

# LINCOLN HELD AS IDOL BY JEWS IN U. S., RABBI SAYS

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## Hebrews Regard Work of the "Great Emancipator" With Double Significance.

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Abraham Lincoln, as the champion of liberty and the cause of an oppressed race, would have condemned the tyrannies and oppressions to which the Jews are subjected in some European countries, said Rabbi Israel Lebediger at the Hebrew Institute last night.

"Lincoln has a double significance for the Jews," Rabbi Lebediger said. "They revere his memory as American citizens, but they also are interested in him, because the Bible, which is the basis of Judaism, had a tremendous influence in the formation of the character of this distinguished American.

### Bible Base For Speeches.

"Many of Abraham Lincoln's speeches were based on Biblical ideas and thoughts," Rabbi Lebediger declared. "His very language is similar to that of the prophets. Lincoln was not affiliated officially with any church, but he was deeply imbued with the religious idea.

"We have admiration for Washington, but we love Lincoln, because he was of the people. Though a towering giant in intellect, statesmanship and moral force, yet he was as innocent as a child, unassuming as the woodsman that he formerly was.

### Humble Servant.

"Though the master of men, he acted and felt himself to be the humble servant. He believed that he was an instrument in the hands of God, by which the Union might be preserved. He beheld definite moral laws upon the observance of which depends the progress and welfare of nations."

The life of Lincoln is a striking verification of the religious contention that man possesses a free will and by the exercise of that free will may overcome heredity and environment, Rabbi Lebediger added.

"According to the law of heredity, Lincoln should have remained an ignorant farmer," he said. "According to the law of environment, he should have remained an insignificant and unknown woodsman. How then are we to explain his attainment of distinction in spite of these two impediments? The explanation is to be found in a moral force and intellectual power in the initiative of the man, independent of heredity and environment."

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