

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rabbi Benjamin Blech

Rabbi Benjamin Blech is an internationally recognized educator, religious leader, author, and lecturer.

- Rabbi Blech is the author of fifteen highly acclaimed and best selling books, with combined sales of close to half a million copies, including three as part of the highly popular *Idiot's Guide* series.
- His book, *Understanding Judaism: The Basics of Deed and Creed*, was chosen by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations as “the single best book on Judaism in our generation”. Together with an accompanying six hour video, filmed by the producers of *20/20*, featuring Rabbi Blech, it is presently being used as the basis for study groups in numerous synagogues and universities around the country.
- His book *Taking Stock: A Spiritual Guide To Rising Above Life's Financial Ups and Downs* was featured in a full page article in the Sunday New York times and one of his recent works, *If God is Good, Why Is The World So Bad?* has been translated into Indonesian where it has had a powerful reception in the wake of the country's *tsunami*, as well as into Portuguese .
- In a national survey, (www.jewsweek.com) Rabbi Blech was ranked #16 in a listing of the 50 most influential Jews in America.
- A recipient of the American Educator of the Year Award, he is a Professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University since 1966 and has formed thousands of student-teacher relationships through his warm and caring style. Rabbi Blech is known for his ability to present complicated ideas in a clear and entertaining manner.
- A tenth-generation rabbi, Rabbi Blech is Rabbi Emeritus of Young Israel of Oceanside, which he served for 37 years.
- He is a frequent lecturer in Jewish communities as far-flung as Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Israel. Closer to home, he has served as Scholar-in-Residence at hundreds of synagogues throughout the United States and Canada and been active on behalf of countless Jewish causes.
- His articles appear on a regular basis on the aish website, the largest Jewish website in the world reaching over three quarters of million people weekly, and his lectures on tape have an international following.
- He has appeared on national television (including the *Oprah Winfrey Show*); hosted a popular weekly radio program in New York; and written for *Newsweek*, *The New York Times* and *the Wall Street Journal*, in addition to a wide and varied number of scholarly publications.

- As a result of his personal meeting with the late Pope John Paul II, he was instrumental in securing the loan of precious Jewish manuscripts for exhibition in Israel and he is presently involved in further negotiations for the return of precious Judaica held by the Vatican that may well prove to be of historic significance.

Rabbi Blech is an unusually eloquent and gifted speaker, as well as a profound contemporary theologian and religious spokesman, who has made a major impact on the many tens of thousands of people he has addressed.

See his website at rabbibenjaminblech.com

AND MOST RECENTLY:

1) Rabbi Blech's latest book

The Sistine Chapel: Michelangelo's Forbidden Messages in the Heart of the Vatican has been translated into 15 languages, is now available in 25 countries, and movie and TV rights are presently in negotiation with 3 major film companies. This major work proves that *Michelangelo incorporated many teachings of Jewish Midrash and Kabbalah into the Sistine Chapel – daring ideas unknown to its 4 million annual visitors-* and unlike the DaVinci Code, this book is not fiction but **fact**. Enrico Bruschini, official Art Historian of the American Embassy in Rome, in his Foreword to the book writes "Just as the work of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel changed forever the world of art, so will this book change forever the way to view and, above all, to understand the work of Michelangelo!"

2) **Recent lecture appearances:**

Monterey, Mexico - keynote speaker at conference on values sponsored by the Mexican government; shared the platform with 2 Nobel Prize winners.

Istanbul, Turkey - distinguished visiting lecturer to the entire Jewish community.

AIPAC national rabbinic conference in Washington - selected to address Rabbis from across the country with sermon ideas for their high holy day sermons

**Scheduled to be scholar in residence within the next few months:
London, England; Boca Raton; Las Vegas.**