

MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004. Series H: United Jewish Appeal, 1945-1995. Subseries 1: Sermons, Speeches and Writings, 1949-1982.

Box	Folder
23	33

Riverdale Temple [Bronx, N.Y.]. Yom Kippur sermon. 10 October 1970.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the American Jewish Archives website.

3101 Clifton Ave, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220 513.487.3000 AmericanJewishArchives.org Remarks made at Yom Kippur Services, Saturday, October 10, 1970 at Riverdale Temple, upon invitation of Rabbi Morris Kertzer and President Arthur Karger.

## Herbert A. Friedman

At the core of our faith is a land. We were born there at the beginning of history. We shall die there at the end of time. When we lived there, we created. When forced to flee, we wept. We have often left that land, yet always returned, in fact and in dream.

The land nourished us, and we it. The land brought forth from us poetry and vision and pure hope and promises for a better world. We brought forth from the land rich produce and plenty and flowers and beauty. We are a rigid, often joyless people, yet the land taught us to sing and dance. The land is rocky and dry, yet we taught it to flow with many nectars.

So it always was - the Jew and his land. Our people is like a living organism whose cellular structure has the land as its nucleus. Without this center feeding our hopes and dreams we would long since have perished on Babylonian plain, in Roman arena, or Spanish mountain or Russian steppe. Love of this land, and all it meant to us as a place where we could best express our genius, has sustained us and kept us alive until this day.

The Third Commonwealth today is struggling to survive. Only 22 years old, with three wars and thousands of dead already endured, Israel is now faced with the most deadly array of power. It has always lived in danger, but today the strength of the enemy is incredible. The might and fury of Russian MIGs and missiles now thunder over the desert sands. The enemy has increased his power. David must refill his pouch, and has the opportunity today to do so, here in this country. It is a unique opportunity. It must be siezed. David must also continue his peaceful pursuits of bringing immigrants and tilling soil.

Every free Jew in the entire world must rise quickly to his feet, and let the fire of his passion be felt. No son of Abraham has the right to bear that name and sit inactive today. It has always seemed to me that the first and strongest wave of support should come from the affiliated portion of the Jewish community. When a person joins a congregation of his own free will, and voluntarily pays to do so, he is taking an active step to help guarantee Jewish group survival, as well as fulfilling his individual religious needs. He can justly be considered among the best guardians of our people. What a shock it is, then, to find that in most congregations there is a huge portion of the membership which does not lift a finger to help Israel.

I am certain the situation is no different here. I am certain that simple research will divulge the fact that of the thousand or so families comprising this warm and vibrant congregation, there are hundreds and hundreds of members who make no contribution whatsoever to the UJA nor buy a single Israel Bond.

American Jewry this coming year is asked to contribute 500 million free dollars and to buy 500 million bond dollars. Greater New York must take its share of 150 million for the UJA alone. From whence will this vast sum come if not from him who cares the most. Is that not you? You are here. Others are not. You are the elite.

I believe the matter is not one of resistance on your part, or ignorance, or indifference. I believe it is simply inadequate organization. I believe most people who do not contribute are simply not asked. When asked, most Jews do not refuse Israel.

-2-

Synagogue Jews all over America will be approached this year in the most systematic effort ever undertaken.

Therefore, I would request the Rabbi and President of this congregation to convene the Board to organize such methods as are necessary to approach every single member with the request that he make his gift. Failure to do so, in my opinion, is inconsistent with membership.

The people of Israel cannot survive spiritually without the land, - and the land cannot survive physically without the people's support. There is trouble and danger facing the land. The people must rally. The best must come forward first.

0 At the core of our faith is a land. We were born mere at the beginning of history. We shall die mere at the end of time. When we lived There, we created. When forced to letter, we wept. we have often left mat land, yet always returned, in fact and in dream. The land nomished us, and we it. The land brought forth from us poetry and vision and fure Here and promises for a better world. We brought forth from the hand wich produce and plenty and flowers and beauty. We are a rigso, often jayles fegle, yet be hand taught up to ping and dance. The land is nocky and day, yet we taught it to flow with many nectars. So it always was - The Jew and his hand. Our people is like a living organism whose allular structure has the land as its molene. Without This center feeding our hipes and decams we wild long since have perished on Balylonian plain, in Roman arena, on Spanish monstain on Russian steffer. Love of mis land and all it meant to no as a flace where we will best refress our genius, has sustained us and light as alive until this day. I'M NP The Land teday is stryslig to survive. Only 22 years old, with 3 wars and Theusands glead

O already endured, Israel is now feed with the most deally every of power. It has always lived in danger, but takey the strength of the every is incredible. The might and fury of Russian Miles and missiles now munder over the desert pands. The every has increased his forver. Daniel must refill his bauch, and has the approximity today to do so, here in this country. Down It is a unique aportunity. It must be siezed. David must also continue his peaceful pursuits of bringing immigrants and tilling soil. Every free Jew in the entire would must rise quickly to his feet, and let the fire of his passion be felt. no on of abadam has the night to bear that name and pit inactive tiday. It has always seemed to me that the first and storgest wave of popport should come from the affiliated portion of the Jewish community. When a ferson joins a congregation of this own free will and volunterily pays to lo so, he is taking an active step to help gueranotee Janish group survival, as well as fulfilling his individual religious needs. He can justly be considered among the best guerdians Jour Jugle. What a shock it is, then, to find that in most conjugations prece is a huge fortim of the membership which does not lift a figer to beep Inael. I am certain the situation is no lifferent there and this warm and inbrant congregation.

3 I am catain that simple research will divulge The fact that of the Monsand on so familie composing This warm and vibrant congregations, mere are hundreds and hundreds of members who make no contribution whatsoever to the USA my a single Israel Bond. american Jenny Mis coming year is asked to contribute 500 million five dollars and to by 500 million bund sollars. Greater New York must take its share of 150 million for the upp alme. From whence will This vast sum come if not from him who cares the most . Is that not you? You are here others are not. you are the sette. I believe the matter is not one of resistance or your pail, a ignorance, a indifference. I believe it i simply inadequate organization. I behins not fifte who as not contribute are singly not asked. When asked, most Jews do not refice mail. It Synagogue Therefre, I would request the Kelli and Jews all president of this anyregation to convene the Board to when america will be organize such methods as are recessery to affrach approached this year every single member with the request that he make in the most his gift. Failure to do so, in my opinion, is inconsistent with nembership, systematic effort goes De peple of Junel cannot sconive a under taken. without me land - and the lend cannot purdue physically in mont the pepter support. There is trouble and danger facing the land. The people must rally. The best come forward first.