

CD-1052 Transcription

Reading a scripture in Hebrew and introducing the

Reverend John T. Tavlaridis. 4 July 1979.

M1:

-- His name, we pray. Amen. And now, to read a passage of Hebrew Scripture. I'm proud to introduce Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, the Director of the National Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee. Rabbi Tanenbaum.

Marc Tanenbaum:

The reading is from the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 19. A passage to which our Founding Fathers turned, and which they called the Arsenal of American Democracy. It is a reading from the Torah, the Bible, which is the covenant that binds us together, [01:00 Jews and Christians, black and white, men and women, into a unity as brothers and sisters in God's one human family. It is a reading from the Bible, which is the most revolutionary document in human history, in proclaiming the dignity of every human life created in the sacred image of God, and in proclaiming liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof.

"V'yidaber Adonai el Moshe lemor. Daber el-kol-adas b'nai

Yisrael, v'amarta alehem-kadoshim tiheyu. The Lord spoke to

Moses, and said, 'Speak to all the community of the Israelites in these words: you shall be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy. You shall revere every man of you, his mother and his father. You shall keep my Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God. Do not resort to idols. You shall make gods of cast metal for yourselves. I am the Lord your God. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap right into the edges of your field. Neither shall you glean the loose ears of your crop. You shall not completely strip your vineyard, nor glean the fallen grapes. You shall leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God. You shall not steal. You shall [03:00] not cheat or deceive a fellow countryman. You shall not swear in My name with intent to deceive. And thus profane the name of your God. I am the Lord. You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him. You shall not keep back a hired man's wages till next morning. You shall not treat the deaf with contempt, nor put an obstruction in the way of a blind. You shall fear your God. I am the Lord. You shall not pervert justice, either by favoring the poor or by subservience to the great. You shall judge your fellow countrymen with strict justice. You shall not go about spreading slander among your father's kin, nor take sides against your neighbor on a capital charge. I am the Lord. [04:00] You shall not nurse hatred against your brother. You shall reprove your fellow countryman frankly, and so you will

have no share in his guilt. You shall not seek revenge, or cherish anger toward your kinsfolk. Above all, you shall love your neighbor as a person like yourself, for I am the Lord.'"

It is now a privilege to present my colleague, the Dean of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Washington, D.C., the Reverend John T. Tavlaridis. (applause)

John Tavlaridis:

Liberty is best described by the Greek word *agape*. Saint Paul, in his first Epistle to the Corinthians --

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