



Racheli Taubes

6/2022

\*Any text in BLUE is intended as a guide for the teacher\*

What is the covenant between G-d and Avraham? What different perspectives does the verse and different commentaries offer?

2. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, *Ceremony & Celebration*, pp. 85

The majesty and mystery of Judaism is that, though at best Jews were a small people in a small land, no match for the circumambient empires that periodically assaulted them, Jews did not give way to self-hate, self-disesteem or despair.”

What does it mean that Judaism is a “majesty and mystery?”

How is Rabbi Sack’s statement reflected in the *Brit Bein Habetarim*?

3. Devarim 8:5

G-d’s treatment of the Jewish people is like a father trying to educate his child.



6. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, "The Mutating Virus: Understanding Antisemitism," Keynote Speech in the European Parliament (September 22, 2016)

Jews were hated because they were different. They were the most conspicuous non-Christian minority in a Christian Europe. Today they are the most conspicuous non-Muslim presence in an Islamic Middle East. Antisemitism has always been about the inability of a group to make space for difference. No group that adopts it will ever, can ever, create a free society.

So I end where I began. The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews.

Antisemitism is only secondarily about Jews. Primarily it is about the failure of groups to accept responsibility for their own failures, and to build their own future by their own endeavours.

Rabbi Sacks spoke these words addressing the European Parliament. In your opinion, would he have said the same thing to the American Congress? Explain!

Does the *Brit Bein Habetarim* guarantee or predicate anti-semitism as an eternal issue?