

## \*QUOTATIONS ABOUT GOD

- **Yeshiahu Liebowitz**

There are no ways to faith, since faith is the supreme, if not the only, manifestation of man's free choice

Only the prayer which one prays as the observance of a Mitzvah is religiously significant. The spontaneous prayer ("when he is overwhelmed and pours out his complaint before God") a man prays of his own accord is, of course, halakhically permissible, but, like the performance of any act which has not been prescribed, its religious value is limited. As a religious act it is even faulty, since he who prays to satisfy his needs sets himself up as an end, as though God were a means for promotion of his welfare.

- **Sherwin Wine**

If I were a CEO of a company and ran it like God runs the universe, I'd be fired.

Laughing has always seemed to me to be more Jewish than praying.

Two hundred years ago the forces of freedom challenged this idea. The children of the new enlightenment rose up to defy the tyranny of arrogant clergy and the censorship of pious bureaucrats. They boldly proclaimed that the state must be free from religious coercion and that religion must be free from state control. All individuals have the right to pursue the dictates of their own conscience. All citizens even have the right not to be religious at all.

- **Abraham Joshua Heschel**

Dear Lord, grant me the grace of wonder. Surprise me, amaze me, awe me in every crevice of your universe. Each day enrapture me with your marvelous things without number. ...I do not ask to see the reason for it all: I ask only to share the wonder of it all.

We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers.

God is not a hypothesis derived from logical assumptions, but an immediate insight, self-evident as light. He is not something to be sought in the darkness with the light of reason. He is the light.

God is of no importance unless He is of supreme importance.

- **Mordechai Kaplan**

God is the power that makes for salvation.

- **Rav Abraham Isaac Kook**

Contemplate the wonders of creation, the Divine dimension of their being, not as a dim configuration that is presented to you from a distance, but as the reality in which you live.

All the troubles of the world, especially the spiritual, such as grief, impatience, disillusionment, despair, the truly basic troubles of man-they came about only because of the failure to view clearly the majesty of God.

- **Martin Buber**

When people come to you for help, do not turn them off with pious words, saying, 'Have faith and take your troubles to God.' Act instead as though there were no God, as though there were only one person in the world who could help -- only yourself.

When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them.

To love God truly, one must first love man. And if anyone tells you that he loves God and does not love his fellow-man, you will know that he is lying.

- **Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav**

Believe that none of the effort you put into coming closer to God is ever wasted - even if in the end you don't achieve what you are striving for.

Let the good in me connect with the good in others, until all the world is transformed through the compelling power of love.

- **Ahad Haam**

If this be the Messiah, then I do not wish to see his coming

More than the Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews.

- **Art Green**

I do not view humans - surely not as we are now - as the end purpose of evolution. We, like all other species, are a step along the way. If existence survives on this planet, Mind will one day be manifest to a degree far beyond our present ability to comprehend or predict. On that day, says Scripture, "Earth will be filled with knowledge of Y-H-W-H as water fills the sea (Isaiah 11:9) - just that wholly and naturally."

- **Blu Greenberg**

Where there's a rabbinic will, there's a halakhic way

A woman of faith has the same innate vision and existential longing for a redemptive-covenantal reality as a man of faith. She has the same ability and need to be in the presence of God alone and within the context of the community. Such a woman is sufficiently mature to accept the responsibilities for this relationship and the rights that flow from these responsibilities.

- **Aviva Zornberg**

The real subject of this Book of the Wilderness, I suggest, is the longing of the people of Israel to learn directly from God, by learning something new about the Torah, about the world and themselves. What they are developing in their skeptical discourse is a language of imaginative truth, in which the fantasies of return to Egypt will be brought into connection with the miracles of Exodus. In them, traumatic suffering and traumatic revelation seek some subjective expression."

- **Rabbi Naomi Levy**

Sometimes when we're suffering we feel as if we have been singled out. We wonder why God has picked on us. But my life as the rabbi of a small synagogue taught me that if that's what we think, we are mistaken. We are never alone in our suffering.

- Blessed are you, Adonai, Sovereign of the universe....

- And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, 'You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy.'" Leviticus 19:2

- Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. Deuteronomy 6:4

- And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed: "The LORD, the LORD, God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth; keeping mercy unto the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin; and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and unto the fourth generation." Exodus 34: 6-7