

War Impels Man to Turn to God, Rabbi Asserts

The terrific war, which had enveloped the world in sorrow, is making mankind turn anew to God, declared Rabbi Israel Lebediger at the Hebrew institute last night. His topic was "How Can We See God."

"One of the aftermaths of the war is a new searching for God," Rabbi Lebediger said. "The big stride in science made within recent years, which the materialists of the last century believed would ultimately substitute religion as a guide for mankind failed to satisfy the human needs. . .

"Materialism has proved itself bankrupt. Great authors who have been known hitherto as skeptics are now writing books declaring that a blind chance world offered man nothing worth while to live for.

"God cannot be expected to be seen as we see a tree, house or a table. A God that could be visible to us in this manner would not deserve much of our veneration. What we admire in man is not that part of him which we see, namely his body, but that part of him which we do not see, that is, his inner life, his intelligence, kindness and generosity.

"God is not to be seen directly, but indirectly through nature, just as bodily acts of man, or the manifestation of his inner will. So the processes that go on in the universe that follow certain well defined laws, are but the corporal manifestations of God's divine will," he concluded.