduring catastrophes that might have spelled the end to less tenacious groups. It is that after every disaster, Jews renewed themselves. They discovered some hitherto hidden reservoir of spirit that fuelled new forms of collective self-expression as the carriers of God’s message to the world.” Rabbi Sacks



We can hardly get up in the morning or cross the street without being Jewish. We dream Jewish dreams and hope Jewish hopes. Most of our best words, in fact - new, adventure, surprise; unique, individual, person, vocation; time, history, future; freedom, progress, spirit; faith, hope, justice - are the gifts of the Jews.

— Thomas Cahill —

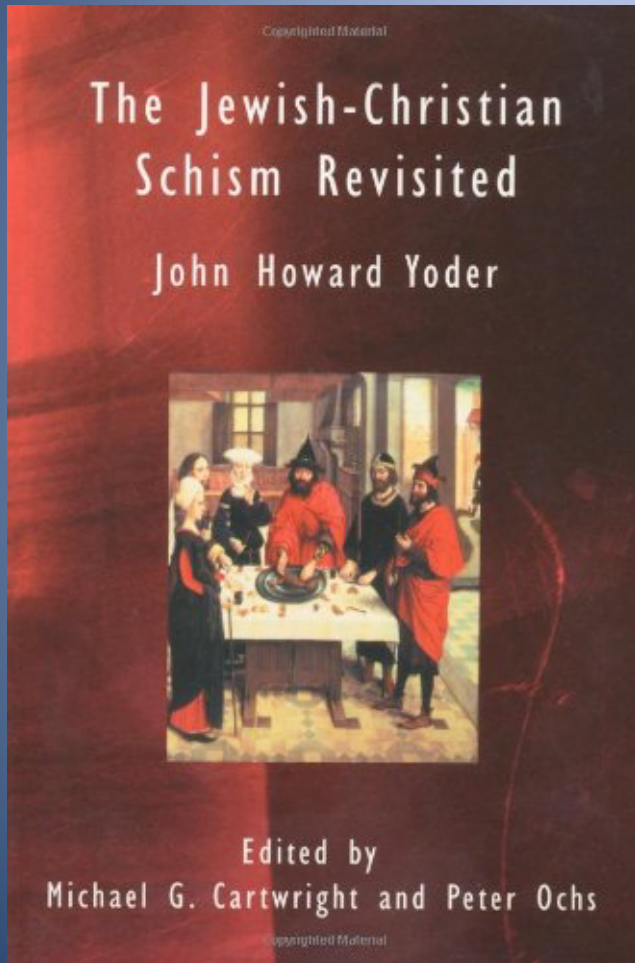
“To the Jews we owe the idea of equality before the law, both divine and human; of the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person; of the individual conscience and so of personal redemption; of the collective conscience and so of social responsibility; of peace as an abstract ideal and love as the foundation of justice, and many other items which constitute the basic moral furniture of the human mind.”

Paul Johnson

“The number of Jews in the world is smaller than a small statistical error in the Chinese census. Yet we remain bigger than our numbers.”

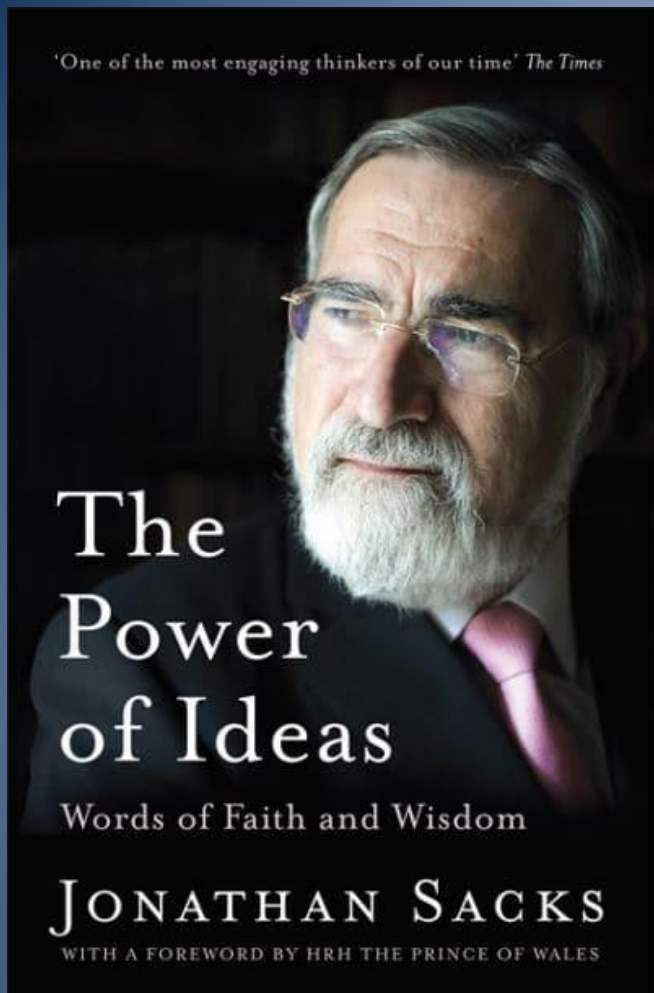
Rabbi Sacks

“NOT BEING IN CHARGE”



“If there is a single sentence that sums up Jewish history, it is surely the statement of the prophet Zechariah: ‘Not by power and not by might but by My spirit, says the Lord of hosts’ (Zech. 4:6). Jews never had much power....Nor did they have might. Christianity and Islam built massive, monumental empires. Jews never did.”

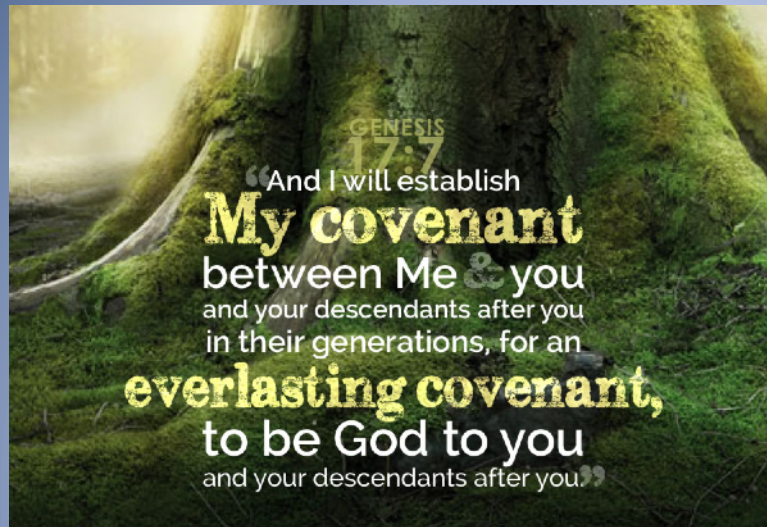
Rabbi Sacks



“Our vocation is to be God’s ambassadors to the world, giving testimony through the way we live that it is possible for a small people to survive and thrive under the most adverse conditions, to construct a society of law-governed liberty for which we all bear collective responsibility, and ‘to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly’ (Micah 6:8) with our God....God calls on us to be *true to our faith and a blessing to others regardless of their faith.*”

“The choice humankind faces in every age is between the idea of power and the power of ideas. Judaism has always believed in the power of ideas, and it remains the only non-violent way to change the world.”

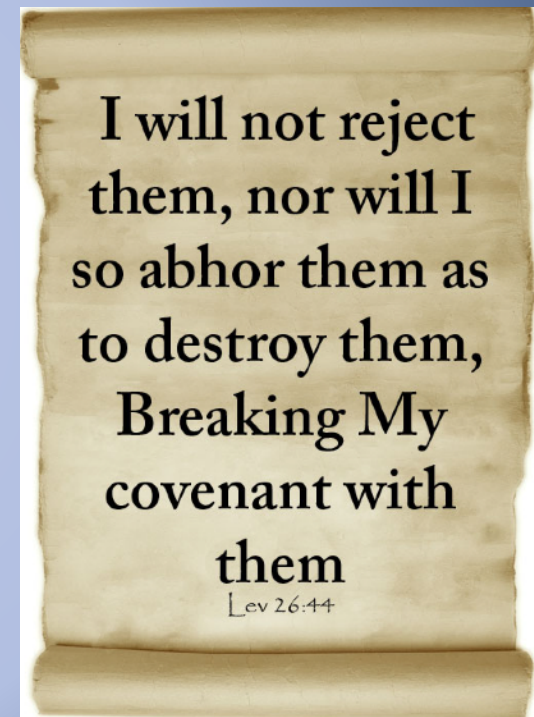
God's *Eternal Covenant* with Israel




Jeremiah 33:23-26

²³The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁴

"Have you not noticed that these people are saying,
'The LORD has rejected the two kingdoms he
chose'? So they despise my people and no longer
regard them as a nation. ²⁵ This is what the LORD
says: 'If I have not established my covenant with day
and night and the fixed laws of heaven and earth, ²⁶
then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David
my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule
over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion
on them.'"



The Renewed Covenant

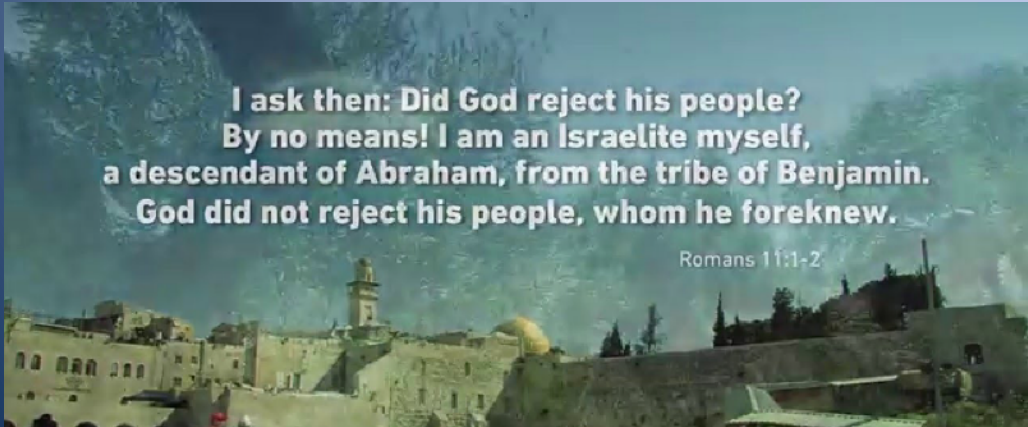


For the gifts and the
calling of God are
irrevocable.

Romans 11:29 NKJV

Hebrews 6:13-18 (Message Bible)

When God made his promise to Abraham, he backed it to the hilt, putting his own reputation on the line. He said, “I promise that I’ll bless you with everything I have—bless and bless and bless!” Abraham stuck it out and got everything that had been promised to him. When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they’ll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee his promises, He gave his Word, a rock-solid guarantee—God *can’t* break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable.



I ask then: Did God reject his people?
By no means! I am an Israelite myself,
a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.
God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

Romans 11:1-2



TORAH

“Behold the days are coming, says Adonai, when I will make a
New Covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah...
I will put my Torah within them, and I will write it on their hearts.”

Jeremiah 31:31-33