



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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Luther and the Reformation, 1916.

Luther and the Jew.

Dec 8, 1916
003

Two periods.

I. Until 1537. Has compassion for them & hopes for their conversion.

II. From 1537. full of hatred for them. denounces them. accuses them of all possible crimes. Urges not attacks & persecutions.

I. In "Was Jesus ein Geborne Jude Sei". he attacks Roman attempts at proselytism of Jew. Claims that presentation of Chr. by Rome was repellent. Suggests that Jews he treated kindly & constant them, in the Scriptures, then they would come over. (Heard).
2. Expected general conversion of Jews. Being disappointed changed attitude.

II. When ^{reported} ~~urged~~ by Jews to intercede for them before Duke John Frederick of Saxony who ordered their expulsion from his country. he refused.

(2). "Von den Juden und ihren Teyen": Urges burning of Synagogs. praises Ferdinand for expelling Jews, sorry he cannot destroy them with hell-fire. Thieves should be hanged, books taken from them, Rabbin prohibited from preaching. public worship interdicted. Idle unquietness.

(3) Von Schem Hamphoras und von Jescheit Christi.

Character ~~with~~ + Influence.

1. Versatile, earnest, forceful and direct
2. A scholar, student + teacher, philosophy, -
3. Practical.
4. great lover of Bible. Taught Bible at Univ. of Wittenberg.
5. Style vivid, direct, plain, frequently coarse.
6. Master of the art of translation. His German became the standard of modern German. Did not know Hebrew.
"Ex credit enim vires nascuntur."
7. Advocated -
 - a. liberal culture
 - b. Study of classics
 - c. Education of women
 - d. free public libraries
8. Was not revolutionary. Slow and conservative until he became convinced that change was imperative, then he acted with decision.
9. His faith in the Scriptures. Authority not in Church but in scriptures. - Scrip. only infallible guide for reli. life
10. Luther never started a new church. He dared to start. ~~Offered it.~~
11. All Church power is found not in outward visible organizations but in conscience, Intel.

Luther

1. 6. Eisleben in Saxony - Nov. 10 - 1483.

Father: mine, later wealthy.

Rigorous religious discipline in youth.

Was to study law. Plague storm made vow to become monk.

In 1505 entered cloister, Augustinian hermits at Erfurt. (age 22.)

1507 (age 24) becomes priest.

1511. Sent to Rome in the interests of the Order. Rome was glorified in art but corrupt in morality. The Rome of Pope Julius II and Alexander VI. at the time of the consummation of the Renaissance. His faith in Papacy weakened. (What was the story of Pilate's Staircase? told by his son Paul)

1515. Appointed Vicar. Has oversight of 11 monasteries.

Indulgences: abuses. Luther opposes. John Tetzel approaches Wittenberg. and

1517. Luther publishes his 95 Theses. It was meant for priv. but it spread. attacks indulgences. Controversy begins & Luther advances still further:

1. Church Councils are fallible.

2. condemns Council of Constance for condemning Hus.

1520 - 1. Appeal to the Chr. Nobility. Unity & charity in Sp. Affairs.

2. The Babylonian Captivity. Criticizing the Sacramental System of the Roman Church.

1520. June 15th. Bull of Excommunication, reached
 Luther 4 months later & formally burnt by him
 before his student of the time.
1521. L. summoned to appear before Emperor
 Charles V at the Diet of Worms. L.
 refuses to recant. Spirited away
 by his friend Elector of Saxony, in isolation
 for 10 months. Here he begins his translation
 of the Bible (11 years to finish).
- 1525- Married
- 1522-1546 (year of death) devoted to much polemic but also country
 labor. Writing liturgy, catechisms, hymns, church
 organization etc.



Reformation in

Originated in

1. Renaissance

1. General Critical examination of traditional belief
2. Study of ancient languages Greek & Hebrew.

Humanists. (Reuchlin: first Hebrew grammar by Christian).

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Rel. Reformation went hand in hand with national uprising
Against draining of money from Jews.
Age & restless mental activity
Princes urge him to stand firm

Bull condemned him

Wet & worms - Jan. 22, 1521

Under new Emperor Charles V.

One subject on the agenda was "To take
notice of the book and desecr. made by
Johan Martin Luther against the Council of Rome"
from Alexander represented Rome.

Members invite Luther to defend himself
against Alexander. Otherwise it might lead to
bloodshed.

Wet & worms to confirm Bull & PVR
L. commanded to appear on Apr. 16,
1521. His last words to Melancthon
"that he was going to his death."

Royal procession all along march,
German nation v.s. Rome.
Emp. meets Luther. Old Brand New.

WRHS

