

IS IT THE STAR OF DAVID?



Amos 5:26-27 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.

A six pointed star may appear as a decorative motif. This is called, ‘*The Star of David.*’ In Hebrew it is called Ma-gein David, which means “Shield of David.” In Yiddish it is Mogen Dovid. The Star of David is commonly thought to be the symbol of the Jewish nation (or tribal federation) since King David (circa 1,000 B.C.E.)

Quote

‘In actuality, universal acceptance of the six-pointed star as a symbol of Judaism is a twentieth-century phenomenon and was never used by King David. Its widespread association with David's shield begins in the eighteenth century. It entered Judaism by way of superstition, magic and mysticism, in which pentagrams and hexagrams had always been powerful protective symbols.

Its original use on Jewish banners stems from fourteenth century Prague, where the star surrounded a representation of the peculiar hat that discriminatory laws required Jews to wear. The banner symbolized the royal protection that the Holy Roman Emperor extended to the Jewish community of Prague. Pentagrams and hexagrams on discriminatory Jewish hats were similarly used later in other communities.

By the seventeenth century, the star had been adopted by the Jews of Prague as the symbol of their community and as the Shield of David. It spread from Prague to Vienna, and with the expulsion of Jews from Vienna, it reached into the rest of Europe and Russia. The first juxtaposition of the star (religious, chosen ones) with the cross, as comparative symbols of two communities, was in the seventeenth century. It first became a widespread symbol of Judaism itself in nineteenth century Germany.’ *End of quote* (c.f., *The Magen David*, by Gunther Plaut, published by B'nai B'rith, 1991.)

The Star of David is not analogous to a cross! It does not represent a means to salvation, and is not a focal point for worship.

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2/22/2022