



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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145

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Series: Great Epochs in Jewish History, Part I: Heathen Israel,
1917.

I Religion of Israel evolutionary

- a - Biologic, Intellectual & Religious Evolution.
- b - Revelation is progressive not sudden + incidental
- c - Rel. of Is. has its source in the universal attitude of man to nature. Primitive superstitions + beliefs. Man found himself in an unknown world, ignorant of laws. He had yet generalized a connected phenomenon. Hence things were vital & each significant in itself - e.g. brook, rock, animal, etc. -

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II. Heathen Is. is pre-prophetic Israel. When monotheism had not yet evolved. - The many superstitious beliefs which must have existed at one time in Is. may be learnt from the traces of divination practices in the Bible.

a - What is divination? - The endeavor to obtain information about future + other unseen things from informants other than human. These informants were gods -

1. Augury not common - Altho dove was looked upon as sacred bird, not in ordinary sacrifice. The Hebrews likened to dove, Jesus - Bird Worship.

2. Astrology - Jewish literature speaks of "the observance of the stars" - Is. speaks of "the observance of the heavens, the magicians and the monthly prognosticators"

3. Idolomania - Tree-worship common.

Many cult whose cult-objects were trees. ①
 "Baal Tamar". Trees were dwelling places
 of spirits. Their movements & resting of trees
blatid (II Sam. 5:24) declares the proper time for
 attacking Philistines from the sound in the
 tops of the mulberry trees. $\pi\pi\pi\pi$ $\pi\pi\pi$ - $\pi\pi\pi$
 $\pi\pi\pi\pi$

II. Voluntary.

1. Sortilege. Sacred lot: headdress arrows.
 yes or no.

1. Urim & Thummim - two stones. One
 put to light & the guilt - the other established inno-
 cence. Incense - paper -

2. Hydromancy. Worship of spring deities. Hence.
Cup divination. Joseph
a - Ureah. Sota.

3. Neuramancy - Ancestor-worship. $\pi\pi\pi$ and
 $\pi\pi\pi\pi$. human skull.
Saul & Witch of Endor.

III. From Internal, Subjective Phenomena.

1. Ureans - are approach to higher religion.
Synthetic - 1. Ureans of Chief butler Pharaoh of Pharaoh.
Dracul - 2. God speaks - Balaam. Num. 22.
 2. Possession - $\pi\pi\pi$ - mother. Saul meets $\pi\pi\pi$
 $\pi\pi\pi\pi$ & becomes frenzied

III. Agents & Elimination: Need for specialists.

- Official 1. / 770 - to take care & sanct. & to consult clearly
took charge of n"lx. would decide legal cases by 770
hence 770. National question.
- Private 2. 770 - Probably originally the inspectors; entrance
+ hence.
3. 770 - the-gagers
4. 770 - obtains information immediately & direct
from deity. But must be in abnormal
state: Revelation was induced by artificial
means. Term was gradually improved
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