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

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

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“The Message of Judaism,” 1906 September 9.

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THE MESSAGE OF JUDAISM

Every temple is a living witness before the world - a visible witness of the altars, temples and synagogues of Israel throughout all the ages.

A thousand years stood the glorious temples of Solomon, Ezra, Nehemiah and Herod. Two thousand years, throughout the world, have stood our humble synagogues.

This temple is a living witness to a spiritual, and not a material, Israel - an eternal witness to Israel's spiritual purpose and spiritual power.

Physically, the Jew has been overwhelmed; spiritually, he is triumphant.

The world laments the weakness of church and of temple - that religion has lost power and influence. Church and temple have not been preaching and teaching the vital truths concerning God and man and life.

Has Judaism any vital message to the twentieth century and to America? Judaism proclaims God and not the gods. It announced God the One, when the Pantheon was filled with gods. Judaism affirms unity, protests against duality and trinity. Judaism affirms that man is of divine origin and appointed to a divine destiny. It proclaims the inborn nobility of man. Man is noble, not ignoble. Man has not fallen, but risen, and is ever advancing.

Judaism emphasizes life, not death. Distinctive and all important is our Jewish interpretation of life. Life is not chance, but purpose; not burden, but privilege; not curse, but blessing. Life is not disappointment, but appointment.

The Jew proclaims and still proclaims "Messiah" unto the world. Twenty-five hundred years ago, the prophets announced the Messiah will come. They heralded a dawn of peace in an age of war. Ever, amid the misery of mankind, Jewish teachers dared to hope and to believe in the coming of the Messianic time.

Judaism teaches the unity of God, and therefore, necessarily, the unity of mankind, - no narrow idea of human brotherhood, no exclusive doctrine of human salvation.

In the face of tyranny triumphant, we believe in the establishment of justice. In the face of the vice and crime of the ages, still manifest in our civilization, we believe righteousness will rule. In the face of Russia's cruelty, and the world's inhumanity to man, the Jew believes that God is one, and that mankind must be one.

