



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.

Reel
145

Box
51

Folder
17

Luther, the Reformation, and the Jews, 1917.

1. On Oct. 31, 1517 a monk, by the name of Martin Luther - posted on the doors, the castle church at Wittenburg, a document containing 95 theses for discussion in the University. This simple act was the dramatic beginning, the Reformation.

a - In a sense it is folly to speak of specific dates or acts marking turning points in hist. for hist. is not a sequence of disparate and disjointed facts but a movement a steadily constant ^{an endless change} fluid development and facts + acts + men are never isolated, we first take picture of movements in this external level. In circumstances only we designate certain landmarks, certain milestones which help us in a critical survey of what has preceded or what followed. They are observation points in the field of history. So with the Reformation.

2. It was not a sudden, spectacular outburst. History knows no revelations! etc (Rood).

3. The Reformation was the 2nd of the 3 great waves that carried us through the Middle Ages to the modern world.

① Rev. ② Ref. ③ Res.

a. The Reform. was the inevitable finale of the revival which began in the 14th cent. It was the Reformation Renaissance. A struggle of the old order of medievalism.

a-7. Had much in common with Res.
Res. was a going back to ancient
life. Ref. to primitive chr. - One
to free the other to hel. -

h. It had been prepared for.

a- Intellectually -

1. Nearly two centuries ^{Renaissance} ^{500 yrs.}
2. Humanist movement ^{had}
brought new to classic game
brought a wider culture, a critical
technique. philology. & sources.
3. Printing press - disseminated
knowledge.
4. Growth of ^{14th} ^{15th} ^{16th} ^{17th} ^{18th} ^{19th} ^{20th} ^{21st} ^{22nd} ^{23rd} ^{24th} ^{25th} ^{26th} ^{27th} ^{28th} ^{29th} ^{30th} ^{31st} ^{32nd} ^{33rd} ^{34th} ^{35th} ^{36th} ^{37th} ^{38th} ^{39th} ^{40th} ^{41st} ^{42nd} ^{43rd} ^{44th} ^{45th} ^{46th} ^{47th} ^{48th} ^{49th} ^{50th} ^{51st} ^{52nd} ^{53rd} ^{54th} ^{55th} ^{56th} ^{57th} ^{58th} ^{59th} ^{60th} ^{61st} ^{62nd} ^{63rd} ^{64th} ^{65th} ^{66th} ^{67th} ^{68th} ^{69th} ^{70th} ^{71st} ^{72nd} ^{73rd} ^{74th} ^{75th} ^{76th} ^{77th} ^{78th} ^{79th} ^{80th} ^{81st} ^{82nd} ^{83rd} ^{84th} ^{85th} ^{86th} ^{87th} ^{88th} ^{89th} ^{90th} ^{91st} ^{92nd} ^{93rd} ^{94th} ^{95th} ^{96th} ^{97th} ^{98th} ^{99th} ^{100th} ^{101st} ^{102nd} ^{103rd} ^{104th} ^{105th} ^{106th} ^{107th} ^{108th} ^{109th} ^{110th} ^{111th} ^{112th} ^{113th} ^{114th} ^{115th} ^{116th} ^{117th} ^{118th} ^{119th} ^{120th} ^{121st} ^{122nd} ^{123rd} ^{124th} ^{125th} ^{126th} ^{127th} ^{128th} ^{129th} ^{130th} ^{131st} ^{132nd} 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4. A long mooted question - Does the man
make the age or does the age make
the man. Some have held with Carlyle
and Emerson that great men are
the channels, Revolut. Others that
they are tools only. We prefer the
middle course - They interact.
The age gives background, tools
The man gives direction, color to it.
He vocalizes the ideals of the age.

a. To be sure Luther did not create
Refor. In fact he added not one
new thought to the meagre
human theories of the time.
He preached others had preached
before him and did as it. In
fact others had far outshipped
him in rationalism & clear
thinking. But while these other
attempts remained local
& ineffectual, Luther's conquered
Europe. - His undimittable energy,
his sound common sense, his
kindship with the common people,
his ~~earnestness~~ ^{earnestness}, identifying
his rel. cause with the
nat. cause made his work
permanent. L. seized the opportu-
nities and made good use of them.
He improved his plans in the
age. The Refor. will forever bear the
brunt of his work.

5. Luther grew with the growth of his cause. He did not set out with a well defined system, thought. He was not a philosopher. He was a reformer. - He had no idea of a break with Rome. His 95 theses were for disputation. Not challenge or threat. ~~Inquisitorial~~ But it was spirit that kept people off. He had tied five banners to the rails, ~~the~~ ^{in the} ~~shy~~ ^{theologic} questions and set them loose in the fields of the Church. The result was War. For 2 weeks they spread thus far in & thus Europe.

a. In two years - at the disputation at Leipsig - he denies infallibility of Pope & Church Councils. and asserts that Bible is the ~~only~~ ^{only} ~~accepted~~ ^{accepted} ~~faith~~ ^{faith} ~~is only~~ ^{is only} ~~essential~~ ^{essential} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~rel.~~ ^{rel.} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~acts.~~ ^{acts.}

b. In the year 1520 he burns publicly the Papal bull threatening him with excommunication. and the formal break with Rome is effected.

6. The Reformation began as a purely theologic affair. It did not want it to be any thing more. It was not concerned with the fundamental verities of religion or life. - It merely substituted one authority - the Bible - for another - the Church. It destroyed certain ceremonies & rituals - certain sacraments & practices. It aimed at a reformation of the minds.

the clergy - which were then in fact
needs of repair - and the abuses
within the Church. -

a. It had no intention or desire
to establish absolute freedom
of worship. Further, he himself
urged the burning of heretics.

1. That is very common with
reformers. - Puritans who
came here to worship God
as they pleased. -

b. But - then it built better
than it knew. In making the
Bible the one source, authority,
it opened the way, unminutely,
whereby the Bible may be
interpreted! Hence innumerable
sects sprung into being and
the more sects they are the
greater freedom there 'always
exists' - Uniformity was the
prerequisite. Diversity for
heterodoxy & liberalism.
The Reform. did ultimately
effect a broad spirit of
intellectual independence,
reason & judgment,
which are the keystone
of the Modern Age.

7. The Man In the -

a. Not a philosopher - but a Reformer.
Hence fanatic, partial, unbalanced
He carried with him the
taint of the monk.

1. His attitude to the Jews. (153)

a. Tolerant at first till

"Concerning Jews and
their Law"
"the Jews
the Pharisees"

b. Then, gradually intolerant.
Led to expulsion of Jews, burning
+ other atrocities
2. His attitude to the peasant uprising
in 1524. (Read)

8. We are to make allowances. We
must not judge a man by our standards.

1. He was religious, sincere
earnest and above all brave.

2. Much can be forgiven a man
who takes stand before a
Council ^{what's wrong?} & noble, provided
over by Emperor - Charles V.
knowing the fate of heretics -
- Huss - asked to retract
and bravely answering -
- Here I stand! I can do
no other! Whelp me for!

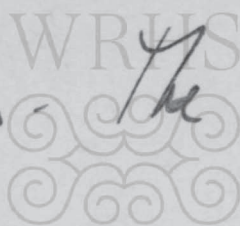
9. At the Shrine of his memory
I a few brave people he presen-
ted, men ready to lay a tribute
& affectionately highest esteem.

Luther was among the great souls
the world - who blessed the world
by their lives and their deeds



Nov. 9, 1917.

Luther. The Repudiation of the Jews.



countries, many sects, philosophy

habits, thought, mental
conception

13c - scholars in
organized hand.
questioning spirit but no

Scholar
Erasmus
in the

printing 1450 -

14c. - Ren. want freedom
from authority. Rebell.

16c -

Ref.

18c -

Rev.



I am not averse to
Europe & made possible
the intellectual movement in
the 13th Cent. Aquinas
Albertus Magnus, Scotus, William
Occam & others encouraged abstract
reasoning - desire for knowledge
habit of reasoning

of course there were
predecessors
Wycliffe - England
John Huss - Bohemia

Return to primitive Christian

Rev. ^{with} return to ancient times

Rev. - appealed to original
sources & demands
ind. spirit
Refr - too.

Middle Ages - attempt to discipline souls & men - hence Authority

② Uniformity -

++

1. authority of Church
2. " of papacy & Empire
3. " of Indulgences
4. " of Communion - or
5. " of City corporation

pope -
Emperors
Cardinals
Bishops
etc
Charters
Communes
Luther -

Substituted authority & broke
for authority & tradition. But
in freeing interpretation
we ~~prepared~~ way for
progress -



✓ Absolute submission to discipline
tradition repressed initiative

Scholasticism - art & science
its held was knowledge itself
interpretation was knowledge

Blessing that came
Dec. 10, 1520. Burning
of Papal Bull - threatening
excommunication

Venality, Cupidity

Printing press and Reformatory
crisis - Diet of Worms -
1521.

Emperor Charles V,
Taken to Castle of
Wartburg near
Eisenbach

Preparation for Reformation

Religious - Wycliffe, Huss.

Intellectual - Study of Classics

Renaissance Humanism Erasmus.

1. Classical lit.
2. Historical Science.
3. Philology

Printing Press.

Wycliffe
under the influence
of the printing press -

~~Political - Charles~~

The Movement was irresistible -

Zwingli

Calvin

It was a breaking forth of
deeper forces of history, thus obstacle
clearing way for another advance

He then was the Spokesman, not
Creator of Reform. - But
Reformant was, was his work.
gave direction to current
of history.

Trait of medieval world
is with him to end narrowness
in allude to "dissenting
thought"



40 2 week pub. of 9T went
than form. 40 4 weeks then
Chas. Rand. 8 hours preface.
form for them.

Reform & Ref.
Atmosphere of freedom &
inquiry in all protestant

(3) Further anticipating & commin-
appeals to Rom. Gen. activity
Attacks spiritual estate
& priests.

Attacks right & priests alone
to interpret Scripture
Scripture for all people

Attacks luxury & Rome -
+ wealth to which priests are
compelled of & contribute

Attacks Pope as anti Christ
Appeal to Germ. Nationalism

(4) Attacks sacramental
system of Church - & a his
"Babylonish Captivity of the
Church"

Church has Spiritual Leadership
of mental act which it
could use for purposes of
pardon — Credit with God

95 —

Increase in preaching pardon then
Church goes to calumnies

If the Pope can save souls
from purgatory for money
to build Basilica of St. Peter
why not save them all?

Why does he not build it
with his own money?

1517
① Beginning of Revolt.
Disputation at Leipzig. (1519)

② Faith only essential
of true belief.

Luther deist doubt importance
of manly 95 put up for
discussion. Not certain

of Conclusion in

95 Theses

Pope has not power to forgive
all sins. God alone
can do that -

Ample effects of pardon always
continuation

Sins cannot fly from purgatory
by rattle of money in chat

Charity is better & more helpful
than pardon

~~Reverend~~ Reformation of punishment
does not make men better

Men are exacting to
parents - church & state, flesh
above & no people

John Reuchlin - defends
Jewish books in his
"Augenspiegel" - Attacked
by for it. Controversy
raised. Then "Letter of Ob-
scurum" appears - Satire
on theol. weaknesses - A work
of Humanists.

Pope Leo ~~X~~ granted the
Archbishop of Mainz the
right of selling indulgences
1/2 of it to go to Rome in 1515

Indulgences for living & dead
1. Remission of Sin - Contrition & Confession first
2. Price paid according to
station - Very poor & even
from paying

Edict of Diet of Worms (May 1521)
declared heretic & excommuni-
cated.

Two weaknesses of
Luther —

1. His attitude to Jews
(Read)
 2. His attitude to Peasants
Revolts (Read)
- Scriptum (Read)
-

Indulgences at first meant
to free people from
church penalties only.

Luther a friar, (not
a theology at Wittenberg in
Saxony)

Humanists prepared
way for Luther.

dispute de Talmud -
Reuchlin - Pfefferkorn.

Dec. 20 1520, L. bares Pope Bull
& announces his separ. from

Church of Rome

Breaking of bonds

disregard of monastic
charge & Ritual.

Marriage, clergy.



282
~~482~~
1860

$$\begin{array}{r}
 22.64.1 \\
 16.64 \\
 35.70 \\
 \hline
 46.64
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 62.30 \\
 416.68 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 478.98 \\
 468.10 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 10.88
 \end{array}$$



Luther hated Jews more
than all Popes - Being
a reformer his influence was
greater & more harmful.
German harbored this
hatred for a long time
^{but the war was personal & had nothing to do with}
~~all social talk~~
Catholics demanded only
compliance with Orders of
Councils - But Luther with
expulsion.



Jews to control them. To meet this
 purpose. They persecute Jews.

Further persecutions Jew-haters - taken
 to apostates. - e.g. Anton

Margaria - son of great Rabbi
 Jacob Margulies - Repentant
 Thanks Jews are persecuted
 Expulsion from Hungary & Saxony
 + Hessen. From Bohemia,
 Magdeburg. - Esslingen, Frankfurt
 etc.

Klotter EKH

WRHS



21

Further joined fundations -

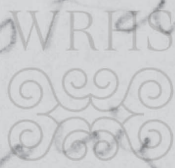
In pleasant uprisings he
 urged the Jews to 'Starve them,
 Kill them, clothe them without
 mercy'

h. urges teachers + priests to
 implant an eternal
 hatred in people against
 Jews.

Effect of Jews

1. At first sight, & reputation.
Inspiring among us they
in got Jews -
2. Spread of Jewish Learning - Bee.
Repr. based on Bible -
But teaching of Bible led to
many sects - all sects based
on Heb. Bible - Approaching
Judaism.

But at present a Jew is
most powerful influence
of Reichman -



Reformation heralded in period
of persecution, but negroes, ^{but negroes, but} Catholics were
were intolerant. Protestants
who farther than Luther, Calvin, Zwingli
and Melancthon - was killed
against Jews - Catholic
accused protest. & permitting