

MODERN DEVELOPMENTS IN JUDAISM

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Ye of the wandering foot and weary breast,
When will ye flee away and be at rest?
The wild dove has her nest, the fox his cave,
Mankind their country, Israel but the grave.

A JEWISH legend tells us that a few years before the destruction of the Temple, God foretold this tragic event to some pious Jews in Jerusalem who left the Holy City immediately, not to witness the terrible catastrophe. The light of the Shekinah led them and so they wandered from one place to another until they reached Europe. There the light of the Shekinah ceased shining, and they knew not where they were or where they were going. Some came to Spain and could go no further, but settled and built a Synagogue. Some survived in Prague, the capital of Bohemia, settled there and built the "Altneu-Schul" (one of the most ancient Synagogues in Europe). These latter knew that the destruction of the Holy City would soon take place. One day they saw the Roll of the Synagogue unroll till it came to the passage in Deuteronomy 28: 15-68, where the terrible curses are pronounced which would befall Israel when they ceased to hear the voice of the Lord their God. They knew what it meant—that Jerusalem was destroyed, and the Temple burned to ashes. In distress they ran away