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Hitler - Haman, 1932.

"HITLER & HAMAN"

BY

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER
AT THE TEMPLE, SUNDAY
MARCH 20, 1932

It was a traditional practice among our people on occasions of festivals and holidays to recite those psalms of joy and jubilation (numbers 113 through 118) known as the "Hallel," - psalms of praise and thanksgiving. On Purim, however, the Rabbis decreed that these psalms recited on all other festivals should not be recited. For they said: (Hebrew) "we should not recite these psalms of joy and thanksgiving for any deliverance of our people that took place outside of Palestine."

There is a good deal of the wisdom and philosophy of Jewish life in this decree of the Rabbis. For in all such deliverances in the diaspora there is always involved the thought of the tragic insecurity of the people whose life depended upon such deliverances. Its destiny hung upon the whim of a monarch or ruler.

There is something inglorious, in a sense, sinister in these Purims which our people celebrate.

There has been not one, but many Purims. The Purim of Shushan is the most famous one. But there have been many Purims because there have been many Hamans in Jewish history. There was the Purim of Norbonne, commemorating the deliverance of the Jews in the City of Narbonne in 1236; the Purim of Saragossa in 1380; the Purim of Cairo in 1524; the Purim of Winz commemorating the deliverance of the Jews from another Haman in 1616; the Purim of Widdin in 1807. And the last election in Germany a week ago will probably give us another Purim, the Purim of Germany. For in a strange concordance of events, here too, the Jews were saved by the casting of lots. But in this case it was the ballot lots.

Had Hitler succeeded in the election a week ago, the decree would have been issued, not officially, but unofficially, which Haman issued (Hebrew) "Destroy, exterminate, kill off the Jews!"

Back of every Purim, my friends, is therefore the fact of the Jewish political homelessness. Back of every Hitler and Haman is a complex of Jewish hatred. And back of this Jewish hatred is that group of causes, religious, racial, political, economic. The locale may be the same or it may be different, the

place may be different, the personnel, the time may be different; the important source of irritation responsible for this Jewish hatred may be different, but the historic causes are the same.

Contrast Haman and Hitler. Haman, probably six hundred years before the common era; Hitler of the twentieth century. Haman in oriental Persia; Hitler in modern Germany. Haman in the absolute despotism of the ancient East; Hitler in a modern democratic republican state. And yet Haman sought to destroy the Jews and Hitler seeks to destroy the Jews.

The Bible gives the reason for this hatred which spans centuries and traverses continents. And the Rabbis expatiate upon these reasons.

The Bible gives three reasons for the hatred of Haman. Haman persuaded the king that the Jews in the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces ought to be put to death. He said; "the Jews are a people scattered abroad. They are dispersed." They are scattered, dispersed, homeless. They are aliens. That was Haman's cry and that is Hitler's cry. Quite regardless of the fact that the Jews in Germany have been there for two thousand years, from the days of the Roman settlements along the Rhine. But they are

still regarded by Hitler and his hosts as aliens. -"The Jews are a people scattered and dispersed."

Secondly;"their laws are different from every other people." The modern Hamans have elaborated upon this. The modern Haman says not only are their laws different but the modern anti-Semite includes their social habits, their race psychology, their temperament. All of that is the very antithesis of our way of living, our race psychology.

Haman said, "they are different." The modern Haman says, "not only are they different, but unfriendly." The matter of race superiority has received wide credence among the peoples of Western Europe. - "The Jews are a Semitic people and the Semites are an unfriendly race. "They possess no capacity of original creativeness. The Aryans are a superior race to whom mastery and dominance of right belongs. And so the presence of Semites in a land with Aryan people is distinctly harmful and the more they become acclimatized, the more they become like us, the more they shape their own distinctiveness, the more dangerous and menacing they become to us."

And the third charge, according to the Bible, was that they do not keep the king's law. Hitler and his

followers have elaborated upon this too. They say, "the Jews are desecrators. The Jews are revolutionists. The Jews are democrats. The Jews are Socialists. The Jews are the ones who wish to destroy the older order."

Now there is quite a bit of history in connection with this charge against the Jews dating back to the time of Bismarck in Germany. The Jews have been for the last fifty years or more quite active in all the liberal movements of Germany. Jewish destiny has been bound up with Liberalism. Consequently the Jews have been represented in all liberal statements of Germany.

When Bismarck began his career he began as a liberal and he rallied behind the national liberal party in Germany many Jews like Lasker, Bamberger and others. After Bismarck had obtained his objective in fighting the Catholics of Germany, a bitter struggle which lasted seven years, he thought he had enough of Liberalism and felt that Liberalism was an obstacle in his way in obtaining certain objectives. And so he made a ~~180~~ right-about turn and from being a pseudo-liberal he became the champion and exponent of reaction in Germany.

And he began his war upon Liberalism in Germany by attacking the Jews. That is a well-known device to make a movement unpopular, by identifying it with Jewish conspiracy. And before very long he had in Germany a movement against the Jews. Before long we have Stoecker, preaching anti-semitism. Before long we have a national party organized avowedly anti-Semitic, whose battle-cry is "destroy Jewish dominance in the trades and in the professions. Deprive them of political rights. Break their power!" Which in the year 1932 is the cry of the Nazi group. Soon we have a whole pseudo race-metaphysics flaunted by the German mind to give justification for this anti-Semitism. Soon we have an international congress of anti-Semites meeting in Dresden in 1882 to decide how to save themselves from the menace of the Jews. Soon we have historians of the type of Treitschke giving a philosophy to prove that the Jews brought misfortune upon the people.

And soon the movement spreads to Austria and Hungary. Soon after you have the ritual murder and the blood

accusations and the notorious Tisza Eszlar affair.

Soon the movement spreads to Russia, - all in the space of a few years, - and you have the pogroms. Soon it spreads to France and you have Drumont leading anti-Semitism in France. And a few years after you have the infamous Dreyfus affair.

But all of these movements are intrinsically one, - derived from one source.

The close of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth century in Europe saw the rise to power of the liberal forces. Every one of the reactionary forces, political, economic, turned with hatred against the rising tide of democracy and Liberalism and vented their wrath particularly against the Jews, first because the Jews were identified with liberal movements and secondly because it was strategical to damn a movement by associating it with Jewish morale.

And 1932 in reality is not much different from 1880.

The Magilla, The Book of Esther says that Haman sent a letter to the king making charges against the Jews. The Rabbis asked what was in the letter which Haman sent to the king and what charges he made against the Jews. And they enumerated six. The first three were those, which I enumerated, of the Bible. (Hebrew) They desire the destruction of the Persians. (Hebrew) They curse the king. (Hebrew) They wish to revenge themselves upon the Goyim. (Hebrew) They scoff at us and at the religion of our ancestors.

Now if you pick up some of the writings of the modern Hitlerites, either their newspapers or the pamphlets with which they have swamped Germany in the last few years, you will find the exact same statements repeated. As if Hitler could read the Magilla. Here is one taken from a Nazi sheet:

"The Jew is the born prostitute of races.

Criminal outcasts from various nationalities had joined themselves once upon a time under the leadership of Moses in the wilderness and made up the Jewish people. Thus there developed through thousands of years of inbreeding this race of curs,

which we see in the individual Jew of today. He is incited by his bad blood to demoralize and to break up all other races and nationalities. He is incited by his bad blood and inherent sensuality to debauch non-Jewish women and girls."

And from another magazine: "The Jew is the cause and the exploiter of our slavery. He has abused the social misery of the broad masses of our people for the purpose of deepening the unhappy rift between the Right and the Left of our nation, has torn asunder Germany into two halves, and thus prepared the ground for our losing the great war on the one hand, and for the treacheries of the Revolution on the other."

We didn't know who was responsible for Germany losing the war. Now we know it. -- We also made the revolution in Germany. You see, there are in Germany sixty million Germans and only two million Jews and they were able to do all this. That's something.

In another magazine we read; "He has infected our race, corrupted our morals, demoralized our conduct and broken our strength. It is to him we owe it that we are today the pariah of the whole world. As long as we were Germans, he was

the leper in our midst, and when we lost our German character, he triumphed over us and over our future."

"The Jew is the typical demon of corruption. Where he scents corruption and decay, he appears from his hiding place, and begins his criminal slaughter of nations. He assumes the mask of those he aims to betray, fraternises with his prey, and ere the unsuspecting has had a chance to notice anything, the demon has broken his neck."

This is 1932 and it is not laughable. Back of these are twelve million voters.

"A National-Socialist government means that the rule of Jewdom in Germany is at an end, i. e. the exclusion of Jews from all branches, where he would be in a position to hamper the German government. The dethronement of Jewry here, will be a desirable impetus for the other powers as well. The first National-Socialist minister in Germany means the finish of Jewdom in Germany."

There you have it. Tens of thousands of these sheets, pamphlets, placards, speeches, harangue in hundreds of thousands of meetings daily throughout Germany to carry this

message to the German people.

Now of course the important thing, the source of irritation is the condition of the German people. Germany is a defeated country. It is an embittered country. It was once a proud nation. It once possessed the largest army in the world. Today it is disarmed. It has been despoiled of all its colonies. It has been forced to humiliation and the people have become bitter. It has been forced to pay tribute and while actually no money for the reparations was paid out of her own pocket, but out of our pocket, nevertheless, there is a feeling that she is a nation under tribute, which makes for bad blood and hatred. And a German can be a first class hater when he sets about it.

There is a depression in Germany as in every other part of the civilized world. There are six million unemployed. Business is disrupted. The peasantry is groaning under the heavy load of debt. Particularly unhappy is her white-collar class, the class made up of some three and a half million people whom we would call the white-collar people, clerks, secretaries, government officials, whose salaries are miserably and pitifully inadequate, who see no prospect of improving their positions and who are being ground down steadily to a position

even lower than the proletarian level. These people are educated people, many of them and they do not wish to see themselves ground down to the lowest economic level.

Then there is the student element in Germany. There are sixty percent more students in Germany today than there were before the war. There are more recent graduates in Germany. These young people feel themselves defeated. They have equipped themselves for a profession, for a calling, their minds and spirits are ready but the economic structure consigns them to the doom of defeat. They are unable to ^{work} ~~work~~, unable to express themselves. The student youth of Germany is naturally the most restless and the most vocal in expressions of resentment.

The small merchants of Germany are also suffering. They too, like in the United States, have been crowded to the wall by the huge industrial and commercial mergers and monopolies. The individual small tradesman in Germany has less of a chance than in the United States. They feel more and more keenly the competition of the Jewish merchant who is himself, being crowded to the wall.

Again another source of irritation is felt by the

nobility, the old monarchists. Naturally they hate the present regime. Their titles, their prerogatives, their prestige is all gone. Even big business has been moving steadily in the direction of the Hitlerites because of the fear of Communism.

And so you have numerous classes in Germany today wanting a change. They don't know exactly how this change can be brought about. But they are miserably unhappy and they want a change. And here comes a man who dramatizes the whole situation, absorbs it as it were, within himself, vocalizes all this discontent, becomes the champion and spokesman. Hitler has no clear-cut program. He himself, does not know what he wants except that he wants power to do something. But to each one of these groups of discontented, unhappy people he has a special message. They listen to him. He is a man of great personal magnetism, a great orator and enkindler of the emotions of the people. Not an intellectual, he does not count upon logic and reason of the intellect to persuade. He counts upon arousing anger. He is the real mob leader and besides that he has tremendous powers of organization and discipline. He can command and have people obey. Hitler offers relief to all these people groaning under disability and frustration.

First of all he speaks to them of a resurrected Germany. He rekindles their pride and their faith in Germany. The Germans are the chosen people, according to Hitler. The Germans are pre-ordained to be warriors and masters of the world. The Germans lost the war but they lost it because of the treachery of the Jews and the betrayal of the Socialists. Germany is and always will be invincible. How did they come to lose the last war? There was a slip up there. The Jews and the Socialists are responsible for it.

Hitler promises relief by hinting at a revision of the Treaties of Versailles which will restore to Germany her lost possessions and position in the world. Hitler promises to crush the Communists when he comes into power and therefore makes his appeal to the emotions of the Germans, - to small and to big business. He promises to break the economic power of the Jews in Germany and thereby please the competitor of the Jews in Germany. He promises to drive the Jews out of the professions and thereby please those who are in the over-crowded professions in Germany today who feel that they will have more room and opportunity

with the Jews out of the professions. He pleases the small businessman by railing against finance and big bankers. In other words Hitler has skillfully capitalized the situation and has welded together the many dissatisfied groups in Germany. He is therefore not to be made light of.

Some people have attempted to picture Hitler as sort of a Charles Chaplin with a little mustache and to make light of him. That's a mistake. He is not a man of great intellect. He has not the qualities of an Armleder, Vinceng or a Fettmulch. But he is a little man who has risen on the crest of great circumstances. He holds in his hands today a harnessed hurricane. He is the power in Germany and he will remain a power as long as these conditions which I have enumerated continue.

Had Hitler received last Sunday three and a half million votes additional to those which he did receive and had these votes come from Hindenberg voters, he would today be president of Germany. That would mean not merely a tragedy for the Jews but a tragedy for the whole of Europe. And not merely a tragedy for the Jews of Germany but for the Jews throughout Eastern Europe because those countries would follow

the lead of Germany and all the victories which the Jews won in the last one hundred years, all his struggles for emancipation would be wiped out in thirty days.

What is the hope in the situation? The hope is clearly in the restoration of economic normalcy in the world. Such movements feed on unhappiness, suffering. Unless Germany together with the rest of the world goes back to work and life resumes its normal economic pace. Such a movement artificially compounded of so many elements, disintegrates and goes to pieces. Again therefore, it is of tremendous importance that all those factors which are responsible for the world-wide economic disorganization, the reparations, the allied debts, the tariff ~~walls~~ walls, all the factors which have contributed to the interruption of the normal operations of the economic life of the world, these things shall be corrected, revised; that sanity be introduced into the economic relationships of people. For a Germany gone fascist, my friends, means that France will become militarist again. It means war and a universal tragedy.

As far as the Jews of Germany are concerned, their lot is again cast with the lot of the liberal forces of that empire who seek progress through arduous ways of life, not through revolution.

They will do well to remember the old Purim story, the Jews of Germany, in 1932. (Hebrew) "In every generation people arise to destroy us. (Hebrew) "The good Lord will deliver us from their hands."

There is a religious legend that when Haman had written his letter to the king asking the king to destroy the Jews, he rushed out shouting "triumph" from the palace and he passed Mordecai who was standing talking to three children. Mordecai had met three Jewish children returning from their Jewish school and he stopped and said to them: (Hebrew) "Give me a phrase which you learned this morning in your school. What did you learn this morning in school?" And one of the children said "I learned the phrase from the Book of Proverbs, (Hebrew) "Do not be afraid of the sudden menace when it comes."

Then Mordecai asked the second child what he had learned that morning and the child said, "I learned this verse from Isaiah: (Hebrew) "Take counsel together and it shall be brought to naught. Speak the word and it shall not stand for God is with us."

And then Mordecai asked the third child what he had learned and the child said, "I too learned a verse from

from Isaiah: (Hebrew) "Until the end of days, I, the Lord, am with thee."

And Mordecai laughed joyously for he knew that the victory belongs to him.

This historic confidence which has been the mainstay of our people from the days of Haman and Esther to this day, I pray will be with our German brethren who are at present going through great tribulations and I hope too, that they will remember the two characters of the Megilla who have served as a symbol of the Jewish nation throughout the ages - Mordecai and Esther.

Salvation lies in that type of loyalty to our people and its cause, symbolized by Mordecai and Esther. Salvation does not lie in assimilation. The history of the Jews in Germany has proved that the Jew gets nowhere by attempting to deny himself and by seeking to be as like other people as he possibly can. No group of people has tried for so long a period and as consistently as the Jews in Germany. They have sought to slough off all the uniqueness of being Jews. They identified themselves with

the life and culture of the German people. And yet no country in the world has produced such a venomous anti-Semitism as that of Germany. That's the classic home of anti-Semitism. In other countries the anti-Semite is a little ashamed of himself. He tries to apologize for himself. But in Germany he is proud of himself. He has a whole metaphysics to explain his anti-Semitism.

The salvation for the Jews remains in trying to be true to themselves, in facing life squarely. (Hebrew) "Mordecai did not acknowledge and did not bow down." It is our Jews who in the long run win the victory. It is our Jews who made the great contributions to the world. There are plenty of Goyim, hundreds of millions of them and if we try to be like unto them we add nothing to the sum total. There is a hand full of Jews who have a unique tradition, the product of a unique precipitate, who have a definite outlook, a definite morality, who have a peculiar religious system of their own which mankind needs, which mankind has needed in the past and

which mankind will continue to need. Our contribution to civilization is not in annihilating ourselves. Our contribution lies in crystalizing and in enriching our lives and laying them upon the common altar of humanity. That is our gift to the world. These persecutions in Germany are swiftly bringing back to the Jewish home, the Jewish youth of Germany.

We get nowhere as a people when we have too much freedom. But persecution especially of the Hitlerism and Hamanism type, that just steels us, braces us. That sends our youth back to our fold and our minds back to the store-houses of our people's life and inspiration. And so the measure of this Purim, 1932, with its background of this menacing figure, the new Haman, is still a measure of hope and of confidence. The Jews who survived so many Hamans, who have been able to celebrate so many Purims will, I am sure, survive this Haman and perhaps a hundred years hence some Rabbi speaking before a Jewish congregation in the city of Berlin or Munich or Leipzig will tell the story of the German Purim of 1932.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE ADDRESS

"HAMAN - HITLER"

BY
RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER
AT THE TEMPLE, SUNDAY
MARCH 20th, 1932

Hitler is a small man made great by circumstances. He possesses neither the authority of intellect nor the wisdom of statesmanship. But he holds in his hand a harnessed hurricane. He has no program. He has organized all the discontent of present-day Germany and given it voice.

His party is an heterogeneous amalgam of many groups which are at present disadvantaged and unhappy.

Germany is a defeated country and defeat is bitter. She once possessed the largest army in the world. She is now practically disarmed. She has been despoiled of all her colonies. The Polish corridor is thrust like a knife into her back. She has been forced to pay tribute. And while actually it was American and not German money which paid the reparations, nevertheless the actual hurt and resentment are there.

Like the rest of the world, Germany is in the grip of a depression. There are six million unemployed. The peasantry is loaded down with debts. The white collar class is miserably underpaid and ground down. The small business man is being crowded out by the large mergers and monopolies. Big business fears Communism. The

upper classes and the ex-army men hate the present regime.

There are sixty percent more students in the universities of Germany today than before the war. The professions are over crowded. The college youth of Germany faces a bleak future. Everywhere there is frustration and a sense of defeat.

All these elements want change. They feel frustrated. They don't know exactly how this change can be brought about. But they are ready to listen to any man who confidently and heroically assures them of being able to effect a change for the better.

Hitler has been preaching the kind of national chauvenism and race idolatry which Treitschke and Barnhaide popularized in Germany years ago; that the Germans are the chosen people. They are invincible. They lost the last war because of the sinister machinations of the Jews and the socialists. Hitler is the bitter enemy of both the Jews and the socialists and of all the liberal forces of Germany. He is the enemy of all democracy. He would disenfranchise the Jews and deny them their legitimate political and economic opportunities. Because in his eyes the Jews are responsible for the German revolution and the establishment of the German republic.

Hitler is a menace to the peace and stability of the world. His power will increase if the present situation in Germany continues. His party will go to pieces as soon as Germany assumes her normal economic life.

1. SD - insecurity - whine - masks - inglorious
tarnish - sinister
2. Many Purposes. Jbl - our history -
The last election in Germany - split the party
3. Back of every P. - homelessness. - Nothing new - locale
4. Contrast Haman and Hitler. Bi Ul-gives names - Rabbi

(1) "J. are a people scattered abroad & dispersed" - ~~Scattered~~
Harmless - Suspicious - alien - The same -
2000 yrs - H. regards Eos as alien

(2) "Their laws are different from every other people".
modern Hamans elevated - inferior - Semites - Hyas
corrupt - The same they became ecclesiastical

(3) "They do not keep the King's law" - Hitler = revolution -
Every Ham. symbol of Reaction -
Jews destiny bound up with Liberalism

His march -

- (1) Soon - Stöcker
- (2) " - Party - battle-cry
- (3) " - Pseudo - Metaph.
- (4) " - historians -
- (5) " J. attacked in Berlin -
- (6) " As. Congress - Wresden

- (7) Austria - von Schönerer
- (8) Hungary - Tisza Eszlar
- (9) Rumania - Popovici 1/3
- (10) France -

11. In early winter

in the new year in Neustadt - (1st decoration frame)

⑥ Some Ar. Congress is held in Alinden - 1882 -

⑦ Some movement spreads to Austria - V. Schö were
take up the cry - Hungary - Istóczy -

- Some medieval ^{literary} plots run from their pen - Blond
Whil - Tosza Englar - 1882 - Hermann L. Strack -

⑧ Some movement spreads to Russia - Popov 1881
"May have", 1882 - Alexander II assassinat. Alex. III -
Polish domestics - 1/3 - Converted - European - Polish -
- Little later in early 90 -

⑨ Some France joins the procession - Aliment -
clerical royalists - emancip 3rd Rep.
Alfred Weyler - 1894

5- In each instance - the underlying cause - Jews
are liberals - oppose old order - They do not keep the
Jews laws."

6. Haman sent letter - what did letter say?

(1) למה הוא עושה כך

(4) למה הוא עושה כך

(2) למה הוא עושה כך

(5) למה הוא עושה כך

(3) למה הוא עושה כך

(6) למה הוא עושה כך

Read any Nazi paper - (note 1-2-3.)

7. The immediate variation - Present conditions of 9.

① Aliment - bitter - largest army - disarmed - disported
9 columns - Polish consider.

② Forced to pay for cut -

(3) Depression - unemployment - 6 m unemployed - Bus. dropped
Peasantry - debt; middle class - White collar class - 3 1/2 m
undepaid - no prospects - ground down to proletarian
level - Frustration.

Students . 60% unemp. - war - about - 30.000
recent graduates unemployed - again frustration

Middle classes crowded out by monopolies

Upper classes - ex-army officers - merchants

Big Business fears communism - want
stay out.

(4) . All these want change - don't know exactly how -
distressed - fears - frustration.

8. Then came a man - Hitler - who organizes all this
dissatisfied - gives it voice - promises relief
to all - It is not clear - It is no clear program - hints at reversal
But (1) Prussianed Germany - reverses past - to root out idolatry
G. what Hitler! Preaches a chem. war which
is valued to spirit breathed by Hitler!

(2) G. is invincible used never been lost war
but for Jews + Socialists - Vanquished like to be that
but for Jews + Republicans

(3) Promises Revision of Versailles - also he gains power!
way, Hitler was on Mexican trials

(4) " to crush Communism - at 50 states . Prophet

clear (5) " to drive out Jews - states . combating

Merchant (6) " Mr. G. art. Professor - shocked

(7) Upper Int. Conf. Bankers - reluctant merchants even . influential

9. H. master of Propaganda - appeals to European Youth!

1. Enthusiasm harmless fanatic } 12 million votes.
armies living fanatic
2. War of Organ - from Hitler

- Small man made great by circumstance - Sherman - Sherman

10. Heller - not to be made light of. ^{by long as present cons.} ^{He rep. a harvest of human}
remain - Parker + Menner - 3 1/2 m. votes stood
bet. him victory. - If he can! Tragedy for S. Jews -
can't win - falling - Tragedy for East. En.
Jews!

(1) as long as money permit - Jews will be allowed -

(2) Republicans blame all on Republic - Jews
leaders - Walter R. Thompson - Monks, for affairs

Paul Hirsch - State of Prussia - Q. has found

not will run Repub - Blame all on Jews & Repub.

For war and leaders of M. Marx - Engels - Lassalle -
new Jews -

11. What H. promises is not a change to S. Jews.

(1) Was preached in 1878 - Stöcker -

(2) " " Further (1) Conspirators (2) Syng (3) Reptition
Q. brutalized by long rel. struggle with

12. Hope S. Jewry + Germany

(1) Economic normalcy - Econ. recover. & world -
- Reparation settlement - Treaty Revision
1919 1920 1921

(2) Hope - Purkin - 1917 1918 1919 - Schuler

(a) 1917 1918 1919 - Pres. The outbreak of
middle term, nothing that present when it comes.
The first will be the confidence

(b) 1917 1918 1919 - Is. & Take control
together - not to go up - 1917 1918 1919 - b. 46

(3) loyalty - Murderer - Tea -
led to fight - annihilation - carry on!

#