

**JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY  
AND THE MODERN  
SOCIAL IDEALS**

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Judaism, Christianity and the Modern Social Ideals by G. George Fox

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**BY  
G. GEORGE FOX  
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TEXAS

DEDICATED  
TO MY PARENTS WHOSE SACRIFICES, AND  
TO MY WIFE WHOSE DEVOTION, EXEM-  
PLIFY SOME OF THE IDEALS SET  
FORTH IN THIS WORK





## PREFACE

Within the last quarter of a century a large number of books has been written dealing with the life of Jesus, his ethics and their relation to our social ideals. Here in America, works of which the "Social Teachings of Jesus," and "Christianity and the Changing Order," by Prof. Shailer Mathews; "Christianity and the Social Crisis," by Prof. Rauschenbusch, and "Jesus Christ and the Moral Question," by Prof. Peabody, are the best types, have rightly shifted the emphasis of Christianity from the dogmatic to the social and ethical side. In his "Social Teachings," Prof. Mathews has sounded the proper note, for in these days, religion must be socialized to be vital.

But from a perusal of this literature, one is made to feel that Christianity alone is to be credited with the best of our social ideals. One cannot find fault with Christian scholars for their magnificent allegiance to what they believe to be the ideals of their Master. But one looks in vain for an adequate evaluation of the tremendous influence of Judaism upon both the ancient and the modern life. Surely the Jewishness of Jesus himself played some part in the growth and development of our present day social ideals!

The following pages have been written because the writer believes that Judaism has been overlooked in the consideration of those forces which influence and refine modern life. He believes that most of the teachings of Jesus are as Jewish as those of any well-known teacher of the post-biblical writings. He believes that our present day social ideals are Jewish, and that many would agree with him if the information to substantiate this were at hand.

No one can deny that there is need for an exposition of the Jewish teachings and their relation to those of Jesus. Men are desirous to learn and a spirit of fair-mindedness is abroad. Works of this sort abound in Europe, in America they are extremely scarce. The ideals of Jesus, however, have found exposition in many volumes; to compare the Jewish ideals with these, and to answer too, the question of the attitude of liberal Jews towards their ancient co-religionist—a question asked many times of the writer—is the task of this work.

That these pages may to some extent clear up the misunderstanding with regard to ancient Judaism and its influence on modern life, is the fervent hope of the writer.

I desire to express my thanks here to the late Prof. George Burman Foster of the University of Chicago, and to Dr. Louis Grossman of the Hebrew Union Teachers' College,

Cincinnati, for reading the manuscript of this work, and for the encouragement which they gave me; to my friend and colleague, Rabbi David Rosenbaum of the Austin Temple and the University of Texas, for his painstaking assistance and for his suggestions; and to Miss Ethel Fox for assistance in preparing the manuscript for the press.

G. G. F.