



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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Farewell Service, Old Temple, 1924.

1. Rabbi said: When a man departs from a synagogue he might utter the following prayer: "I thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast put my lot among those who abide in to hallo's study rather than among those who dissipate their lives in vain pursuit: for they arise & I arise - but I arise to study thy law, they to pursue vanity. I work & they work, but I work so as to gain sp. recompense; they labor in vain: I hasten & they hasten: I hasten towards immortality - & they hasten towards destruction."

① On leaving this sacred precinct ^{on passing from Old to new} of study & prayer we too might utter this very same prayer & gratitude. We thank God ^{that} for the 30 years ^{which our lot was} among those who dwell in the same spot - pursuing studying this law, laboring for sp. growth & development. connected with the ideal things which are immortal —

2. We leave this old home not without a sense of sadness — as men always leave their old home. We are happy, of course, that a new, new place, town, went home awaits us — we are grateful that God has so prospered our way — that this house can no longer contain it — And yet this was our home for 30 years and many sweet & holy memories cling to it. 30 years is a genera. in the life time of man — and this ~~Temp~~ edifice attested the passing of a whole generation. Very few of those who built this edifice have been spared by the hand; & many

Others have taken their places - but they have not
been supplanted or forgotten - Many happy voices
echoed in their halls - on the countless occasions
of Cong. Celebrations & reunions - and many
hearts ached in anguish - and many a tear was
shed in the solemn memorial hours - of our
dear ones - Many of you, ^{first} entered this Temple
as children - and it was here on this pulpit
before this ark - that you received your ^{confirmation} -
Tithes, when you were confirmed - Some ~~of you~~ ^{of you} ~~have~~ ^{have}
have passed the years - and ^{many} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~were~~
~~children~~, some you have had the blessed privilege
of seeing your children ^{confirmed} on the same
pulpit before the same ark, when you were
youth. These are ^{lovely} memories - This edifice
has witnessed ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~entire~~ ^{entire} ~~life~~ ^{life} - ~~unwittingly~~
of ^{one} ~~that~~ ^{whose} ~~a~~ ^{man} of sp. & moral grandeur, whose
deft. character. and high ideals has placed many
of you who were his pupils & disciples under eter-
nal obligations - one who came here as a young
man and departed hence to ~~the~~ ^{the} academy as
high - loved with the warmest of the students he
carried, tho not with years - Mrs. J. Isaac.

Yes, your own life has been passed here -
the best & sweetest years, for they belonged to
the earliest ^{& best} years of your memory - The years

ahead may be crowded with experiences - but none
are so ^{rich} full of zest and romance as the first
exp. of a man in his chosen profession -

And so it is quite natural that ^{many} ^{note} ^{admirers}
find its way in this hour - when ^{passing from Old to New} ^{the} ^{past} ^{events}
in upon us - born on the wings of memory

2. Passing from Old to New.

Our Sp. people are
building out & augmenting.
! P.D. 100 P.D. 11

1. and yet it is not so, really. It is only play that we
are passing from old to new. The Temple, which is built
not, built & then - but living marks - & living faith -
that ^{remains} the same. The New Temple is not this.
It is you - the collection of souls which is in you -
and wherein you go. The Sp. Temple goes with you -
just as the art mixed with the people in all their
wanderings - That Temple does not change - It is
eternal -

3. Our Physically - we shall have a new Epoch - ^{in the play, but the same spirit} ^{of the} ^{new} ^{Epoch} ^{spirit}.
It will be the same age-old memory - custom, life -
sanctified by usage whose beginnings were with the
dreamers in the Chaldea and whose End will be
with the last dreamer in the last hour in the ultimate
epoch of time - It will be new in any sense at
all it will be in re. new effort and service
in increased loyalty and extended beneficence,
in progressive development - keeping pace with the increasing
knowledge and changing needs of human life

4. Our Cong. has been liberal & free in times
times & words. We did not reject the old we
it was old. We accept the new we stand
new. In spirit matters pertaining cannot be regarded.
we respon. to changing ^{we led} needs - ^{we admitted but not blind} ^{to follow} ^{plan}
demor. our way - to give full equality to women -
to ^{admit. certain reception. Center life & community} ~~custody~~ ^{our sign} - we were ~~sharply~~ ^{sharply} ~~closed~~
& branded heretics - Other have now accepted them
they are regarded a great conventional paper
That program, with the help of God, we plan to
follow in our new home - The roots will
always be the same, deeper, ^{stronger} ~~deeper~~, same
soil - same sap - same own - but other
branches - higher, wider, and in ^{new} ~~other~~ direction.

5. We stand to-day where they stood 30 yrs ago -
where our people stood 300, yrs 300 yrs ago -
for God - for the truth - for faith ~~for~~ ^{for} works - for
prayer and consecration - To these we
can add nothing but our lives.

6. And we mean to add our lives - Remember -
that a beautiful new edifice is not in itself a victory
that the faith is deeply alive. Athens & Rome
collapsed when their Temples were the most magni-
ficent in their history - It is well to have a structure
to hold forth - as ~~say~~ ^{say} the truth - but the

Faith - is the thing -

6. God. Amos. Justice עוֹלָם מִלְכָּה - הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה
וְהַיּוֹם הַבָּא - כִּי יִהְיֶה כָּל הָאָדָם
כֹּה - כִּי יִהְיֶה כָּל הָאָדָם

① We need food - Our land - Our land is parched, & its
vitality is slipping away - We. the land of God are
dried up - Mechanically

② Our children need food - Not having inspiration
they will seek excitement. There is more so
with us, we are so worldly but what is in deep
need of the conscience. & the renewal of food in his
life - without food - empty stomachs & dead
spirits -

* Justice עוֹלָם מִלְכָּה הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה
7. Torah. ① As a guide in life - ② Leadership - our own
liberated. Older & richer by 2500 years than the lib.
The people among whom we live, the book
that the Eng. speaking world produced is the sacred
book of 500 million people. Full of history
with customs, sayings, parables, prophecy, royal
proclamation - law, Rabbis - ethics, philosophy -

" Malchut Lead -
8. Jews ① Sum passing over the people of earth
vitalizing & sanctifying -
② free - Hebrew - all that would
was -

(3) As non-Jews we are not wanted. We may
become non-Jew. We cannot become ^{Anglo-Saxons} ~~Ashkenazim~~.

(4) Hollow - Empty Throats - dead souls.

(5) We march forward as Jews. ^{אנחנו הולכים קדימה כיהודים}
^{אנחנו הולכים קדימה כיהודים} ~~אנחנו הולכים קדימה כיהודים~~

9. To these things we dedicate ourselves ^{אנחנו} for an
hour these ^{אנחנו} ~~edifices~~ - we are building out of old
~~water~~ May God bless us in our going out -
even as he blessed us in our coming in.





Farewell Service

June 15-1924