

HALTER Moszek Mojżesz (1864-1941), rabbi and preacher. He was born on 30th September 1864 in Warta, the son of Abram and Jenta née Lajchter.

He studied with famous Talmud scholars Rabbi Majer Chil Ha'-Lewi, the rabbi of Ostrowiec and the Gaon Rabbi Saul Moszek, the rabbi of Wieruszów and later in Tel Aviv.

In Częstochowa, he was the most prominent Jewish speaker and preacher. He spoke fervently, with pathos, and was known for his sharp mind. He had a very strong influence on his audience by citing many examples in his sermons, as well as quotations from the Talmud. He was valued for his huge, religious erudition and balanced judgments and always had a very large audience.

For eight years, on Saturday afternoons, he would read and explain the five books of the Old Testament (but not in the traditional manner, reading a portion of text in a given week, but sentence by sentence, each with commentaries from Talmudic short stories and from the *midrash*). Then, he would begin to interpret the *Book of Proverbs*. On Friday evenings, he taught Torah at the Mizrachi locale. As a preacher, he spoke at the Old Beit Ha'Midrash.

When, a few years before his death, due to his poor health and weakened voice, he had to stop preaching in the city's Old Synagogue, he was replaced by Rabbi → Nachum Asz. He published his sermons in book form and also wrote a number of books on religious topics.

He was an active Zionist and a member of the Mizrachi Zionist Orthodox Organisation. He even travelled to Palestine, but the difficult climactic conditions there forced him to return to Częstochowa.

He died, of natural causes, on 4th August 1941 in Częstochowa (in his own apartment at ul. Berka Joselewicza 1).

His wife was Brucha née Asz (1867-1941), the younger sister of Rabbi → Nachum Asz. Their son lived in Palestine.

Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, p. 350; *Sefer Czenstochowa*, Vol. 1, cols.648, 649; *Czenstochower Yidn*, pp. 104, 184, 345. – USC, death records 479/1941 and 533/1941.

Wiesław Paszkowski