

God Is One, God's Children Are One **Rabbi Debra Orenstein – RabbiDebra.com**

Heschel: Unity of God is power for unity of God with all things. God is one in Himself and striving to be one with the world.¹

King: God is neither Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, nor Episcopalian. God transcends our denominations.²

Heschel: All existence stands in the dimension of the holy and nothing can be conceived of as living outside of it.... We can sever ourselves from the dimension of the holy neither by sin nor by stupidity, neither by apostasy nor by ignorance. There is no escape from God.³

King: Religion seeks not only to integrate people with God, but to integrate people with one another, and each person with himself.⁴

Heschel: Race prejudice is a treacherous denial of the existence of God. Racial or religious bigotry must be recognized for what it is: atheism.⁵

King: In the final analysis, the white man cannot ignore the Negro's problem, because he is part of the Negro, and the Negro is part of him. The Negro's agony diminishes the white man, and the Negro's salvation enlarges the white man.⁶

Heschel: This is not a white man's world. This is not a colored man's world. This is God's world. No man has a place in it who tries to keep another man in his place.⁷

King: [Religion] must affirm that every human life is a reflection of divinity, and that every act of injustice mars and defaces the image of God in man.⁸

Heschel: God and the world are not opposites.... We are not told to decide either God or the world, either this world or the world to come. We accept Either and Or, God and the world. It is incumbent upon us to strive for a share in the world to come, as well as to let God have a share in this world.⁹

King: We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We are made to live together because of the interrelated structure of reality.¹⁰

King and Heschel: God is One.

¹ AJH, *Man Is Not Alone*.

² MLK, *Strength to Love*.

³ AJH, *Man Is Not Alone*.

⁴ MLK, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*.

⁵ AJH quoted in Taylor Branch, *Pillar of Fire*.

⁶ MLK, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community*.

⁷ AJH, *Israel: An Echo of Eternity*.

⁸ MLK, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community*.

⁹ AJH, "Who Is Man?"

¹⁰ MLK, Christmas Eve Sermon on Peace, 1967.