

Grandparents
Dear Parents, ~~Teachers~~, Relatives and Friends:-

This week's portion of the Torah deals with the origin of our Nation. We read: Now the Lord said unto Abraham: "Get thee out of Thy Country, and from Thy Kindred, and Thy Father's House, unto the land that I will show Thee. And I will make of Thee a great Nation."

In a world of idol worshipers, Abraham was the first to recognize the existence of a True God, and he accepted His command and went to the land of Canaan and there founded a new Nation based on a new religion, the recognition of One God, Creator of the Universe.

As I stand in this pulpit, there comes before me a panorama of our People.

I see Abraham, the father of our race.

I see Jacob, the father of twelve sons who gave birth to the twelve tribes of Israel.

I see our forefathers in Egypt as slaves, despised and oppressed by the Pharo.

I see them liberated by the hand of God with Moses as their leader.

I see them at Mount Sinai amidst thunder and lightning receiving the Ten Commandments, which to the present day is the foundation of

all moral and ethical laws of every civilized Nation. *I see them striving in the wilderness for 40 yrs preparing themselves to assume the role of a nation.*

I see our people in Palestine building a great Nation, powerful, honored and respected by other Nations.

I see the beautiful Temple of Jerusalem built by King Solomon representing the last word in architecture, splendor and beauty.

But Alas! Our people forgot our God and his ways and I hear the great Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel cry out against the eniquity of the times but unfortunately our people would not listen.

I see the destruction of Solomons Temple and our people driven out of Palestine and taken into captivity by the Babylonians. For forty-nine years they remained a people without a country.

I behold our ancestors regain their freedom and return to Palestine and rebuild the Temple. There they remain for over 600 years when on the 9th day of Ab in the year 70 the Second Temple was destroyed by the ^{Babylonians} Romans.

Since then our People have been scattered to all parts of the Earth, from one country to another. In every country where they were permitted to migrate they built schools of learning, ^{Contributed to} ~~contributed to~~ the upbuilding and uplifting of these countries, always interested in every movement for the betterment of mankind, contributing to the culture, arts and sciences. But, alas, instead of being appreciated and rewarded, our lot was the Inquisition in Spain, Pogroms in Russia and Poland, Ostracism in France and even to this day Hitlerism in ^{present} Germany.

We are living in a very sorry time in a troubled world. Humanity has not learned the lesson of Mount Sinai. The Jews have been proclaiming to the world through the ^{out} centuries the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man; we have been crying out against murder, and war, against covetousness and greed. We have been demanding protection for the widow and the orphan and equal rights for the stranger. How beautiful the world would be if the commandments of Mount Sinai were engraved in the hearts and minds of men. But unfortunately the world will not listen and will not understand. Greed, Envy, hatred and war seem to be in the hearts of the so called civilized world and when they are not engaged in fighting among themselves the world seems to delight in hating and persecuting the Jew.

Modern so called civilization has not improved the position of the Jew and our only hope of survival as a race lies in Erez Yisrael, the

land of our forefathers, which was chosen by the Lord for Abraham and his descendants. There we can live the life of a Jew, unmolested, putting into practice the sublime teaching of Mount Sinai. There we can again develop the high ideals and contribute our part in the development of mankind as of yore, and to these ideals and ^{their} ^{do} consumation I ~~will~~ dedicate my life and I ^{beseech} ~~pray to the~~ Almighty God to give me strength and keep me steadfast in my resolution.

May God bless my Parents, relatives and this worthy Congregation and may He prolong their lives that they may see the return of Israel to our newly rebuilt country, Erez Yisra.