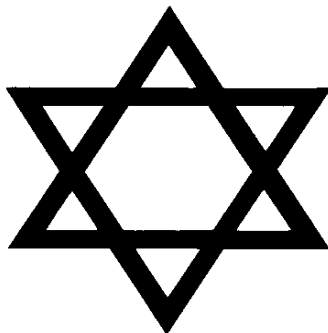


THE STAR OR SHIELD OF DAVID



Mogen David, also MAGEN DAVID (Hebrew: Shield of David), a Jewish symbol composed of two overlaid equilateral triangles that form a six-pointed star, also called the star of David. It appears on synagogues, Jewish tombstones, and the flag of the State of Israel. The symbol originated in antiquity, when, side by side with the five-pointed star, it served as a magical sign or as a decoration. In the Middle Ages the *mogen David* appeared with greater frequency among Jews but did not assume any special religious significance; it is found as well on some medieval cathedrals. The term shield of David, which in Jewish liturgy signifies God as the protector (shield) of David, gained currency among medieval mystics, who attached magical powers to King David's shield just as earlier magical traditions referred to the five-pointed star as the "seal of Solomon". Kabbalists popularized the use of the symbol as a protection against evil spirits. After the 17th century, it became the official seal of the Jewish communities and a general sign of Judaism, though it has no biblical or Talmudic authority. Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929) interpreted the double triad to mean God, world, and man; creation, revelation, and redemption. The yellow badge that Jews in occupied Europe were forced by Nazis to wear has invested the *Mogen David* with a symbolism indicating martyrdom and heroism (From

Encyclopedia Britannica)

I have a Star of David on my office wall. The Jews are celebrating the anniversary of the 3000th year of David's capture of Jerusalem from the Jebusites and the establishment of Jerusalem—the City of David (2 Sam 5). I had the privilege of visiting David's tomb in Jerusalem earlier this year.

David was given the throne and a covenant with God, namely that his descendants would sit on the throne forever (Jer 33:19–21). Jesus is the son of David, restoring David's throne and his kingdom (Lu 1:32). Spiritually, as Pope Pius XI stated clearly in *Divini Redemptoris* (1937), the Catholic teaching is: "We are spiritually Semites." We *all* Semites, and as Jesus' brethren we are spiritually the descendants of David.

Christianity is Jewish, and Jesus is our Jewish king who has now broken down the walls of separation so that we Gentiles can now partake of the royalty, blessings, and salvation promised to David and the Jewish people through our Messiah. Raise the star high and teach our children their Jewish/Christian heritage! Thanks be to God.