

# THE BANNER ABOVE GOD IS MY PROTECTION

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Having rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, the Jews to this very day still look and long for their Messiah. To the Wailing Wall they come by the hundreds, chanting, weeping, and praying for their Messiah to come. In long, black coats, broad-brim hats, and curls hanging down in front of their ears, their phylacteries bound to their wrists and to their foreheads, Hasidim bring their boys and teach them how to chant and wail, all the while bobbing and swaying

This longing for Messiah is represented by the Shield of David, the central figure of the flag of Israel, as it is stated in The Encyclopedia Judaica

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*In kabbalistic circles ... the "shield of David" became the "shield of the son of David," the Messiah ... The messianic interpretation of the sign was current among the followers of Shabbetai Zevi...The famous amulets given by Jonathan Eybeschuetz in Metz and Hamburg ... have throughout a shield of David designated as "seal of MBD" (Messiah b. David), "seal of the God of Israel," etc. The shield of David was transformed into a secret symbol of the Shabbatean*

The initials MBD probably stand for Messiah bar David, or Messiah son of David. The identification of the Magen David with the Messiah is also explained as the kingdom of God, or more specifically, as symbolic of the Messianic era.

There are a number of widely different interpretations regarding its meaning, but, in explaining its use and popularity as a Jewish symbol, the significance of the word Magen (shield) and of the name David must not be forgotten. "Magen" undoubtedly refers to God who is described in the Bible as the "Shield" or "Protector" of David. As the Messiah was to be a descendant of David, the Magen David very likely symbolizes the Kingdom of God, the messianic era, when peace and justice will reign over all mankind.

This explanation has its foundation in the Scriptures. In many places in the Old Testament, God is referred to as a shield

*Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." Genesis 15:1 (kjv)*

*But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head." Psalm 3:3 (kjv)*

*Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust."*

*Psalm 144:1-2 (kjv)*

It is very interesting to note that in Jewish minds the flag of Israel, featuring as it does the Magen David in its center, represents to them first of all the Shema, the central truth of Judaism, that God is One. Secondly, it stands for the holy name of that one God. Then it speaks to them of their Messiah, the son of David who is to come. Finally, it means to them that when Messiah comes He will restore them and set up His kingdom on the earth.

That all of this is in reality fulfilled in the One they rejected, the Lord Jesus Christ, is hidden from their eyes. For a "vail is upon their heart," and "their minds were blinded." "Nevertheless when it (Israel) shall turn to the Lord (Jesus), the vail shall be taken away." II Corinthians 3:14-16 (kjv).

What a glorious day that will be