



# **The intermediate state and prayers for the dead; examined in the light of Scripture and of ancient Jewish and Christian literature**

*Charles Henry Hamilton Wright*

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1900 Excerpt: ...latter that is, the ceremony of offering up prayers publicly and on a special day for the deceased in general cannot be found earlier than the twelfth century A.d., chiefly in the Prayer Books of the German rite. M. Levi is of opinion that it the day appointed for that special ceremony was instituted after the great massacre by the Crusaders,<sup>1</sup> and that it was simply an imitation of the Catholic Church the italics here are our own. He rightly observes that the ceremony of the commemoration of the souls which is performed in the synagogues on feast days, and more especially on the Day of Atonement, was introduced into the Western synagogues, and there is no trace of it amongst the Jews who dwelt in the countries which were under the rule of Islam. The prayer for the repose of the soul (rD3Bn) introduced in the Spanish rite is of later date than the commemoration." These " Notes " give such an excellent summary of the article, and were evidently written by one who had an advance copy of that article before him, that we prefer still to quote them in their integrity. The remarks of Dr. Luckock in the "new Judaism edition" (p. 64) might lead some to imagine that R" C. 6 we had stated that the practice of prayers for the dead was introduced into Judaism from the Roman Catholic Church. The statement made, however, <sup>1</sup> The massacres here alluded to took place in A.D. 1096 and 1196. See M. Levi's article, p. 45. was simply that the ceremony of the commemoration of souls was adopted by the Jews after the model of the Roman Catholic Church. What was stated, however, was, the Jewish ceremony of the commemoration of souls was introduced by the synagogue in imitation of the Christian practice. The practice among the Jews of offering up prayers ...

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