

# Jews Seen as Nation, Not Religious Sect

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Belief that the Jews are only a religious sect and not a nation is contradictory to the whole of Jewish history and literature, Rabbi Israel Lebediger told an audience at the Hebrew Institute last night. Rabbi Lebediger's topic was "The Jews—A Nation." The sermon last night ended the present series.

"When the Israelites left Palestine and were driven into exile they took an oath that later became the basis of many post-exilic institutions and ceremonies," Rabbi Lebediger said. "The result is that the Jew recalls Palestine repeatedly in his prayers. Prayers for the restoration of Palestine are given at every occasion and event, whether sad or joyful.

"Some Jews are against Zionism because they believe that if a person is a Zionist he cannot be a good American. This is erroneous. America does not demand that we renounce our love for the people of the land we came from. We renounce our citizenship to our former Fatherland, but we do not relinquish the right to help its people work out problems when they are friendly to the United States."