

THE IDEOLOGY OF JUDAISM AS REFLECTED IN THE LITURGY

This course aims at presenting the major ideals of the Jewish weltanschauung implicit in the Daily Prayerbook. The Siddur has been chosen not primarily to afford an opportunity for the exposition of its text, but to enable the student to examine the major principles of Jewish philosophy in a more "natural" setting than in any artificial "system." Supplementary readings will be provided.

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. The Origins of Prayer.

1. Biblical and talmudic references
2. The sacrificial service
3. Prayer in the Temple

B. The Halakhic Dimensions of Prayer.

1. Maimonides, Nahmanides, and Yehudah Halevi
2. Formal Prayer - Time, Form, Language
3. Kavvanah

C. The Prayerbook.

1. The development of the Siddur
2. Structure of the Siddur

D. The Philosophy of Prayer.

1. The dialogue between Man and God
2. Are prayers answered
3. Efficacy of Prayer
4. Spontaneity vs. Formalization
5. The Siddur as a Repository of Jewish ideals

II. THE PRELIMINARY SERVICE.

- A. Providence
- B. Biblical universalism and Jewish uniqueness
- C. The position of Woman in Jewish thought
- D. Slavery and Freedom
- E. The Akedah
- F. The meaning of Sacrifices - - from Maimonides to Rosenzweig and Hoffmann
- G. Kaddish: the concept of Kiddush Hashem

III. THE SERVICE OF PSALMS.

- A. The meaning of worship
- B. Miracles

IV. THE SHEMA.

- A. The God of Nature: Creator and Sustainer
- B. The God of Israel: Revelation and Prophecy
- C. The Unity of G-d and His Attributes



- D. The Love of God and the Fear of God
- E. Reward and Punishment. Free Will
- F. The concept of Mitzvah; faith and works; symbol and reminder; the sacred act as a religious experience
- G. The theme of Exodus
- H. Divine Faithfulness

V. THE AMIDAH.

- A. The God of History
- B. Divine Ethics
- C. Holiness
- D. Intellect
- E. Sin and Repentance: Good and Evil
- F. The Messiah; Jewish eschatology
- G. Heresy and Heretics
- H. Gratitude (as a motive of the religious experience)
- I. Peace
- J. Prayer and Human Personality

VI. READING OF THE TORAH.

- A. Study and scholarship
- B. The Written Law
- C. The Oral Law
- D. Halakhah and Agadah
- E. The Interpretation of Torah
- F. Authority in Jewish Law
- G. Immutability and Change
- H. The Chosenness of Israel and Torah