



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**MS-53: Moses J. Gries Papers, 1850-1934 (bulk 1890-1930).**

Series D: Sermons and Addresses, 1893-1917, undated.

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Box	Folder	Item
4	8	22

Installation of Rabbi Wolsey, 1907 August 30.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

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The spirit of the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries and the new conditions of life in America compel a new presentation of ancient Judaism and a new interpretation of ancient law and custom. Manifest is the irreligiousness of the age. In the private and the public life may be discovered the weakening of the old moral sanctities. A crisis has come in the life of religion. The age and the hour demand, not formal belief, but a real religious life on the part of men, women and children. The problems of life are always with us. Judaism must have power and value for life - power and value made manifest in the life of Jews.

What mean we by our everlasting insistence that we must preserve and perpetuate to the last generation - forgetting always the living Jew of every generation. Judaism is not out there, in time, in space, or in history. It is here. It must be now, in us, in heart and in brain and in life. The worth of Judaism is in its vitality for us and our homes and our children. We must live for Judaism and our Jewish cause, and Judaism will live in and through us. The opportunity is in America. ~~We need not Zion. Palestine is unnecessary.~~ Judaism and the Jew in America are free to fulfill their highest hopes and to realize the loftiest ideals.

The old mother of religions proclaims the vital message to the twentieth century and to America. Scorned and forgotten may be the name and work of Moses, the law-giver. Exalted and remembered for praise may be a Jesus, the master, a Mohammed, the prophet. Historically, the Jew is the world's law-giver - the master of mankind - the prophet of righteousness.

Never in all history did the world <sup>more</sup> need to hear the burning eloquence of mankind's most wonderful preachers - the prophets of Israel. They spoke for righteousness and against unrighteousness - for justice and against injustice - for freedom and against every enslavement of mankind.

To mankind, heart-hungry, his soul thirsting for the living waters, the



Jew makes affirmation of a living God. He interprets man a moral being under divine appointment - his face illumined with the light kindled by the divine spark from the Infinite Fire. The Jew believes in the innate nobility of all humanity - declaring man made in the image of God. He proclaims the glory of our human life. He teaches the magnificent ideal of human brotherhood. In ancient days he prophesied the Messiah - he is still heralding Messiah - messianic hope to the whole human race.

The world needs the message of the Jew - teacher of religion - prophet of righteousness - law-giver to mankind - light unto the nations.

